

Judo Ontario Kata Committee Policy

Approval Authority	Board of Directors	January 18 th , 2026
Next Review	2028	

1. Preamble

Judo Ontario strives to expand the sport of Judo as a recreational activity as well as develop international caliber athletes. To achieve this, it is essential that Judo Ontario develop programs that provide a world class sporting experience. In addition to supporting locally operated clubs, ensuring that competitions are well organized and operated is a critical undertaking.

2. Mission Statement

- 2.1. Within the overall goals and aspirations of Judo Ontario, the Judo Ontario Kata Committee (JOKC) plays an important role in developing and nurturing an environment where all Judo Ontario members are introduced to grassroots and high performance IJF/Kodokan kata.
- 2.2. To achieve its mission, the JOKC will:
 - 2.2.1. Develop grassroots kata according to IJF/Kodokan kata standards.
 - 2.2.2. Develop competitive kata according to IJF/Kodokan kata standards.
 - 2.2.3. Organize various kata seminars, including providing support to candidates for Yudansha examinations.
 - 2.2.4. Identify potential kata judges and encourage them to pursue National and International judge certifications.
 - 2.2.5. Administer the Judo Ontario Provincial judge certification program.

3. Objectives

- 3.1. To contribute to the overall goals of Judo Ontario, the JOKC has the following objectives:
 - 3.1.1. Build collaborative relationships with all Judo Ontario stakeholders.
 - 3.1.2. Keep current of, and disseminate to stakeholders, current IJF Kata Competition Criteria for the evaluation rules and any National Sporting Organization (NSO)/Provincial Sporting Organization (PSO) modifications thereto.
 - 3.1.3. Foster the development of certified kata judges to National level.
 - 3.1.3.1. Increase number of kata judges in talent pool including women and youth
 - 3.1.3.2. Develop and train officials to the highest standard, with a thorough knowledge of current IJF rules and rule interpretations.
 - 3.1.3.3. Provide support, when available and appropriate, for Ontario kata judges to reach international levels.

4. Activities

In coordination with the Judo Ontario Board through the VP Technical:

- 4.1. Education and Grassroots Development
 - 4.1.1. Where practical, conduct Kata seminars across the province
 - 4.1.2. Inviting Kata experts to Ontario
 - 4.1.3. Grassroots Kata
 - 4.1.3.1. Live Steam seminars
 - 4.1.3.2. Weekly workouts for kata athletes
 - 4.1.4. Kids and Youth Kata
 - 4.1.4.1. Encourage dojos to start teaching kata early (at the orange belt level (Yonkyu) where possible) to build future kata athletes
- 4.2. Judge Development
 - 4.2.1. Create a collaborative environment conducive to encouraging athletes and other members to become kata judges

- 4.2.2. Identify potential National kata judges
- 4.2.3. Create and maintain a list of active Ontario kata judges
- 4.2.4. Develop criteria for selection for events when nominations are required
- 4.2.5. Provide workshops and seminars updating stakeholders on current rules and their interpretation
 - 4.2.5.1. Will organize and conduct at least one provincial Kata Judging Rules and Procedures seminar per year.
 - 4.2.5.2. Set and strive to reach annual minority and gender kata judging targets.
- 4.2.6. Will provide timely critiquing and feedback to kata judges on their performance, as required
- 4.2.7. When requested, cooperate with the conducting of national kata judge evaluations within Ontario
- 4.2.8. Administer the Judo Ontario Provincial judge certification program.
- 4.3. Athlete Development
 - 4.3.1. Providing High Performance Kata athletes with feedback after tournaments when possible
 - 4.3.2. Support High Performance Kata athletes in any possible way and encourage to feed the National program
 - 4.3.3. Conduct seminars in not only understanding kata but also in understanding how to compete in kata
- 4.4. Competitions
 - 4.4.1. Create and keep up-to-date provincial and national calendar of kata events
 - 4.4.2. Oversee Ontario Kata Championships
 - 4.4.3. Support Annual Kata tournaments
 - 4.4.4. Support Grassroots events (monthly/quarterly) including kids and youth divisions
- 4.5. Administration
 - 4.5.1. Develop an annual budget, submitted to the VP Technical and subject to the approval of the Judo Ontario Board of Directors for the operation of the Committee's activities
 - 4.5.2. Maintain a current list of Ontario kata judges and their activities
 - 4.5.3. Maintain and implement this provincial kata judge policy as approved by the Board of Judo Ontario
 - 4.5.4. Provide an annual schedule of JOKC meetings
 - 4.5.4.1. Keep and provide minutes of its meetings to Judo Ontario on a timely basis
 - 4.5.5. Liaise with the National Kata Committee
 - 4.5.6. Liaise with the Provincial Grading Committee
 - 4.5.7. Oversee the determination of provincial annual award winners related to Kata

5. JOKC Responsibilities

- 5.1. Maintain high quality kata development activities in Ontario
- 5.2. Maintain high quality kata judging in Ontario and undertake developmental activities for all stakeholders in Ontario.
 - 5.2.1. Associated activities will be undertaken in coordination with other Judo Ontario activities
 - 5.2.2. Associated activities will be coordinated with the National Kata Committee as required.
- 5.3. Responsibility for the correct interpretation, clarification, and application of the IJF Kata Competition Criteria for the evaluation rules, as well as any NSO/PSO Rules modifications and National/Provincial Kata Judging and Kata Athletes Policies & Procedures.
- 5.4. Develop and update priority lists of Ontario kata judges for advancement to National level and to nominate these candidates for evaluation to the National Kata Committee, when required.
- 5.5. Nominate judges for national and international events when requested by the National Kata Committee.

6. Composition of the JOKC

- 6.1. The VP Technical will select and appoint the Chairperson of the JOKC subject to approval from the Judo Ontario Board of Directors.

- 6.1.1. If there is no chair for the JOKC, the role will default to the VP Technical
- 6.1.2. The Chairperson will select the members of the JOKC.
- 6.1.3. The JOKC target membership shall be at least three members, subject to availability of volunteer members.
- 6.1.4. JOKC members are subject to final approval from the VP Technical and the Judo Ontario Board of Directors.
- 6.1.5. Selection to or removal from the JOKC is at the discretion of the Chairperson, after consultation with the VP Technical.

- 6.1.5.1. Removal from the JOKC is not subject to appeal beyond what is stated in the Judo Ontario Discipline, Dispute, and Appeals Policy

6.2. Eligibility requirement for membership on the JOKC

- 6.2.1. Must be a member in good standing with Judo Ontario and Judo Canada
- 6.2.2. Must have a good understanding of all katas, have competed in kata, and/or be a certified kata judge
 - 6.2.2.1. All reasonable effort must be made to include women and youth

6.3. The committee will have a Secretary who will assist the Chairperson with administrative tasks such as keeping records of provincial judges and keeping minutes of meetings. The secretary will be appointed by the Chairperson and the appointment will be approved by the VP Technical and Judo Ontario board of directors. The Secretary is a non-voting member of the committee.

7. Kata Judge Participation Outside the Province of Ontario

- 7.1. Judges must be at least National level in order to participate in events outside of the province of Ontario.
- 7.2. Judges that are participating in events are requested to advise the Chairperson of the JOKC of any events that they are participating in outside of the province of Ontario.

Judge Policies

8. Competition Standards

- 8.1. Provincial Championships or higher events (e.g.: Ontario Open, Ontario Kata Championships)
 - 8.1.1. Chief Kata Judge: minimum National Certified in all 5 katas, appointed by JOKC
 - 8.1.2. Judges: minimum National Certified in the kata that is being judged
 - 8.1.3. Kata tournaments at this level must be judged by a table of 5 judges per mat. In exceptional circumstances where the minimum judges cannot be found, a lower number may be approved by the Sanctioning Chair.
- 8.2. Club–A tournaments: (Commonly referred to as “Annual” tournaments)
 - 8.2.1. Chief Kata Judge: minimum National Certified in all katas presented during the tournament
 - 8.2.2. Judges: minimum Provincial A in the kata that is being judged
 - 8.2.3. 5 judges per mat are preferred; however, having a minimum of 3 judges per mat is permitted.
- 8.3. Club–B tournaments: (Commonly referred to as “Monthly” or “Developmental” tournaments)
 - 8.3.1. Chief Kata Judge: minimum National Certified in all katas presented during the tournament
 - 8.3.2. Judges: minimum Green belt (Sankyu) but subject to approval from tournament host.
- 8.4. Non-sanctioned judo tournaments
 - 8.4.1. The committee assumes no responsibility or jurisdiction over these events
 - 8.4.2. Ontario kata judges officiating at non-sanctioned tournaments may be subject to discipline as stated in the Judo Ontario Tournament Standards/ Sanction Policy

9. Provincial Kata Judge Certification

- 9.1. The JOKC is responsible for Provincial Kata Judge Certification in Ontario. The committee will determine the certification levels and the requirements for candidates to receive each certification.

9.2. Certification levels available for each Kata in Ontario

9.2.1. Provincial A – Certified to judge at an Club-A (Annual) tournament in Ontario

9.2.2. Provincial B – Certified to judge at tournaments below Club-A in Ontario

10. Selection of Kata Judges for Various Events

10.1. General criteria:

10.1.1. Kata judges must exhibit competency, impartiality, and a positive attitude toward teamwork.

10.1.2. Other criteria that may be considered where appropriate:

10.1.2.1. Canadian Citizenship

10.1.2.2. Official languages spoken

10.1.2.3. Seniority (number of years at current certification level)

10.1.2.4. Activity at recent provincial and national events

10.1.2.5. Attendance at recent provincial and national kata clinics

10.2. Selection of Kata Judges for National Championships and Inter-provincial Tournaments

10.2.1. When requested by Judo Canada, the JOKC will select kata judges using the general criteria in section 10.1.

10.3. Selection of Kata Judges for Provincial Championships

10.3.1. Kata judges must be members in good standing of Judo Ontario

10.3.1.1. Qualified out-of-province kata judges may be considered by the JOKC

10.3.2. JOKC will appoint a Chief Kata Judge and select judges

11. Responsibilities of Kata Judges with Provincial Teams

11.1. As ambassadors for Judo Ontario, they will adhere to the Kata Judge's Code of Conduct and the Judo Ontario Code of Conduct.

11.2. Assist the Ontario Provincial coaching staff with technical and kata matters.

11.3. Provide a written report specific to kata matters for the selected event when requested by Judo Ontario.

11.4. When participating at international events and National Championships, kata judges are subject to Judo Canada supervision.

12. Regional Kata Judge Coordinators

12.1. There are no regional kata judge coordinators assigned at this time

13. Screening Policy for Ontario Kata Judges

13.1. All Ontario Kata Judges (18 years of age and older) are subject to Judo Ontario's Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS) Policy.

14. Code Of Conduct for Ontario Kata Judges

14.1. **Impartiality:** A kata judge must be fair, honest, and always impartial, and must not display or harbor favoritism or prejudices in behavior and expression. The following paragraphs provide guidance on how to enhance the impartiality of judges in a competition. The information below is not exhaustive and cannot be expected to cover every possible situation of bias. A judge is expected to assess themselves and take appropriate action (e.g. discuss with chief kata judge) where their impartiality may be in question.

14.1.1. During a competition, a kata judge should minimize fraternization with athletes, coaches, and spectators to remain impartial and to minimize the possibility of a confrontation or appearance of bias.

14.1.2. During a competition, a kata judge must not coach or cheer contestants.

14.1.3. During Provincial Championships or higher events (see 8.1), a kata judge must not judge a division which includes a team that they actively coach. This applies to judging the team that they coach as well as all other teams that are in competition with the team they coach. This restriction will apply until the coaching relationship has ended for a period of not less than six months.

14.1.4. Judges are welcome to use social media, keeping in mind that certain posts or reactions might be viewed as showing preference toward particular clubs or teams. Using thoughtful discretion when engaging with team-related content during the competitive season helps maintain confidence in the judging process.

14.2. **Conflict of Interest:** A kata judge must avoid any direct or indirect conflict of interest.

14.3. **Competence:** A kata judge must be familiar with the rules and regulations governing the competition of kata. They must maintain their competency by being active in judging kata and keeping abreast of rule changes and interpretations by annually attending a Kata Judging seminar.

14.4. **Promptness:** A kata judge must be in the assigned competition area promptly before the contestants. They must be prompt when attending meetings, clinics, or seminars. A kata judge must remain near the competition area or in the assigned waiting area until dismissed by the chief kata judge.

14.5. **Attentiveness:** A kata judge must be always attentive and must devote their full attention when judging the performance.

14.6. **Mutual Respect:** A kata judge must respect the opinion of the other judges. Each judge must be able to express their opinion without fear of ridicule or criticism from others.

14.7. **Teamwork:** Judges must work as a team in a co-operative spirit so that the kata competition may run smoothly. However, each member of a judging panel should make independent judgments.

14.8. **Criticism:** A kata judge must not criticize other judges. Differences of opinion should be discussed with the kata judge concerned, or with the chief kata judge or kata committee.

14.8.1. In terms of participation in social media, it is unacceptable for a judge to comment on the decisions made by other judges or other tournament officials in a competition.

14.9. **Confrontation:** A kata judge must not have a confrontation with judges, athletes, coaches, or spectators.

14.9.1. A kata judge faced with such a situation must make all attempts to evade it and direct the grievance via the proper channels, usually to the chief kata judge or Tournament Director for that event.

14.10. **Uniform:** At International/Inter-Provincial tournaments, a kata judge must be properly attired as required by the IJF Kata Competition Judges Guidelines (as they pertain to kata judging aspects).

14.10.1. A more casual dress code (e.g., golf shirt and grey trousers) for kata judges, as may be supplied by tournament organizers, is sometimes adequate.

15. General Conflict of Interest Guidelines

15.1. Preamble

15.1.1. In the Judo community as in all other organizations, situations arise where the person involved in the decision-making process will find that their ability to make the decision is compromised or their objectivity is impaired due to certain factors.

15.1.2. In such situations, the decision maker must respond by declining to take part in the process.

15.1.3. The object of these guidelines is to make the decision-making process as fair as possible and ultimately the removal of all indications of conflict or bias, whether perceived or real.

15.2. General Principles:

15.2.1. In each matter relating to the interaction between two parties, the deciding party must be objective and free from compromising influences. Objectivity is impaired when the deciding party has a real interest in the outcome of the process or is biased towards a certain outcome to the extent that the deciding party would be unable to properly and competently carry out the decision-making powers.

15.2.2. When the conflict does arise, the deciding party must declare the conflict and refrain from involvement in the decision-making process and from attempting to influence the remaining decision makers.

15.2.3. A declared conflict of interest or bias may be resolved within the group making the decision.

15.2.4. Allegations of conflict of interest or bias must be addressed immediately to ensure fairness in the decision-making process.

15.3. Definitions

15.3.1. **Conflict of interest** is a conflict between a personal interest and an official responsibility of a person in a position of trust. Bias is a predisposition or leaning towards a certain outcome.

15.3.2. **Parties Involved.** These Guidelines apply to all members of Judo Ontario involved in any decision-making process.

15.4. Application of the Guidelines

15.4.1. A deciding party should not:

15.4.1.1. Do something knowing it will further the party's own interest, or it will further the interest of a person directly associated with the party or will further the interests of a family member.

15.4.1.2. Use a position or office to influence or seek to influence a decision to be made to further the party's own private interest.

15.4.1.3. Use or communicate information not available to the general membership, that was gained while carrying out the duties of office or powers, to further a private interest.

15.4.1.4. Act when there is a predisposition towards a particular outcome.

15.4.1.5. Accept gifts or benefits (this does not include social obligations).

15.5. Resolution

15.5.1. Any unresolved conflicts of interest or allegation of bias shall be dealt with using the Judo Ontario Dispute Resolution Procedures.

16. Gender Equity and Inclusion

16.1. The JOKC will develop annual targets for minority gender inclusion and operate in accordance with the Judo Ontario policy on Gender Equity

16.1.1. These targets must meet or exceed those provided in section 7 of the Judo Ontario Gender Equity Policy (JOGEP)

16.1.1.1. For reference: Section 7 JOGEP goal as of January 2022: 40%

16.1.2. A report on progress and targets for the next year will be provided to the VP Technical and the VP responsible for Gender Equity.