

MEMORANDUM

To: BJA Members

cc: BJA Clubs and Coaches

Date: 1st October 2019

Subject: **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING REFUGEES AND JUNIOR AND YOUNGER IMMIGRANTS**

On the 1st of July, British Judo received information from the IJF, regarding an amendment to the IJF Sport and Organisation Rules (SOR), which will support the integrated participation of refugees and Junior and younger immigrants to compete for the country in which they reside.

“Juniors and younger foreign judoka living in a host country can participate in their host country national Juniors and younger championships and thus qualify themselves for IJF or Continental Union Juniors and younger competitions. They can be registered, by the national federation of the host country, into IJF or Continental Unions Juniors and younger competitions if they meet the following requirements:

- To prove their residency in the host country (at least 1 year),
- To prove the integration of their parents in the host country (at least 1 year),
- To prove their integration in the school or university system (at least 1 year),
- To prove their integration in a judo club of the host country, duly affiliated to the National Federation which is an IJF member.”

If you have any questions or wish to submit a request for authorisation, please contact Karen Roberts, karen.roberts@britishjudo.org.uk.

Please read the official wording from the IJF:

1.7.2. Special Circumstances

For events organised by the IJF or under its auspices, the IJF Executive Committee, in order to protect the interest of the athlete, can authorise that the athlete can compete under the IJF flag for any reason (for example: non-official refugee status of the athlete, non-recognition of the NOC by the IOC, suspension of the National Federation etc.).

1.7.2.1. Athletes with an official refugee status

Judoka with an official refugee status, hosted by a country, can qualify themselves for IJF or continental union competitions through their host country national championships and consequently they will compete internationally under their host country flag.

National federation requests must be sent, with the official refugee status documents, to the IJF General Secretariat (gs@ijf.org). If the documents sent are compliant, the agreement will be automatically given by the IJF General Secretary following confirmation by the IJF President. If there is a change in the status of the official refugee i.e. citizenship of a new country, return to their country of origin etc. The nationality change process must be followed.

For events organised by the IJF or under its auspices, the IJF Executive Committee can equally authorise that judoka with an official refugee status can compete under the IJF flag.

If there is a change in the status of the official refugee who competed under the IJF flag i.e. citizenship of a new country, return to their country of origin etc. the IJF Executive Committee would make a decision concerning the change of nationality and the world ranking points that the athlete has.

All documents relating to the new status and change request must be submitted to the IJF General Secretariat at gs@ijf.org, within a deadline of at least 15 days prior to the closing date of registration for a certain event.

1.7.2.2 Junior and younger immigrants

Juniors (men and women under 21, age 15 to 20 years in the calendar year) and younger foreign judoka living in a host country can participate in their host country national Juniors and younger championships and thus qualify themselves for IJF or Continental Union Juniors and younger competitions. They can be registered, by the national federation of the host country, into IJF or Continental Unions Juniors and younger competitions if they meet the following requirements:

- To prove their residency in the host country (at least 1 year).
- To prove the integration of their parents in the host country (at least 1 year).
- To prove their integration in the school or university system (at least 1 year).
- To prove their integration in a judo club of the host country, duly affiliated to the National Federation which is an IJF member.

If the National Federations of host countries wish to register these athletes, they must send their request each year to the IJF General Secretariat (gs@ijf.org), with the above-mentioned documents. Additionally, the National Federations shall also attach the agreement of the judoka and the authorisation of the parents/guardians, if minor.

The IJF will review the submitted documents and if deemed compliant, The IJF will approve the request and the General Secretary will send a certificate for the registration in Judobase. In case of approval, the concerned judoka will compete under their host country flag.

Should the athlete wish to return to his country of origin, or should he change residence to another host country, he is free to do so and take any ranking points with him, upon submission of the documents proving the relocation to the IJF General Secretariat at gs@ijf.org. No change of nationality process required.



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