

# KATA TOURNAMENT STANDARDS

A photograph of two judoka in white gi performing a throw on a red and yellow mat. One judoka is in the air, being thrown by the other. The background shows a gymnasium with blue and white banners.The Judo Ontario logo, featuring a stylized red and white circular design with a black and green border.

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

**Effective:**  
**September 1, 2025 to August 31, 2026**

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# POLICY STATEMENT

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

## DEFINITIONS

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.

## 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 judges, the athletes, and the coaches in jeopardy of a lawsuit, 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 dojosu) 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 judges.
- Failure to pay the fine in a timely fashion will result in the dojosu 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 **dojosu** 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.

### JUDGES AND ATHLETES

Judges 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 dojosu'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 judges 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 judges, 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 tournaments covered in this sanctioning document are **Kata-A and Kata-B Events**.

National level tournaments are hosted by Judo Canada and Provincial level tournaments are hosted by Judo Ontario.

## KATA-A EVENTS

- 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 A or B sanction and must abide by Judo Canada tournament standards.
- Pointable

## KATA-B EVENTS

- 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.
- Not open to current national team members.
- Not pointable

# MAJOR OFFICIALS

## KATA TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

- The Kata Tournament Director shall be a member in good standing with Judo Ontario. The Kata Tournament Director must have demonstrated knowledge on the rules for the conduct of kata competitions as issued by the IJF, Judo Canada and Judo Ontario. Ideally, this role would be suited for a qualified kata judge but a person with experience in the administration of kata competitions is acceptable.
- The Kata 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 Kata Judge 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 to enter scores when needed, kata judges, etc. should be members of Judo Ontario.
  - The registration of competitors.
  - Confirm all competitors' eligibility to compete as it pertains to membership and rank.
- The Kata Tournament Director must restrict from competition Judo Ontario members who fall into these membership categories: Introductory and School members.
- Under supervision of the Chief Tournament Official; the reloading of the mats on the Judo Ontario trailer in the prescribed order as set forth by Judo Ontario.
- The Kata Tournament Director will oversee the preparation of the competition draw (order of presentation).
- The Kata Tournament Director will make the competition draw and registration forms available for inspection by the Chief Tournament Official upon request.
- The Kata Tournament Director must refund the registration fee of any team for whom there is no other team in their division.
- The Kata 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 Kata Tournament Director is responsible for the replacement of any equipment belonging to Judo Ontario that is damaged or lost.

### Authority

- The Kata 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 Kata Tournament Director cannot act as either Chief Tournament Official or Chief Tournament Kata Judge. For Kata-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, nor may 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 Judo Ontario 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 Kata 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 competition draw. The Chief Tournament Official may appoint a kata judge (National level 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.
- Remove from the tournament venue any individual whose behavior is deemed contrary to the Judo Canada code of conduct.

Kata competition 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 Kata Tournament Director or appropriate tournament official to be addressed. The Chief Tournament Official should not make the necessary corrections directly.

For Kata-B tournaments, the Kata 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 KATA JUDGE

The Chief Tournament Kata Judge will be approved by the Chair of the Judo Ontario Kata Committee (JOKC). The minimum PSO standard for Chief Tournament Kata Judge is National judge.

The Chief Tournament Kata Judge will:

- Ensure that the IJF Kata Judging Rules and Judo Canada (NSO) & Judo Ontario (PSO) Regulations/modifications are applied consistently and correctly throughout the whole kata competition.
- In consultation with the Chair of the JOKC and the Kata Tournament Director, determine and set the minimum kata judge credentials for the tournament for which they have been appointed.
- Check the credentials of all participating kata judges to see that they are members in good standing with their provincial organization or its equivalent in the case of foreign kata judges.
- Make a roster list of all participating kata judges which includes the judges' full name, club, rank, and judge accreditation.
- Appoint the kata judge teams, including appointing Centre Judges, 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 performance 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 judges when they have made an error in judgment or application of the rules and will make recommendations to the judges to correct these errors.
- Write and submit a post tournament report of the judges' activities including a roster of attending judges to the Chair of the Judo Ontario Kata Committee 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.
- In larger tournaments, the Chief Tournament Kata Judge may appoint Mat Supervisors to provide assistance to their duties. The minimum standard for a Mat Supervisor in National judge.

### Authority

The Chief Tournament Kata Judge has the authority to:

- Determine which kata judges will be allowed to judge and what kata they can judge at that tournament.
- To remove a judge whom they deem is not judging up to Judo Ontario standards.
- To make adjustments to the judging teams as deemed necessary.

### Accountability

The Chief Kata Judge is accountable to the Corporation of Judo Ontario and its Board of Directors

## CENTRE JUDGE

Centre Judges will be appointed by the Chief Tournament Kata Judge. The Centre Judge is part of the judging panel assigned to judge the presentations on their assigned mat and provides supervision and leadership to the assigned panel. The Centre Judge is accountable to the Chief Tournament Kata Judge and where applicable, Mat Supervisors. The minimum standard for a Centre Judge is National judge.

A Centre Judge will:

- Ensure that the competition rules for the tournament are applied consistently and correctly throughout all kata presentations
- Counsel judges when they have made an error in judgment or application of the rules and will make recommendations to the judges to correct these errors
- Inform the Chief Tournament Official or Chief Tournament Kata Judge 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 Kata Judge of unsafe and/or inappropriate behavior of spectators, coaches and competitors and will recommend the action that he/she thinks is necessary to correct the situation.
- Recommend to the Chief Tournament Official that he/she remove from the tournament venue any individual whose behavior is deemed contrary to the Judo Canada code of conduct.

## CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

The Chief Medical Officer for each tournament will be appointed by the Kata 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 for every three (3) mat areas. The Chief Medical Officer will provide all necessary first aid equipment except ice; which will be provided by the Tournament Director.

## 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 Kata 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 (where applicable).
- 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](http://www.judocanada.org) and [www.judoontario.ca](http://www.judoontario.ca).

Judo Ontario is committed to providing fair and equitable treatment of kata competitors. Judges have the responsibility to ensure that they have taken reasonable steps to avoid situations that may call their integrity into question. When in doubt, the judge should discuss the situation with the Chief Kata Tournament Judge and agree on an appropriate course of action.

For provincial level events without National sanctioning, athletes may be invited, for developmental purposes, to judge at a tournament where they are competing but in no case will they be allowed to judge the performance of a team in the division in which they are competing.

## ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

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

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

## AWARDS & PRIZES

Monetary prizes may be awarded at kata tournaments in Ontario. If applicable, the tournament technical package should make it clear that these prizes would only be available in the kata divisions.

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

- Judogis must adhere to Judo Canada/IJF sizing.
- Only white judogis are permitted in kata competitions.
- Red and white belts for 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> dan may be worn in Itsutsu-No-Kata and Koshiki-No-Kata competitions only.
- For provincial events without National sanctioning, a white T-shirt (plain, short sleeve, round neck) may be worn by any competitor.

## MINIMUM AGE/RANK

- For Kata-A events, a competitor must be at least 9 years of age. For Kata-B events, a competitor must be at least 7 years of age.
- There is to be no white belt participation.
- A competitor holding a split rank will be considered as the lower rank when creating divisions.

## COMPETITION SURFACE SIZE

- The recommended size of the competition area is 8m x 8m with a minimum two (2) meter outside safety zone between and around the mat
- At a minimum, the size of the competition area is 7m x 7m with a minimum one (1) meter outside safety zone between and around the mat
- The dimensions stated above are intended to ensure the safety of kata competitors presenting any of the permitted kata. For Kata-B events only, kata tournament organizers may propose smaller dimensions where the competition is restricted to the presentation of kata that requires less space or can be performed safely with modifications in position and/or direction. Any exceptions under this provision must be approved by the Sanctioning Chair.

## PERMITTED DIVISIONS

Competitions should only be organized where there are established judging standards to evaluate the performance of the competitors. The competition may be restricted to the presentation of a portion of the full kata.

The IJF currently has judging standards for the following kata:

- Nage-No-Kata
- Katame-No-Kata
- Kime-No-Kata
- Ju-No-Kata
- Kodokan-Goshin-Jutsu
- Itsutsu-No-Kata
- Koshiki-No-Kata

Kata competition in Canada will not have gender specific divisions. Pairs are not restricted to any specific gender identification.

### Revision History

Competition Year Valid For	List of Major Changes	Date Approved by Board
<b>24/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creation of Kata Specific tournament standards document</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	
<b>25/26</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addition of Itsutsu and Koshiki-No-Kata</li> </ul>	