

BRITISH ADAPTIVE JUDO

CONTEST RULES



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SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

- 1.** These contest rules exist to enable and promote judo competition for athletes with disabilities.
- 2.** These rules should be read alongside the current IJF Contest Rules and BJA Adaptations to the IJF Contest Rules. Adaptive Judo contests shall be conducted in accordance with these rules, as amended here, in order to give all athletes the opportunity of a valuable experience at competitions.
- 3.** These rules are adapted from the original version produced by the Dutch Judo Federation, which have become widely used for international competition. Minimal adaptations have been made, in order to maintain a smooth transition between domestic and international competition.

SECTION 2 – GENERAL

- 1.** Adaptive Judo contests are to be directed by a qualified referee who has experience in judo for people with disabilities. All referees must be qualified through British Judo's Refereeing Pathway.
- 2.** Divisioning of athletes into categories based on their level of ability is conducted based on competition entry forms along alongside prior assessments conducted by the Inclusion Commission.
- 3.** In all cases not covered by the rules, the referee in charge and/or tournament director, as appropriate, will decide the action required in the spirit of inclusion, opportunity for participation and upholding fair play. All such decisions are final.
- 4.** Contests will be conducted with three referees: one centre referee on the mat supported by two table judges, seated at the judges' table mat-side. Wherever possible, the CARE system should be used and the referee should be connected to the judges by radio.
- 5.** Where more than one division is combined together, the rules for the lower division will be used. For example, for Level 2 and Level 3 athletes matched together, tani-otoshi is not a valid action.

SECTION 3 – TIMING AND DURATIONS

1. Contest times shall be a minimum of 2 minutes and a maximum of 3 minutes, depending upon the division and as determined by the tournament director.
2. A reluctant athlete may need extra time to compose themselves. In such cases, the referee needs to consult with the tournament director and contest recorders to have the contest rescheduled. The maximum extra time allowable is two contest durations.

Scoring in Early Contest Time

3. For Levels 1 & 2, no adjustment is made.
4. For Levels 3, 4 & 5, all scores within 15 seconds from the initial hajime will result in a maximum score of waza-ari. This is to allow all athletes mat time.

No Golden Score

5. If technical scores and penalties are tied, there is no Golden Score period. Instead the winner shall be decided by a 'majority of three' decision, based upon the referees' judgement as to which athlete was more positive and the closest to achieving a score. To make their decision:
 - a. If radio equipment is in use: the two judges shall determine if they agree. If the judges agree, they shall inform the referee of the winner. If the judges are split, they shall inform the referee to give their decision.
 - b. If no radio equipment is in use: the referee shall approach the judges' table and agree the 'majority of three' decision.
 - c. In both cases above, the referee and judges shall confer only by stating 'blue' or 'white', there must be no further discussion.

Note: At no time shall a decision be made through the raising of hands or flags.

SECTION 4 – STARTING POSITIONS

Determining Starting Positions

1. The correct starting position for each contest will be determined by the tournament director through divisioning, which may be re-evaluated by the referee mat lead upon viewing an athlete's stability. Where an athlete cannot perform safely in tachi-waza, contests are conducted exclusively in ne-waza.
2. A referee is authorised to change a tachi-waza contest into a ne-waza contest, where it becomes apparent that an athlete cannot perform safely in tachi-waza.
3. In ne-waza only contests, tilting techniques leading to uke landing on their side or back will gain a score. Uke, in prone position, does not have to leave the mat surface for this. Referees are directed to use their best judgement to score the landing per the IJF rules, but allowing for the fact such techniques will not achieve the full speed, force and impact of a tachi-waza technique.

Tachi-waza

In Tachi-waza, there are two possible starting positions:

1. Where no adjustment is required, the athletes begin in the usual way, per the IJF rules.
2. In the case where one or both athlete has a visual impairment that impairs the execution of correct kumi-kata, they may be guided to and from starting positions and to take kumi-kata following the visually impaired (IBSA) bowing and gripping procedures. Where necessary to support the athlete, a carer or coach may assist in guiding the athlete through these procedures. The athlete may choose the extent of the support required.

Note: A reluctant athlete may need intervention when it comes to gripping their opponent. Starting an athlete in kumi-kata may, through familiarity with the technique, calm the athlete. If extra time is necessary, consultation with the Tournament Director is required. This is a maximum of 2 contest durations.

Ne-waza

In ne-waza, there are four possible starting positions:

1. Higher level ability athlete: Za-rei at approx. 1 metre apart. Hajime to start.
2. Lower level ability athlete: Za-rei (support if needed), approx. 1 metre apart. Grip up in kumi-kata. Hajime to start.
 - a. From kneeling - athletes are not allowed to drive their opponent directly backwards, nor can they gain an unfair advantage by rising up from the knees and/or utilising a strong leg.
3. Competitors sitting next to each other with legs stretched forward: Kumi-kata can comprise of sleeve/lapel, sleeve/belt grips. Both competitors use the same grip. Hajime to start.
4. Competitors laying on their front: Grip up, sleeve/sleeve, sleeve/lapel. Hajime to start.

SECTION 5 – PROHIBITED ACTIONS

In addition to the prohibited actions as described in British Judo and IJF rules, the following techniques are also prohibited:

1. Any and all forms of:
 - a. Sutemi-waza, with the exception of tani-otoshi (or similar actions), where:
 - i. Level 1 & 2: tani-otoshi permitted
 - ii. Levels 3, 4 & 5: not permitted due to the varying disabilities.
 - b. Kansetsu-waza (armlocks)
 - c. Shime-waza (strangles)
 - d. Sangaku-waza (triangle techniques)
 - e. Kawazu-gake (leg entwined)
 - f. Embrace techniques (direct bear hugging action)
2. All forward throws executed on one or two knees.
3. Falling on top of their opponents after carrying out a technique that isn't attributed to their disability.
4. To put pressure on head, neck or throat of their opponent, even if the grip was at first correct.

In Tachi-waza:

5. To make kumi-kata around the head or neck of the opponent. While taking hold over the shoulder or collarbone, the hand may not rise above their opponent's shoulder blade/armpit.

In Ne-waza:

6. In ne-waza, it is not allowed to put pressure on either head or neck. In osaekomi-waza situations where tori is in, for example, the kesa position, the palm of the hand positioned under the head or neck is to be placed flat on the tatami. Gripping the judogi is not allowed.
7. Applying extra downward pressure whilst in osaekomi-waza on the head and neck. In this case, the referee will tap tori's shoulder advising them to move, if repeated, mate will be called.
8. Pushing the opponent backwards while in kneeling position.
9. To immediately release kumi-kata after hajime during matches with a modified starting position.

SECTION 6 – PENALTIES

1. For all prohibited actions, the action taken will vary by level:
 - L1 & L2 athletes will be advised of their actions and penalised accordingly
 - L3, L4 & L5 athletes will be advised of their actions with a verbal warning, if the action is repeated, verbal explanation is repeated and the respective penalty will be awarded.
2. Prohibited actions will be penalised with shido, no hansoku-make will be given except for actions against the spirit of judo
3. All actions that go against the spirit of judo will be penalised with hansoku-make, to protect the athlete.
4. At a maximum of three shido, hansoku-make can be given. However, this should be avoided in the interest of the athlete.
5. The referee is allowed to consider the level, the disability type, and intention of the offence in their decision, as well as repetition, overall contest image and safety when deciding on a penalty.
6. Shido given in a contest are counted toward the result, therefore, if there are no technical scores or the scores are equal at the end of contest time, the athlete with fewer shidos shall be declared the winner.

SECTION 7 – INJURIES AND SAFETY

- 1.** In all cases during the match where the referee, coach or technical officials are of the opinion that the safety of either athlete is threatened, the match will be interrupted and the tournament director called. The athletes will not continue until any corrective measures deemed necessary are put in place.
- 2.** There is no limit to the number of times the same injury may be treated.
- 3.** If the referee deems it necessary for coach or carer to be present before or during the treatment of an injury, these persons may enter the contest area.

SECTION 8 – JUDO GI AND AIDS

Judogi

1. The judogi must be adjusted to the physical limitations of the athlete however it must not disadvantage their opponent's ability to perform kumi-kata.
2. Only white judogi are allowed, marked with a white or a blue belt only.
3. Wearing a plain white round neck t-shirt under the judogi is mandatory for female athletes. For male athletes, t-shirts may be worn at the discretion of the tournament director.

Aids

4. Where aids are worn, they must comply with BJA/IJF regulations. Aids must be safe for both wearer and opponent and may not contain hard components. Clarification can be sought from the referee in charge. The opponent may not be disadvantaged, nor may the wearer receive an unreasonable advantage from the aid.
5. Wearing a properly fitting mouth guard is allowed.
6. Sports glasses are allowed once authorised by the tournament director and provided they do not present a risk to either athlete.

SECTION 9 – COACHING AND ENCOURAGEMENT

- 1.** For Levels 1 & 2, accredited matside coaches and carers can only coach between the duration of mate and hajime but must refrain from directing comments to the referee.
- 2.** For Levels 3, 4 & 5, coaches and carers can coach throughout each contest but must refrain from directing comments to the referee.
- 3.** For athletes at Levels 3, 4 & 5, and to inexperienced athletes generally, coaches, carers and referees should offer encouragement.

SECTION 10 – WEIGHT CLASSES AND DIVISIONS

Weight Classes

1. Where possible official weight classes are used for Levels 1 and 2. The allowed weight margin during the weigh-in procedure is determined by the tournament director.
2. At Levels 3, 4 and 5 weight, experience and abilities are considered at the time of divisioning and weighing in.

Divisions

Divisioning will be performed by or under the supervision of the tournament director, and by having regard to the descriptors for each level, to place all athletes into one of five divisions. Communication between tournament director and coaches will create an appropriate contest experience for all athletes.

Level 1 (Most Able Athlete)

An athlete who can train and compete with mainstream athletes on club level. Has a good understanding of the meaning and goal of the competition. Capable of taking part in mainstream national and international championships.

Level 2 (More Able Athlete)

An athlete who can train and take part in light competition (randori) with mainstream athletes. Understands the meaning and goal of the competition. Capable of taking part in mainstream local championships and tournaments.

Level 3 (Medium Athlete)

An athlete who can take part in training with mainstream athletes but only competes in special competitions with athletes of the same level. Understands most of the rules, meaning and goal of the competition.

Level 4 (Medium / Less Able Athlete)

An athlete who is only capable of taking part in special training and competitions. This athlete needs guiding during the competition but understands most of the rules and goal of a competition.

Level 5 (Less Able Athlete)

An athlete who is only capable of taking part in special training and competitions with specialist care. This athlete needs a lot of guidance during the competition. The competition might need to be adjusted to the competitors. Due to safety considerations this athlete may be restricted to compete only on the ground (ne-waza).

Contests between Athletes in Different Divisions

Athletes may compete in their own division or the division immediately above or below their own division.

- Level 1 athletes may compete against level 2 athletes.
- Level 2 athletes may compete against level 1 athletes and level 3 athletes.
- Level 3 athletes may compete against level 2 athletes and level 4 athletes.
- Level 4 athletes may compete against level 3 athletes and level 5 athletes.
- Level 5 athletes may compete against level 4 athletes.

Where more than one division are combined together, the rules for the lower division will be used. For example, for Level 2 and Level 3 athletes matched together, tani-otoshi is not valid

Licences

Athlete's competition levels will be recorded in their British Judo licences - dated and signed. Continual assessment will be performed annually to adjust levels where necessary.

APPENDIX – INTERNATIONAL VARIATIONS

Certain rules may differ at international or European events; they are listed here for reference only.

- 1.** In kesa-gatame and mune-gatame no part of the arm or hand is allowed around or near the neck of the opponent.
- 2.** Tani-otoshi – Due to the disabilities of some athletes, this technique is not valid in Europe. A warning is given in the first instance and then a penalty.
- 3.** Maki-komi actions are not permitted.

Coaches are strongly advised to seek clarification on the rules specific to each event in advance.