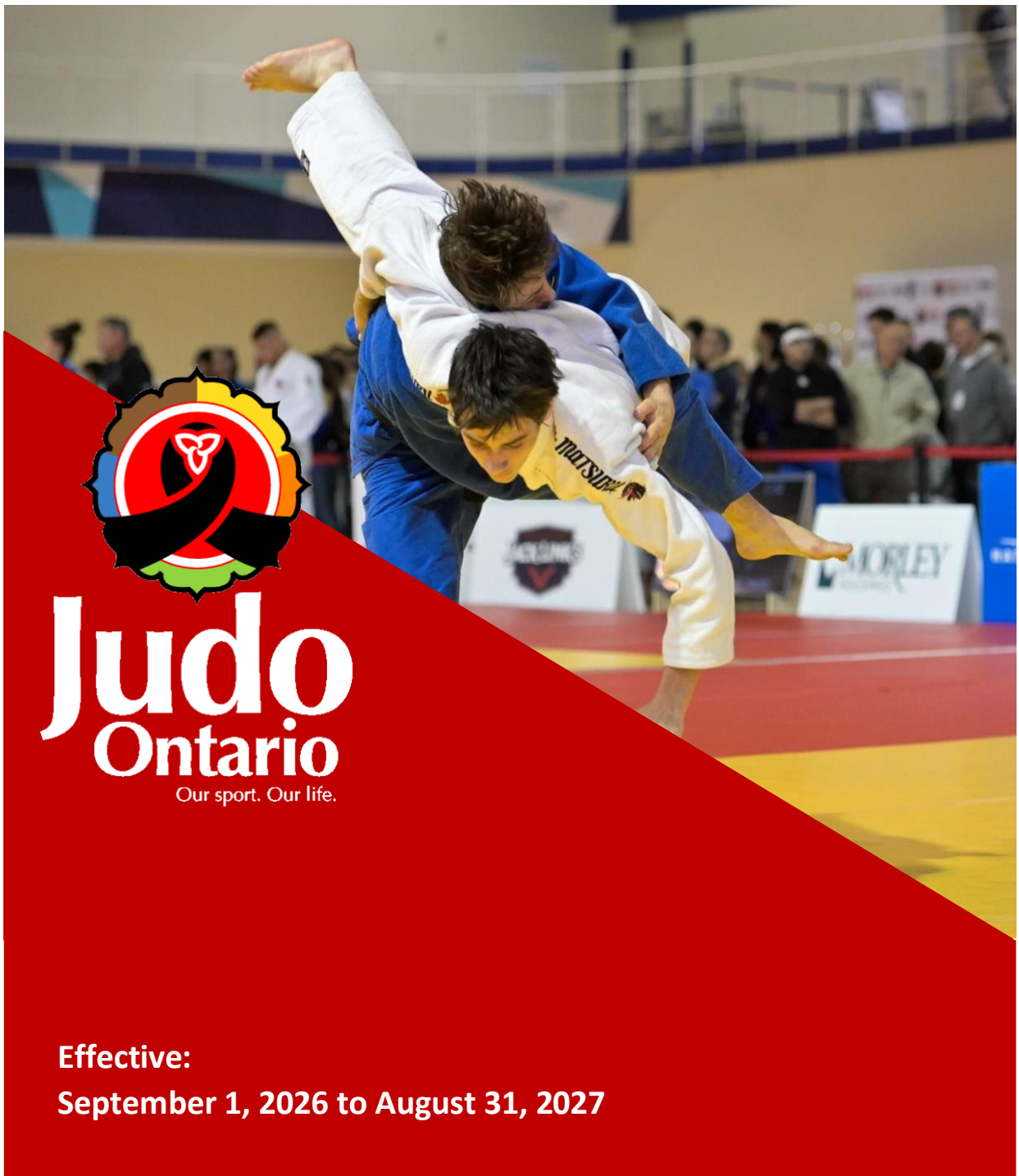


SHIAI TOURNAMENT STANDARDS



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

Effective:
September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2027

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to define establish operational/technical standards for conducting sanctioned shiai competitions. Sanctioning requirements and processes are established in the Judo Ontario Sanctioning Policy

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.

TOURNAMENT DEFINITIONS

The two types of tournaments covered in this document are **CLUB A, B**. All tournaments must be sanctioned and fall under these guidelines including both shiai and ne-waza.

National B sanctioned tournaments must first apply and receive a Judo Ontario Club A sanction

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 current registered members 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 Canda 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.
- Pointable.
- **Responsible to pay RDF (Referee Development Fee).**

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 current registered members in good standing with Judo Ontario.
- Restricted to a maximum belt rank of **3 Kyu (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.
- Not pointable.

MAJOR OFFICIALS

Tournament Director

The Tournament Director must be a **Judo Ontario member in good standing** and hold a minimum rank of **Shodan**.

The Tournament Director is responsible for the overall organization and operation of the tournament, except where responsibilities fall under the authority of the Chief Tournament Official or Chief Tournament Referee. Responsibilities include:

- obtaining the required Judo Ontario sanction and serving as the primary event contact with Judo Ontario;
- preparing and maintaining the approved tournament technical package;
- providing a venue that meets Judo Ontario Tournament Standards;
- arranging and paying for qualified medical personnel;
- arranging for required mats and equipment, including transportation, unloading, setup, reloading and return of Judo Ontario equipment;
- ensuring mats and competition areas are properly set up, cleaned and maintained;
- providing sufficient volunteers and qualified event personnel, including applicable screening requirements;
- managing competitor registration and confirming membership, rank and eligibility;
- refunding the registration fee of an athlete where no suitable competitor or division is available;
- ensuring a **sokuteiki** is available for judogi control;
- making registration records and draw sheets available to the Chief Tournament Official upon request;
- ensuring Judo Ontario equipment is properly handled, secured and returned in good condition, and reporting any loss or damage; and
- ensuring the tournament is conducted in accordance with the approved sanction, technical package and applicable Judo Ontario requirements.

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 Tournament Official with the approval of the Judo Ontario Sanctioning Chair.

Chief Tournament Official

The **Chief Tournament Official** is appointed by Judo Ontario and should be independent of the host club. They must be an experienced judoka, a Judo Ontario member in good standing, and familiar with applicable Judo Ontario and Judo Canada tournament requirements.

The Chief Tournament Official represents **Judo Ontario** at the event and is responsible for oversight of the tournament, including compliance with applicable rules and standards and the safety of competitors, officials and spectators.

The Chief Tournament Official will:

- remain in attendance until completion of the tournament;
- be familiar with current Judo Ontario and Judo Canada tournament policies, rules and standards;
- understand applicable **Rowan's Law/concussion requirements** and ensure suspected concussions are appropriately reported;
- inspect the venue and competition areas before the tournament begins to confirm applicable safety and tournament standards are met;
- identify deficiencies to the Tournament Director and ensure significant safety issues are corrected before competition proceeds;
- monitor the tournament for safety and compliance with applicable Judo Ontario and Judo Canada requirements;
- review and approve draw sheets, or designate a referee of **Provincial A or higher** to perform this function;
- supervise the proper reloading of Judo Ontario mats following the tournament, where applicable; and
- submit a post-tournament report to Judo Ontario within **14 days**.

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 Tournament 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** is approved by Judo Ontario and must hold a minimum referee certification of **Provincial A**.

The Chief Tournament Referee is responsible for the overall management and supervision of refereeing at the tournament and will:

- ensure **IJF, Judo Canada and Judo Ontario refereeing rules and modifications** are applied consistently;
- establish the minimum referee certification required for the event, in consultation with the Referee Committee Chair and Tournament Director;
- confirm participating referees are appropriately certified and members in good standing with their recognized judo organization;
- maintain a roster of participating referees, including name, club and referee certification;
- appoint and supervise Mat Chiefs;
- establish referee teams and make adjustments as required throughout the tournament;
- provide guidance and feedback to referees and referee teams;
- immediately stop any match affected by a safety concern and notify the Chief Tournament Official;
- report significant safety, conduct or compliance concerns to the Chief Tournament Official and recommend appropriate action; and
- submit a post-tournament referee report, including the referee roster, to Judo Ontario within **14 days**.

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 Tournament 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 Tournament 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 Drawsheet 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 Drawsheet 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 in the U14 division and above, coaching is allowed as per the IJF standards – only between Mate and Hajime. In the U10 and U12 divisions coaching will be allowed throughout the match.
- 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 Tournament Referee of the tournament to review a possible incorrect decision of the on-mat referee team AFTER the match is completed. The Chief Tournament 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 Mudansha or Yudansha 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 white judogi.

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, jewelry.
- 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 are expected to wear clean, professional attire. Hats (except for religious headwear), shorts, judogis, and other casual clothing are not appropriate while coaching
- 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, jewelry 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 is 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 for 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 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 (unless the division is plus division, for example + 100kg or Open weight).

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 Tournament Official Approval

The Chief Tournament 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

Dokume must be used to register athletes for Club A events. Collection of registration fees through Dokume is not required. NOTE: for the 2026/27 season, the use of Dokume will depend on its readiness, and Trackie will be a suitable alternative, with approval from Judo Ontario.

Tournament management software must be approved by Judo Ontario as part of the sanctioning process. Judo Ontario is transitioning to Dokume as its standard tournament management system. NOTE: Until Dokume is fully implemented and tournament organizers have been appropriately trained, organizers may continue to use JudoShiai or another approved system. Once fully implemented, sanctioned tournaments will be expected to use Dokume unless otherwise approved by Judo Ontario.

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 2026-2027 Season, the born in years are:

Age Category	Born in Years
U8	2020 and later - non-scoreable in a judo festival environment
U10	2018, 2019 Scored Randori - No Loser
U12	2016, 2017
U14	2014, 2015 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
U16	2012, 2013 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
U18	2010, 2011, 2012 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
U21	2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
Senior	2012 and earlier and as per Judo Canada's Early Bloomer Clause
Veterans	1997 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 blue or 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 in:

- 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.

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.

U14	Weights
Boys	-32kg, -35kg, -38kg, -42kg, -46kg, -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -66kg, +66kg
Girls	-30kg, -33kg, -36kg, -40kg, -44kg, 48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, +63kg

U16

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

U16	Weights
Boys	-38kg, -42kg, -46kg, -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, +73kg,

Girls	-36kg, -40kg, -44kg, 48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, +70kg
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U18

U18	Weights
Boys	-50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, +90kg
Girls	-40kg, -44kg, 48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, +70kg

U21

U21	Weights
Boys	-60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg
Girls	48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, -78kg, +78kg

Seniors

Senior	Weights
Boys	-60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg
Girls	48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, -78kg, +78kg

Veterans

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

Veterans	Weights
Boys	-60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg
Girls	48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, -78kg, +78kg

TEAM FORMAT

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 (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, 57kg, 63kg, 70kg, +70kg

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
26/27	• Split policy components to separate sanctioning policy document • Updated Club A/B requirements for clarity • Mixed gender divisions • Updated to Dokume for registration and tournament management	