

## Special Needs Competition Rules



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This document on Special Needs Competition Rules for the Judo Federation of Australia has been adapted from The Netherlands Judo Bond G-Judo Rules for Competition.

Original adaptation:

Stan Munday & Sue Gardiner – JFA Inc Special Needs Judo Committee

Additional input:

Neville Sharp & Peter Williams – JFA Inc Referee’s Commission

Shane Alvisio – JFA Inc National Director

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## **Introduction**

Special Needs (SN) Judo offers people with disabilities the opportunity to participate as productive and respected members of the Judo Federation of Australia Inc. SN Judo offers a fair opportunity to develop and demonstrate their skills, talents through judo training and competition. SN Judo also increases the public's awareness of their capabilities and needs.

With the required training and encouragement, people with a disability are capable, and can enjoy, learn and benefit from participation in the sport of Judo. If necessary, the sport of Judo may be adapted for the needs of those with an intellectual or sensory disability.

Competition among those of equal abilities is an appropriate means of testing these skills, measuring progress and providing incentives for personal growth. Through Judo training and competition: people with a disability benefit physically, mentally, socially and make them more aware of their own potential.

This document aims to assist with the efficient running of SN Judo Competitions and to assist participants, their carers, coaches and referees to participate and enjoy Judo competitions. The following documents are essential to all Judo Competitions:

- JFA Sporting Code,
- JFA Code of Conduct for athletes, coaches, officials and referees
- IJF rules and regulations
- Matches or games for Special Needs Judoka are assessed according to IJF rules and regulations with the addition of the following:

**Important Note**

In many ways the SN Judo is similar to conducting tournaments for Mons Judo. Judoka need encouragement and help. **The SN Judo tournament should be seen as an opportunity more for participation rather than strictly competition.**

To conduct a successful Special Needs Judo Tournament, for the safety and enjoyment of the participating judoka; it requires a support team approach from mainly the carer/coach but also the tournament official and tournament referee. It is quite okay for the referee in SN Judo to seek assistance/advice from their “off-mat” support team (coach/carer, or tournament official) during a contest bout.

*As a final remark, there are no fixed rules for the following interpretations. If a SN Judo referee has not been able to develop, within a reasonable period, the necessary gut feeling for when, what and how to apply the appropriate interpretations of the rules – he or she will never acquire the skill. Also if a referee has the expectation that judging SN Judo will be easy, nice or just fun – please don't even begin. As a warning to SN Judo referees, you must be aware of the inspiration and self satisfaction from guiding and assisting these SN participants through our sport of Judo can become addictive.* (paraphrasing Herum Rurup – Chairman of the Dutch National SN Referee's Commission)

## 1.General

1. These rules are applicable to judo contests for participants with an intellectual or physical disability, and/or visual impairment. The division creating criteria is based on functional classification. The classifications are listed at part 11.

2. If the tournament organiser or referee is in any doubt regarding the disability of the participant the tournament organiser or referee is able to consult the carer or coach.

3. Special Needs Judoka are divided into one of five categories;

Category 1 & 2 = judoka have the most ability in the SN Judo format.

Category 3 / 4 / 5 = judoka have the least ability in the SN Judo format.

4. The contest can begin with tachi waza (standing up techniques) or with ne waza (ground techniques).

Category 1 – can only commence in the tachi waza starting position

Category 2/3/4/5 - can commence in either a ne waza and or tachi waza starting position.

### Ne Waza Starting Position

a. From a kneeling position; (for visually impaired judo a basic kumi kata<sup>1</sup> position is required ie, grip is taken.)

b. Sitting next to each other, both with the hands in basic kumi kata position and the legs stretched forward

5. If a SN judoka begins the match in ne waza due to their disability the other SN judoka is required to begin in the same position.

6. The SN judoka carer, coach and the referee are able to assist the SN judoka to and from the starting/finishing position within the mat area.

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<sup>1</sup> As the term kumi-kata usually refers to the position of the judo grip, the way to act is as follows: The participants stand opposed to each other and get hold of each other in the basis kumi-kata position. If needed the head referee will help with the grip in the basic kumi-kata.

7. In all situations where in the opinion of the referee that the safety of one or both of the SN judoka is at stake, the referee will stop/suspend the game immediately and take those measures which are necessary. This could include penalties taking into account the intention of the action.

## 2. Progress of the Contest

1. Contest times
  - a. Under 14 years 2 minutes
  - b. Over 14 years 2-3 minutes (Adjustable by Tournament Director)  
(The tournament officials will advise referee's of the ages/contest times)
2. Tournament entries for SN Judo must include required level of competition ie ne waza or tachi waza starting positions. This will ensure the tournament officials are aware, so they can advise the referee as required during the progression of contest bouts.
3. The referee is able to alter the starting position for safety reasons, the judoka, carer and coach must accept the referees decision
4. A contest, which has been started in ne waza, has to be continued in ne waza
5. Golden Score rules do not apply to SN Judo.

## 3. Scoring Points in Ne-Waza

1. At any time in SN Judo it **is** possible to make points with a throwing technique from ne-waza

Examples of throws with which points can be made in ne-waza, (list is not complete):

koshi-guruma  
o-soto-gari (to throw over the knee)  
yama-arashi  
makikomi  
kaeshi-waza (take over technique)

The referee needs to acknowledge there will be differences between the ne waza performance of these techniques compared to tachi waza and adjust their assessment

2. In a ne waza contest the following points are provided to assist the referee with the decision making process:
  - The referee will call Ippon when with control throws the other contestant largely on his back with considerable force and speed.

- The referee will call Waza-ari when a contestant with control throws the other contestant, but the technique is partially lacking in one (1) of the other three (3) elements necessary for Ippon.
- The referee will call Yuko when a contestant with control throws the other contestant, but the technique is partially lacking in two (2) of the other three (3) elements necessary for Ippon.

**Examples:**

- i) Partially lacking in the element of "largely on the back" and is also partially lacking in one of the other two (2) elements of "speed" or "force".
- ii) Largely on the back but partially lacking in both of the other two (2) elements of "speed" and "force".

#### **4. Additional Prohibited Actions**

1. When the judoka are in ne waza they are **not permitted to push the contestant directly backwards**. This action is forbidden because of risks to the lower back, knees and ankles. For the judoka who carries out such an action needs to be cautioned.

(Some SN judoka may have spasms or fixations of the legs increased risks for injuries exists. At all times the coach/carer will be directly by the side of the mat and be able to advise)

2. In Addition to the IJF prohibit acts the following techniques are not permitted:
  - a. Classifications 3, 4 and 5
    - sutemi waza (sacrifice throws); eg harai makikomi, hane makikomi, osoto makikomi, soto makikomi, uchi mata makikomi, uki waza, yoko guruma, yoko gake, (These are often techniques where uke experiences a falling amplitude of more than 1 metre).
    - ude kansetsu waza (arm locks);
    - shime waza (strangles);
    - Lift away the legs of the opponent with two hands, eg morote gari and ryo ashi dori
    - Falling on top of another contestant after carrying out a good technique.
  - b. Competitions rules for participants under 14 years
    - No forward throws from a standing position dropping on one or two knees.
  - c. Classifications 1 and 2
    - All of the above except yoko sutemi waza, makikomi waza, are allowed

3. In tachi waza and ne waza the referee shall ensure that the neck is not pressured in such a way that risks injury. The judoka must include an arm and judogi whilst using techniques that involve the neck.
4. A grip used for kata gatame ie tori holding their own hands together, should be avoided at all times. This action should be immediately stopped. This position presents a high neck injury risk for participants with Atlanto Axial syndrome, this syndrome frequently occurs with Downs Syndrome.
5. In the event that one of these rules is broken, the referee will call matte and explain to the judoka what he/she has done wrong. A repeat offence will attract a penalty.

## **5. Penalties**

1. In principle penalties need not be given. In case of a forbidden action the referee gives a warning and explains to the participant the nature of the forbidden action. When repeated, the referee is permitted to award shido. In principle penalties are not awarded for classifications 3, 4, and 5.
2. For the Listed forbidden actions in article 4, the penalty shido can be given.
3. When considering a penalty the referee will take into consideration the classification, the disability and the intention of the participant.
4. If a participant gets injured as a result of a forbidden action and cannot continue the injured participant is declared winner

## **6. Injuries**

All injuries may be treated by the person who gives medical assistance or the carer/coach of the Judoka on the match area. The referee would more commonly request medical attention than in mainstream contests. Injury time has no consequences for the contest. ie IJF rules do not apply in this instance.

## **7. Starting Position of Contest for Visually Impaired Judoka**

1. Before entering the mat the carer/coach tells the judoka what belt he wears. aoi (blue) or shiro (white).
2. The judoka are brought by their carer/coach to the tatami. They place them on the tatami facing each other with approximately 4 meters between them. Then the carers and coaches leave the competition area.
3. The centre referee gives the command rei (bow) and the participants bow; He then leads them to the centre of the tatami.
4. The centre referee gives the command kumi kata (judo hold), after which the participants can hold each other in the basic kumi kata. The game will start with the central referee calling hajime (begin).
5. Both competitors are to keep grip, they can only loosen grip for an attack, this is limited to 5 seconds.

## **8. Signs of the Central Referee**

To ensure visually impaired judoka understand who is awarded the point the referee will add after announcing the score aoi (blue) or shiro (white), eg.. yuko aoi or yuko shiro.

## **9. Aids and clothing**

The aids are to be safe for both judoka and offer no competitive advantage

Glasses, prostheses and hearing aids are not permitted, Glasses can be used for classifications 3, 4 and 5 but need to be suitable for competition, ie plastic and will not dislodge.

Soft support clothing eg Socks, t-shirts and protectors are permitted when approved by the referee

Judogi requirements are per IJF regulations

## **10. Additional Comments**

Referees have a more guiding and educational task in SN Judo. Therefore they require additional support and training to develop special skills.

Judo Federation Australia Inc supports Special Needs Judo Europe in its endeavour to create a single Special Needs Program for the International Judo Communities.



## Special Needs Judo

### Functional Classification

**Category 1:** The judoka who are classified in this skill level can train and compete with regular judoka on recreational club level. These judoka have an excellent technical repertory and competition insight where by there capability and initiative is well developed. The judoka understands cause and effect of there own acts and can be given a penalty by breaking the Special Needs competition rules.

The judoka is classified on more than 80% performance of what regular judoka can achieve. The judoka can compete with minimal support from coach and referee. The relationship between judoka –coach/referee is 80-20%.

**Category 2:** The judoka who are classified in this skill level can train and take part in light competition (randori) with regular judoka. These judoka have a good technical repertory and competition insight of which the capability and initiative is normally developed. The judoka understands cause and effect of there own acts and can be given a penalty by breaking the Special Needs competition rules.

The judoka is classified on more than 60% and less than 80% performance of what regular judoka can achieve. In competition the judoka needs support from the coach and referee. The relationship between judoka and coach/referee is 70-30%.

**Category 3:** The judoka who are classified in this skill level can take part in training with regular judoka but only compete in special competition with judoka of the same level. These judoka understand the meaning and the rules of the Special Needs competition rules and have a reasonable technical repertory and competition insight of which the capability and initiative of his own act belongs to their possibilities.

The judoka is classified on more than 50% and less than 60% performance of what regular judoka can achieve. In competition the judoka needs support and guidance from the coach and referee. The relationship between judoka and coach/referee is about 50-50%.

**Category 4:** The judoka who are classified in this skill level can take part in a special training and competition but needs guidance during the competition. These judoka understand the basic rules and the meaning of the Special Needs competition rules and have a small technical repertory and competition insight. Due to the low judo knowledge the judoka only has a small amount of basic techniques that would be used during the competition.

The judoka is classified on more than 40% and less than 50% performance of what regular judoka can achieve. In competition the judoka needs support and guidance from the coach and referee. The relation judoka and coach/referee is 40-60 %.

**Category 5:** The judoka who are classified in this skill level need a lot of guidance during training and competition and sometimes do not understand the basic rules and/or physically not capable to understand. Due to the low judo knowledge the judoka will use primary basic techniques during the competition.

This judoka needs a lot of guidance. During competition the relationship between judoka-coach/referee is 30-70%. The judoka is classified in less than 30% performance of what regular Judoka can achieve. They will normally<sup>2</sup>, for safety reasons, take part in the competition in ground techniques. (ne waza).

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<sup>2</sup> This are guiding lines that does not mean that it can be used as rules, so if a judoka compete on his knees for safety reasons does not implicate that he compete in level 5!! There is also the possibility that this judoka compete in one of the other levels, his opponents have to adjust by competing this judoka in ne waza.