



The Heart of England Open 12th September 2026



Introduction	Due to the number of ranking events on the calendar in September and early October we have decided to change the format of this competition this year.
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Venue Address:	Walsall Sports Centre, WLV Gym, The University of Wolverhampton, Magdalene Road, Walsall WS1 3TA
Event Date:	12th Sept 2026
Entry process:	Entry is via Judo Technologies Online Entries. Link: https:// www.onlineentries.co.uk/midland The closing date for entries is 7th September. However, entries will close early if the event becomes full. Early entry is therefore advised. Entry fee: £25 per player. £35 double
Participation	Competitors must hold current BJA or affiliate membership. All competitors MUST bring their VALID judo membership card to registration along with their record book which shows they meet the minimum grade. Foreign entrants are welcome but must bring proof of membership of their National Federation which must be a member of EJU or IJF.
Age Bands & Weight Categories	GROUP A: Veterans Men +35 years Veterans Men +55 years GROUP B: Veterans Women +30 years Players will be grouped by age (on the day), weight and grade GROUP C: Senior Men 2 Kyu & below: -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg GROUP D: Senior Men 1 Kyu & above: -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg GROUP E: Women -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, -78kg, +78kg Players will be grouped by age (on the day), weight and grade GROUP F: Orange and Yellow Belt 13yrs and Under on day of event GROUP G: Blue and Green Belt 15yrs and Under on day event (3 min contests, No technical restrictions, no arm locks or strangles allowed) There are no specific weight categories, players will be grouped by weight. This prevents young children from trying to make weight limits and also evens out numbers in categories. The organisers reserve the right to combine categories where numbers dictate.
Competition Format, Rules and Judogi Rules	The main method of elimination for this event will be pools or compound knockout dependent on numbers, with twin or single pools if fewer than eight entrants in a category. U14s will be single or twin pools. Current IJF Rules as amended by BJA rules will be in operation. Please note the following: No 30 second rule

	- Judogi measurements as per 2018 IJF rules. 2018 IJF Red label judogi rules or the requirement to wear judogi of specific suppliers will not be rules at this competition. White judogi's are compulsory and blue judogi's are optional only if placed in the blue position. All players must provide their own blue and white belts. This Tournament qualifies for points scoring for promotion purposes.
Registration & Weigh-In	Saturday 12th September 2026 Masters Men: 08:30 - 09.00 Other weigh in times will be announced once the entry has closed. This will be an open weigh therefore women and all players will be weighed in with judogi trousers and t-shirt (0.8 kg allowance). Test scales will be available
Photography/ Filming	By entering the event, all participants and parents or guardians of participants are consenting to photography/filming which may be taken by the BJA or an official BJA contractor at the event. You also accept that these photographs or video may be used in future BJA publications or published by the contractors. Coaches should inform the organiser if any player wishes to opt out.

By entering and/or attending this event you agree to abide by all British Judo Association policies and codes of conduct. This includes but is not limited to:

Transgender policy <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/what-we-do/policies/transgender-eligibility-and-participation-in-competition-policy/>

Codes of conduct <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/membership-terms-conditions/>

Contest rules <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/compete/organising-a-competition/contest-rules/> and <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/roles-and-clubs/roles/referees/resources/>

Stoma bags: <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/participation-in-competition-with-stoma-bags/>

Prosthetic limbs: <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/participation-in-competition-with-prosthetic-limbs/>

You must contact the organisers and events@britishjudo.org.uk if you require any support at the event or have any questions regarding the above points. Please note that failure to comply with these policies and codes of conduct may result in not being able to compete/attend this event, or removal from the event, and notification to the British Judo Association. These policies and codes of conduct are in place to ensure everyone attending the event has a good experience.