BRITISH JUDO

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

2025/26

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BRITISH JUDO

COMPANY INFORMATION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Andrew Scoular

BUSINESS ADDRESS
Walsall Campus, University of Wolverhampton, Gorway Road, Walsall WS1 3BD

DIRECTORS
Gerry Gualtieri, Chair
Alex Slade, Senior Independent Director
Neil Fletcher, Vice Chair
Diana Hunter (to July 2025)
Ben Quilter
Paul Ajala (to November 2025)
Garth Illingworth
Lee Shinkin, Welsh Judo Representative (to April 2025)
Russell Brown, Northern Ireland Judo Representative
Mark Preston, JudoScotland Representative
Delia Wright
Rebecca McCreath (to November 2025)
Shaun Davies, Welsh Judo Representative (June 2025 to April 2026)
Nicki Tang (from November 2025)
Wai Cheung (from November 2025)

SECRETARY
Andrew Scoular

COMPANY NUMBER
1393958

REGISTERED OFFICE
(for Reporting Period)
Walsall Campus, University of Wolverhampton, Gorway Road, Walsall WS1 3BD

AUDITORS
Sedulo, 62-66 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2EN

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
Dr George Kerr CBE

HONORARY PRESIDENT
Rowena Birch 7th Dan

VICE PRESIDENTS
Colin Draycott, Senior Vice President
Richard Barraclough (to March 2026)
Brian Davies, JP
Mick Leigh (to June 2026)
Colin McIver
Tony Sweeney

COUNCIL MEMBERS
David Allen – Western Area
Juliette Langstone – Midlands Area
Dave Rance – Northern Home Counties
Nadia Minardi – London
Raymond Taylor – Eastern Area
Fiona Chan – Southern Area
John Gibson – Northern Area
Matthew Clempner – North West Area
Seth Birch – Yorkshire & Humberside Area
Rick Kenney – JudoScotland
Darren Dean – Welsh Judo Association
Robin Newett – Northern Ireland Judo Federation
Lt Cdr Stephen Watson – Royal Navy Judo
Jim Mackenzie – Army Judo
Andy Moss – Police UK
Matthew Bradley – Royal Air Force
Stephen Milne – Armed Forces

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REVIEW
APRIL 2025-MARCH 2026

As I reflect on another year as Chair of British Judo, I remain incredibly proud and privileged to serve our sport. It has been another busy and important year for the Association, with significant work taking place across Performance, Development, Safeguarding and Governance as we continue to strengthen the organisation and look towards the future.

Throughout the year, I have continued to support Andrew, the Executive Team and my fellow Board members, while also ensuring that I remain visible and accessible across our judo community. Attending events and speaking directly with members, coaches, volunteers and officials remains an important part of my role. I am always grateful for the feedback I receive – both positive and challenging – as it helps us understand where we are making progress and, equally importantly, where we need to improve.

There has been considerable change during the year, but I believe we are continuing to build stronger foundations for British Judo and putting the structures in place to support our clubs, members and athletes in the years ahead.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY
Good governance remains fundamental to the success of British Judo and we have continued to strengthen the skills and experience around our Board.

During the year we welcomed Nicki Tang and Wai Cheung to their first Board meeting in December. Towards the end of the reporting period, we also progressed the recruitment of two Non-Executive Directors, with Chris O'Donovan and Llyr Jones identified following a strong recruitment process. The process provided an opportunity to consider the balance of professional expertise, independence and judo knowledge that we need around the Board table.



Another significant area of work has been the review of the England Areas. This has been an important process aimed at ensuring that our structures are fit for purpose, that decision-making is effective and that our resources are being directed in the best possible way to support the development of judo. By February, the Board had approved the implementation plan arising from the review.

We have also made considerable progress in developing our strategy through to 2032. The previous strategic period has been reviewed and work has taken place with the Home Nations to develop a shared vision, mission and objectives for the years ahead.

Having a strategy is only the beginning. We must ensure that it is supported by clear targets and meaningful measures so that we can demonstrate progress and hold ourselves accountable for delivery.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE
Safeguarding continues to be one of the most important responsibilities we have as a governing body.

The volume and complexity of safeguarding and disciplinary work during the year has demonstrated why we must continue to invest in this area and ensure that our processes are robust, fair and transparent.

At the same time, there has been some excellent work taking place across the Association. SafeLandings has continued to develop, the MyVoice initiative has grown and our Young Persons Advisory Group has provided an increasingly important opportunity for young people to contribute to the future of our sport.

It was particularly pleasing that the annual safeguarding review overseen by Sport England achieved green across all target areas. Our Safeguarding Team has also continued to develop education, resources and support for clubs, coaches, welfare officers and members.

I would like to thank everyone involved in safeguarding across British Judo. Much of their work understandably takes place away from public view and can involve extremely challenging circumstances. Their commitment is essential to ensuring that judo remains a safe and positive environment for everyone.

PERFORMANCE

Following the Performance review referenced in my report last year, this has been an important year in establishing the direction of our Performance programme towards Los Angeles 2028 and beyond.

There has been a greater emphasis on collaboration between British Judo, the Home Nations and the personal coaches who work with our athletes. Athlete plans have increasingly been shared with personal coaches, GB Squad Training has been extended following feedback and additional specialist technical support has been introduced.

The VI programme has also continued to be an important area of strength and development. During the year, additional funding opportunities were being pursued to expand the programme further, reflecting the ambition we have for our visually impaired athletes on the international stage.

Our relationship with UK Sport remains extremely important. It was encouraging to hear British Judo recognised for its willingness to innovate and contribute to wider work around data, digital transformation and athlete development.

There remains a considerable amount of work ahead of us. However, I believe the changes being made give us an increasingly strong platform from which our athletes and coaches can pursue success at Los Angeles 2028 and, in the longer term, Brisbane 2032.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

We have continued to maintain strong relationships internationally and ensure that British Judo remains an active and respected member of the international judo community.

Alongside our ongoing relationships with the International Judo Federation and European Judo Union, we have continued discussions with other national federations.

Our relationship with the French Federation has progressed particularly positively. Discussions have included opportunities for closer collaboration and the potential for the winner of the Ares competition to compete against the winner of the equivalent French club competition.

Developing these relationships provides opportunities not only for our elite athletes but for the wider judo community, and I look forward to seeing them develop further.

DEVELOPMENT

There has once again been a considerable amount of work taking place across Development.

Three Step Safe continues to be central to our approach. It provides an important framework around governance, coaching, technical education and club support, helping us ensure that judo is delivered in safe, inclusive and appropriately regulated environments.

We have also continued to explore ways in which judo can reach new audiences and demonstrate the wider benefits our sport can provide.

The Finding Your Feet programme at Harlow Judo Club is a particularly encouraging example. Participants initially engaged through an initiative aimed at older adults subsequently became full members of the club and began progressing through the grading system.

Adaptive Judo has continued to grow, while our work with UK Deaf Sport through Project 29 provides another exciting opportunity to develop the sport and work towards future international representation.

Work to increase opportunities for women and girls has also continued, including the growth of the Female Fighters Festival and increased collaboration across the Home Nations.

We are also continuing to improve our digital offer to members, including the development of digital membership cards and wider improvements to how we communicate and interact with our membership.

Towards the end of the reporting period, we also learned that Karen Roberts would be leaving British Judo to take up a new role with UK Sport Institute. Karen has made an enormous contribution to British Judo over many years, both as an athlete and through her work across Performance, England and Development. I would like to personally thank Karen for everything she has contributed to our sport and wish her every success for the future.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STATEMENT

FINANCE

As highlighted in my report last year, the financial environment remains challenging and careful management of our resources continues to be essential.

There have been additional pressures during the year, particularly around legal, disciplinary and safeguarding costs. Despite these pressures, our underlying income performance has been encouraging.

Membership income had also recovered following a slower start to the year, finishing with a £12,645 surplus by the end of the financial year.

We must continue to manage our finances responsibly, identify efficiencies and develop new commercial opportunities so that we can invest as much as possible back into our sport.

LOOKING AHEAD

This has been another year of significant change for British Judo.

We have continued to modernise the organisation, strengthen our governance, develop our Performance programme, invest in safeguarding and explore new ways to grow and develop our sport.

Our developing strategy through to 2032 provides us with an opportunity to bring all of this work together behind a shared direction. While international success will always be important, our ambitions must extend beyond medals. We want more people participating in judo, stronger clubs, better support for our volunteers and coaches, safe and inclusive environments and clear opportunities for everybody to fulfil their potential.

None of this would be possible without the people who give so much to British Judo.

I would therefore like to thank our members, volunteers, coaches, referees, officials, club welfare officers and athletes for their continued commitment to our sport.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board members, Andrew and the Executive Team, our staff, Home Nations and partners for their support throughout the year.

There will undoubtedly be further challenges ahead, but I believe we have an exciting opportunity to build on the work undertaken during 2025/26 and continue to grow and strengthen British Judo at every level.

Gerry Gualtieri

Gerry Gualtieri
Chair, British Judo Association

BUILDING A STRONGER FUTURE FOR BRITISH JUDO

As I reflect on the 2025-2026 year, I am proud of what the British Judo Association has achieved together. Across the country, our clubs, coaches, volunteers, officials, athletes, partners and staff have demonstrated the resilience, commitment and passion that continue to drive our sport forward.



This year has been one of consolidation, growth and transformation. We have continued to strengthen our foundations while maintaining our focus on delivering meaningful opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to engage with judo. Our commitment to creating positive experiences, supporting athlete development and ensuring the highest standards of governance and safeguarding remains central to everything we do.

The strength of British Judo lies in its community. Whether supporting grassroots participation in local clubs, developing future coaches and referees, or preparing athletes to compete on the international stage, we have continued to work together with a shared purpose and vision.

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Participation remains at the heart of our mission. Throughout the year, we have seen encouraging progress across the club network, with clubs continuing to provide safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for thousands of judoka across the United Kingdom.

As you can see, we have increased membership from 25,069 to 25,587.

The efforts of our affiliated clubs have been instrumental in ensuring that judo remains accessible to communities throughout the country.

Particularly pleasing has been the continued growth in opportunities for juniors, women and girls, veterans and disability judo participants. These programmes not only strengthen participation but also reflect our commitment to making judo a sport for all.

In addition, work across all Home Countries on Three Step Safe will add value and help ensure consistent delivery standards throughout the year.

The Finding Your Feet programme has gained momentum through collaborative work with various communities across the country.

PERFORMANCE AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Following staff changes and some historical challenges, the Performance Pathway continues to evolve, with athletes demonstrating commitment and determination across domestic and international competition programmes.

Our performance teams have worked closely with athletes, coaches and support staff to ensure that British Judo remains focused on long-term success. While medals and podium finishes are important indicators of progress, we remain equally focused on creating pathways that support athletes throughout their development.

The collaborative approach between Home Nations, clubs and performance programmes has continued to strengthen the transition from grassroots participation to elite competition. This alignment and collaboration will remain a key area of focus as we look ahead to future international cycles.

EDUCATION, COACHING AND OFFICIATING

High-quality coaches and officials are essential to the success of our sport. During the year, we continued to invest in coaching development through coaching bursaries, referee education and technical standards to ensure that participants across all levels receive the best possible experience.



We have worked to modernise learning opportunities, improve accessibility to educational programmes and strengthen the support available to volunteers. The contribution of our technical workforce remains one of British Judo's greatest strengths, and I would like to thank every coach, referee, examiner and official who has given their time and expertise during the year.

SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE

The welfare of all participants remains our highest priority.

Throughout 2025-2026 we have continued to strengthen safeguarding practices, support clubs in meeting their responsibilities and ensure that robust processes are in place across the organisation. The lessons arising from previous independent reviews have informed, and will continue to inform, our approach to governance and participant welfare.

We remain committed to fostering a culture where everyone can participate in judo safely, confidently and with respect. Safeguarding is not simply a regulatory requirement; it is a core value that underpins every aspect of the organisation.

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Good governance provides the foundation for sustainable success.

During the year, we continued to build on the governance improvements implemented over recent years, ensuring that the Association remains fit for purpose, accountable and transparent. Our Board, committees and advisory structures have continued to provide strong oversight and strategic direction, reflecting recommendations from previous governance reviews.

We have maintained a clear focus on financial sustainability, risk management and organisational effectiveness, while ensuring that resources are directed towards the delivery of our strategic priorities.

I would like to thank our Board members, Council members, and commission and committee volunteers for their dedication and valuable contributions throughout the year.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INFLUENCE

The continued support of UK Sport, Sport England, Sport Wales, sportscotland, Sport Northern Ireland, the Home Country Associations, the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association and numerous commercial and community partners remains vital to our success.

These partnerships enable us to broaden the reach of our sport, invest in people and programmes, and strengthen judo's contribution to society. We remain committed to demonstrating the value that judo brings in promoting physical activity, improving wellbeing, building confidence and strengthening communities.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look towards 2026-2027 with our new strategy in place, we do so with confidence and ambition.

Our priorities remain clear:

- Grow participation and membership across all sectors.
  - Embed Three Step Safe.
- Strengthen club sustainability and volunteer support.
- Deliver world-class athlete development pathways across all four Home Nations.
- Continue to raise standards in coaching and officiating.
- Maintain exemplary standards of governance, safeguarding and wellbeing.
- Improve the visibility and impact of judo throughout the United Kingdom.

Our international influence continues to grow, with Ronnie Saez being reappointed to the European Judo Union Executive Committee and Lisa Allan continuing as General Secretary of the International Judo Federation.
With many others supporting the various commissions internationally.

While challenges undoubtedly remain, I am confident that the strength of our people and the values of our sport position us well for the future.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the British Judo Association, I would like to thank our members, athletes, parents, coaches, referees, volunteers, Board members, staff and partners for their continued commitment and support.

Everything we achieve is made possible through your dedication to our sport and its values.

Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive and more successful future for British Judo.

Andrew Scoular

Andrew Scoular
Chief Executive

PERFORMANCE

WORLD CLASS PROGRAMME

From April 2025, the performance programme entered a period of significant transition, with an interim Performance Director appointed and a number of staff leaving the programme following the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. As a result, this phase focused on restructuring the programme and recruiting new members of the coaching, Sports Science and Sports Medicine teams.

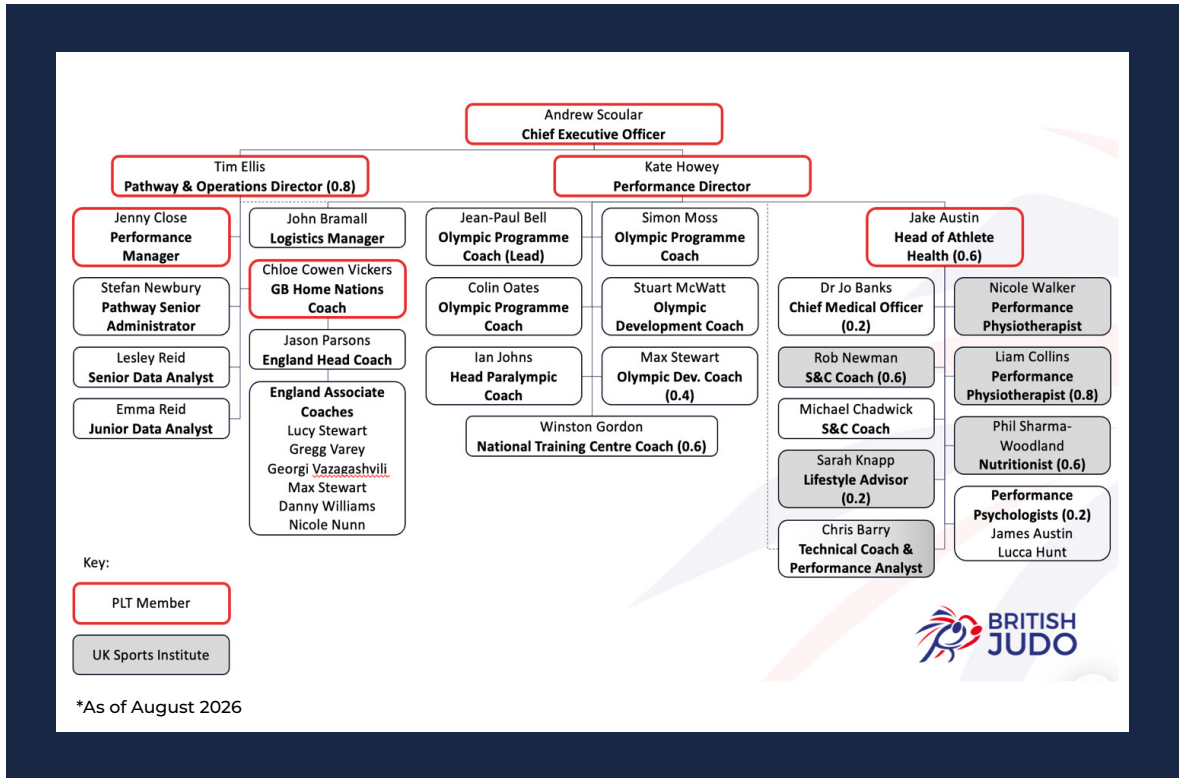
There have also been significant personnel changes across the programme, including the appointment of new coaches, physiotherapists, strength and conditioning specialists, and psychologists. Although this has been a lengthy process, the team is now complete, with a strong group of high-calibre staff joining the programme.

New Performance Staff Organigram:

OLYMPIC PROGRAMME

This year was a fundamental period in the build-up to Olympic qualification, with a clear focus on improving World Rankings and supporting athletes to break into, or move as close as possible to, the top 36 before the qualification period begins. It was also an important opportunity for athletes to travel internationally for training camps, gain valuable randori with some of the best players in the world, and experience a wide range of fighting styles. By the end of April 2026, Great Britain had eight athletes ranked inside the top 36 and 12 athletes inside the top 50.

Notable medal performances in this period included Emma Reid winning gold at the Dushanbe Grand Slam, alongside a fifth-place finish at the 2025 European Championships. Tatum Keen also achieved a significant milestone by winning her first World Tour medal, taking silver at the Georgia Grand Slam. On the men's side of the programme, Ben Levy produced an outstanding performance to win bronze at the 2026 Paris Grand Slam (the first male since 2018), which was followed a few weeks later by Ethan Nairne winning gold at the Austrian Grand Prix (fourth British male ever to win a Grand Prix).



*As of August 2026


EMMA REID


DAN POWELL

PARALYMPIC PROGRAMME

The Paralympic Team has had an outstanding year, with Dan Powell being crowned 2025 World and European Champion, adding to his Paralympic silver medal.

Evan Malloy and Miles Solomon both secured bronze medals at the 2025 World Championships, while Miles Solomon and Jack Hodgson went on to claim silver at the 2025 VI European Championships.

The programme also received an uplift in funding from UK Sport to help address the rising costs of qualifying more athletes for LA 2028. This additional support has enabled the programme to take larger teams to ranking events around the world and, in November, increase the number of VI athletes on the programme.

JUNIOR AND CADET PERFORMANCES

Across this period, there were several notable performances within the pathway at both junior and cadet level. At junior level, Irakli Goginashvili delivered an outstanding year, placing third at the 2025 Junior World Championships and being crowned Junior European Champion, the first male in 25 years to do so. Charlie Ayre, Lola Hodson and Ben Levy also achieved strong results, each placing fifth at the Junior European Championships, with Ben Levy also finishing seventh at the Junior World Championships.

At cadet level, Coen Gilbert and Sara Coni both placed fifth at the 2025 European Youth Olympic Festival, and Coen Gilbert went on to win bronze at the 2025 European Cadet Championships.

KEY PARTNERS

The Performance Leadership Team have worked extensively with all key partners and would once again like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their continued help and support. Our key partners include UK Sport, The British Olympic Association, The British Paralympic Association, UK Sport Institute, Home Country Sports Councils, Judo Associations and Institutes, Sports Aid Foundation, Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme and the forever growing partnership with the University of Wolverhampton.

Kate Howey

Kate Howey MBE
Performance Director

DEVELOPMENT

We continued to maximise judo's contribution to British society, working with Home Nation partners to strengthen clubs, broaden participation and extend judo's community impact.

CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Club development remained a priority, with the Club Support Audit informing a more coordinated approach to retention, customer experience and sustainability. Partnerships with Sport England's Buddle programme, UK Coaching, NEST Management, Judo Thinking and Sported expanded support, with more than 320 affiliated clubs accessing free Sported development opportunities. The Vision to Excellence Club Accelerator programme further supported governance, workforce development and long-term planning.

FINDING YOUR FEET

Finding Your Feet continued to grow, training approximately 320 coaches and supporting older adults and people living with Parkinson's to stay active, build confidence and develop safer falling skills. Wider partnerships extended judo into education, disability sport, health and cultural settings, including a collaboration with France Judo that introduced more than 1,500 young people to judo. Meet the Elite also connected communities with leading British athletes.

JUDO DEVELOPMENT

Judo development continued through the Judo Activator programme, the implementation of a modernised Dan grading syllabus and increased engagement with kata. The Kanji





Awards also grew, providing young judoka with opportunities to develop through coaching, refereeing and officiating, while exploring wider pathways within judo.

HUMBLE WARRIOR

Humble Warrior expanded its school engagement, reaching thousands of children and young people through partnerships with the Youth Sport Trust, School Games Organisers, Active Partnerships, schools and local authorities. New formats supported girls, adaptive and SEND participation and behavioural interventions. Following the initial pilot, the programme is now being embedded more widely across judo, placing its principles and values at the heart of developing judoka, coaches and the wider community.



THREE STEP SAFE

Three Step Safe remained central to providing safe, inclusive and regulated environments. Stakeholder engagement also continued through our 2025 conference, highlighting judo's contribution to education, inclusion, health, physical literacy and community development.

Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen clubs and partnerships, develop people and pathways, and enable more people to benefit from judo throughout their lives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION

We gratefully acknowledge the continued support of Sport England, the Youth Sport Trust, Active Partnerships and our wider partners, whose investment and collaboration continue to support the development of British Judo, our coaches and our clubs.

Most importantly, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the coaches, clubs, commissions, volunteers, referees and officials across Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Their dedication and commitment create welcoming, engaging and inclusive environments in which people from our communities can discover, enjoy and participate in judo.

Karen Roberts

Karen Roberts
Development Director

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	HOST	VENUE	INFO
British National Teams Championships	5th July	Midland Area	Walsall Sports Centre	46 teams entered the three age groups. Scotland topped the medal table with 3 golds, 2 silvers and 1 bronze.
British Veteran Championships	6th July	Midland Area	Walsall Sports Centre	A total of 219 judoka entered.
British Minors Championships	3rd August	Wales Judo Association	Sport Wales National Centre	A total of 164 entrants entered.
British Kata Championships	6th September	St Albans Judo Club	St Albans Judo Club	Event summary
English Closed	6th and 7th September	London Area	UEL SportsDock	568 entrants across Pre Cadets, Cadets, Juniors and Seniors.
English Open	21st and 22nd February	English Area Chairs	Walsall Sports Centre	Over 413 individuals/ 523 entries across the three age groups.
British Veteran Open	29th March	London Area	UEL SportsDock	276 entries from 24 countries

EJU BIRMINGHAM JUNIOR EUROPEAN CUP – 26TH AND 27TH JULY

The event hosted at the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus, attracted 197 competitors from 19 nations. The medal table was topped by a strong French team who won 6 golds over the weekend. Great Britain came third in the table with golds from Charlie Ayre (-60kg) and Irakli Goginashvili (-73kg).





AGM AND ANNUAL AWARDS – 1ST NOVEMBER

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on Saturday 1st November at the University of Wolverhampton Walsall Campus, home of the British Judo head offices and National Training Centre. Alongside the AGM, there was a National Technical Conference: starring Shinji Hosokawa 9th Dan, Colin McIver 9th Dan, Joyce Heron 8th Dan, Kate Howey MBE 7th Dan, Dave Clark 7th Dan, Dermot Heslop 7th Dan and Kerry Tansey 6th Dan.

In 2025 the Annual Awards changed to an open nomination and voting phase for many of our awards. We received just under 300 nominations across the Open categories. Our Rewards and Recognition Panel had the difficult task of windling this down to 3 final nominees per category. This then went out to open voting, where the nominees collectively received over 3000 votes. The winners and runners up of the 2025 Open Awards are:

CATEGORY	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
Club of the Year	***Hackney Judo Club***	***Micklefield Judo Club*** ***Higham and Rushden Judo Club***
Coach of the Year	***Tim Byrne***	***Mark Montrose*** ***Jason Woolerton***
Volunteer of the Year	***David Gheorghiu***	***Robert Leng*** ***Amanda Wright***
The Kano Way Award	***Ricky Haynes***	***Emyr Rees*** ***Mark Fricker***
Inclusion Award	***Isabelle Everest***	***Terry McNeill*** ***Stephanie Walker***

The following Awards are nominated by various committees in recognition of their performances and contributions to judo.

CATEGORY	WINNERS
Adaptive Athletes Award	***Rowan Kinsella*** ***Siobhan Lloyd***
Cadet Athletes of the Year	***Coen Gilbert*** ***Sara Coni***
Junior Athletes of the Year	***Irakli Goginashvili*** ***Lola Hodson***
Kata Award	***Jim MacKenzie***
Official of the Year	***Jean Cleere***
President's Award	***Susan Collins***
Referee of the Year	***Kirsty Lyons***
Senior Athlete of the Year	***Irakli Goginashvili*** ***Emma Reid***
Veteran Athletes of the Year	***Patrick Bryan*** ***Sam Chraniuk***
VI Athletes of the Year	***Dan Powell*** ***Evie Gormley***





BRITISH PRE CADETS, CADETS, JUNIORS AND SENIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS – 13TH AND 14TH DECEMBER

David Ross Sports Village, University of Nottingham

This event had a total of 749 judoka from 166 clubs and took place over 7 mats. The weekend saw 63 new British Champions crowned. At the end of the weekend, London Area topped the medal standings, followed by Northern Home Counties and Scotland.





BRITISH SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BRITISH ADAPTIVE AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS – 9TH AND 10TH MARCH

English Institute of Sport, Sheffield

This weekend saw 735 pupils battle it out to be crowned British Schools judo champion. 76 champions were crowned across the two days, with All Saints Catholic School retaining their crown as British Schools winning school.

Over the weekend we hosted a masterclass session led by Jemima Yeats-Brown and Kerry Tansey. This session was made free to entrants of the event and had over 80 sign ups.

Sophia Robus from Keisen Judo Club, was presented with the Sam Haycock Award for Best Player in Adaptive and VI competition.

Paul Tansey from Rainhill Rockets Judo Club was presented with the Malcolm Collins Award for Services to Adaptive Judo.

Seb Hojda from Cardiff Judo Academy was presented with the Ken Webber Award for Outstanding Young Referee.

Courtney Johnson one of our young officials was awarded the Jerry Hicks Award for Outstanding Junior Official.





MEMBERSHIP & GRADINGS

BRITISH MEMBERSHIP

Membership of British Judo (including affiliates) is up by 1,555 on the previous year (Table 1).

Compared to 2024-25 England membership is up by 2.1%, Northern Ireland membership is up by 7.3%, Scotland membership is up by 7.4% and Wales membership is up by 12%.

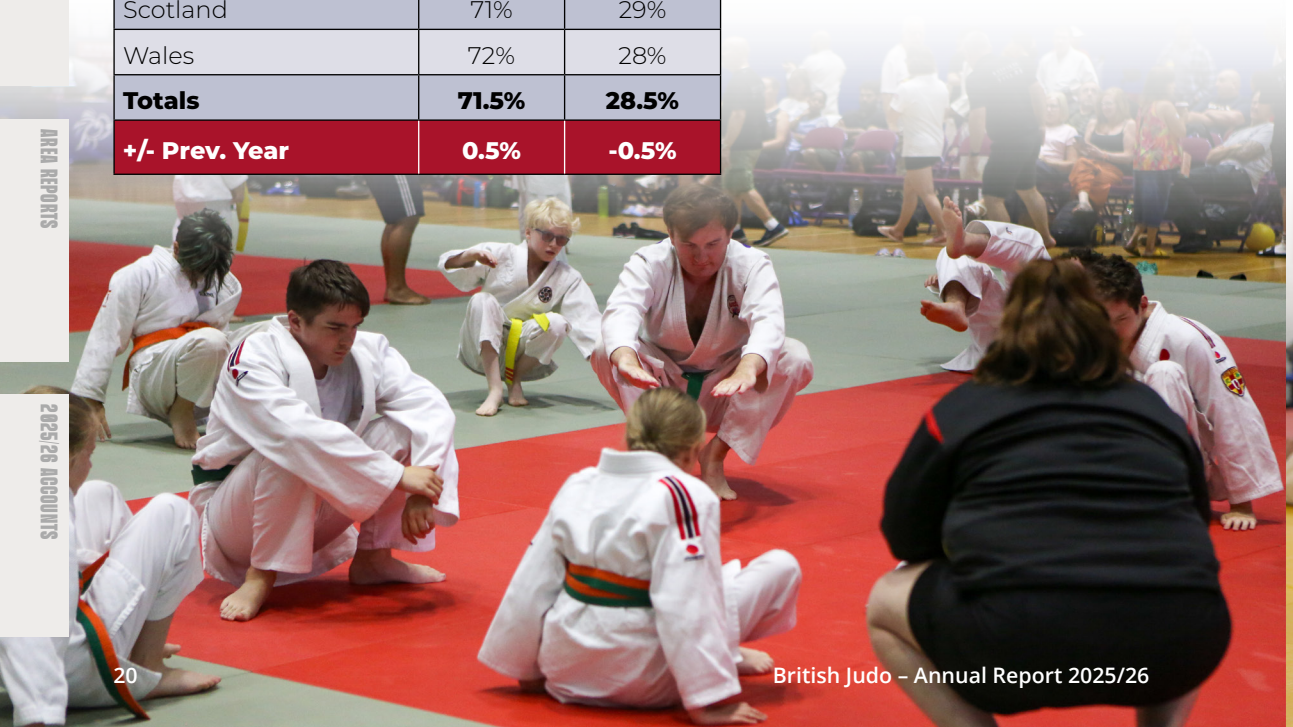
YEAR	ENGLAND	N. IRELAND	SCOTLAND	WALES	AFFILIATES	TOTAL
2019-20	30,944	2,049	8,035	1,860	4,738	47,626
2020-21	12,406	1,337	4,045	972	4,055	22,815
2021-22	21,697	1,446	6,270	1,505	2,055	32,973
2022-23	20,515	2,124	7,896	1,621	3,887	36,043
2023-24	23,302	1,365	8,172	1,648	4,127	38,614
2024-25	25,069	1,460	8,359	1,821	3,810	40,519
2025-26	25,587	1,567	8,979	2,041	3,900	42,074
+/- Prev. Yr.	**518**	**107**	**620**	**220**	**90**	**1,555**

Table 1

The male/female ratio has remained stable from last year (Table 2).

COUNTRY	MALE	FEMALE
England	75%	25%
Northern Ireland	68%	32%
Scotland	71%	29%
Wales	72%	28%
Totals	**71.5%**	**28.5%**
+/- Prev. Year	**0.5%**	**-0.5%**

Table 2



CLUB REGISTRATION

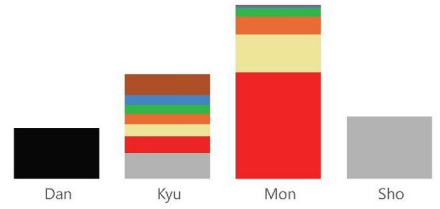
In the period April 2025 to March 2026, club affiliation prices remained the same as 2024-25 with a lower payment for early registration. However late applications incurred a £10 increase.

BRITISH JUDO

Realise the Benefits

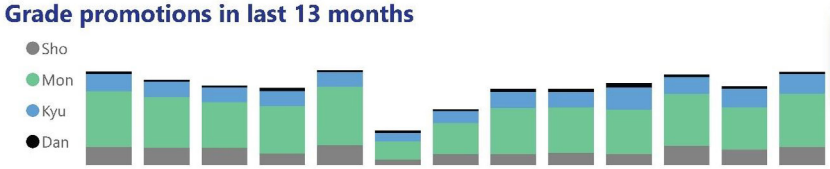
Extract date: 31 Mar 2026

Current Grade Profile of English Judoka



Belt Colour	Dan	Kyu	Mon	Sho	Total
Black	3,134				**3,134**
Brown		1,266	43		**1,309**
Blue		595	131		**726**
Green		608	539		**1,147**
Orange		627	1,119		**1,746**
Yellow		756	2,332		**3,088**
Red		1,026	6,614		**7,640**
White		1,643		3,862	**5,505**
Total	**3,134**	**6,521**	**10,778**	**3,862**	**24,295**

Grade promotions in last 13 months



22,913
Gradings

Scheme	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Dan	57	41	43	77	50	59	49	64	80	106	61	65	54
Kyu	423	381	362	371	354	200	297	395	369	546	416	454	479
Mon	1,389	1,261	1,142	1,180	1,458	454	765	1,153	1,138	1,102	1,291	1,050	1,327
Sho	448	432	426	288	489	140	271	273	303	280	478	390	449



Sarah Walker

Sarah Walker
Membership Manager

SAFEGUARDING

During this reporting period, we have continued on our committed journey to promote a safeguarding culture and striving to making judo safe, inclusive and accessible to all, in line with the British Judo strategy and inputting in shaping the new strategy.

I have now been in post for nearly three years and built on the existing best practice within British Judo to establish the Association as a leader in safeguarding practice in the NGB sector. The small team have worked hard to establish positive and trusting relationships with internal and external stakeholders

COMPLIANCE:

We have completed the annual safeguarding assurance review with Child Protect in Sport Unit (CPSU) in June 2025 and met all requirements. We will be submitting our annual compliance documentation for 2026 to NSPCC Sport in September 2026.

We continue to meet the requirements of the Ann Craft Trust (ACT) Safeguarding Adults Framework and will be reviewing the framework in 2027.

I have continued to complete monthly action plans on the continuous learning for the organisational compliance and have quarterly meetings with our NSPCC Sport lead.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The launch of of MyConcern electronic recording system (Jan 2024) and MyVoice (May 2025) in line with CPSU Standards has provided an effective reporting system and we recently received our 635th report. The majority remain as low level concerns but it's a positive indicator of the judo community working with us to provide safe practice.
- In line with The Whyte Report all British Judo clubs have a Club Welfare Officer (CWO). We also conduct bi-monthly support clinics and ongoing support for their important welfare work in clubs as well as monthly safeguarding newsletters.
- We have now engaged more directly with all university judo clubs in ensuring that their Designated Safeguarding Leads are trained and validated in line with our CWO standards
- We have continued to be fully engaged over the year with the Sport Welfare Officer (SWO) Network in Active Partnerships (in England), which supports British Judo in strengthening its safeguarding offer. I also sit on the Oversight Group and hold quarterly meetings with our regional SWOs
- In 2025 we were identified as one of two sports organisations (the other being the Premier League) to be involved in Durham University's new Contextual Safeguarding Unit (headed up by Professor Carleen Firmin). In early 2026 we were allocated a PhD student via their programme on contextual safeguarding and sport
- We have worked with the Marketing & Communication Team to promote awareness of significant campaigns such as the NSPCC/CPSU Play Safe Sport Week in October 2025 and Adult Safeguarding Week Nov 2025 (with facilitation of BJA Safeguarding Conference conferences for our stakeholders and CWOs in Oct 2025).
- There has also been production and promotion of a range of excellent resources to our clubs via the British Judo website, including the launch of new documents for Trauma Informed Coaching, Guidance for new British Judo coaches, Managing Grievances in Clubs, Mandatory Reporting (via the Crime & Police Act 2026).



- The Safeguarding Team have fully established presence and relationships with England, Olympic and Paralympic Teams, along with our Performance programmes, which provide guidance, training and support to both coaches and athletes, working alongside colleagues from the UK Sport Institute. We have also attended weekly performance programme flash meetings and monthly elite Performance Pathway and Development Squad meetings, providing CPD for pre cadet and cadet judoka on subjects such as internet safety, good weight practice and HERO training. We have also provided HERO and safeguarding training for Home Nation Performance coaches and England Commonwealth Team Coaches for Glasgow 2026. There has also been a safeguarding presence at national judo events, such as the British Championships in December 2025 and British Schools in March 2026.
- I have continued to meet quarterly with Home Nation Safeguarding Leads to facilitate the protocol signed off by all four nation CEOs for joint working and practice on safeguarding.
- I am now also a member of the EJU Safeguarding Group and share British Judo good practice with EJU members.
- We have now designed and facilitate three Safeguarding CPD courses for coaches and CWOs: CIMPSA endorsed BJA Safeguarding Children & Adult course for validation and revalidation of CWOs and Coaches; Welfare Officer Course for BJA CWOs; and Refresher Safeguarding course for coaches/CWOs. All three course are quality assured and facilitated by our dedicated safeguarding trainers. This training has now also been offered to members of the Amateur Judo Association and British Judo Council.
- In December 2025 we began Combat Club Collaboration - Working Together in Safeguarding - British Judo Association with GB Fencing and GB Wrestling

British Judo has a good reputation for its safeguarding and inclusion work with stakeholders and the NGB community, which has been evidenced by requests over the year to share and facilitate our good practice work within forums led by CPSU, ACT, Sport England, UK Sport and Hydrant Programme.

Andrew Bowly

Andrew Bowly
Head of Inclusion, Safeguarding & Wellbeing

OPERATIONS

The 2025–26 year has delivered strong progress across British Judo's Operations function, supporting performance delivery, strengthening governance, and enhancing the systems and environments that underpin athlete success.

FACILITIES AND TRAINING ENVIRONMENT

Significant progress has been made in shaping the future of British Judo's training infrastructure. Alongside continued feasibility work on the National Combat Centre, we are now actively engaging with the University of Wolverhampton on the regeneration of the Walsall Campus.

This collaboration has reached an exciting stage and presents a major opportunity to enhance the training environment. The development has the potential to positively impact athlete performance and pathway progression, while also creating a multi-functional space capable of hosting events and supporting wider organisational activity.

Improvements during the year also included upgrades to gym equipment and accommodation provision, alongside the University achieving UK Sport Elite Training Centre status, strengthening the performance system available to athletes.

PEOPLE, WORKFORCE AND SAFETY

The year saw the successful delivery of a performance restructure, including the recruitment of key leadership and practitioner roles across coaching and support services.

A key development has been the progression of Health & Safety across the organisation, aligning it more closely with performance and development activity. Ten staff members completed an intensive four-day risk assessment course, enabling a more collaborative and consistent approach to risk management.



This has strengthened the organisation's ability to assess and manage risk across all environments, from England training camps and coach education courses to day-to-day office operations. This approach enhances safety standards while also improving support provided to clubs and members.

The initiative also moves British Judo closer to alignment with the Three Step Safe principles, embedding safety as a core component of operational delivery.



CLEAN SPORT AND GOVERNANCE

Clean sport remains central to operations, with British Judo maintaining strong compliance with UK Anti-Doping requirements. Education programmes have been delivered across Home Nations, World Class Programme and Para pathways, ensuring athletes and staff are appropriately informed and prepared.

Ongoing updates to policies, including the Prohibited List and Therapeutic Use Exemption processes, have been communicated effectively, maintaining the highest standards of integrity.

OPERATIONAL DELIVERY, COMMERCIAL AND MEMBER SERVICES

Operational delivery has continued to strengthen, including progress in merchandise and retail offerings to enhance athlete and member engagement.

A new insurance partnership has been secured with Howden Insurance Brokers, providing a strong foundation for improved coverage and future member benefits. Building on this, work is ongoing to enhance the member benefits portal and explore the introduction of a dedicated medical insurance offer for members.



These developments represent an important step in adding value to membership and improving the overall service provided to the judo community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

A major milestone this year was the completion of British Judo's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2026–2036), establishing a clear long-term framework for action.

The strategy outlines commitments to reduce emissions from travel, events and facilities, minimise waste, and embed sustainability across all areas of the organisation.

Key priorities include reducing paper usage, improving emissions tracking, embedding sustainable event delivery, and empowering the judo community to take climate action.

With the majority of emissions identified within indirect sources such as travel and accommodation, the strategy provides clear direction for delivering meaningful environmental impact.

SUMMARY

This has been a year of meaningful progress, with strong foundations laid across facilities, workforce, governance, safety, member services and sustainability. The Operations Department remains focused on enabling performance success while delivering safe, efficient and forward-thinking operations for the whole of British Judo.

Tim Ellis

Tim Ellis
Performance Pathway & Operations Director

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

The 2025–2026 reporting period has been another significant year for British Judo's Marketing, Digital and Communications function, with communications continuing to play a central role in promoting our sport, supporting organisational priorities and strengthening engagement with members, partners and the wider public.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Across our digital channels, we delivered timely and engaging coverage of domestic competitions, international performances, development initiatives and governance updates, ensuring members remained informed while showcasing the breadth of activity taking place across British Judo.

PERFORMANCE

Performance sport remained a major focus throughout the year, with extensive coverage of British athletes competing on the IJF World Tour, European and World Championships, culminating in Emma Reid's historic silver medal at the Senior European Championships in Tbilisi and Ethan Nairne's first IJF Grand Prix gold medal. These successes provided opportunities to celebrate British talent whilst increasing the visibility of our elite programme.

ORGANISATION

Alongside competition coverage, communications supported a number of key organisational announcements, including the launch of the new digital membership card, the continued development of the Three Step Safe programme, updates to competition qualification pathways, coaching and governance initiatives, and the publication







of new resources for clubs and members. We also worked closely with colleagues across the organisation to communicate staffing appointments, strategic developments and important policy updates in a transparent and accessible manner.

EVENTS

Our events programme generated significant engagement throughout the year, with comprehensive promotional campaigns and live coverage supporting flagship events including the British Schools Championships, British Championships, National Team Championships, English Open and a growing calendar of international events hosted within Great Britain. These campaigns not only increased awareness but also helped celebrate the achievements of athletes, coaches, volunteers and officials at every level of the sport.

CREATIVE CONTENT

The year also saw continued investment in creative content. New graphic templates, enhanced photography, short-form video and athlete-focused storytelling helped create a more consistent and recognisable British Judo brand across our website, email communications and social media channels. This approach has enabled us to better showcase the diversity of our membership while providing clubs and partners with high-quality assets to amplify key messages.

COMMERCIAL

Commercially, the Communications Team played an increasing role in supporting sponsorship opportunities, membership campaigns and partner activation, ensuring British Judo continues to present a professional and compelling proposition to existing and prospective partners.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on growing digital audiences, increasing engagement across all platforms, expanding the use of video content and continuing to tell the stories that demonstrate the impact of judo both on and off the mat. By working collaboratively across every department. The Marketing, Digital and Communications Team will continue to support the Association's strategic ambitions while celebrating the people, performances and communities that make British Judo thrive.

Ben Pollard

Ben Pollard
Head of Communications

BRITISH JUDO TRUST

This year we are able to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the formation of The Judo Trust.

Once again over this past year we have financially assisted over 100 judoka, including adaptive judoka, to attend numerous international competitions and training camps throughout the world.

In addition, this year, the Trust has been utilised to process and distribute a significant donation to assist 38 veterans take part in the IJF Veterans World Championships in Las Vegas.

The income into the Trust continues to be in the region of £19k per annum. This mainly comes from a levy of £1 added to the membership fee as agreed twenty years ago at the AGM in 2006.

As mentioned above, this £1 levy was set some 20 years ago when I was Vice Chair of British Judo. I would now strongly recommend to the Board that when membership fees are next adjusted, this £1 levy should also be increased.

It has been my privilege to Chair the Trust since its formation. I would very much wish to thank my fellow Trustees and particularly Sarah Reed at Head Office for all their past assistance and support. I now pass on the Chair role to Peter Blewett, who, I am confident, will do a fantastic job in taking the Trust forward.

I would also wish to pay tribute to my good friend and fellow Trustee Richard Barraclough, who sadly passed away recently, for his great support of the Trust.

Trustees: Simone Callender, Rowena Birch, Andrew Scoular, Peter Blewett.

Brian Davies

Brian Davies JP
Chair



NATIONAL OFFICIALS COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

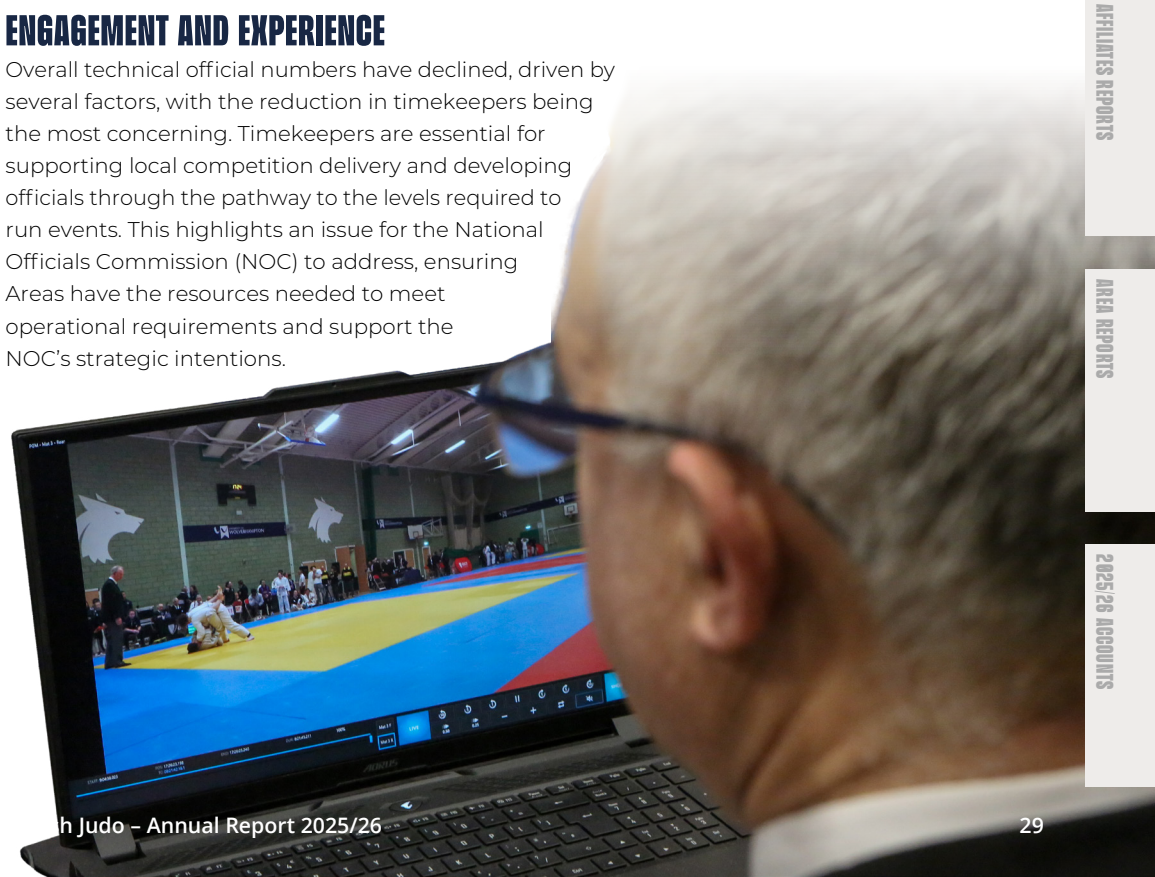
Sarah Newbury – Commission Chair
Keith Merrick – British Judo Lead Executive Officer
Denise Oates – Commission Member
Susan Wright – Commission Member
Paul Sexton – Commission Member
Andy Scott – Commission Member
Liz O'Neal – Commission Member
Jessica Hastings – British Judo Events Manager (Observer)

COMMUNITY GROWTH

AWARD LEVEL	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	VARIANCE
Timekeeper	149	164	146	169	140	-29
Contest Recorder	93	93	93	125	116	-9
Senior Recorder	56	47	47	58	52	-6
Competition Controller	42	42	42	32	29	-3
TOTAL	**340**	**346**	**328**	**384**	**337**	**-47**

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

Overall technical official numbers have declined, driven by several factors, with the reduction in timekeepers being the most concerning. Timekeepers are essential for supporting local competition delivery and developing officials through the pathway to the levels required to run events. This highlights an issue for the National Officials Commission (NOC) to address, ensuring Areas have the resources needed to meet operational requirements and support the NOC's strategic intentions.





An action plan is in place to address this issue:

1. To validate more tutors to facilitate the required education swiftly.
2. To review the revalidation process and clarify the status of all active officials.
3. To continue the focus on the Competition Controller (CC) and Senior Recorder (SR) awards directly and provide support to Home Nations and Areas to in order that they produce and retain Timekeepers and Contest Recorders.
4. Meet the strategic plan objectives.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Commission has continued working to increase the number of CC. Louise Beard was awarded the National CC award in October 2025, and two further candidates are due to be assessed at events in the coming months. A further four officials are currently progressing through the programme, with assessment anticipated in 2027.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

Unfortunately, the Technical Officials Seminar was cancelled due to logistical constraints. However, the Commission has rescheduled it for September 2026 at the National Training Centre. Sarah Newbury will again provide the technical lead, with Keith Merrick supporting organisation and providing any British Judo rule updates.

Local tutor officials will be encouraged to align training with the needs of Area events, ensuring officials are developed to sustain those events. Areas will therefore need to develop a clear plan for the recruitment and retention of officials.

The new Contest Recorder course materials have been well received and are being used for both online and face-to-face courses. The Commission has also updated the SR course materials, a substantial piece of work that will support courses in the coming months. Area representatives are being encouraged to identify officials ready for the next stage of their officiating journey.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

The Provisional Competition Controller programme identifies mentors for each candidate, enabling experienced CCs to share their knowledge and expertise in a supportive environment.

The Commission remains committed to developing and retaining young Technical Officials. Although only five young Technical Officials attended the British Schools Championships in March, the NOC is reviewing its processes to improve representation in 2027. It is encouraging that many young officials are being invited to other national and Area events, and the Commission will continue working with Area representatives to support the development of all officials.

Sarah Newbury

Sarah Newbury
National Officials Commission Chair

NATIONAL REFEREES COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Carol Leverton – Chair
Keith Merrick – Executive Lead
Lisa Rivers – Member
Archi Shrimpton – Member
Stefan Newbury – Member
Dan Harris – Member

COMMUNITY

AWARD LEVEL	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Club	93	73	100	106
Area	96	67	91	116
National C	61	54	87	104
National B	35	27	24	22
National A	23	26	24	26
National A – Honorary	1	0	0	0
Senior National – Examined	3	3	3	3
Senior National – Honorary	5	8	6	7
IJF B – Examined Active	2	1	2	5
IJF B – Examined In-active	0	0	0	0
IJF B – Honorary	5	5	5	4
IJF A – Examined Active	6	7	7	7
IJF A – Examined In-Active	3	4	5	5
IJF A – Honorary	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	**334**	**276**	**355**	**406**



Referee numbers continue to rise due to the educational efforts of tutors and data cleansing of the systems. We have 72 referees more than at this point in the last revalidation cycle, which puts us in a much better position to absorb the expected referee retirements at revalidation in January 2027. Revalidation year is when referees retirements, for various reasons, are mostly registered, resulting in a reduction of referee numbers.



Kirsty Lyon from Scotland, Referee of the year and National A pass.

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

Bespoke management is needed to retain more of the new referees by following up event invitations more regularly. Some new referees are falling by the wayside due to outside pressures and events that may not suit their personal needs in a particular area.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

The Commission are working very hard to prepare two more continental referee award candidates. They will both be undergoing their programme entry / ongoing assessment at the British Championships in December 2026. The plan is for formal examination by the EJU in 2027 / 2028.



Paul Grady from Scotland and Stephen Sims from Northern Ireland Both successful Continental award passes 2025.

Lisa Rivers continues to achieve good IJF tour results, having been called to four IJF events, as detailed below. Graeme Maclachlan, Archi Shrimpton and Stefan Newbury were all called to IJF mainstream referee championships, and Paul Tansey gave GB excellent representation in the Adaptive events at home and abroad, including the Europeans shown below.

A strong selection of European events indicates international confidence in our referees:

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The cohort of National A+B referee candidates from the November 2025 course have taken on the task ahead with real enthusiasm and demonstrated incredible progression in their abilities from one event to the next. Three National A and three National B candidates passed their examinations in the 2025-2026 period; this is a great statistic for refereeing.

The next National A+B course is set for August 2026 and has seven candidates booked on it to date, so another group is getting ready.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Commission were delighted to provide a consolidation of the rule set for the current Olympic period in March 2026, where referees and coaches worked together.

As normal in this period of the Olympic cycle, we have revisited not only the rules directly driven by the IJF but also rules bespoke to British Judo. Current rule sets have been updated, communicated and made available on the British Judo website.

The Commission would like to extend sincere appreciation to the tutors and assessors who have assisted the NRC in training, mentoring, assessing, and examining the referee community throughout another year; the statistics speak for themselves.

Carol Leverton

Carol Leverton
National Referees Commission Chair

EVENT	COUNTRY	CITY	REFEREE
European – Seniors Individual+Mixed Teams	MNE	Podgorica	Lisa Rivers
European – Cadets Individual+Mixed Teams	MKD	Skopje	Archi Shrimpton
EYOF	MKD	Skopje	Graeme MacLachlan
IBSA Grand Prix	EGY	Giza	Lisa Rivers
European – Juniors Individual+Mixed Teams	SVK	Bratislava	Stefan Newbury
IBSA European Championships	GEO	Tbilisi	Lisa Rivers
European – U23 Individual+Mixed Teams	MDA	Chisinau	Graeme MacLachlan
European – Adapted Judo Championships	ITA	Congeliano	Paul Tansey
IJF Grand Prix	AUT	Upper Austria	Lisa Rivers

PROMOTIONS AND GRADINGS COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dave Clark – Chair
Dave Horton-Jones – Member, National Dan Gradings Manager (NGM)
Nick Fletcher – Member
Kim Tilley – Member
Rick Kenney – Member
Ben George – Member
Joe Nunn – Member (co-opted July 2025)
John Malkinson – Member (co-opted July 2025)
Derek Paxton – Member (co-opted July 2025)

The Promotions & Gradings Commission has had a significant number of personnel changes in this reporting period and has undergone another period of development and implementation of new procedures and processes. Reports are submitted to the British Judo Board of Directors and British Judo Commission. The Area Director of Examiners (ADofEs) and affiliate organisation ADofEs have continued to work cohesively on operational grading matters and are a vital part of the organisation and the continuing success of competitive Dan gradings. Their contribution was invaluable in particular during this reporting period with the introduction of a Modernised Dan Grading Scheme.

I would like to thank the Area Committees, their ADofEs, all Senior Examiners (SEs), and members of the Promotions & Gradings Commission for their continued and valued contributions to the British Judo.



DAN GRADE ADMINISTRATION – BJA STAFF

Dave Horton-Jones continues as National Dan Grading Manager and remains the main point of contact for all Dan grading activity and enquiries. Sarah Walker continues as the Dan Grade Administrator and is the first point of contact for all Mon and Kyu grading activity.

COMPETITIVE DAN GRADINGS

The number of promotions to and within the Dan grades is provided below and has again improved on the previous year. A historic record of the last six years of promotions is also provided below. Booking events online has allowed SEs time to plan in advance the running of the event by analysing the numbers, weights, grades, and ages of judoka entering, to enable a fair and credible promotion experience. A national female-only grading was held in November 2025, with two further gradings planned for 2025/2026.

MALE 2025/26	1ST DAN	2ND DAN	3RD DAN	4TH DAN	5TH DAN	6TH DAN	7TH DAN	8TH DAN	TOTAL
Competitive	364	116	46	13	5	0	0	0	**544**
Technical	54	64	26	17	16	0	0	0	**177**
Board of Directors	0	0	0	2	2	34	0	0	**38**
IJF	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	**12**
TOTAL	**418**	**180**	**72**	**32**	**23**	**34**	**10**	**2**	**771**

FEMALE 2025/26	1ST DAN	2ND DAN	3RD DAN	4TH DAN	5TH DAN	6TH DAN	7TH DAN	8TH DAN	TOTAL
Competitive	64	28	16	2	3	0	0	0	**113**
Technical	19	15	12	11	4	0	0	0	**61**
Board of Directors	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	**3**
IJF/EJU	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	**2**
TOTAL	**83**	**43**	**28**	**13**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**179**

MALE	1ST DAN	2ND DAN	3RD DAN	4TH DAN	5TH DAN	6TH DAN	7TH DAN	8TH DAN	TOTAL
2020-2021	27	16	6	9	8	7	0	1	**74**
2021-2022	172	54	39	20	29	6	1	1	**322**
2022-2023	312	91	47	26	16	7	1	0	**500**
2023-2024	319	104	48	36	15	15	2	2	**541**
2024-2025	341	113	56	31	25	9	6	1	**582**
2025-2026	418	180	72	32	23	34	10	2	**771**

FEMALE	1ST DAN	2ND DAN	3RD DAN	4TH DAN	5TH DAN	6TH DAN	7TH DAN	8TH DAN	9TH DAN	TOTAL
2020-2021	11	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	**21**
2021-2022	41	11	10	5	1	1	1	0	0	**70**
2022-2023	79	20	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	**106**
2023-2024	84	24	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	**119**
2024-2025	66	24	10	6	3	1	2	0	1	**113**
2025-2026	83	43	28	13	7	3	1	1	0	**179**

TECHNICAL DAN GRADINGS

The Annual National Technical Dan grading plan for the delivery of preparation and examination weekends was implemented with an increased number of events held. These events were led or coordinated by Dave Horton-Jones. Judoka were able to book and pay for these courses online, streamlining the process and making planning more effective and delivery more efficient. Many Areas now have an annual programme delivering these courses. With the planned change to the Dan Grading Scheme on 1st January 2026, many judoka made the effort to complete their current Dan grade pathway under the pre-2026 system. This led to an incredible amount of work, mainly by our SEs, but also by Commission members and British Judo staff, who had to cope with an unusually high volume. This would have undoubtedly contributed to the increased number of promotions this year.

MODERNISED DAN GRADING SCHEME

Following the Board's approval, the Commission completed work on the Modernised Dan Grade Scheme, based on the Kodokan/IJF 100 techniques, it is a blend of prescriptive and creative learning, comprising five sections: the first two on fundamental skills and the other three on performance skills. Other changes have also been included to comply with EJU/IJF grading policy. The new scheme was launched on 1st July 2025 and implemented on 1st January 2026. We would like to thank Neil Adams MBE, 9th dan, Professor Mike Callan, 7th dan, and the SEs for their support.

To support the Modernised Dan Grading Scheme and provide a high level of communication, we held:

- 17 training sessions throughout the British Judo and Home Countries
- 114 SEs attended and were revalidated for three years
- 400 coaches and players attended this training
- FAQs were produced and published
- Social media updates provided across multiple platforms
- Three Q&A sessions were held on Teams

To ensure that no judoka would be disadvantaged by changing to a new scheme whilst already on their pathway to their next grade, "grandfather rights" were provided, allowing all judoka to retain any qualification already taken towards their next promotion.

KATA IN GRADINGS

In order to align with the IJF grading requirements a significant number of kata were introduced into the Modernised Dan Grading scheme. The Kata Commission worked incredibly hard to provide an infrastructure to support judoka obtaining their required kata and I wish to thank Llyr Jones, Kata Chair and Dave Horton-Jones, Kata Executive Lead, for their outstanding work on this. The Kata Commission also set up a process to enable all Senior Dan Grade Examiners to examine Nage-no-kata and Katame-no-kata to British Judo Examination Level 2 and this training formed part of their validation process. Senior Kata Examiners will be available to examine all other kata requirements as and when required. A National Kata course was delivered in November 2025 on Nage-no-kata and Katame-no-Kata as part of a three year cycle to deliver all seven Kodokan kata. A total of 403 Nage-no-kata and 384 Katame-no-Kata exams were carried out this year.

SENIOR EXAMINERS

Following the training on the Modernised Dan Grading Scheme, 114 SEs were revalidated for a 3-year cycle. The qualification is now recorded on their membership record, and a master sheet has been produced where activity can be recorded. It is intended to get all SEs qualified to Level 2 in Nage-no-kata and Katame-no-Kata in the next reporting period. Any SE who has not undertaken the training will not lose their qualification, but their qualification will be set aside until they have been trained on the modernised syllabus. To maintain a professional approach, new British Judo ties have been ordered and will be distributed via the ADofEs.

FINALLY

The Promotions & Gradings Commission would like to thank all of you for your continued support, participation and contribution. This enables us to provide an effective and efficient promotions pathway for all our members, including the increasing number of non-British Judo judoka who have joined from other organisations and federations.

Dave Clark

Dave Clark
Promotions & Gradings Commission Chair

KATA COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr Llyr Jones – Chair
Dave Horton-Jones – Member and Executive Lead
Paul Jordan – Member
Duncan Kinnear – Member
Martin Savage – Member

Over the reporting period the Commission worked as a collective of five judoka – all strong kata proponents, led by Dr Llyr Jones as Chair and Dave Horton-Jones as Executive Lead. Duncan Kinnear acted as the senior National Kata Judge and Paul Jordan and Martin Savage led very successful kata programmes in their Areas and beyond.

Over the reporting period the Kata Commission have carried out a multitude of tasks to support the development and growth of kata, whilst also supporting the Dan Grading processes which now has significantly increased kata content.

KATA ADMINISTRATION – BJA STAFF

For this reporting period, all kata administration in the British Judo was carried out by Adam Spencer supported by Dave Horton-Jones. Adam and Dave processed over 1000 kata exams (see stats table) with Adam sending out kata performance certificates, and also attendance certificates, for kata coaches running British Judo licenced courses. Adam also produced statistical analysis of kata activity including monthly lists of kata exams processed, certificates issued, and kata examiner activity.

KATA EXAMS

This year there has again been a targeted approach to provide learning and examination opportunities for the Randori-no-kata. Given this focus, over the last 2 years, the number of Nage-no-kata examinations have increased from 79 per annum to 403 and Katame-no-kata examinations have increased from 97 per annum to 364. In the same reporting period, the number of kata examinations have increased from 855 to 1193 which once again is the highest ever annual total. This is an outstanding achievement, and great credit must be given to all course organisers, kata examiners and especially all the keen kata students. See the table below for details of the kata examinations registered.

TABLE OF KATA CERTIFICATES ISSUED

KATA	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Itsutsu-no-Kata	0	5	75	85	95	164
Ju-no-Kata	0	9	12	65	39	83
Gonosen-no-Kata	0	27	50	68	113	69
Kodokan Goshin Jutsu	0	5	13	50	13	30
Katame-no-Kata	3	47	96	100	217	384
Kime-no-Kata	1	6	19	21	73	29
Koshiki-no-Kata	1	4	4	14	41	31
Nage-no-Kata	2	43	94	81	264	403
TOTAL	**7**	**146**	**363**	**484**	**855**	**1,193**

KATA COURSES

We are actively promoting and supporting kata courses, with the majority now being volunteer led. To date, over 65 courses have been delivered, contributing to increased kata participation and activity across Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. For the next reporting period we already have a large number of courses advertised covering all the Kodokan kata with more to follow. All course attendance and examinations are logged on a judoka's record and can be viewed via the British Judo app. Following a planned three-year cycle of providing national courses for all 7 Kodokan kata, we are now in a new cycle, which started in November 2025, covering Nage-no-kata, Katame-no-kata and Itsutsu-no-kata. The 2026 course covering Ju-no-kata and Kime-no-kata is already planned and advertised for 21 and 22 November at Croydon Judo Club.

NATIONAL KATA COURSE

The annual 2-day, National Kata Course delivered by Yoshihiko Iura-sensei a Kodokan 8th Dan and shidoin (official instructor), is now a firm fixture in the British Judo Kata calendar. Over the weekend of 22 and 23 November 2025, three kata were covered – Nage-no-kata, Katame-no-kata and Itsutsu-no-kata. The course was again organised by the Southern Area, hosted at the Army School of Physical Training in Aldershot, and supported by the British Judo Kata Group through Llyr Jones, Dave Horton-Jones and Paul Jordan. Many other British Judo Kata Officials and Senior Examiners attended and provided additional support and instruction for the course attendees.



Yoshihiko Iura-sensei coaching GBR international kata competitors Karen Roberts and Fiona Chan in Itsutsu-no-kata at the 2025 National Kata Course.

Two special presentations were made during the event. Jim MacKenzie was presented with the 2025 BJA Kata Award in recognition of his contribution to kata, while Iura-sensei received a British Judo Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of support in delivering expert kata instruction across the Association through the National Kata Course.



Yoshihiko Iura-sensei receiving his BJA Certificate of Appreciation.

INTERNATIONAL KATA

British judoka continue to travel internationally to compete in continental and world-level kata competitions, often extending their stay to attend accompanying kata seminars delivered by leading experts from the IJF and the Kodokan. As a result of their growing exposure to this level of competition and instruction, the standard of competitive kata performance among British judoka has shown a clear and sustained upward trend.

BRITISH KATA CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2025 National Kata Championships were held at Shizentai Judo Club on 6 September 2025. There were 33 pairs entering from all four Home Nations. This was a slight drop in entries compared to the 44 in 2024, as pairs were restricted to entering a maximum of two kata categories, aligning with the approach of the EJU and IJF.

A change in organisation was trialled, with the Shizentai team, led by Tori and Bob Cleevely, managing all the pre-event administration leading up to the day and the Kata Commission taking responsibility for organising the competition itself. Again, event organisation was run efficiently by Dave Horton-Jones as Tournament Director, with Duncan Kinnear the Head Judge and Tori organising the scoring system and pre-event scoring sheets. The move to a two-mat area was a great improvement to the efficiency of the proceedings.

EJU KATA FOR ALL SEMINAR

British Judo also hosted an EJU-level Kata Seminar on 11 and 12 April 2026, led by the Head of the EJU Kata Commission, Dr Slavisa Bradic (known as Brada) 7th Dan. This event was organised by Llyr Jones and Dave Horton-Jones and held at Bishop Stortford, where the support from the host judoka Joe and Nicole Nunn, was superb in providing first-class facilities. Brada was a very engaging and knowledgeable presenter, and his passion for judo and depth of knowledge was inspirational to all attending. The dojo exuded a distinctive and positive atmosphere, with all participants demonstrating great enthusiasm for the learning opportunity.

The subjects covered over the 2 days were:

- Education methods of teaching kata for children
- Kata for competition training



Dr Slavisa Bradic instructing the finer points of Katame-no-kata at the EJU Kata for All Seminar.

- Kata for the elderly
- Methodical procedures for teaching kata in an engaging way
- Practical application of teaching kata to children by working with Bishop's Stortford junior judoka. Towards the end of the day these juniors participated in an informal competition for the best kata demonstration.

The event concluded with a Ju-no-kata display by Ev Cadby and Kai Morgan-Kelly.

SUPPORTING PROMOTIONS COMMISSION

With a greater kata content introduced to the British Judo Dan Grading system on 1 January 2026, the Commission has ensured that the Association has an appropriate kata infrastructure to support the Dan Grading examinations, where kata certificates are now required as a stand-alone qualification. We also contributed to the upskilling of 113 Senior Examiners to examine Nage-no-kata and Katame-no-kata to Level 2 standard, thus preserving their previous 'theory' assessment privileges.

SUMMARY

Kata serves as an excellent pathway to achievement for judo practitioners of all ages. For competitive players, it provides valuable insights into techniques that can give them an advantage in contest. For those less focused on competition, it offers a way to refine their skills and, through its examination framework, presents an alternative route to accomplishment. The Kata Commission's mission is to promote greater participation in kata while enhancing its standards, comprehension, and enjoyment. We will collaborate with everyone involved in judo to achieve this goal.

FINALLY

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone for their ongoing support, active participation, and commitment to developing kata throughout the Association.

Dr Llyr Jones

Dr Llyr Jones
Kata Commission Chair

NATIONAL COACHING COMMISSION / NATIONAL SOURCE GROUP

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Colin McIver – Chair
Joyce Heron – British Judo Lead Executive
Dave Duffy – Member
Ben Almond – Member
Jim Feenan – Member
Katrina McDonald – Member
Joseph Nunn – Member
Martin Rance – Member
Darren Warner – Member
Kerry Tansey – Member
Russell Brown – Member, National Source Group (Northern Ireland)
Paul McGuinness – Member, National Source Group (Scotland)
Tom Hughes – Member, National Source Group (Wales)

COACH EDUCATION

Across the four Home Nations, coach numbers continue to increase. The table below provides detailed numbers for valid coaches only.

AWARD	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	VARIATION
LEVEL 1	230	343	444	463	542	**+79**
LEVEL 2	599	635	790	845	856	**+11**
LEVEL 3	205	197	228	276	269	**-7**
LEVEL 4	11	11	14	9	10	**+1**
LEVEL 5	8	13	13	18	14	**-4**
TOTAL	**1,053**	**1,199**	**1,489**	**1,611**	**1,691**	**80**

Gender percentages: 23% female, 77% male. Percentages by award level:

- **BJA Level 1 – 27% Female; 73% Male**
- **BJA Level 2 – 17% Female; 83% Male**
- **BJA Level 3 – 15% Female; 85% Male**
- **BJA Level 4 – 40% Female; 60% Male**
- **BJA Level 5 – 15% Female; 85% Male**

The table below details the number of coaches participating in the 2025-26 Coach Education Programme.

AWARD LEVEL	COURSES (N)	PARTICIPANTS (N)	MALE (N)	FEMALE (N)
BJA LEVEL 1	14	273	214 (78%)	59 (22%)
BJA/IST4SPORT LEVEL 2	5	125	103 (82%)	22 (18%)
BJA/IST4SPORT LEVEL 3	1	8	7 (87%)	1 (13%)
TOTAL	**20**	**406**	**324 (80%)**	**82 (20%)**



COACH REVALIDATION

Over 2,191 coaches participated in 140 coach revalidation courses this reporting year. Delivered by British Judo staff with support from Areas and clubs, these courses ensured coaches maintained and updated their qualifications and skills.

NCC/NSG COMMISSION ACTIVITY

Since reforming the National Coaching Commission (NCC), including the National Source Group (NSG), in February 2025, we have held seven Zoom meetings.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

In November 2025, the Commission successfully delivered the first National Technical Conference in several years, hopefully re-establishing it as an annual event.

COACH BEHAVIOUR (AT EVENTS)

The Commission has devoted significant time to addressing unacceptable coach conduct at events, with a particular focus on matside behaviour. A recurring issue is coaches disputing referee decisions.

MATSIDE COACHING GUIDELINES

We have developed a set of guidelines to support the online Matside Coaching Course.

BJA CODE OF CONDUCT/COACHES' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Commission commenced exploring the development of a mandatory eLearning module for coach revalidation, aligned with the British Judo Code of Conduct and Coaches' Code of Conduct.

BOWING PROCEDURES

In line with international protocol, coaches are encouraged to bow at the start of contests. Due to monitoring and enforcement challenges, this will remain a recommendation rather than a requirement.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

In collaboration with the National Referees Commission (NRC), a pilot is being developed to restrict coaches' ability to appeal decisions made by the referee. The proposal includes removing the right of appeal for a minimum six-month trial period.

AURICULAR HEMATOMA (CAULIFLOWER EAR)

Auricular hematoma ("cauliflower ear") is an increasing concern, particularly among younger judoka. Guidelines on prevention, treatment, and care have been developed and approved by the British Judo Chief Medical Officer.

BJA TECHNICAL RESTRICTIONS

Working in collaboration with the NRC, the Commission has revised the technical restrictions for less experienced judoka.

SHIME-WAZA & KANSETSU-WAZA RESTRICTIONS

The Board of Directors has approved a recommendation by the Commission prohibiting the use of kansetsu-waza and shime-waza for all judoka below green belt (both junior and senior age groups) and enforcing this prohibition in both competition and club environments.

Joyce Heron

Joyce Heron
Head of Technical and Education

Colin McIver

Colin McIver
National Coaching Commission Chair

VETERANS

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ronnie Saez – Chair
Chris Doherty – Member
Colin Francis – Member
Caroline Brayson – Member
David Gibson – Member
Danielle Batt – Member
Toby Lewis – resigned due to work commitments
Simon Rose – Member
Laurence Kenyon – Executive Lead

EVENTS:

WORLD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2025 PARIS 3RD – 7TH NOVEMBER

This Year's World Veterans Championships took place in Paris, and as expected there was a huge entry level of over 2,300. Great Britain had 63 male and 27 female judoka entered, so a total of 90 made the journey across to France. In total there were 3 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze medals won by the team. Natasha Glassford, who was competing at her fifth World Veteran Championships took gold once again. Lesley Reid, Rosemary Felton also took gold.

Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Natasha Glassford	Dianne White	Samantha Chraniuk
Rosemary Felton	Becky Dunning	Kay Andrews
Lesley Reid	Simone Strong	Nigel Thompson
	Dawn Netherwood	Fred Itiose
	Joanne Gregory	Danielle Batt
	Patrick Bryan	

The 2026 event will take place in Sarajevo in September, with 40 judokas currently registered for the event.

THE 2025 EUROPEAN VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIPS, RIGA, LATVIA, 22ND – 25TH MAY

A large contingent of British judokas entered the European Veteran Championships: 25 men and 15 women, for a total of 40.

Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal
Colin Francis	Kay Andrews	Kyle Perry
Samantha Chraniuk	Sian Carr	Adrian Besly
Shaun Mitty	Andrew Melbourne	Ria Jones
Sian Carr (Ne-Waza)	Charmaine Alford	Natasha Glassford
	Laura Plumridge	Danielle Batt
	Danielle Batt (Ne-Waza)	Caroline Brayson (Ne-Waza)
		Tasha Mathias
		Ben Westcott (Ne-Waza)

The 2026 event will take place in Portugal and currently has 31 UK judokas registered.





THE 2026 BRITISH VETERANS OPEN

The British Veterans Open took place at the University of East London on the 28 March. Again, it was an excellent event managed by the London Area.

- 276 competitors (38 female, 238 male)
- 24 nations represented

The 2025 British Masters Veterans Championships took place at the University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Sport Centre in July and attracted around 300 competitors.

VETERANS PLAYERS OF THE YEAR 2025

MALE AWARD:

Patrick Bryan – continues to excel on the veteran circuit, combining competitive success with a commitment to mentoring others. He is a driving force behind the 'Brawl in the Hall', which holds regular Veteran Randori sessions across a variety of venues. He proves that judo truly is a sport for life.



FEMALE AWARD:

Samantha Chraniuk – whose achievements and dedication stand out in the veteran division. She continues to inspire others through her performance and passion for the sport, both on and off the mat.



VETERANS TRAINING SESSIONS: There continues to be many successful and well-attended veterans training sessions at the National Training Centre (NTC), with a growing number taking place on a regional basis throughout the country. During 2026/2027, it is intended to increase the number of veterans training sessions across the country, alongside the sessions at the NTC in Walsall, while ensuring that sessions continue to be promoted through all available channels.

Ronnie Saez

Ronnie Saez
Veterans Commission Chair

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMISSION

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Andrew Bowly – British Judo Head of Inclusion, Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Paul Ajala – Board Member

Delia Wright – Board Member

Andrew Scoular – British Judo Chief Executive

Karen Roberts – British Judo Development Director

Ben Pollard – British Judo Head of Communications

Tim Ellis – British Judo Operations Director

Natasha Maslen – British Judo Events & Competitions Officer

We have built on our 2024-2025 successes via a continuous and committed journey to promote diversity and inclusion and strive to make judo inclusive to all.

I have overseen and supported our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion system through our Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which is outlined in our year 3 version.

The Diversity & Inclusion Steering Group has continued to grow in its operation with quarterly meetings led by myself and supported by departmental representatives.

The Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group had a change in chair in May 2025 who has continued to build on the agenda established by the previous chair. There were also new members recruited on to the group in the summer of 2025. There is now an action plan being established as well as a review of the terms of reference planned. I support this group in an executive lead role with quarterly meetings.

The Board EDI Lead and myself have quarterly update meetings and the Board membership remains diverse in regard to race and gender.

COMPLIANCE:

- The DIAP is a compliance requirement of Sport England and UK Sport and is now into its third year with new targets identified. With the support of our UK Sport Mentor, we are producing a new shorter outfacing DIAP for stakeholders.

- The DIAP is underpinned by the existing British Judo Equality and Human Rights Policy.

- The Moving to Inclusion diagnostic tool reporting to UK Sport is now in its second year. We have completed our work in partnership with our UK Sport Mentor, and year one saw completion of the Experience and Leadership Pillars. As a result, we have been invited to share our inclusion work with the UK Sport equality network and other stakeholders. We will also be sharing our diversity and inclusion work at a forthcoming EJU Human Rights Conference.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Adaptive Judo continues to grow, with squads representing British Judo at several international events, as well as national events. We held our second Adaptive Judo Conference in February 2026, alongside our Inclusion Day weekend and the third conference will take place in February 2027.

- We have reviewed our work with the judo community on the application of British Judo Transgender Participation Policy, which was revised following the UK Supreme Court Ruling on the definition of a woman and European Convention on Human Rights Codes of Practice.





- I have continued to support the elite Performance Pathway team with identified needs from the England, GB Paralympic and Olympic squads

- HERO training which includes EDI has been completed with Performance Pathway coaches and athletes

- We have started to work with Deaflympics to begin developing a team for participation at the Deaflympics in 2029

- March 2026 saw another successful Female Fighters Festival, with over 100 girls and young women in attendance, combining the Festival with celebrations for International Women's Day in March 2025. It was also supported by our partnership with our period friendly club **freedom4girls.co.uk**

- A joint Home Nations group on engagement and retention of girls and women in judo was created, which I chair and an action plan has been created with a Coaches Guide on Working with Female Judoka being launched in November 2026 via a call for action

- The Inclusion, Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team in conjunction with the Marketing & Communications Team, have promoted campaigns such as Black History Month and LGBTQ+ History Month.

- This year we supported Rainbow Laces with the campaign being launched at British Judo Schools Championships in March 2026. I was also invited to join a round table discussion on this chaired by Dame Kelly Holmes

- Additionally, we were central in promoting the Wesport Active Partnership No Hate, Just Sport initiative via our Club Support Team and I was invited to be on the panel for its launch in Bristol in October 2025.

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion training was facilitated for the Board, staff and Advisory Group from an external consultant as well as training for British Judo safeguarding trainers.

- We have produced resources to provide support to our clubs and members on being inclusive, including the British Judo Language Guide and Culture & Faith Guide.

I would like to thank all members of the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group and the British judo staff in our Steering Group, along with our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Board Lead, who finished their period on the board in December 2025, for their hard work in promoting this agenda and we welcomed our new Board Lead in February 2026.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVISORY GROUP – MEMBERS OVER THE PERIOD:
Bella, Tyla, Misha, Paisley, Naomi, Camryn, Nicola, Tesha, Hugo, Ollie, Izzie, Saffiyah, Idris, Dylan, Laksh, Mattis, Mia, Paige, Fereday

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ADVISORY GROUP



It's been a great year for our work with our Young Leaders, and we are so proud of all of them with their contribution to the safety and inclusion of all young people in judo as well as influencing change

We now have 12 members from diverse identities, with a recent recruitment campaign attracting four new members [Join the British Judo Young People Advisory Group - British Judo Association]

Meetings are held every three months virtually. However, we consulted with the group via a WhatsApp group for co-production of British Judo resources. In September 2025 we had a full day together at the National Training Centre in Walsall, when we produced an action plan with objectives and tasks identified by the Group.

With the previous action plan for 2024-2025 having been completed by May 2025, achievements included:

- Production of a young members safeguarding card including Club Welfare Officer information
- Injury Reporting Card for junior members
- Young People's version of the Moral Code (see below).



The Group is based on the Lundy Model of young people engagement, and we have met and achieved this as a model of working with their dedicated and enthusiastic participation.

We are leading the way through our work in the National Governing Body and sport sector and our young people's work is cited in the NSPCC Child Protection Safeguarding Unit's 'Children Voice' training.

Representatives from the Group now attend Board meetings up to three times a year to present on their work and update on the progress that has been made on their action plan.

In addition, the group now has a representative on the Judo Commission with a casting vote.

I have continued to meet quarterly with Home Nation Judo Associations Young People Leads. This has ensured joined up practice across all nations.

Group members have supported Inclusion, Safeguarding & Wellbeing presence at events and championships throughout the year, including the British Championships and British Schools. This has included engaging with junior members to obtain feedback on their experiences in Judo

The Group have designed a behaviour banner to remind those at judo events of the Moral Code, which was launched at the British Championships in December 2025.

The Group have also begun a piece of work exploring how they can campaign for judo being on the GCSE curriculum, which has included engagement with the UK Parliament Outreach Team and a visit to Parliament in August 2025 to meet with an MP [Judo on the GCSE Curriculum - British Judo Association]. A poll has recently been launched on the British Judo website with a call to action for members for their support on this campaign.

There has also been collaboration between British Judo, GB Wrestling and GB Taekwondo with the launch of voices of young athletes video entitled; My Magic Mat in July.

Andrew Bowly

Andrew Bowly
Head of Inclusion, Safeguarding & Wellbeing

JUDO ENGLAND

The period from April 2025 to March 2026 has been an important year for Judo England, with significant progress made in shaping our future direction, governance and identity.

Following the England Judo Review, our priority has been to move from recommendations towards meaningful change. Central to this has been developing a new structure for Judo England, including proposals for an England Judo Board that can provide stronger leadership, accountability and representation for our sport.

Our ambition is not simply to change how England Judo is governed, but to create an organisation that is closer to its clubs, clearer in its responsibilities and better equipped to grow and develop judo across England.

Importantly, we have sought to develop this collaboratively. Throughout the year, we have worked with Area Chairs, clubs, coaches, volunteers, members and colleagues within British Judo, listening to different perspectives and involving people in shaping what the future of England Judo should look like.

This engagement has informed the development of the proposed Board, future regional arrangements and our thinking around clearer roles and responsibilities.
It has also reinforced the importance of retaining strong connections between national leadership, our Areas and, most importantly, the clubs delivering judo within their communities every week.

Alongside governance reform, supporting our people and pathway has remained a priority. The England Talent Development Programme continues to provide opportunities for aspiring athletes, while developments within the England coaching structure are helping to strengthen connections between athletes, coaches, clubs and the national pathway.

Our events, competitions and development activity continue to provide opportunities for judoka across England to participate, progress and perform. Behind every one of these opportunities are dedicated coaches, referees, officials and volunteers whose contribution is fundamental to our sport.

As we look ahead, our focus is on turning the foundations established during 2025/2026 into sustainable change. We want strong and transparent governance, an effective England Judo Board, better regional engagement and a clear identity and voice for English judo.

We also recognise that governance alone does not grow our sport. Our success must ultimately be measured by thriving clubs, increasing participation, supported coaches and volunteers, positive experiences for our members and a pathway that enables people to fulfil their potential.

Change of this scale requires collaboration, openness and a willingness to challenge how we have traditionally operated. I would therefore like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, experience and ideas throughout this process.

We have more to do, but the direction is clear. Together, we are building an England Judo that is stronger, more connected and better equipped to serve our clubs, members and communities for the future.

Garth Illingworth

Garth Illingworth
Chair, Judo England

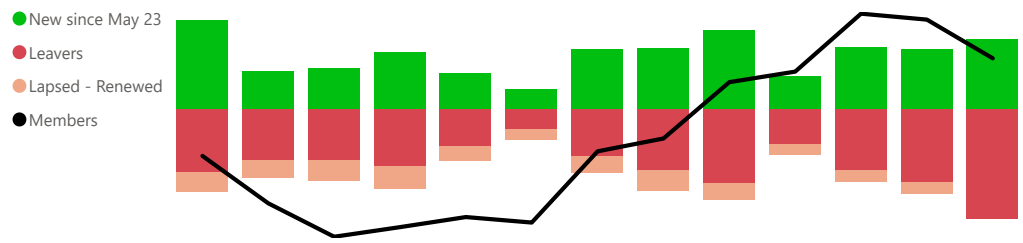
BRITISH JUDO

Grow and Diversify Membership

Extract date: 31 Mar 2026

English Membership Changes over last 12 months

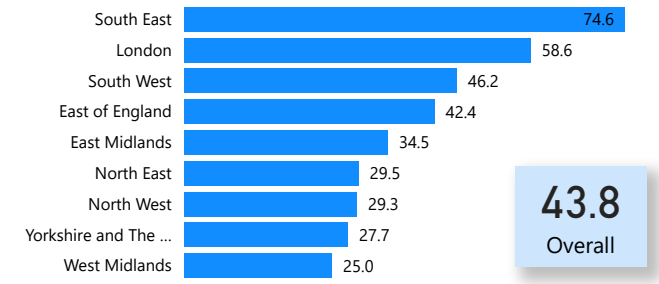
25,587	426	2%	9,712	10,624	15,294	57%
Current Members	Change	Change %	Joiners	Leavers	Renewals	Retention



Year	2025										2026		
	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Members	25,161	24,954	24,808	24,850	24,894	24,870	25,181	25,237	25,483	25,529	25,782	25,756	25,587
New since May 23	1,394	604	640	892	563	319	937	965	1,247	522	975	944	1,104
Leavers	-989	-804	-802	-900	-576	-318	-733	-961	-1,155	-552	-963	-1,145	-1,715
Lapsed - Renewed	-313	-272	-317	-346	-229	-165	-263	-319	-262	-171	-182	-174	

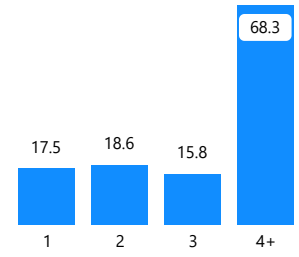
Current English Membership per 100K Population

By Region



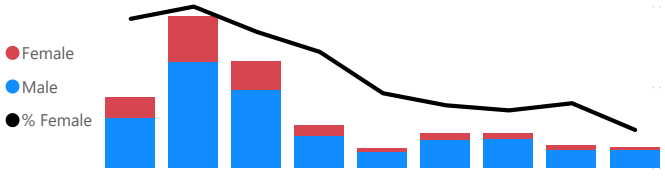
43.8
Overall

By IMD Decile



Current English Membership Diversity

Age and Gender



	3-7	8-11	12-17	18-24	25-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60 +
Female	990	2,232	1,407	516	186	302	293	199	148
Male	2,495	5,229	3,844	1,606	782	1,402	1,421	908	860
Other	37	114	81	121	51	76	48	22	5
% Female	28%	30%	27%	24%	19%	18%	17%	18%	15%

Ethnicity

White	13,642	53.3 %
Not Recorded	8,279	32.4 %
Dual Heritage	1,471	5.7 %
Asian or Asian British	1,346	5.3 %
Black or Black British	461	1.8 %
Other Ethnic Group	388	1.5 %

25%
Female %age

JUDOSCOTLAND

JudoScotland

As we close the third year of our *Judo for All* strategy, we reflect on another year of progress across judo in Scotland. From club development and workforce investment to performance success and preparations for The Commonwealth Games, Glasgow 2026, 2025 has been a year of growth, collaboration and opportunity across every area of the sport. Building on strong foundations, we have continued to work alongside clubs, volunteers, coaches, athletes and partners to create more opportunities for people to experience and enjoy judo.



GROWING AN ENGAGED AND DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP

In 2025, membership reached over 9,000 (December year-end: 9,236); the highest ever membership recorded, continuing our ambition to grow participation across Scotland.

This year saw continued investment in club development through programmes such as the Club Accelerator Programme, JudoMARK accreditation (33% of clubs) and targeted support for clubs and volunteers. Several clubs achieved JudoMARK status during the year, demonstrating their commitment to high standards in governance, safeguarding, inclusion and club management.

We also introduced the JudoScotland Coach Register and continued to enhance grading resources, ensuring coaches and members are supported with high-quality tools and development opportunities. A total of 16,289 gradings were processed in 2025 across our network of 76 affiliated clubs, delivered through 211 club venues.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY

Creating accessible and welcoming environments remains central to our work. Throughout the year, clubs across Scotland delivered projects supporting physical activity, mental wellbeing and social inclusion within their local communities. Initiatives celebrating women and girls in judo, disability and adapted judo opportunities, and partnerships with schools and community organisations have helped ensure judo remains a sport for everyone. Female participation is 29%, highlighting that growth in membership has been accompanied by a continued increase in female participation.



Our commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing was further strengthened through the launch of trauma-informed coaching and club initiatives, alongside continued promotion of safe sport, inclusion and clean sport principles.

INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL LEVELS

The Senpai Programme returned for a second year, supporting a new cohort of young leaders aged 16–24 to develop coaching, leadership and workforce skills within Scottish judo. Meanwhile, Kaizen Academy continued to provide development opportunities for coaches seeking to expand their knowledge and expertise.

Competition opportunities continued to thrive through the Grand Prix Series, Scottish Open and Scottish National Closed Championships, providing development pathways for judoka of all ages and abilities. The inaugural Scottish Adapted and Visually Impaired Open Judo Festival also represented an important milestone in broadening participation opportunities within the sport.





The Gathering once again brought together judoka from across Scotland and beyond, providing a unique opportunity to learn from world-class judoka Tato Grigalashvili, while celebrating our judo community.

ATHLETE SUCCESS

Scottish judoka continued to deliver outstanding performances on national and international stages throughout 2025.

Highlights included strong performances at the British Championships, selections for the European Youth Olympic Festival, Cadet European Championships and European Para Youth Games, as well as continued international success across Olympic, Paralympic, Visually Impaired and Adapted pathways.

CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

With Glasgow 2026 now firmly on the horizon, significant work has taken place to prepare athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers for a home Commonwealth Games. Throughout 2025, selection policies were published, whilst keeping the membership up to date through transparent communications about those reaching a standard to be considered for selection, helping to build excitement across the Scottish judo community.

JudoScotland also continued to strengthen its governance through board recruitment, workforce investment and organisational development. We welcomed new staff across several areas of the business while maintaining a strong focus on transparency, sustainability and member engagement.

None of the achievements in 2025 would have been possible without the dedication of our clubs, coaches, volunteers, officials, athletes and partners. Together, we continue to build a stronger, more inclusive and more ambitious future for judo in Scotland.

Judith McCleary

Judith McCleary
Chief Executive, JudoScotland

NORTHERN IRELAND JUDO FEDERATION

NORTHERN IRELAND JUDO

INTRODUCTION

The Northern Ireland Judo Federation (NIJF) has experienced a year of steady progress, renewed collaboration, and strengthened organisational cohesion.

A small increase in funding supported several new initiatives, and Russell Brown was re-elected to Chair for a further four-year term, ensuring continuity of leadership and strategic direction.

A renewed sense of unity has been evident across the Federation, with clubs, coaches, athletes, and Board members working collectively toward a shared vision for the future of judo in Northern Ireland. The year saw stronger engagement with the other Home Nations, enhancing the NIJF's position within the wider UK judo landscape.

The Board welcomed new members, including an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) champion and a Board Secretary, reinforcing the Federation's commitment to transparent communication, inclusive practice, and modern governance.

FUNDING AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The NIJF continued to align its strategic priorities with Sport NI's funding framework, developing new growth plans and concepts designed to support both performance and participation.

The Federation implemented an accountable RAG-rating process, monitored throughout the year with a focus on high-performance outcomes, grassroots development, and building confidence among clubs in the national governing body.

Sport NI conducted a full appraisal of the NIJF's policies and procedures, resulting in a strong endorsement from the Head of Culture and Integrity. This reflects the Federation's commitment to governance excellence, safeguarding, and organisational accountability.

Looking ahead, NIJF is exploring additional funding streams to enhance female participation initiatives and strengthen the performance and pathway programmes.





EVENTS AND SPONSORSHIP

The Northern Ireland Open in April was a standout success, delivering the highest entry numbers in a decade. We are looking to elevate this event by bringing on board an accommodation partner and including coach led masterclasses to enhance the profile and attract wider participation.

NIJF athletes competed at numerous high-profile competitions throughout the year, strengthening visibility and competitive credibility on both UK and international stages.



TALENT DEVELOPMENT AND ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENTS

The Northern Ireland Talent Development Pathway continues to be one of NIJF's most successful programmes, offering structured progression for emerging and elite athletes. Achievements this year included podium finishes and strong performances at:

- British Schools Championships
- British University Championships
- Northern Ireland Open
- Northwest Open (England)
- Irish Intervarsities
- British Championships
- Welsh Open
- Scottish Open
- Multiple regional, international, and club-level events

NIJF supports two GB squad players and fifteen GB-ranked players, demonstrating the strength of the pathway and the growing calibre of Northern Ireland's athletes.

COACHING AND LEADERSHIP

Performance leadership continued to develop under Sarah Barritt, who expanded opportunities for both high-performance athletes and pathway squad members.

The Pathway and Academy coaching team of Stephen McCluskey, Jonathan Cooke, and Jozsef Balogh played a pivotal role in delivering high-quality training and supporting the new Academy programme for younger aspiring judoka.

Six new Level 2 coaches were added to the coaching workforce, increasing capacity for club development and enabling growth in new geographical areas.



CLUB SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

NIJF continued its commitment to inclusion by participating as a pioneer group in Sport NI's Movement to Inclusion programme. This work aims to ensure judo environments are welcoming, respectful, and accessible for ethnic minorities and individuals with additional needs.

Fully funded outreach initiatives delivered judo in schools and community settings, resulting in a substantial increase in school licences and improved signposting to local clubs.

New engagement forums were introduced, including:

- Female Fighters Forum
- Masters Sessions
- Parents Forum
- Youth Forum

These initiatives have been well received and ensure stakeholder voices are heard across all levels of the Federation. The Parents Forum also held its first awards dinner, recognizing the players, parents, coaches and support teams.

We have also continued to work with external partners such as Sported, Disability Sport NI and other stakeholders to strengthen our development support.

One of our clubs has grown to the point of needing a full-time Dojo, making a significant achievement for the club and the areas of Portadown and surrounding region.

We signed the Brighton plus Helsinki declaration, which is the leading global framework and international treaty for advancing gender equality, equity, and inclusion for women and girls in sport and physical activity. Our FAB bag period dignity initiative is still in place.





We also supported volunteers to achieve their goals, including Stephen Sims who qualified as a continental level referee.

Marketing and brand development campaigns supported visibility and outreach across digital and offline channels, contributing to continued growth in membership and public engagement.

COMPETITION INNOVATION AND GROWTH

Our standard competition calendar included Dan Gradings, the Mons, Kyu's Dans, the Closed and the Schools championship. We also developed a vision for a Belfast based Open.

The NIJF maintained its internal ranking system, providing structured recognition and progression for athletes at club and regional levels.



Our Adaptive Squad is currently in a rebuild phase, but we are committed to funding athlete participation in the Welsh Adaptive Open in early 2027. We will also expand training and competition opportunities for adaptive judoka.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding remained a central priority, with the Federation aligning fully with the British Judo Three Step Safe Programme, reporting via MyVoice and MyConcern and maintaining a strong working relationship with the British Judo Safeguarding Team.

Frances Robertson, Deputy of Safeguarding, strengthened our processes and ensured that protocol was followed rigorously.



ADAPTIVE JUDO SUCCESS

A major highlight of the year was the selection of Sean McRory for the GB Deaf Olympic Squad. This achievement reflects the dedication of both the athlete and the Adaptive Judo programme.





LOOKING AHEAD

The NIJF is preparing to transition into Sport NI's four-year funding cycle, enabling more sustainable planning and incremental growth across clubs and performance programmes.

Key priorities for the coming period include:

- Building on Commonwealth success and expanding athlete representation at European, continental, and world events
- Supporting long-term athlete development with aspirations toward Brisbane 2032
- Continued club growth and the creation of welcoming, safe, and inclusive judo environments to make a positive impact to lives through Judo
- Strengthening the foundations laid by coaches, volunteers, athletes, and members across the Federation



As Chair, I would like to acknowledge and thank the membership, clubs, coaches, parents and all individuals who contribute to the success of judo in Northern Ireland. Your support is appreciated.

Russell Brown

Russell Brown
Chair, Northern Ireland Judo Federation

WELSH JUDO ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The inclusion of judo in the 2026 Commonwealth Games continued to create a strong focus for Welsh Judo. As planning towards Glasgow progressed, Welsh Judo balanced strategic investment, grassroots growth and performance pathway readiness.

Welsh Judo embedded the outputs of the 2025 Strategy Refresh into day-to-day operations, aligning staff and Board roles to three strategic pillars.

The organisation also made strong progress in meeting new governance expectations set by Sport Wales, delivering participation initiatives for young athletes and advancing preparations for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The appointment of Ben Jeffreys as Chief Executive Officer marked an exciting new chapter for the organisation, providing renewed leadership and momentum. Throughout the period Welsh Judo continued to make progress across its strategic pillars of Participation, Performance and People.

GOVERNANCE & LEADERSHIP

In April 2025, Welsh Judo undertook a collaborative Strategy Refresh involving the Board and staff team. With 18 months remaining in the strategic cycle, the aim was to consolidate key priorities and establish a more targeted operational plan. The refreshed strategy continued to be delivered across three strategic pillars: Participation, Performance and People.

The organisation closed the April 2024 to March 2025 financial year with a strong reserve position, exceeding the upper limit of the reserves policy. Welsh Judo received a 3.5% increase in 2025/2026 core funding following additional investment from Welsh Government. Welsh Judo continued to benefit from a positive relationship with Sport Wales, with aligned work in governance, safeguarding, people development and sector resilience.

Additionally, Welsh Judo engaged in a governance and culture review supported by This Is Milk, focusing on strengthening leadership and inclusion. The Corporate Governance Committee continued to oversee the implementation of the recommendations and developed action plans to strengthen leadership, governance and role clarity.

Following an open recruitment process, Welsh Judo confirmed the appointment of Ben Jeffreys as Chief Executive Officer, who officially started on 7th October 2025. Preparation also began for the December AGM, with elected director positions due for re-election and additional vacancies opened for nomination, resulting in Rebecca Duffy joining the Board.

In February 2026, Welsh Judo submitted its Self-Declaration and Governance Improvement Plan to Sport Wales as part of compliance with the new Arwain Cymru framework. The Association also submitted its Partnership Form for the 2026-2027 period to safeguard ongoing funding for the subsequent financial year.

PARTICIPATION & DEVELOPMENT

Welsh Judo continued to support grassroots growth and participation across Wales. During 2024/2025, a total of £37,141 was awarded to judo clubs in Wales through the Be Active Wales Fund, supporting participation, facility access and club growth.

The Girls That Judo programme continued to be a key success story, gaining visibility through coverage on BBC Wales, ITV Wales and Sport Wales media platforms. Welsh Judo partnered with the Sport Wales Institute to deliver a licensed coach education and revalidation day focused on supporting female judoka, including sessions on fuelling a female judoka, menstrual cycle management and coach conversations.

The beginning of 2026 saw the successful delivery of the Welsh Regional Schools Championships, providing meaningful competitive experiences for young judoka across Wales.

The Association also piloted the This Is Judo Red & Yellow Belt Rumble competition, designed to increase participation, enjoyment and early-stage engagement in the sport. The pilot was well received and feedback is being used to inform future development activity.

Welsh Judo also strengthened safeguarding provision through the appointment of Sarah Knight, following the decision to terminate its use of the Safeguarding Plus service provided by the Welsh Sports Association.

PERFORMANCE

Welsh Judo's Commonwealth Games preparation programme became a major focus throughout the reporting period. The organisation worked closely with Commonwealth Games Wales, Cardiff Met and Sport Wales to provide support for identified athletes.

A project with the Sport Wales Institute focusing on weight-making culture aimed to embed long-term health in athletic development. Welsh Judo and its partners were engaged in advisory and working groups across the Home Nations.

Natalie Powell began her role as Commonwealth Games Performance Coach on 25th August 2025. Under her leadership, the programme provided structured support for Welsh athletes targeting nomination for the Glasgow 2026 Games. Athletes and coaches prepared for international competition opportunities including the Montreal Pan-American Open, marking the start of the international qualification phase.

During early 2026, Welsh Judo worked with Sport Wales' Performance Team on culture, values and operational planning in advance of the Commonwealth Games. This work helped identify the systems and structures required to support high-performance athletes more effectively and provided a roadmap for future development across coaching, support services and operational readiness.

KEY RISKS

Staff capacity remained a key consideration, with operational delivery relying on a small team managing multiple priorities. Governance continuity remained an important area of focus as Welsh Judo transitioned leadership and prepared for Board elections.

Several policies were identified as requiring formalisation to strengthen organisational resilience, particularly in safeguarding, data protection and digital communication.

A significant area of focus continued to be implementation of the recommendations arising from the This Is Milk governance review and ensuring the organisation fulfilled the requirements of the Arwain Cymru framework.

The Corporate Governance Committee planned to undertake a full audit and review of the organisational risk register as part of its annual review process.

Ben Jeffreys

Ben Jeffreys
Chief Executive, Welsh Judo Association

ARMY JUDO ASSOCIATION

"Sport is fundamental to soldiering. It develops physical resilience, sharpens endurance, and fosters the teamwork that underpins every successful operation. Above all, it instils the competitive edge and will to win that we expect from every soldier and officer."

Major General Nick Cowley OBE, Commandant Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

PERFORMANCE

While there were no Army athletes at the British Senior Championships this year, at the British Veterans Champs, Dayan Pozo secured silver in MK -90kg, Dan Holt claimed bronze in both MK and M1 -73kg and Ethaniel Jeffries-Mor earned bronze in M4 +100kg. At the British Kata Championships, Lewis Hannington and Jim Crompton won gold in Katame-no kata and silver in Nage-no-kata. Internationally, Lewis and Jim finished 15th of 25 at the European Championships and 13th of 30 at the World Championships in Katame-no-kata. Elsewhere, the pair won gold and silver in Itsutsu-no kata and Katame-no-kata at the Silesian Open, and went on to reach their first IJF World Kata Series final in Gijon, unfortunately missing out on the medals.

GRASS ROOTS

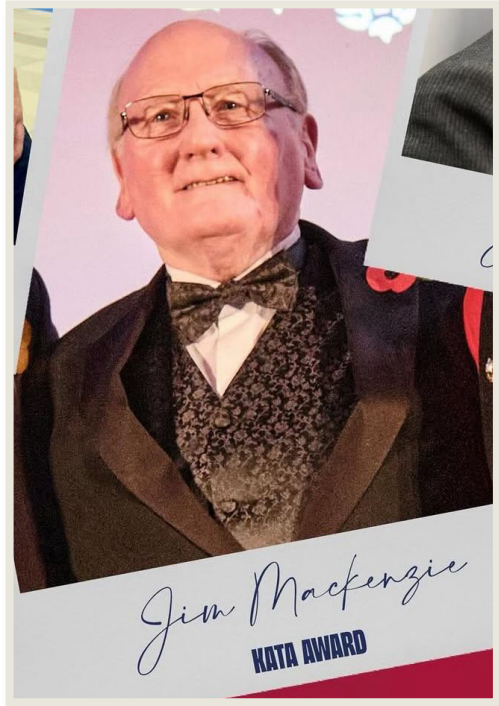
Two five-day Army Judo skills courses saw over 100 soldiers of all levels on the mat, including 34 entirely new to the sport. The Army and Inter-Services Judo Championships again showed some excellent developing talent and seven more coaches completed their L2 award to deliver training across the Army. The Army's focus on training and developing coaches at all levels, and its work with the other Services, ensures that there is support for all Army judo athletes, wherever they serve. This year's overseas training camp took place in Gibraltar, with training alongside local clubs and under the expert coaching of Jesus Verano, 8th Dan and coach to the Spanish National Kata team. After a visit to the European Cup in Malaga to watch some excellent judo, daily technical and strength and conditioning sessions culminated in the rock run, from sea level to the very top (a distance of 1,800m, with 246m of elevation); it is safe to say that no records were broken, but it provided the right amount of intensity to ensure that everyone learned something about themselves and had to dig deep. Meanwhile, Ben Stanley and Abbas Salihu established Royal Logistics Corps Judo Club Judo and secured team wins at the Army Championships in their very first year.





RECOGNITION

Sarah Barritt reached the finals of the Army Official of the Year Award for her work with the Northern Ireland Judo Federation's development and performance squads, and Jim Mackenzie was awarded the British Judo Kata Award for his devotion to Kata, both as a competitor and mentor.



FUTURE PLANS

With a highly focussed and increasingly experienced committee, Army Judo continues to go from strength to strength, looking for opportunities to try new things in new places, and to show how an Army career and judo really complement each other. The next key target will be support to and participation in the inaugural European Judo Championships of Uniformed Services in Walsall in August.



Jim Crompton

Lt Col Jim Crompton
Chair, Army Judo

ROYAL NAVY JUDO ASSOCIATION

The Royal Navy Judo Association has had another exceptionally busy and successful year. Despite significant operational commitments and the deployment of Royal Navy judoka overseas, the Association has continued to provide opportunities to train, compete and develop both at home and around the world, maintaining strong links with both the Service and the wider judo community.

During the deployment of HMS PRINCE OF WALES, Royal Navy judoka trained and competed in Greece, Oman, Australia, Japan and Singapore. In Australia, the team arranged an impromptu tournament against teams from the Australian Defence Force and the Northern Territory teams, winning the competition. This provided an excellent opportunity to build relationships with our Australian counterparts while representing the Royal Navy on the international stage.





Early in 2026, the Association delivered a dedicated grassroots training camp led by its own Royal Navy coaching team. Alongside structured daytime training, participating judoka visited and trained with local clubs in the Yeovilton area and travelled to Walsall to train and compete. This initiative strengthened links with civilian judo clubs while providing Royal Navy judoka with varied training and competition opportunities.



The Association also supported another successful Royal Marines Open, hosted at Commando Training Centre, Lympstone. The event brought together Royal Marines and Royal Navy judoka, as well as civilian judoka who were invited to train and compete with Service personnel, further strengthening links between Service and civilian judo.

On the international veterans circuit, Royal Navy judoka Colin Francis enjoyed a standout year, claiming gold in the M3 - 60kg category at the 2025 European Veterans Judo Championships in Riga. This marked Francis's first European title, following silver medals at the championships in 2023 and 2024.





The Association has also strengthened its external partnerships during the year, securing a new sponsorship agreement with Forces Transition Group. This partnership provides additional support for the development and delivery of Royal Navy judo and further strengthens the Association's links with external organisations.



Overall, the Royal Navy Judo Association continues to provide opportunities for its members to train, compete, coach and develop, both within the Service and alongside the wider judo community. The combination of operational activity, international competition, grassroots engagement and coach development demonstrates the breadth of the Association's activities throughout the year.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be another significant year for the Association, with us set to host the UK Armed Forces Judo Championships and undertake an overseas training camp in Japan. These activities will provide further opportunities for Royal Navy judoka to train, compete and develop at the highest levels while continuing to strengthen the Association's international relationships.

Christopher Mullen Meng

Lieutenant Commander, Christopher Mullen Meng (Hons) CEng MIMechE
Royal Navy Judo Association

POLICE SPORT UK

PSUK NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Kent Police under the leadership of James Lewis hosted the 2025 Police Sport UK (PSUK) National Championship with both excellent hotel accommodation and sports hall venues. The event was very well supported by UK forces across all categories, with some new faces joining the British Police Squad. Our National Championship caters for and welcomes all levels of judoka within the police service, regular officers, retired officers, police staff and Special Constables with open, masters, veteran and kyu categories. Our very sincere thanks to all the British Judo officials who gave their time to support this superb event. The day concluded with an excellent presentation dinner with all medals and trophies presented.



Lee Holley ten-time British Police Champion and PSUK Coaching Commission member receiving his 6th Dan from Chris Hunt PSUK Director of Coaching.

PSUK NATIONAL TECHNICAL COURSE MARCH 2026

Each year, with our partners, the Welsh Judo Association, we hold our national technical course at the splendid Welsh Centre of Sport. This year over 100 judokas came to enjoy the excellent coaching skills of England Commonwealth and Camberley Judo Club Head Coach Luke Preston. Luke gave a highly skilled and technical course breaking down some of the main tachi-waza used in competition, adapting each technique to suit the various levels of skill in attendance. In excess of 50 British Judo coaches were revalidated.

PSUK NATIONAL DAN GRADING

As usual this was held on the Saturday afternoon of our technical course under the guidance of Area Director of Examiners Chris Hunt with judoka competing for promotion including promotion from 4th to 5th Dan. Our thanks to Senior Examiners Jason Moore, Gavin McNeil and James Lewis for giving their time to allow the participants the opportunity to seek promotion.

POLICE INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT NETHERLANDS

The police International Tournament in Netherlands on Thursday 28 May 2026, saw a team of PSUK Judoka travel to Apeldoorn, Netherlands, to take part in the Blue Light United Games, a multi-sport legacy event of the World Police and Fire Games 2022, which were held in Rotterdam. The event featured 17 different sports and saw emergency service workers from a number of countries competing over the weekend.



Attendees at the March 2025 PSUK National Technical Course Cardiff.

In 28-degree heat, our athletes faced tough competition from across the Netherlands and other European countries, including Germany and Belgium. Every member of the team showed great heart and determination, with all competitors returning home with a well-deserved medal.

Medal results:

- -66kg – Gary Cole (Gold)
- -73kg – James Lewis (Gold)
- -81kg – James Reseigh (Gold)
- +90kg – Jack Kelly (Gold)
- -63kg – Ellie Hutton (Silver)
- -66kg – Josh Shipp (Silver)
- +90kg – Matthew Allison (Silver)
- -78kg – Hannah Lewis (Bronze)

PSUK NATIONAL COMMITTEE

This year saw Andy Moss our long-serving National Secretary and Treasurer stand down, Andy has been a tremendously hard-working and loyal servant to PSUK Judo both as a competitor and administrator. However, Andy's skills will not be lost as he remains very much involved with PSUK Judo as a Director of PSUK. Andy is succeeded by Inspector Gavin McNeil of Police Scotland, Gavin is a former National Police Champion and a multiple-time Police International Competitor.

Chris Hunt

Chris Hunt
Police Sport UK



Luke Preston, guest coach PSUK National Technical Course impressing the delegates with his tachi-waza Skills.

BRITISH UNIVERSITY JUDO

During the 2025-2026 reporting period there was a period of significant challenge within UK Higher Education, with financial pressures and changes to international student recruitment creating uncertainty across the sector. Despite this, the Higher Education judo community remained resilient, continuing to expand opportunities for participation, competition and athlete development.

BUCS JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

The BUCS Judo Championships remain the cornerstone of university judo in the UK, bringing together 103 clubs and 444 judokas. Following the introduction of novice categories in 2025, the championships continue to provide an accessible pathway for student judoka while acting as a gateway to international competition.

FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES

A significant milestone this year was Great Britain's participation in the FISU World University Games in Germany, marking our first attendance for many years. The Games provided a valuable opportunity for university athletes to compete on one of the world's largest multi-sport stages. Two of the three selected athletes subsequently secured Commonwealth Games selection, highlighting both the strength of talent within the Higher Education sector and the opportunity to strengthen connections with the British Judo performance system. The experience reinforced the value of maintaining a presence within the FISU programme, with work already underway towards participation in the 2027 World University Games in Korea.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

International engagement remained a key priority throughout the year. A team of 18 student-athletes represented Great Britain at the European Universities Combat Sports Championships 2025 in Warsaw, Poland. The team achieved notable success, with Summer Shaw (University of Birmingham) winning







silver in the -48kg category and Gabriella Wood (University of Stirling) winning bronze in the +78kg category. Preparations are already underway for the 2026 Championships in Albania, where up to 32 student-athletes are expected to compete.

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

Higher Education membership remains difficult to quantify accurately, as the current Student/Military/Blue Light membership category does not distinguish Higher Education students from other groups. There are currently 35 clubs participating in the Student Starter Scheme, supporting 123 members. In addition, 42 university and college-affiliated clubs are linked to British Judo, with a combined membership of 1,605 members, although this includes coaches, volunteers and non-student members.

WELFARE AND SAFEGUARDING

Supporting the welfare and safeguarding of students remains a key priority. During 2025-2026, all university clubs were required to have a fully validated Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) in place. To support clubs, the Higher Education programme now offers both the British Judo Welfare Officer Course and British Judo Safeguarding Course for university DSLs, alongside the recommendation of a Basic DBS check as good practice.

As we move into 2026-2027, our priorities remain to grow participation, strengthen club sustainability, enhance welfare provision and expand opportunities for students to represent Great Britain internationally.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to place on record my thanks to Chris Doherty for his outstanding service to Higher Education judo over the past more than 20 years. His commitment and advocacy have helped shape opportunities for generations of student judoka and has left a lasting legacy within university judo.

Katrina McDonald

Katrina McDonald
British University Judo

EASTERN AREA

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Our AGM had to be cancelled this year due to a poor response from clubs, so we had to organise an EGM. We now have five committee members and a full executive. We also have a Competitions Committee and a Funding Committee.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

The Committee took the decision to fully fund a Level 2 coaching course, so we asked Area clubs to nominate people who would be interested in becoming coaches. We had an amazing response and now have twelve players from eight clubs starting the course in June. Because we managed to recruit twelve players, the course is being run in Norfolk, so no overnight travel will be involved.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Area ran a safeguarding course, a first aid course, as well as a refereeing rules update; these were all well attended. Dave Horton-Jones also ran several theory and kata courses.

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

This year saw several of our events cancelled for different reasons. One was due to a lack of officials, while the rest were because the entries were too low. Whereas previously we could cancel an event at short notice, this is no longer the case, and we have to make the decision to cancel two weeks before any event. We are gradually getting clubs to understand our predicament and enter earlier. We are still struggling to get volunteers to set up and rely on a very small band of committee members.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

We still have around 1,200 members in our Area, so our competitive base is very low. However, we now have a couple of enthusiastic volunteers who are looking to reinstate the squad training and put together a team for the National Teams in July.

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

The Committee has managed to engage with more clubs this year through the revalidation events and coaching course. We have a very proactive committee who want to drive the Area forward.

Denise Oates

Denise Oates
Chair, Eastern Area



LONDON AREA

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The London Area AGM in April 2025 was held by Zoom and the accounts were made available to all present. These accounts are audited by David, Lindon and Co Chartered Accountants. The minutes of that meeting are available from the London Area Secretary. Martin Bull stepped down after a short period at the helm of referee development. We thank him for his service. Martin was replaced by Dan Harris who seamlessly transitioned across from the Northern Home Counties. Yet again a great demonstration of collaboration with our neighbouring English Areas.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

National Dan Gradings are held on the last Sunday of the month at the Budokwai and Stratford hosts the Veterans Gradings on a quarterly basis.

As of 31 March 2026, the London Area had 3,784 members, 51 clubs, 119 coaches, 34 referees, 26 officials, 8 Senior Examiners, 27 Club Welfare Officers and held 318 gradings, with female members accounting for 24% of membership.

The London Area hosted a development event on 30 January which was well attended and, on 28 March, hosted the British Open Veterans which was supported by thirty nations.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3 x revalidation events
- 2 x kata courses
- Adaptive Judo training
- National veterans training at the Budokwai
- The Budokwai hosted Shohei Ono as a resident guest instructor and also presented medals at events hosted by the London Area.



Shohei Ono was guest of honour at the Headmasters' lunch at Shiplake College, held during the Henley Regatta. A chance to gain insights at elite performance in different disciplines.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

The Budokwai and Ealing Judo Club provide England Pathway training sessions. The London Area hosted the London Area Open in May.

At the National Team Championships in July, the London Area won 3 gold medals, 1 silver medal and 2 bronze medals. Congratulations to all involved.

In December the British Trials provided a showcase opportunity for London fighters to excel.





SQUAD PLACES BRITISH TRIALS

Cadet Male

- -42kg – Yarden Hadad (Silver)
- -42kg – Anatol Vong (Bronze)
- -50kg – Michael Puskas (Silver)
- -73kg – Alexey Pavluhin (Bronze)
- -81kg – Lucas Ioebashvili (Silver)
- -90kg – Salim Mert (Bronze)

Cadet Female

- -42kg – Yarden Hadad (Silver)
- -44kg – Mahnoor Mirza (Bronze)
- -52kg – Hongor Zolboor (Bronze)
- -63kg – Aleksandra Dudko (Gold)
- +70kg – Deborah O'Neal (Gold)

Junior Men

- -55kg – Elliot Marie (Bronze)
- -73kg – Irakli Goginashvili (Gold)
- -81kg – Peter Davies (Gold)
- -81kg – Nikoloz Shengelia (Bronze)
- -90kg – Gheorghe Tatarli (Gold)

Junior Women

- -52kg – Kate Chisholm (Silver)
- -57kg – Rhea Pinder (Gold)
- -63kg – Aleksandra Dudko (Bronze)
- -63kg – Myai Agnero (Silver)
- -70kg – Robyn Davies (Gold)
- -70kg – Hanna Marczak (Bronze)
- -78kg – Deborah O'Neal

Senior Men

- -60kg – Ayoub Dafallah (Bronze)
- -73kg – Ben Levy (Gold)

Senior Women

- -57kg – Kate Chisholm (Bronze)
- -63kg – Ammi Takahashi (Gold)
- -78kg – Maria Moss

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

Shohei Ono explored opportunities afforded by attending competitions organised in different formats such as the Ares Competition at High Wycombe.

Metro Judo Club hosted a session for support beyond the mat for aspiring elite judoka and Jean-Paul Bell held a competition readiness workshop for parents. Our Competition Controller attended a Judo Manager Course a part of her CPD.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members who give so much of their free time to enable such wonderful experiences and opportunities for our judo community in London.

Peter Blewett

Peter Blewett, 7th Dan
Chair, London Area

MIDLAND AREA

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We meet online each month to discuss operational matters, including events, dates, finances, grant applications, and the Area's current needs and issues.

This year we welcomed Rob Solesbury to the Committee, bringing valuable experience and knowledge of kata. He has already organised several courses and will deliver the next one at the National Training Centre in July. As kata has become an increasingly important part of Dan grade theory, Rob's knowledge and proactive approach will help us better support our membership.

Matthew Harte has unfortunately stepped down as Area Director of Examiners. We are very grateful for his support at short notice, his leadership of the Senior Examiners team, and his work organising and managing Dan gradings over the past few years. I am pleased to confirm that Keith Merrick has agreed to take on the role and has already started planning upcoming events.

Our grant policy is now in place, and many members and clubs have already benefited from Area funding. The Committee is committed to ensuring that these finances support our membership, and we encourage players, coaches, officials and clubs to apply for assistance.

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS & PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

Area Events and National Teams

Over the past year, we delivered three major events: the National Teams, British Veterans Closed, and Heart of England, all of which were very successful. Unfortunately, the Midlands Regional Schools and Open event had to be cancelled due to a power failure at the Sports Centre. We are grateful to the Stewart Academy coaches, along with coaches from other Areas, who quickly organised an impromptu randori session so that many players still had a valuable judo experience on the day.

The National Teams event was again a great success. Our sincere thanks go to Bill Kelly and his team of coaches for organising, managing and supporting the Midland Area teams. We continue to enter all six teams and once again returned with medals, including silver for the Pre-Cadet and Minor Girls, and bronze for the Cadet and Junior Girls. Congratulations to everyone involved.

British Veterans and Heart of England

The British Veterans event was once again very well attended and helped offset the costs of holding the Teams event. The 2026 event will again to be held in October and will be hosted in Scotland.





The Heart of England has now been restored as an annual event in a revised format, which is proving popular, with entries increasing each year.

Thanks to Event Organisers and Volunteers

Although many events in the Area are not organised directly by the Area, we are very grateful to the clubs, coaches and event organisers who create development opportunities for players at every level.

My sincere thanks go to Jenny Barnes for her tireless work in supporting and organising our events.

We are gradually building a team of volunteers to help with event set-up, de-rigging and officiating, but additional support is still welcome. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

Randori Days and Area Squad Sessions

I am pleased that dates have now been set for this year's Randori Days, which continue to be well supported. We are grateful to all the coaches involved, expertly led by Bill Kelly, and to Laura Kelly for managing the administration.

The Midland Area Squad sessions are also becoming established, with clubs across the Area hosting them. These sessions have attracted the support of performance players such as Eric Ham and Chelsie Giles, giving developing players valuable experience.

DAN GRADINGS

As noted earlier, Keith Merrick has taken on the role of Area Director of Examiners and is ensuring that Dan gradings continue across the region, with support from Andy Ward. We were unable to secure a suitable venue for a grading in the east of the Area, so this will be a priority for the coming year.

Last year's gradings were extremely well supported, with more than 100 players attending the November 2025 event. We are very grateful to our Senior Examiners for delivering these events.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

I am very grateful to Carol Leverton, Jenny Barnes and Holly Dyson for delivering courses and for supporting and mentoring our growing group of referees and technical officials. Data up to the end of March 2026 show an increase in both referees and officials.

We were again unable to secure a suitable date in 2025 for our Coach to Coach Day, as venue availability and scheduling remain significant challenges. However, I am pleased to confirm that the event will take place in 2026.

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

Membership, Clubs and Workforce

British Judo data shows continued growth across the Area. Membership has increased to 2,964, which is 185 more than last year, and the number of clubs has risen from 67 to 72.

The coaching workforce has also grown significantly, increasing from 108 to 199 coaches. This is a very positive development and reflects the continued commitment of those supporting players and clubs across the Area.

One ongoing concern is that 18% of clubs were without a Club Welfare Officer last year, and this figure remains unchanged. It is not yet clear whether the same clubs are affected, so this will need continued attention.

On behalf of our members, the committee is extremely grateful to all coaches and volunteers for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our sport, including those who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Sarah Newbury

Sarah Newbury
Chair, Midland Area

NORTH WEST AREA

First and foremost, thank you for your continued support over the past 12 months. Once again, our judo community has come together to create pathways, development opportunities, and experiences that benefit all our members.

Following my re-engagement with the Area Committee in a co-opted capacity, we have worked hard to establish a renewed identity for the North West Area. One of our key achievements has been the reinstatement of our flagship competition, the North West Open. This was no small challenge, with changes to both venue and timing, moving from a proposed January/February date at Sutton Leisure Centre to October at Leigh Sports Village. The event was extremely well received, generating positive feedback and constructive suggestions that will help make this year's event even stronger.

Alongside the updated British Judo branding, it was agreed that the Area should develop its own distinctive identity. I am pleased to say that this vision has now become a reality, with our new branding proudly showcased on bespoke medals, competition merchandise, and officials' clothing.

Creating meaningful opportunities for our members relies heavily on the dedication of our officials and referees, whose commitment enables us to deliver competitions at every appropriate level. Our clubs also play a vital role in this development pathway, regularly hosting festivals, introductory competitions, and development events, while providing opportunities for young referees and officials to gain valuable experience. Together, we continue to build a stronger future for judo in the North West.

Many of us remember a time when quality randori opportunities could be found in clubs across the Area. As the landscape of the sport evolved, these opportunities became less frequent. I am therefore delighted that the reintroduction of our monthly Area Randori sessions has been such a success. These events are supporting the development of judoka at all levels, and it is rewarding to see athletes progressing, achieving their goals, and growing in confidence.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all clubs that have hosted workshops, randori sessions, and competitions throughout the year. Your willingness to collaborate and support the wider judo community is greatly appreciated.





During the year, British Judo introduced significant changes to the grading system, aligning more closely with the IJF framework and the 100 Kodokan techniques. While these changes have presented challenges in ensuring suitable development opportunities are available locally, I believe they will ultimately strengthen technical standards and enhance the quality of Dan grade promotion candidates across the Area.



Much like a swan gliding effortlessly across the water, many of the achievements we celebrate can appear seamless from the outside. However, beneath the surface lies a tremendous amount of work undertaken by our committee members, referees, officials, coaches, and volunteers. Without their dedication and support, none of this would be possible, and for that, I am incredibly grateful.

The landscape of our sport continues to evolve, and further change lies ahead. While the full details are still emerging, our Area will become part of a new Northern Region as British Judo moves towards the establishment of an English Association. I am committed to keeping clubs and members informed throughout this transition. As part of this process, we are pleased to welcome British Judo Chief Executive, Andrew Scoular, and England Chair, Garth Illingworth, to attend our AGM and share further insight into the future direction of our sport.

Until those winds of change arrive, we will continue to do what we do best:

PLAN. PROVIDE. CREATE

Kerry Tansey

Kerry Tansey
Chair, North West Area

NORTHERN AREA

It has been an honour to continue as Interim Chair of the Northern Area. It was felt that continuity was needed as we approach the full North merger with the North West and Yorkshire and Humberside. While I have been adjusting to the responsibilities, challenges, and opportunities of the role, I have felt incredibly supported by an exceptional Committee whose dedication has been invaluable from day one.

At the AGM February, we reflected on the previous year. After being presented with some initial logistical challenges, the Committee, along with others, pulled together and got to work.

Our Committee meets regularly, with each meeting marked by enthusiastic contributions and thoughtful discussion. I would especially like to recognise the tireless work of Alison, Andy, John, and Kim. Though small in number, our team has risen to every challenge with passion and resilience.

At a national level, I have been attending meetings to ensure the Northern Area is well represented and that our voices are heard. Andy Hutchinson, Alex and I have also supported the English Open in logistic and safeguarding capacities, providing further support and presence alongside our national referees and officials.

During the AGM, we remembered two great coaches who passed away over the past 18 months to two years. Firstly, Keith "Robbo" Robinson, a former coach at many clubs, including Middlesbrough Judo. We also remembered the great Joe Glynn, who contributed so much to judo through clubs including Stockton Judo Club, Thornaby Pavilion Judo Club, and Tees Valley Judo, as well as others throughout the Northern Area, over a period spanning more than 75 years. Joe also coached within the Northern Area boys' squad, leading them to national success and supporting several players individually to achieve national and international success.

We also said farewell to Terminus Judo Club, which closed its doors on 12 February this year after 43 years of service.

We held the Schools Competition and, despite some external challenges, we successfully delivered the event. Overall, attendance was strong. We moved to a new venue at Bishop Barrington Academy and, with the support of Richard Leybourne and his team at Respect Judo, the competition was very well received. Plans were put in place to repeat the event on the same date this year; however, this has not been possible for a variety of reasons. We are currently exploring alternative dates to host the event.

We have placed a strong focus on increasing our digital presence to reach more people and promote our community. We have increased activity on our Facebook page and launched a linked Instagram account, which is already helping us engage with a wider audience. Our next step is to expand onto platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, where we believe we can significantly increase our reach and attract new members.

We are also using our Spond group page to coordinate events and activities efficiently, and we have refreshed our mailing list to include clubs that joined the Area during the year.

The Northern Area continues to shine on both the national and international stage, with Caitlin Barber based at the National Training Centre representing Great Britain and Joseph Kirk now representing Scotland.

Our players from clubs such as Blyth Juno Michi, Mat Warriors, Middlesbrough JC, The Parks JC, and Tees Valley JC are proudly representing the area at Olympic, British, National Squad and Elite Performance Pathway levels.



Taylor Chrisp, Josh Chrisp, and Anya Hassan continue to receive regular call-ups, while Evie Mitchell and Michael Richardson have recently received their first invitations to national programmes.

Other players bringing success to the Area in recent months include Arman Shabazi, Mia Simpson, Emme Simpson, Sam Simpson, Travis Hutchinson, Harrison Wood, Matthew Lane, Jake McKenna, Isabella Moss, Eva Thomas, Evan Anderson, Evelyn Doherty, Sophia Austin, Neve Dodds, Callum Dodds, Grace Melia, Dima Romanov, Harry Walker, and Cuthbert Walker.

We have also seen Colin Francis continue to achieve success while competing for the Royal Navy, and Dan English has enjoyed success with the GB VI Squad.

We have continued to host regular events across the Area, including:

- Weekly kata classes at Kodokwai JC, led by Joe Foster (6th Dan)
- Monthly Masters sessions, run by Jimmy Conroy and Lisa Thompson
- Area grading sessions, which continue to grow in reputation and attendance, led by John Gibson, Lisa Thompson, and the Kodokwai team

We are also looking to restart the Area Squad initiative. While an earlier attempt this year was unsuccessful for a variety of reasons, we have learned from the experience. Following feedback from coaches and agreement from the Committee, we now have a renewed plan in place.

Our goal is to field a full squad at next year's National Teams Event. We are looking to centralise training sessions at a single club, appoint dedicated coaches to lead them, and recruit volunteers to support the initiative both logistically and financially. I sincerely hope I can count on your support to make this vision a reality. A strong, unified squad not only provides players with an ambition to strive towards but also strengthens our identity and presence on the national stage.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to:

- The Committee, for their tireless efforts behind the scenes.
- The players, who continue to train, compete, and inspire.
- The coaches, who open their doors week after week, ensuring our sport continues to thrive.
- The officials and volunteers, without whom our events simply would not happen.
- The parents, whose dedication and support in driving to training sessions, attending competitions, and encouraging their children are absolutely invaluable.

Terry McNeill

Terry McNeill
Interim Chair, Northern Area

NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES AREA

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We promote good governance through regular meetings, AGM participation, and a dedication to safeguarding, equality, and inclusion. Club welfare continues to grow, with 79% now having a Welfare Officer. Financial stability is maintained via an external examination and strict controls. In 2025/2026, we spent £74,000: 86% (£63,929) on events and £10,071 on governance expenses, including depreciation, insurance, and IT. All activities have generated a surplus.

As of 31 March 2026, membership reached 3,700, reflecting a 3% increase. Female members made up 25% (925), while male members comprised 75% (2,775). Notably, 63% (2,344) of members were under 18. The region now hosts 65 clubs, with most clubs (35) having between 20 and 99 members. 13 clubs have over 100 members.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

In 2025/2026, we provided a small grant of £500 to support the Ares Judo Premiership event, an innovative and high-energy elite judo competition held at High Wycombe Judo Centre (HWJC).

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT/ PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

Training sessions engaged 43 clubs and 418 players. Coaches and players from 12 Clubs attended the National Teams. The Area gained two gold and one bronze medal, finishing third on the medal table. I want to thank all our coaches and players for their support.

In November, Pinewood Judo Club hosted a seminar facilitated by Dr George Bountakis covering kumi-kata and coaching techniques. Thank you to Dr Bountakis and the committee of Pinewood Judo Club for their support.



Throughout the year, Ian Rose has been supporting Adaptive and VI players. Working with Matt Rush, they have been developing a programme of adaptive judo training provision.

In support of the changes to the British Judo Dan Grade Scheme, the Area hosted a Modernised Dan Grade Workshop at Bishop Stortford Judo Club (BSJC) on 14 September 2025. Thank you to Joe Nunn for hosting this event.

We are dedicated to developing our officials, and we currently have 42. The majority serve as





Timekeepers/Scorers (20), along with 15 Contest Recorders, three Senior Recorders, and four Competition Controllers.

Referees continue to be developed. Dan Harris, the Area lead, successfully passed his IJF Examination in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in May 2025. Referee Education modules took place in April and November 2025. Area Referees regularly officiate at both national and international events. The Area brand identity remains consistent, with ties and pins being restocked. Additionally, Dan has been supporting Joe Chraniuk after his move to the London Area. He will continue assisting both Joe and the Area in his new role. Thank you, Dan, for your lead and support.

In 2025/2026, the Area Kata programme continued to grow, offering nine courses, including a Kata Weekend and a Kata Championships. These events took place at Pinewood, Amersham, and High Wycombe judo clubs, attracting 128 participants. Sincere thanks to Paul Jordan and the hosting clubs for their dedicated efforts.

Gradings continue at Bedford and HWJC, each hosting four events annually. These attracted 360 participants. In November, a Ladies-Only Grading was held at BSJC, drawing 33 participants. Our team of 10 Senior Examiners plays a vital role in supporting these events, and I sincerely appreciate their ongoing assistance.

Coach development continues to be a priority, involving 212 coaches spread across 65 clubs. There are 95 at Level 2, followed by 63 at Level 1 and 54 at Level 3 or higher.

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

Five events at Level 2 and above took place, including the Regional Schools Championships, Area Open, and Low Level Development, drawing a total of 1,859 entries. The Don Werner Memorial Championships alone hosted nearly 330 entries. Officials are present annually at the National Championships, and the Under-8 Judo Festivals flourish thanks to strong support from referees and officials.

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

In August, a Shiai Training Course for Technical Officials was run by Barry Cottis, hosted by JSC Judo Club. Six officials attended from the London Area and the South. Thanks to JSC Judo Club and Barry for arranging and supporting this event

In conclusion, I thank the Area Committee, players, coaches, volunteers, parents, and British Judo staff for their continued support and remarkable dedication.

Dave Clark

Dave Clark
Chair, Northern Home Counties

SOUTHERN AREA

2025/2026 was an extremely productive year for many in the Southern Area, with athletes, coaches and officials achieving significant success at the highest levels of international judo. The tireless ongoing effort and dedication of clubs, players, coaches, referees, technical officials and other volunteers continue to be at the heart of Southern Area judo.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Area Committee includes representation from each of the constituent Counties and the Channel Islands. Over the past 12 months, we have further developed the Area's Action and Development Plan, which is aligned with the domains of the British Judo Strategy.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

There are currently 89 registered Southern Area member clubs, with an additional 53 registered venues, which remains largely unchanged from 2024/2025. It is also encouraging to see that Area membership has remained consistently strong over the last 12 months, ranging from around 6,300 to around 6,500.

We have awarded several thousand pounds of funding to a number of athletes and volunteers through our open grant application and volunteer subsidy programmes, and through targeted funding for projects as part of a £10k Grass Roots Club Development Fund, which we plan to run for a second cycle.



TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Area continues to host regular coaching, safeguarding, first aid and coach revalidation/ education courses, alongside joint referee/ Technical Officer training courses to recruit and develop new officials.

The Area runs 8-10 Dan gradings each year, supported by our 15 Senior Examiners (one newly qualified in 2025/2026). Grading attendance increased 20% over 2024/2025. In November, the Area once again hosted an extremely successful National Kata course with Yoshihiko Iura, covering nage-no-, katame-no- and itsutsu-no-kata.

The Area's international referees also continue to be very active on the continental and world stage as well as domestically, notably with Lisa Rivers continuing to referee at the highest level of IJF events.

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

The Area runs upwards of 15-20 events each year, with lower-level and development events managed by the Counties. With Woking Leisure Centre now established as our home venue, we ran an Area Closed age-banded event in November, our Regional Schools event in January and highly popular Inter-County Team Championships in May.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

All four Counties ran closed trials in 2025 to populate their squads, which are built upon to establish the Area squad. At the 2025 National Teams, the minor/pre-cadet boys and senior men won bronze, with other teams all very narrowly failing to progress beyond the pool stages.

The Southern Area continues to be well represented on the England and GB squads. Area athletes won a total of 29 medals at the 2025 British Championships across all categories. Area athletes also continue to represent GB at the highest level of continental and international judo, with 19 European Cup, Continental Open and Grand Slam event medals. Players representing Area clubs also gained selections, podium finishes and placements at European Cadet Championships, World University Games, European University Combat Sports Games, European Youth Olympic Finals, and both the Junior and Senior European and World





Championships. Southern Area players have also been performing at the highest level of kata competitions, including the European and World Championships, and Continental adaptive events.

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

The Area is active on social media as our primary mode of engagement, with numerous Area and County groups and pages. The South was well represented at the 2025 British Judo Awards, with Tim Byrne (The Judo Company) named Coach of the Year, Sara Coni (Camberley and Nippon) winning Cadet Female Athlete of the Year, and Isabelle Everest (Westerleigh) winning the Inclusion Award.

John Malkinson

John Malkinson
Chair, Southern Area

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We've seen a few changes in the Area Committee lately. Seth Birth stepped away from the committee and Area Coach duties.

Seth has been a long-standing member of the Committee and Area Coach for many years, and the Area owes him a debt of gratitude.

At the same time, we have seen new interest from membership stepping forward to contribute to the organisational duties of the Area, with several new members being co-opted onto the Committee with a view to being elected at the 2026 AGM.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2025, we were happy to report two new A-grade referees, both of whom have now started training to become regional tutors. This means we will have capability to deliver training at foundational levels to grow the referee base.

With the introduction of the new dan grade syllabus, we ran a well-attended seminar to discuss the changes.

Once again, we thank Dermot Heslop for his efforts in organising kata and coaching courses.

We're seeing continued interest from people wanting to become Senior Examiners, with two starting their training during this period.

The Area continues to make financial contributions to the development of coaches, officials and players.

PROGRESSIVE EVENTS

The Senior and Veteran competition continues to grow. In 2025, we added a dan grading the following day, making a full weekend of competition for players and officials. There were some doubts about whether this format would work, but it is proving popular, with a number of players staying for the three-mat grading on Sunday. The November grading has been running for over 15 years and once again was well attended once again by players from around the country.

The Regional Schools event provided an opportunity for young players to earn their place to compete at the National Schools competition.





The North Yorkshire Festival continues to be oversubscribed. With the incumbent organiser, Mike Leng, stepping back, we will make sure we offer support to the new organiser.

Judo Spirit Club hosted several small development events, providing a great space for both new players and officials to get started.

Once again, we took a small contingent of players to Sindelfingen to get a taste of international events. While this trip has been running for quite a few years, it's likely that 2025 was the last Area organised trip to this event. We may consider an alternative event in future, in collaboration with the new Area Coach once appointed.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

In 2025, we entered three teams into the National Teams competition.

The original intent was to find our feet managing a team, including accommodation, branded shirts, etc. We ended up fielding three teams and even secured a bronze medal in the pre-cadet and minor boys' team event.

Thank you to those involved in organising the teams, the players and of course the parents in supporting this endeavour.

The Area contributed to support players attending international events including several to an international adaptive event.

ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE

We are seeing more and more of the local membership getting in touch to be involved, whether that's asking about support for events, becoming coaches, looking to qualify as competition officials and referees, joining the Committee, those aiming for Senior Examiner badge or new clubs asking for support in promoting the club and their events.

Things are looking very positive for the Area at the moment. While there is undoubtedly work to be done, we are heading in the right direction.

One of those areas to develop is to recreate regular Area training sessions. We will soon be putting out a request for applications for a new Area Coach and this will be a part of their remit.

Ben George

Ben George
Chair, Yorkshire & Humberside Area

2025 ACCOUNTS

Company registration number 01393958 (England and Wales)

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	W A R Brown	
	N G Fletcher	
	G J Gualtieri	
	G M Illingworth	
	B Quilter	
	D Wright	
	M A Preston	
	N S Tang	(Appointed 24 November 2025)
	W B Cheung	(Appointed 24 November 2025)
	C A Donovan	(Appointed 1 June 2026)
	J C Jones	(Appointed 9 June 2026)
Secretary	A Scoular	
Company number	01393958	
Registered office	Walsall Campus University of Wolverhampton Gorway Road Walsall West Midlands United Kingdom WS1 3BD	
Auditor	Sedulo Audit Limited 5th Floor Walker House Exchange Flags Liverpool Merseyside United Kingdom L2 3YL	

YEAR OVERVIEW
COMMISSION REPORTS
HOME COUNTRY REPORTS
AFFILIATES REPORTS
AREA REPORTS
2025/26 ACCOUNTS

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

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BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

STRATEGIC REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The directors present the strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Principal activities

The British Judo Association ("British Judo") ("BJA") ("the Association") is the National Governing Body ("NGB") for Judo in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Our principal activities have continued to be the encouragement of national judo activities, education and the delivery of elite success in the form of world medals.

Governance

During the year we have held six Board meetings. Two were held in London, two at the Head office in Walsall and two remotely. All meetings followed a standard format as well as the agreed Annual Agenda of subject areas.

The AGM was held on the 01 November 2025 at the BJA offices, Wolverhampton University, Walsall Campus at 13:00 hours.

The Annual Report including the certified accounts were approved with no abstentions or votes against.

There have been a number of changes to the Board following the resignations of Diana Hunter and Rebecca McCreath. These vacancies were filled through a recruitment and appointment process led by the Nominations Committee, resulting in the appointment of Nicki Tang and Wai Cheung as new Board members.

Following Paul Ajala's decision not to stand for a second term, a further recruitment process was undertaken to fill the resulting vacancy. In accordance with the Constitution, the Board felt it would utilise the option to appoint, rather than elect, a replacement. The opportunity was open only to members of the judo community. The appointment process was completed in May 2026.

We have continued to confirm our standing with our stakeholders, including UK Sport and Sport England, and have remained fully compliant with the Code for Sports Governance.

The Board signed off the next Strategic Plan, which is currently being prepared for publication following the completion of its design and formatting. The Annual Business Plan, developed from the Strategy, is now in place and is in quality review by the board.

Risk Management

The board is responsible for the risk management and internal controls. The Chief Executive and management team are responsible for identifying and reviewing the risks, reporting these to the Audit and Finance Committee and the Board. Controls and appropriate actions are put in place to mitigate identified risks as far as it is possible and practical to do so.

Financial KPI'S

The turnover for the year was £4,910,962 (2025: £5,236,700).

The administration costs for the year were £1,481,926 (2025: £1,423,683).

The deficit for the year was £51,722 (2025: deficit of £92,694).

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

STRATEGIC REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Review of the business

2025/2026 has been a busy and challenging year, with a number of notable highlights. Our senior and junior athletes have delivered outstanding performances including Grand Slam medals for our men's team, a European Junior Champion title, and a bronze medal at the World Junior Championships.

Following the performance restructure, we appointed Kate Howey as Performance Director who has led the implementation of the new structure and culture, which has proved difficult with some hangovers from the previous cycle. This has delayed some of the implementation around staff and culture. On a more positive note, we were successful in making a submission to UKS for additional support for the Paralympic Programme resulting in an additional £200k for the programme to LA.

We have successfully launched the Three Steps Safe initiative which has been adopted by all four Home Nations, and will be a central plank in the associations drive to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all Judo members.

Financially, we had budgeted for a small deficit this financial year. However, through prudent financial management, combined with higher-than-expected membership and grading income, we have achieved a surplus of £12,645.00**.**

Acknowledgements

The BJA and sport of Judo would be nothing without its employees, the members of the Commissions of all disciplines, clubs, coaches, technical officials and all volunteers across the United Kingdom -we thank them all for their continued hard work, dedication and support and wish them all continued success for the coming year.

We value the important relationships we have with our Areas, members and clubs and regularly engage with them to understand their requirements and to develop our service propositions to meet their needs. We also work closely with our suppliers to provide cost effective, value for money goods, services and solutions in compliance with relevant laws and regulations.

British Judo also formally acknowledges the outstanding support of its funding partners, UK Sport and Sport England during the year.

On behalf of the board

Signed by:
Gerry Gualtieri .....
67BCE3E219AF401...
G J Gualtieri
Director

Date: 25-Sep-2026 | 3:28 PM BST

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The directors present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Directors
The directors who held office during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were as follows:

P A Ajala	(Resigned 24 November 2025)
W A R Brown	
N G Fletcher	
G J Gualtieri	
D Hunter	(Resigned 22 July 2025)
G M Illingworth	
R McCreath	(Resigned 24 November 2025)
B Quilter	
L Shinkin	(Resigned 22 April 2025)
A W D Slade	(Resigned 10 September 2026)
D Wright	
M A Preston	
S Davies	(Appointed 11 June 2025 and resigned 28 April 2026)
N S Tang	(Appointed 24 November 2025)
W B Cheung	(Appointed 24 November 2025)
C A Donovan	(Appointed 1 June 2026)
J C Jones	(Appointed 9 June 2026)

Auditor
The reappointment of Sedulo Audit Limited as auditors of The British Judo Association is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Statement of disclosure to auditor
So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware. Additionally, the directors individually have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as directors in order to make themselves aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Small companies exemption
This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

On behalf of the board

Signed by:
Gerry Gualtieri .....
67BCE3E219AF401...
G J Gualtieri
Director

Date: 25-Sep-2026 | 3:28 PM BST

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements and;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of British Judo Association (The) (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2026 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE) (CONTINUED)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

The primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with directors and management, and we cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our knowledge of the business and sector, enquiries of directors and management, and review of regulatory information and correspondence. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We discussed with directors and management the policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud.

Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations identified as potentially having a material effect on the financial statements. Our procedures included review of financial statement information and testing of that information, enquiry of management and examination of relevant documentation, analytical procedures to identify unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate fraud, and procedures to address the risk of fraud through director or management override of controls.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE) (CONTINUED)

Signed by:
Sedulo Audit Limited
FAF8DC6F5252424...

Katelyn Dutton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Sedulo Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
5th Floor Walker House
Exchange Flags
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 3YL
United Kingdom
Date: 25-Sep-2026 | 4:21 PM BST

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
Income	**3**	4,910,962	5,236,700
Cost of sales		(3,480,758)	(3,905,711)
Gross surplus		1,430,204	1,330,989
Administrative expenses		(1,417,559)	(1,423,683)
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		12,645	(92,694)
Tax on surplus/(deficit)		-	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		12,645	(92,694)

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	**6**		44,248		68,866
Tangible assets	**7**		48,500		63,891
			92,748		132,757
Current assets					
Debtors	**8**	394,694		177,074	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,082,538		792,886	
		1,477,232		969,960	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**9**	(1,149,004)		(694,386)	
Net current assets			328,228		275,574
Net assets			420,976		408,331
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account			420,976		408,331
Total members' funds			420,976		408,331

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 25-Sep-2026 | 3:28 PM BST and are signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:
Gerry Gualtieri
67BCE3E219AF401...

G J Gualtieri
Director

Company registration number 01393958 (England and Wales)

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies

Company information
British Judo Association (The) is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Walsall Campus, University of Wolverhampton, Gorway Road, Walsall, West Midlands, United Kingdom, WS1 3BD.

1.1 Accounting convention
These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income and expenditure
Income and expenses are included in the financial statements as they become receivable or due.

Club membership fees
Turnover received from club membership fees is credited to the Income Statement over the period of the membership. Amounts relating to future financial years are included in creditors as deferred income.

Ticket sales and event entry fees
Turnover from event ticket sales and events entry fees is recognised when the event takes place.

Sale merchandise
Turnover arising from the sale of merchandise is recognised when the company has delivered the goods.

Education and other services
Turnover from the contract of a service is recognised in the period in which the services are provided.

1.4 Research and development expenditure
Research expenditure is written off against profits in the year in which it is incurred. Identifiable development expenditure is capitalised to the extent that the technical, commercial and financial feasibility can be demonstrated.

1.5 Intangible fixed assets other than goodwill
Intangible assets acquired separately from a business are recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets acquired on business combinations are recognised separately from goodwill at the acquisition date where it is probable that the expected future economic benefits that are attributable to the asset will flow to the entity and the fair value of the asset can be measured reliably; the intangible asset arises from contractual or other legal rights; and the intangible asset is separable from the entity.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Amortisation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computer software	20% straight line

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	20% on cost
Computer equipment	33% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is credited or charged to surplus or deficit.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting period end date, the company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any). Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Recoverable amount is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset for which the estimates of future cash flows have not been adjusted. If the recoverable amount of an asset (or cash-generating unit) is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset (or cash-generating unit) is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised immediately in surplus or deficit, unless the relevant asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the impairment loss is treated as a revaluation decrease.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the company's balance sheet when the company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Classification of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors, bank loans, loans from fellow group companies and preference shares that are classified as debt, are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Taxation

The company is not carrying on a business for the purposes of making a profit and is therefore exempt from corporation tax.

1.11 Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense, unless those costs are required to be recognised as part of the cost of stock or fixed assets.

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Leases

As lessee

Rentals payable under operating leases, including any lease incentives received, are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the term of the relevant lease except where another more systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leases asset are consumed.

1.13 Government grants

Grants are accounted for under the accruals model with the deferred element of grants being included in creditors as deferred income. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to the Income Statement at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grants relate.

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Income Statement in the same period as the related expenditure.

2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the company's accounting policies, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income

The total turnover of the company for the year has been derived from its principal activity wholly undertaken in the England and Wales.

	2026 £	2025 £
Grant funded income	3,186,418	3,299,598
Membership income	740,788	696,198
Technical and education	356,609	323,924
Events	160,977	429,032
Other	466,170	487,948
	4,910,962	5,236,700

4 Operating surplus/(deficit)

	2026 £	2025 £
Operating (deficit)/surplus for the year is stated after charging:		
Fees payable to the company's auditor for the audit of the company's financial statements	9,660	9,200
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	30,999	38,281
Amortisation of intangible assets	24,618	22,598
Operating lease charges	63,490	66,490

5 Employees

The average monthly number of persons (including directors) employed by the company during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Total	38	41

6 Intangible fixed assets

	Other £
Cost	
At 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026	113,995
Amortisation and impairment	
At 1 April 2025	45,129
Amortisation charged for the year	24,618
At 31 March 2026	69,747
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2026	44,248
At 31 March 2025	68,866

7 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery etc £
Cost	
At 1 April 2025	160,708
Additions	15,608
At 31 March 2026	176,316
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2025	96,817
Depreciation charged in the year	30,999
At 31 March 2026	127,816
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2026	48,500
At 31 March 2025	63,891

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

8 Debtors

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Trade debtors	28,952	15,954
Corporation tax recoverable	76	76
Other debtors	365,666	161,044
	394,694	177,074

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026	2025
	£	**£**
Trade creditors	102,315	96,698
Taxation and social security	1,604	-
Other creditors	1,045,085	597,688
	1,149,004	694,386

10 Operating lease commitments

As lessee

At the reporting end date the company had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	**£**
Within 1 year	131,496	116,545
Years 2-5	512,764	463,348
After 5 years	113,455	230,000
Total commitments	757,715	809,893

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

11 Related party transactions

Key Management is considered to consist of the chair and the members of the executive team. Total key management remuneration for the year ended 31 March 2026 was £146,979 (2025: £392,838).

The Welsh Judo Association is a company related by the way of common directorship. Purchases were made from the company during the year totalling £2,000 (2025: £6,096) and sales were made during the year totalling £8,133 (2025: £9,918). All transactions were at an arms length basis. At the balance sheet date there was an outstanding debtor of £Nil (2025: £Nil).

The Northern Ireland Judo Association is a company related by the way of common directorship. Purchases were made from the company during the year totalling £Nil (2025: £Nil) and sales were made during the year totalling £3,676 (2025: £2,984). All transactions were at an arms length basis. At the balance sheet date, there was a net creditor balance of £Nil (2025: £Nil).

Judo Scotland is a company related by the way of common directorship. Purchases were made from the company during the year totalling £Nil (2025: £3,114) and sales were made during the year totalling £78,520 (2025: £73,502). All transactions were at an arms length basis. At the balance sheet date there was an outstanding debtor of £2,226 (2025: £Nil).

12 Parent company

The directors consider there to be no ultimate controlling party.

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (THE)

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 £	2026 £	2025 £	2025 £
Income				
Grant income		3,186,418		3,299,598
Membership income		740,788		696,198
Technical education		356,609		323,924
Events income		160,977		429,032
Other income		466,170		487,948
		4,910,962		5,236,700
Cost of sales				
Opening stock	-		7,332	
Purchases and other direct costs				
Grant funded expenditure	2,911,387		3,006,303	
Events expenditure	269,194		562,136	
Wages	300,177		329,940	
Total purchases and other direct costs	3,480,758		3,898,379	
Total cost of sales		(3,480,758)		(3,905,711)
Gross surplus	29.12%	1,430,204	25.42%	1,330,989
Administrative expenses				
Wages	598,758		626,287	
Staff training	5,638		7,621	
Rent	63,490		66,490	
Household and cleaning	969		707	
IT costs	99,586		77,713	
Hire of plant and machinery	8,255		9,225	
Motor expenses	7,738		14,700	
Travelling	26,888		42,581	
Subscriptions	8,304		18,097	
Professional fees	79,520		12,215	
Auditors' remuneration	9,660		9,200	
Bank charges	39,251		46,544	
Insurance	125,002		130,587	
Post and stationery	58,399		49,220	
Advertising	15,156		20,062	
Telephone	20,865		14,959	
Governance costs	8,892		13,456	
Support services	23,755		25,375	
Sundry expenses	163,008		177,910	
Amortisation	24,618		22,598	
Depreciation	30,999		38,281	
Profit or loss on foreign exchange	(1,192)		(145)	
		(1,417,559)		(1,423,683)
Operating surplus/(deficit)		12,645		(92,694)

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2025/2026

AFFILIATES AND PARTNERS

FOLLOW US

WWW.BRITISHJUDO.ORG.UK

BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON, GORWAY ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3BD