

SHIAI TOURNAMENT STANDARDS



**Judo
Ontario**
Our sport. Our life.

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POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this document is to define the requirements to sanction a Shiai tournament with Judo Ontario.

DEFINITIONS

Shiai – The Japanese term for a judo fighting competition.

NSO – National Sports Organization. Judo Canada is the NSO for judo in Canada.

PSO – Provincial Sports Organization. Judo Ontario is the PSO for judo in Ontario.

Shodan – Black belt. Any grade ending in “dan” is black belt or higher.

Green Belt – 3rd Kyu of the ranks below Shodan

Sokuteiki – The official device for measuring judogi (judo uniforms)

Fusen-gachi – Is the withdrawal from a match.

FAILURE TO OBTAIN A SANCTION

Failure to obtain a Judo Ontario Sanction for a competition is a criminal offense. Failure to obtain a sanction puts Judo Ontario, the host club, the referees, the athletes and the coaches in jeopardy of a law suit, especially if any injury occurs during the competition. The following are punitive measures Judo Ontario may take:

FIRST OFFENSE

- A fine of \$500 will be levied against the host club payable to Judo Ontario within one week of the notice being sent. See the suspension of Judo Ontario membership (of the dojo shu) as described under section 3.7.1(d) of the Judo Ontario constitution regarding delinquency of fines.
- The host club will provide Judo Ontario with a list of all participants including their Judo Ontario or Judo Canada membership number in the unsanctioned event--specifically, athletes, their coaches, minor officials and referees.
- Failure to pay the fine in a timely fashion will result in the dojos and the dojo having their memberships suspended from Judo Ontario until the fine is paid.
- A letter will be sent to all participants in the unsanctioned event notifying them that their membership in Judo Ontario is at risk for having participated in the event.

SUBSEQUENT OFFENCES

The **host club** and its **dojos** will have their membership in Judo Ontario revoked for the remainder of the year the event took place plus one (1) year beginning the following September.

REFEREES AND ATHLETES

Referees and athletes who knowingly and subsequently participate in unsanctioned events will have their membership revoked for one (1) full year from the date of the event.

In the case of an injury occurring

In the case where a club does host an unsanctioned tournament and there is an injury which does proceed to personal injury litigation, that dojo's club membership and the dojo shu's membership will be immediately revoked until further notice. Similarly, any parties (both plaintiff and defendants) will have their memberships suspended pending the outcome of the litigation at which time, a fine will be assessed based on what harm the litigation may have caused Judo Ontario. The non-payment of this assessed fine will then fall into the same section 3.7.1(d) as above.

It should be noted that "Failure to obtain a Judo Ontario Sanction is a very serious offense. Failure to obtain a sanction puts Judo Ontario, the host club, the referees and the athletes at risk of being personally liable for any injuries that may occur at the unsanctioned event. Personal injury cases can range well into six- and seven-figure awards from courts. Judo Ontario's insurance policy, which does not cover unsanctioned events, will help protect Judo Ontario, the host club, the referees and the athletes from being liable for such damages. Knowingly participating in an event that is not sanctioned and where an injury occurs will likely draw the host club, any referees, athletes and coaches involved into personal injury litigation. This will cost much time and money, especially on retaining counsel (likely hundreds of dollars per hour) to represent you - and this is all before the large award that may even include compensation for wages lost which can amount to significant sums on that alone. It is simply wiser, easier and more efficient to ensure that the event that you host or participate in is a sanctioned one - look for "sanctioned by Judo Ontario" in the technical package and if you cannot find it, then ask. If the answer is not to your satisfaction, then don't go."

Judo Ontario cannot sanction an event that does not meet sanctioning requirements. If your event sanctioning is refused, you may first appeal the decision in writing directly to the Sport Director at Judo Ontario, 875 Morningside Ave, Suite 2040, Toronto, Ont. M1C 0C7. Please include event details. Appeals can also be submitted by adhering to Judo Ontario Discipline, Appeals and Disputes Policy.

TOURNAMENT DEFINITIONS

The three types of tournament covered in this sanctioning document are **CLUB–A, B, and C**. National level tournaments are hosted by Judo Canada and Provincial level tournaments are hosted by Judo Ontario and as such do not require further Judo Ontario sanctioning. All tournaments must be sanctioned and fall under these guidelines including both shiai and ne-waza.

CLUB–A TOURNAMENTS

Commonly referred to as “annual” tournaments Club A tournaments are:

- Sanctioned by Judo Ontario but hosted and run by Judo Ontario member clubs.
- Only open to full-membership, registered competitors in good standing with Judo Ontario
Tournaments wishing to include competitors from outside Judo Ontario membership, must also apply for a Judo Canada National sanction and must abide by Judo Canada tournament standards.
- Open to yellow belts and up for regular shiai (white belts permitted for ne-waza)
- Considered “open” tournaments whereby any person meeting the above criteria is welcome to compete.
- Bound by the Judo Ontario Standards policy as it pertains to CLUB–A TOURNAMENTS.
- Pointable.

CLUB–B TOURNAMENTS

Commonly referred to as “monthly”, “developmental” OR “Festival” tournaments, Club B tournaments are”

- Sanctioned by Judo Ontario but hosted and run by Judo Ontario member clubs.
- Only open to full-membership, registered competitor in good standing with Judo Ontario.
- Restricted to a maximum belt rank of 4+ Kyu (Orange/Green). Beginner (white belt) competitors limited to skills- based activities and ne-waza.
- Considered “open” tournaments whereby any person meeting the above criteria is welcome to compete.
- No maximum competitors – However, Clubs are responsible for adhering to local fire codes for the number of persons in the building
- Bound by the Judo Ontario Standards policy as it pertains to CLUB–B TOURNAMENTS.
- Not pointable.

CLUB--C EVENTS

Formerly referred to as "In-House" or "Invitational/Closed" tournaments, Club C tournaments are:

- Considered training/practice and is NOT competition
- Not Sanctioned by Judo Ontario but hosted and run by Judo Ontario member clubs.
- No awards may be given
- Only open to registered annual members in good standing with Judo Ontario or another provincial/territorial association recognized by Judo Canada, or an IJF recognized association.
- No maximum participants – However, Clubs are responsible for adhering to local fire codes for the number of persons in the building
- Not advertised
- Not pointable.

MAJOR OFFICIALS

Tournament Director

- The Tournament Director shall be a member in good standing with Judo Ontario and a minimum rank of Shodan (black Belt)
- The Tournament Director is responsible for all aspects of running the tournament where those aspects do not conflict with the roles of Chief Tournament Official and Chief Tournament Referee including but not limited to:
 - Obtaining a Judo Ontario Sanction.
 - Preparing the tournament flyer/technical package.
 - Providing a tournament venue that meets the necessary standards set out in this document. Obtaining and paying for qualified medical personnel.
 - Renting equipment from Judo Ontario where necessary, including mats. Arranging transportation of rented mats to and from the tournament venue. Unloading and laying down of rented mats.
 - Washing the entire mat surface in the tournament venue prior to the tournament opening.
 - The set-up of the tournament venue so as it complies with the terms of sanction and tournament standards set out in this document.
 - Providing enough volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the tournament. Technical volunteers such as score/time keepers, draw sheet coordinators, referees, etc. should be members of Judo Ontario. Volunteers working in close proximity of the competitors (i.e. weigh-ins) must have a police background check within the 3 years preceding the event.
 - The registration of competitors.
 - Confirm all competitors' eligibility to compete as it pertains to membership and rank.
 - The Tournament Director must restrict from competition Judo Ontario members who fall into these membership categories: Introductory and School members.
 - Under supervision of the Chief Official; the reloading of the mats on the Judo Ontario trailer in the prescribed order as set forth by Judo Ontario.
 - The Tournament Director will make the draw sheets and registration forms available for inspection by the Chief Official upon request.
 - The Tournament Director must refund the registration fee of any athlete for whom there is no other competitor in his/her division.
 - The Tournament Director must have a sokuteiki available for judogi control.
 - The Tournament Director is responsible for the return, in good working order, of all Judo Ontario equipment.
 - Mat equipment boxes will be inventoried and correctly packed at the end of all tournaments.
 - The Tournament Director is responsible for the replacement of any equipment belonging to Judo Ontario that is damaged or lost.

Authority

- The Tournament Director has the authority to refuse the entry of any athlete whose entry form is incomplete and/or does not comply with all Judo Ontario standards.

Restriction

- The Tournament Director cannot act as either Chief Tournament Official or Chief Tournament Referee. For Club B tournaments, the Tournament Director may assume the responsibilities of the Chief Official with the approval of the Judo Ontario Sanctioning Chair.

Chief Tournament Official

The Chief Tournament Official will be appointed by the Vice President Competitions. The Chief Tournament Official whenever possible should not be a member of the host club, or have any interest in the host club or its members.

Shall be a mature and experienced Judoka and Member in good standing who understands the tournament sanction policy.

The Chief Tournament Official must know and understand the requirements of Rowan's Law and ensure that the law is followed and that all possible concussions are reported to the Judo Ontario office.

The Chief Tournament Official represents Judo Ontario. The Chief Tournament Official is responsible for the supervision of the tournament, the safety of the competitors, tournament officials and spectators.

The Chief Tournament Official will:

- Be in attendance until the completion of the tournament
- Have a current copy of National Sports Organization document, Judo Canada: Tournament Policy—Standards and Sanctions, available at the tournament.
- Have a current copy of Provincial Sports Organization document, Judo Ontario Tournament Standards and Tournaments Sanction Policy, available at the tournament.
- Undergo a site inspection prior to the tournament commencement to ensure that it is safe and complies fully with the Judo Ontario standard.
- Inform the Tournament Director of any safety deficiencies and have them corrected prior to the start of the tournament. This will be a part of the Chief Tournament Official's tournament report.
- Monitor the tournament for safety issues and rule compliance.
- Ensure the tournament is conducted according to the NSO and PSO rules and standards.
- Approve and sign off on all draw sheets. The Chief Tournament Official may appoint a referee (Provincial A or above) to act as a surrogate for this duty.
- If mats were rented from Judo Ontario, supervise the loading of the mats at the conclusion of the tournament.
- Write and submit a post tournament report and forward it to Judo Ontario within 14 days of the tournament.

Authority

The Chief Tournament Official has the authority to:

- Put on hold a tournament that does not comply fully with the safety standards in the NSO/PSO rules.

- Shut down a tournament at any time, if the safety of the competitors is in question. The tournament will only resume once all deficiencies have been addressed to the Chief Tournament Official's satisfaction.
- Examine the draw sheets at any time.
- Remove from the tournament venue any individual whose behavior is deemed contrary to the Judo Canada code of conduct.

Refereeing concerns and the administration of the tournament are not the concern of the Chief Tournament Official unless they impinge on the safety of the competitors, tournament officials or spectators.

Concerns must be referred by the Chief Tournament Official to the Tournament Director or appropriate tournament official to be addressed. The Chief Tournament Official should not make the necessary corrections directly.

For Club B tournaments, the Tournament Director may assume the responsibilities of the Chief Official with the approval of the Judo Ontario Sanctioning Chair.

Accountability

The Chief Tournament Official is accountable to the Corporation of Judo Ontario and its Board of Directors.

Chief Tournament Referee

The Chief Tournament Referee will be approved by the Referee Committee Chair of Judo Ontario. The minimum PSO standard for Chief Tournament Referee is Provincial "A" referee.

The Chief Tournament Referee will:

- Ensure that the IJF Refereeing Rules and Judo Canada (NSO) & Judo Ontario (PSO) regulations/modifications are applied consistently and correctly throughout all matches.
- In consultation with the Chief Referee of Ontario and the Tournament Director, determine and set the minimum referee credential for the tournament for which they have been appointed.
- Check the credentials of all participating referees to see that they are members in good standing with their provincial organization or its equivalent in the case of foreign referees.
- Make a roster list of all participating referees which includes the referees' full name, club, rank, and referee accreditation.
- Appoint and oversee the Mat Chiefs.
- Prepare the referee teams for the tournament, and as the tournament progresses, make adjustments to the teams as necessary.
- Inform the Chief Tournament Official of any safety issues that need rectifying and will immediately halt any match affected by the safety issue until the deficiency has been corrected.
- Inform the Chief Tournament Official of unsafe and/or inappropriate behavior of spectators, coaches and competitors and will recommend the action that they believe is necessary to correct the situation.
- Counsel individual referees and/or teams when they have made an error in judgment or application of the rules and will make recommendations to the referees and/or teams to correct these errors.

- Write and submit a post tournament report of the refereeing activities including a roster of attending referees to the Chief Referee of Ontario within 14 days following the tournament.
- Recommend to the Chief Tournament Official that they remove from the tournament venue any individual whose behavior is deemed contrary to the Judo Canada code of conduct.

Authority

The Chief Tournament Referee has the authority to:

- Determine which referees will be allowed to referee at that tournament.
- To remove a referee whom is not refereeing up to Judo Ontario standards. To make adjustments to the refereeing teams as deemed necessary.

Accountability

The Chief Referee is accountable to the Corporation of Judo Ontario and its Board of Directors.

Mat Chiefs

Mat Chiefs for each tournament will be appointed by the Chief Tournament Referee. The minimum PSO standard for a Mat Chief is Provincial “A” referee.

A Mat Chief’s responsibility is to administer and supervise the referees on his/her mat. A Mat Chief will:

- Ensure that the IJF Refereeing Rules and Judo Canada (NSO) & Judo Ontario (PSO) regulations/modifications are applied consistently and correctly throughout all matches
- Counsel individual referees and/or teams when they have made an error in judgment or application of the rules and will make recommendations to the referees and/or teams to correct these errors.
- Inform the Chief Tournament Official or Chief Tournament Referee of any safety issues that need rectifying, and will immediately halt any match affected by the safety issue until the deficiency has been corrected.
- Inform the Chief Tournament Official or Chief Tournament Referee of unsafe and/or inappropriate behavior of spectators, coaches and competitors and will recommend the action that they believe is necessary to correct the situation.
- Recommend to the Chief Tournament Official that they remove from the tournament venue any individual whose behavior is deemed contrary to the Judo Canada code of conduct.

Referees

- Will apply IJF Refereeing Rules, Judo Canada (NSO), and Judo Ontario (PSO) regulations/modifications correctly throughout all matches and will make adjustments when advised by their Mat Chief.
- Inform their Mat Chief of any defects in competition surface/area so they can be made safe.
- Inform their Mat Chief of unsafe and/or inappropriate behavior of spectators, coaches and competitors not already addressed by the Mat Chief.

Drawmaster

The Draw Master for each tournament will be appointed by the Tournament Director. The Draw Master will:

- Oversee the preparation of all draw sheets.
- Ensure that the IJF / Judo Canada (NSO) & Judo Ontario (PSO) rules are applied consistently and correctly throughout all divisions.
- Sort the entry forms by sex, age, belt level, and weight divisions according to Judo Canada's standards.
- Check for a release form signed by the athlete or by a parent/guardian of an athlete under the age of eighteen (18). All consent forms must be completed and signed by the appropriate adult before the competitor may be placed in a division. A coach may not sign the release form unless they are also the parent/guardian of that athlete.
- Organize each division, where possible, in such a manner that competitors in the first round will compete against competitors of a different club or region.
- Will clearly mark on the draw sheets the rule restrictions governing all divisions with particular attention to divisions U16 and below.
- Make sure that **newaza** draw sheets are clearly identified.
- If it proves impossible to place a competitor in a standard division or combined division; recommend to the Tournament Director that a refund be given.
- Ensure that all made-up divisions have the written approval of the Chief Tournament Official or their appointed surrogate.

Drawsheet Coordinator

A Drowsheet Coordinator is responsible for:

- Ensuring the accurate outcomes of each match are recorded which will include the end time of the match and the score the match was won by
- Inform the Draw Master of anything necessary that requires changes to a drawsheet (eg athlete placed in the wrong division)
- Inform the Drawmaster or Tournament director when athletes receive a direct Hansukomake (disqualification) that will impact the athlete continuing in the tournament. The Drowsheet Coordinator may not make that determination and must be informed by the Mat Chief or Chief Referee of such a disqualification. If not informed, the Drowsheet Coordinator should confirm with the Mat Chief if a disqualification prohibits the player from continuing in the tournament.
- When a computerized draw system is unavailable, the Drowsheet Coordinator will be responsible for indicating to the referees and time keepers which division is competing.

Time and Score Keepers

Time Keepers and Score Keepers will ensure that:

- Match time is appropriate for the division
- At the end of a match, leave the scores and match time until the Drowsheet Coordinator gives permission to move to the next match
- In the case of a computerized scoreboard, the time and scorekeeper may be the same person, however if a computerized scoreboard is not being used, then the time and scorekeeper must

be different people for time keeping and score keeping and use a manual score board and 2 stop watches. The Tournament Director is responsible for having manual scoreboards and stop watches available (or sufficient back-up electronic equipment that can be quickly swapped out)

Chief Medical Officer

The Chief Medical Officer for each tournament will be appointed by the Tournament Director. The Chief Medical Officer must meet at least one of the following standards:

- Medical Doctor
- Certified athletic therapist
- Physiotherapist with a valid first responder certificate
- Emergency Response Nurse
- Certified Paramedic

The remainder of the medical team must have current First Aid certification. The medical team must have at least one person per combat area. The Chief Medical Officer will provide all necessary first aid equipment except ice; which will be provided by the Tournament Director.

Weigh-in Officials

The Weigh in Officials for each tournament will be appointed by the Tournament Director. The duties of the weigh in officials are covered in “weigh-in procedure” later in this document.

Weigh-in Officials do not need to be members in good standing, however they are required to have a background check (within the previous 3 years of the event). A standard police background check or a Vulnerable Sector Screening are acceptable. For tournaments using ONLY the public weigh-in option, police checks are not required.

Weigh-in official gender does not matter for public weigh-in option. When weigh-ins that are allowing stripping below judogi pant and t-shirt, must be split by gender and weigh-in officials must be the same gender as the athletes weighing in.

Coaches

The Coach:

- Is responsible for their athlete’s conduct from entering the tournament venue until leaving it; before and after each contest.
- Must sit in the coaching chair provided throughout the match and not coach from anywhere else in the tournament venue.
- In Club- A sanctioned events where the U14 division is included, coaching is allowed as per the IJF standards – only between Mate and Hajime.
- May offer the athlete tactical advice, encouragement, instructions in unexpected situations, such as injury, etc.
- Must vacate the coaches’ chair upon completion of the match.
- Coaches wishing to check their athlete’s draw sheet do so in a timely manner that does not interfere with the table officials’ operation of a combat surface.

- May approach the Chief Referee of the tournament to review a possible incorrect decision of the on-mat referee team AFTER the match is completed. The Chief Referee , at their option, may review official CARE video, but NO other video

The Coach must refrain from:

- Commenting on or criticizing the referee's calls.
- Demanding correction of the referee's decisions.
- Having their competitor remain on the mat after the match has been awarded
- Any kind of behaviour showing disrespect to the opponent, referees, officials, opponent's coach, their own athlete, or the general public.

MEMBERSHIP

There will be no Judo Ontario registration at tournament venues. Competitors must have registered with Judo Ontario prior to the tournament date.

- It is the tournament director's responsibility to confirm all competitors' eligibility to compete as it pertains to membership.
- Judo Ontario sanctioned tournaments are only open to full-membership, registered competitors in good standing with Judo Ontario or another Provincial/Territorial Association recognized by Judo Canada, or an IJF recognized association.
- The competitor or parent/guardian must produce, upon request, proof of membership and proof of date of birth.
- Neither the competitor, dojosu/instructor nor parent/guardian of a competitor can sign a waiver permitting their participation in the absence of proof of membership.
- A member undergoing disciplinary action may not participate in any tournament in any capacity.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Judo Canada and Judo Ontario Code of Conduct, Discipline Procedure and Coaching Code of Ethics will be enforced in all tournaments. Available at www.judocanada.org and www.judoontario.ca.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs or are permitted on the premises of any judo tournament.

No athlete, referee, official or coach may use or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illicit/performance-enhancing drugs during any judo tournament.

AWARDS & PRIZES

No monetary prizes of any kind may be awarded at any Judo Ontario tournament. Unless given prior **approval** from Judo Ontario's Board of Directors

Medal winners must attend the medal ceremony in their judogi or an official judo uniform or tracksuit.

HYGIENE

- The judogi shall be clean, dry and without unpleasant odor.
- The nails of the feet and hands shall be cut short.
- Long hair must be bound with an elastic band (no metal or hard plastic).
- Hard objects worn on the body such as spectacles, watches and jewelry, etc. are prohibited in competition.
- Make up and strong scents are not allowed.
- Competitors must wear shoes or sandals while not on the mat.

DRESS

- At CLUB–A tournaments, the Tournament Director must have a sokuteiki available for judogi control.
- Judogis must adhere to Judo Canada/IJF sizing.
- All tournaments must adhere to the Judo Canada head covering policy.
- The first competitor called to the mat will be the “white” competitor. The second will be “blue”.

COMPETITORS

All Tournaments

- U10 and below competitors T-shirts are optional for all competitors.
- U12 and up female competitors are required to wear a plain white opaque short-sleeved, round-necked T-shirt under their judogi.
- U12 and up male competitors may not wear a T-shirt under his judogi.
- For all competitors, it is forbidden to wear any metal, hard plastic, or any other hard material, this includes but not limited to, under garments, braces, hair ties, jewellery.
- All competitors must wear undergarments.
- Any athlete not conforming to the above dress code will be asked to change or will forfeit the match.

Club A Tournaments

Competitors at Club A tournaments:

- Properly fitted white judogi. Blue judogis are optional.
- All competitors will wear either a white or blue sash or white or blue judogi depending on the side they are called to for the match AND their current rank colour belt. The Tournament Director is responsible for supplying sashes for each mat surface, but athletes are encouraged to bring their own properly fitting sash.
- It is recommended that athletes bring back-up judogis.
- For official qualifiers, U16 and up and green belt and up MUST have both white and blue judogi. All other divisions MUST have a white judogi, but also may wear a blue judogi when called to the blue side for a match.
-

Club B Tournaments

- It is recommended that all competitors have a white judogi plus one white and one blue properly fitted sash with a belt of their appropriate rank colour. However, at CLUB–B tournaments this rule may not be strictly enforced to give all competitors the opportunity to compete.

Referees

- Referees will wear the current Judo Ontario referees' uniform unless the host tournament organizing committee supplies an alternate uniform, e.g. a golf shirt in place of the standard white shirt, jacket and tie.
- Referees must be members in good standing with their judo federation.

Coaches

- Coaches must be dressed appropriately, meaning no hats (religious headwear excepted), shorts, judogis, etc). Generally, clean or professional attire is expected.
- It is recommended that coaches wear a club shirt, T-shirt and/or club tracksuit while coaching.

MINIMUM RANK

- Participation in a sanctioned tournament is restricted to competitors holding a rank of **yellow belt** and above. **There is to be no white belt participation.**
- The only exception to the rule above is that white belts, U12 & U10, may compete in *ne waza* competitions. However, they may NOT be grouped with orange belt and up competitors.
- A competitor holding a split rank will be considered as the lower rank when creating divisions.

WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE

- Photography or filming is not permitted in the weigh-in areas. This includes the use of mobile phones and other devices.
- The Weigh-in Official must attend the weigh-in to ensure accurate weight measurement and recording.
- Weigh-ins may be done in a public area, area however competitors must wear judogi pants and t-shirt and the gender of the Weigh-in Official does not matter.
 - If running a mixed gender/non-binary division, public area weigh-in option is required
 - Any weigh-ins allowing wearing only underwear (men/boys – underpants, women/girls – underpants and bra) must be in separate boys/mens and girls/womens weigh-in facilities, with Weigh-in Officials of the same gender
 - U12 and below MUST weigh-in in Judogi pants and t-shirt.
 - For U12 and below, if the weigh-ins are not in public view, it is recommended that all competitors U12 and below are accompanied to the weigh-in by a coach, parent or guardian of the same gender.
 - Athletes whose default age group is U14-U18 may weigh-in in their under garments, however even if they are competing in U21 or Senior, may not strip naked.
 - A 200g Allowance for undergarments is permitted for athletes that must wear under garments.
 - For public weigh-ins where athletes must wear Judogi pants and T-shirt, a recommended allowance of 600 g for U10–U14, 800 g for U16–U21 and 1 kg for Senior and Veterans may be permitted and clarified in the technical document for the tournament.
 - The **Weigh-in Official(s)** must not recommend a competitor remove any clothing to make weight beyond that of judo pants and a T-shirt.

- The **coach** must not recommend a competitor remove any clothing to make weight beyond that of judo pants and a T-shirt.
 - Any socks, jewellery or body piercings must be removed.
- Unofficial scales may be made available one hour prior to the scheduled weigh-in time. Only one time on the official scales are permitted.
- The official weigh-in should end a minimum of one hour prior to the start of the division. It is understood however, that from time to time exceptional circumstances, such as inclement weather causing a delay in competitor arrival, may require the weigh-in period to be extended.
- Contestant's weight must be within the lower and upper limits of the class for which they are registered, except for the lightest weight and heaviest weight divisions or within the 15% rule
- The official weight must be recorded on the entry/registration form and actual weight of the contestants, including heavy weights, must be entered on the weigh-in sheet, together with the signatures and initials of the weigh-in official. "+100" etc., is not an acceptable recorded weight.
- Weights are to be recorded to the first decimal place.
- At tournaments where competitors are pre-registered, any competitor who does not show up at the weigh-in will be disqualified. It is at the Tournament Director's discretion whether a refund will be given or not.

COMBINING DIVISIONS

Where three competitors or fewer appear in a division, the Draw Master, after consultation with the Tournament Director, has the option of combining divisions. When combining divisions, the following rules apply:

Gender

Mixed gender competitions are the default for U8 and U10. Gender mixing U12 and up requires the signatures of one of the athlete's parents/guardians for EACH athlete in the intended division. Athletes 18 years of age or older on the day of the tournament may sign for themselves.

Age (U14 and Below)

The maximum age range is a four calendar years. For example; competitors born in the first year of U12 may compete against competitors born in the second year of U14 .

Weight

The maximum weight difference between the lightest and heaviest competitor is not more than 15% of the lightest competitor.

Rank

- There must be no greater than one rank difference between competitors of any age in a combined division. Eg. If an orange belt is the lowest rank, then blue belt is the highest rank that can be included in that division. Green belts and above may be fully integrated.
- A competitor holding a split rank will be considered as the lower rank when creating divisions.

Signed Consent

- A competitor, or parent/guardian if the competitor is under eighteen as of the date of the event, must consent in writing to the combining of his/her division.
- A coach cannot consent to the combining of a division on behalf of his/her competitor.

Rule Set

Combined divisions will be contested according to the rule-set of the lowest rank/age competitor.

Draw Sheets

- Draw sheets must clearly identify the rule restrictions as above.
- Draw sheets must clearly identify that this is not a standard division.

Chief Official Approval

The Chief Official must approve in writing any combined divisions.

SAME DAY MULTIPLE DIVISIONS

Participants in a tournament are allowed to compete in a second division taking place on the same day providing that the second division is scheduled in a separate block of the event and at discretion of the tournament director. Ne Waza, Open Weight, and Team Events must be in separate blocks if on the same day as regular shiai competitions

- When the number of competitors in any division (any age) are only two, competitors in that division are allowed to compete in another division taking place on the same day providing all other NSO/PSO rules are followed.

COMPETITION & COMBAT SURFACE SIZES

- Competition surfaces **MUST** be mats designed for judo (e.g. Tatami or roll-out mats)
- **The safety zone is part of the competition area and MUST the same style of mats used in the combat area to ensure a seamless transition between the combat area and the safety area. Each competition area may be different styles of mats providing the combat and safety zone mats are the same style and there's a 1 meter separation between competition area.**
- For all Club-A and Club-B tournaments, the NSO competition surface regulations apply.
- The recommended size of the combat area is 8m x 8m with a three (3) meter outside safety zone and four (4) meters between adjacent combat areas.
- At a minimum, the size of the combat area is 7m x 7m with a three meter outside safety zone and three (3) meters between adjacent combat areas.
- For competition between children U16 and younger, the combat area may be reduced to 6m x 6m. The safety zone remains three (3) meters all around.
- For competition between children U14 and younger, the minimum combat area may be reduced to 5m x 5m. The safety zone remains three (3) meters all around or 2 meters with padded walls
- The safety zone may be reduced to two (2) meters for Ne Waza (ground fighting) competitions.

CHOKES AND ARMLOCKS

- Chokes and armlocks are not allowed in any competition for ranks below green belt of any age.
- Chokes are permitted for competitors U16+, green belt and higher.
- Chokes and armlocks are permitted for competitors U18+, green belt and higher.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The visually impaired athlete should expect to compete under the visually impaired rules but may consent to compete under the able-bodied rules. This change would be consistent with the next clause.

If the able-bodied judoka does not wish to consent to compete against the visually impaired judoka according to the modified IBSA Judo regulations, the visually impaired judoka wins by Fusen-gachi.

The rules for visually impaired judo, including for athletes who are both visually impaired and deaf, are at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWr41lpfLMc> Note that for a judoka who is both visually impaired and deaf, the following conditions must be met: Judoka has to have yellow circles permanently attached on the top of both sleeves of the judogi; Mat referee has to be able to anticipate what is happening on the mat because they have to be very close to the competitors to be able to touch the blind athlete to indicate the Mate.

DEAF JUDOKA

If a deaf judoka enters a competition, the deaf athlete should expect to compete under the deaf judo rules but may consent to compete under the able-bodied rules. This change would be consistent with the next clause.

If an able-bodied judoka does not consent to compete against the deaf judoka according to the Deaf Judo rules, the deaf judoka wins by Fusen-gachi.

The rules for deaf judo are available at: <https://www.judocanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Judo-Canada-Deaf-Guidelines.pdf>

SPECIAL OLYMPICS JUDOKA

If a special Olympics Judoka wishes to participate in judo competition, providing that such arrangement can be made with respect of Judo Canada safety standards, the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) will accommodate this desire by creating a Special Olympic division with individuals who are of relatively equal level of ability and agree to abide by the following standards: Maximum number of participants in a division shall be four (4); All athletes are given an equal chance to participate, perform, and be recognized for doing their best by their teammates, family, friends, and fans; Special Olympic Judoka are individuals with various level of intellectual disability; divisions for Special Olympic competition are made based on age, gender, and ability – giving everyone a reasonably positive experience and a chance to win – ability is being evaluated as per advise of a coach of the athlete entering the competition; no strangulations or arm-locks are allowed; each athlete, whether in the most able or least able division is valued and recognized; In every division, all athletes receive an award, from gold, silver, and bronze medals, to fourth.

OTHER JUDOKA WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

If a special need judoka with disability other than the described wishes to compete in judo, the LOC of tournaments will accommodate their desire providing that the safety standards as expressed in this policy are adhered to and that all participants in such event agree to abide by the same set of rules.

TRANSGENDER ATHLETES

Athletes planning to participate in judo events in a gender different than identified on their birth certificate must declare this intention to Judo Canada at the latest at the beginning of the sport season.

If approved for such participation, they must remain in the approved gender for at least the length of the entire season.

Approval will be rendered by Judo Canada Sport Committee in accordance with Judo Canada Transgender Policy available at: <https://www.judocanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Policy-on-Transgender-Athletes-7-August-2017-EN2.pdf>

TOURNAMENT TECHNOLOGY

Trackie must be used to register athletes for Club A events. Collection of registration fees through Trackie is not required.

JudoShiai is a tournament management system that is available to all tournament directors for free. It can be used for all or part of a tournament but works best with pre-registration. Contact Judo Ontario for copies of this program. Note: It is NOT recommended to use JudoShiai capability to feed matches to the scoreboard for U10 divisions to allow for changing white and blue sides on-the fly.

Instant replay systems (commonly referred to as CARE systems) are recommended for each competition surface and are available for rent along with the Judo Ontario mats.

AGE & WEIGHT CATEGORIES

The season runs from September 1st to Aug 31st of the following year. As per the IJF regulations, age refers to the age as of December 31st of the second year of the competitive season. Example: Competitor that is seven years old at the start of the season but was born in October would be considered 8 years old for the purpose of grouping into an age category.

For the 2025-2026 Season, the born in years are:

Age Category	Born in Years
U8	2019 and later - non-scoreable in a judo festival environment
U10	2017, 2018 Scored Randori - No Loser
U12	2015, 2016
U14	2013, 2014 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
U16	2011, 2012 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
U18	2009, 2010, 2011 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
U21	2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
Senior	2011 and earlier and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
Veterans	1996 and earlier

Note: Exceptional U14 to U18 athletes may apply to Judo Canada for an early bloomer exception to compete in a higher category. Exceptions granted are valid until the end of the judo season in which they are given. Exception approval from Judo Canada MUST be received PRIOR to the tournament date. Tournament organizers need to take this into account when deciding on registration deadlines. The application form is online at: <https://forms.gle/suzkvn6PKHkE7jnS8>.

Belt Divisions

Non-Qualifying Tournaments

For non-qualifying tournaments, the minimum for rank belt divisions for all age groups are:

- Novice: Yellow and Orange
- Advanced: Green+

Tournaments may also schedule one set of Intermediate divisions for green to brown belt competitors. Black belts may not be included in Intermediate divisions.

- Athletes eligible to compete in both Intermediate and Advanced divisions may be allowed to do so on the same day providing they are scheduled in different blocks.

When there are less than 2 athletes to meet the minimum, combining athlete belt categories may be required. See the Combining Divisions section.

Qualifying Tournaments

Tournaments designated as qualifying tournaments or Judo Canada national B sanctioned tournaments may need to adhere to Judo Canada's advice for Novice/Intermediate/Advanced which are:

- U14 to U18 – Novice: Yellow & Orange and Advanced: Green+
- U21 – Novice: Yellow-Green and Advanced: Blue+
- Senior – Novice: Yellow & Orange, Intermediate: Green and Blue, and Advanced: Brown+
- Veterans – Novice: Yellow-Green and Advanced: Blue+

U8 Mixed Gender

- Tournament Director may create separate boys & girls divisions.
- Per the LTAD Model, it is recommended that all participants receive an award at the of the presentation.
- No shiai competition is allowed for this age group. Skills demonstration ONLY.
- Skills demonstrations should include:
 - Fundamental movement skills
 - Breakfalls in all directions and to the left and right sides
 - Ne-waza hold escapes in at least 2 different directions
 - Non-Sored tachi-waza randori (yellow belt+ Only)
 - Randori MUST follow the NSO rules matrix
- There are no set weight divisions for U8, however the maximum difference in weight from the lightest to the heaviest is 15%.
- Belt categories are assigned using the rank rules under Combining Divisions.

U10 Mixed Gender

- Per the LTAD Model, it is recommended that all participants receive an award at the of the presentation.
- Shiai is scored randori but match winners are not awarded. Randori MUST follow the NSO rules matrix
- There are no set weight divisions for U10, however the maximum difference in weight from the lightest to the heaviest is 15%. Tournament Director may create division as appropriate for the smooth running of the.
- Belt categories are assigned using the rank rules under Combining Divisions.

U12

- There are no set weight divisions for U12, however the maximum difference in weight from the lightest to the heaviest is 15%.
- Belt categories are assigned using the rank rules under Combining Divisions.
- The Tournament Director may create mixed gender divisions for the smooth running of the event, however all other PSO/NSO rules must be followed.

U12 and Older Mixed Gender Divisions

Tournaments may run/offer mixed gender divisions for U12 and older. Those divisions shall follow the same age and rank divisions as the split gender divisions, however there are no standard weight categories for mixed gender divisions. Instead, weight categories will follow the 15% rule where the

maximum difference between the lightest and heaviest competitor. These divisions would not be eligible for Provincial or National team ranking points. Please refer to the Athletes Handbook.

U14

Rules as per the NSO rules matrix that are in effect at the time of the event.

<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
• Up to and including 32 kg • +32 kg up to and including 35 kg • +35 kg up to and including 38 kg • +38 kg up to and including 42 kg • +42 kg up to and including 46 kg • +46 kg up to and including 50 kg • +50 kg up to and including 55 kg • +55 kg up to and including 60 kg • +60 kg up to and including 66 kg • +66 kg	• Up to and including 30 kg • +30 kg up to and including 33 kg • +32 kg up to and including 36 kg • +36 kg up to and including 40 kg • +40 kg up to and including 44 kg • +44 kg up to and including 48 kg • +48 kg up to and including 52 kg • +52 kg up to and including 57 kg • +57 kg up to and including 63 kg • +63 kg

U16

Rules as per the NSO rules matrix that are in effect at the time of the event.

<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
• Up to and including 38 kg • +38 kg up to and including 42 kg • +42 kg up to and including 46 kg • +46 kg up to and including 50 kg • +50 kg up to and including 55 kg • +55 kg up to and including 60 kg • +60 kg up to and including 66 kg • +66 kg up to and including 73 kg • +73 kg	• Up to and including 36 kg • +36 kg up to and including 40 kg • +40 kg up to and including 44 kg • +44 kg up to and including 48 kg • +48 kg up to and including 52 kg • +52 kg up to and including 57 kg • +57 kg up to and including 63 kg • +63 kg up to and including 70 kg • +70 kg

U18

<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
• Up to and including 50 kg • +50 kg up to and including 55 kg • +55 kg up to and including 60 kg • +60 kg up to and including 66 kg • +66 kg up to and including 73 kg • +73 kg up to and including 81 kg • +81 kg up to and including 90 kg • +90 kg	• Up to and including 40 kg • +40 kg up to and including 44 kg • +44 kg up to and including 48 kg • +48 kg up to and including 52 kg • +52 kg up to and including 57 kg • +57 kg up to and including 63 kg • +63 kg up to and including 70 kg • +70 kg

U21

<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
• up to and including 60 kg • +60 kg and up to and including 66 kg • +66 kg and up to and including 73 kg • +73 kg and up to and including 81 kg • +81 kg and up to and including 90 kg • +90 kg and up to and including 100 kg • +100 kg	• up to and including 48 kg • +48 kg up to and including 52 kg • +52 kg up to and including 57 kg • +57 kg up to and including 63 kg • +63 kg up to and including 70 kg • +70 kg up to and including 78 kg • +78 kg

Seniors

<i>Mens</i>	<i>Womens</i>
• up to and including 60 kg • +60 kg and up to and including 66 kg • +66 kg and up to and including 73 kg • +73 kg and up to and including 81 kg • +81 kg and up to and including 90 kg • +90 kg and up to and including 100 kg • +100 kg	• up to and including 48 kg • +48 kg up to and including 52 kg • +52 kg up to and including 57 kg • +57 kg up to and including 63 kg • +63 kg up to and including 70 kg • +70 kg up to and including 78 kg • +78 kg

Veterans

For the smooth running of the tournament, the Tournament Director may choose to use the 15% rule to create the weight divisions.

<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
• up to 60 kg • more than 60 kg and up to 66 kg • more than 66 kg and up to 73 kg • more than 73 kg and up to 81 kg • more than 81 kg and up to 90 kg • more than 90 kg and up to 100 kg • more than 100 kg	• up to 48 kg • more than 48 kg and up to 52 kg • more than 52 kg and up to 57 kg • more than 57 kg and up to 63 kg • more than 63 kg and up to 70 kg • more than 70 kg and up to 78 kg • more than 78 kg

TEAM FORMAT

Team Composition

Team composition can include all male, all female or mixed team of a single age division. The recommended number of participants usually ranges for 4 to 7 participants per team. Odd numbers are recommended to minimize the possibility of ties.

Team composition may also include substitute athletes. Rules for the number of substitutes and for substitution of athletes between rounds should be described clearly in the tournament technical package.

It is recommended that a team must consist of a minimum half the number of categories (for example, at least 3 competitors for a 5-member team) to be allowed to register and compete.

Weight Categories

Weight categories should be selected within the weight categories for the specific age divisions. Some weight categories will be merged together (usually the lighter weights and the heavier weights) to obtain the correct number of weight categories for the event.

For example, a senior female team event in a team of 5 could offer these weight categories

- -52 kg (including both -48 kg and -52 kg categories)
- -57 kg
- -63 kg
- -70 kg
- +70 kg (including both -78 kg and +78 kg categories)

Team matches

Within each match, the team bouts will be fought in any order as per the tournament technical package. It is recommended to rotate the starting weight category in each round.

Before each round the team leader/coach must present to the Tournament Director the composition of his team for the round.

Each competitor/substitute is usually allowed to fight in their own weight category or in the next higher weight category.

Each bout in a team event must determine a winner. Either golden score rule or decision rule must be applied according to the age specific rules.

Winning criteria

- The highest total number of bouts won (regardless of the scores) in the match determines the winning team.
- In case of a tie in wins, a random draw will be made of one category and one pair will refight a golden score contest to decide the winning team.

NE WAZA

Senior Male	-66, -81, +81 kg
Senior Female	-52, -63, +63 kg

For other age groups it is recommended to use the 15% weight difference between the lightest and heaviest competitor when making weight divisions.

Revision History

Competition Year Valid For	Major Changes	Date Approved by Board
23/24 & Prior		
24/25	• EDI suggestions for language changes and the ability for Male & Female competitors to compete together at any age with approvals • Removal of Kata in favor of a stand alone kata tournament standards document	Not yet approved
25/26	• Removal of undergarments not allowed for any division • Clarification of safety zones as being part of the competition area • Requirement to use Trackie for Club A tournament registration • Updated team competition and ne waza	Approved August 2025