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Dear Dojoshus,

During these difficult times we feel it is important to reach out to everyone with an update on what Judo Ontario is working on to address this situation we are all facing.

Like you, many of the Judo Ontario board members are also dojosus, and are facing the same challenges with their clubs. We are meeting regularly and working hard to interpret the ever-changing guidelines set out by the province. With the new colour coded system for rating municipalities, each dojosu will need to keep up with changes and protocols in your own municipalities as they vary and in some cases, can differ from the provincial guidelines. We recommend that you contact your municipal by-law enforcement office for clarification.

In October, Judo Ontario joined forces with nine other recognized combative associations and formed the “Combative PSO’s of Ontario Collective”. United, this group represents 1,172 member clubs. We have been advised that proposals to the provincial government carry more weight when coming from large groups or sectors so together we have strength in numbers. The collective has also requested participation at the discussion table on behalf of all our clubs and our industry. We have tabulated the financial impact on all the clubs participating in the collective and estimate a loss of 63.7 million dollars over the last six months. Along with the massive financial loss this has also impacted 21,143 employed coaches and instructors across Ontario. We feel that the combined knowledge of our leadership and the structured and safe framework we have all developed for our return to training and sport, will help keep us at the front of the line as government regulations and changes are made.

Judo Ontario has launched a “[COVID Information Centre](#)” page on our Judo Ontario website. This page has important links to government websites, the latest Judo Ontario “Return to Judo Guidelines” as well as COVID related waivers that are recommended to be used at the club level. Additionally, we will provide updated information on government relief programs as we receive it

Judo Ontario is partnering with Judo Canada and the other provincial Judo associations to put together promotional videos that clubs can use to promote their own clubs and the sport of Judo. We recognize when people start getting back to sport, we will be competing with other martial arts and sports for membership. It is important to be proactive to regain or grow our membership back to where it was before the pandemic started.

Lastly, Judo Ontario will also be starting the process of renewing our strategic plan. We will be working with professionals who specialize in strategic planning to create a road map to get our services, programming, tournaments, membership, and clubs back to normal. This vital plan will address the challenges we are facing and help us secure a positive future.

Feel free to reach out to us at info@judoontario.ca with any questions or concerns you may have.