



March 2010

### **Competitive Environments for novice players**

The BJA takes its duty of care to our young players very seriously. This includes many areas including the setting of the standards and safety for the competitive environments we encourage them to enter.

It seems to have become even more prevalent in recent months for some clubs to enter very experienced players into events which are intended for players that have only been doing judo a short period of time. It is not acceptable for players who may have been doing judo for anything up to 3 years who are capable of entering and holding their own at open events to return to entering Mini Me's, Mini Mons and Red Belt rumbles.

The BJA will over the next 6 months, as part of our competition review, be looking at systems that protect the genuine novice players. In the meantime the BJA would request that coaches show a little common sense and judo spirit when selecting players to enter these genuine novice events.

Medal hunting at these events causes an unpleasant and even dangerous experience for genuine novice players. At best it puts players back in their judo development and at worst makes them quit the sport.

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