JUDOWA

POLICY DOCUMENT

Event Sanctioning Policy

(VERSION 27 JUNE 2026)

JUDOWA

JUDO AUSTRALIA

OCEANIA JUDO UNION

INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

lotterywest

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1. Purpose and legal basis

This Policy establishes a proportionate framework for Judo WA to authorise and oversee inter-club competitions. Its purpose is to protect competitors, officials, clubs and Judo WA; confirm participant eligibility; support safe and fair competition; and maintain reliable competition records.

1.1 Legislative framework and Judo WA exemption

The Combat Sports Act 1987 (WA) establishes the statutory framework for the regulation of combat sport contests in Western Australia. Section 3 defines a contest as a contest or exhibition of a combat sport that is organised, arranged or promoted for profit, conducted for public entertainment, or open to the public, unless it is prescribed not to be a contest. Where an event is a contest for the purposes of the Act, the Act and Regulations ordinarily impose requirements concerning permits, registered contestants and industry participants, weigh-ins, medical supervision, contest conduct and records.

Regulation 5A(2) of the Combat Sports Regulations 2004 (WA) modifies that definition. It provides that contests or exhibitions conducted by specified State Sporting Associations, or by their national or international parent bodies, are prescribed not to be contests for the purposes of the Act. Judo WA is expressly listed in regulation 5A(2)(d). A competition that is conducted by Judo WA therefore falls outside the regulatory scheme that applies to a contest under the Act on that basis.

The exemption is not a general exemption for judo and does not automatically apply to every event organised by a Judo WA member club. Its application depends on the event being conducted by Judo WA. This Policy and the written sanctioning decision are the mechanisms through which Judo WA determines whether a club-hosted inter-club competition is authorised to be conducted under Judo WA's authority and oversight.

A competition that is not approved, or whose approval is suspended or withdrawn, is not represented by Judo WA as being conducted by it. The Organiser remains responsible for determining and satisfying any requirements of the Act and Regulations, including any requirement for a Combat Sports Commission permit, and all other applicable legal and insurance obligations. This Policy applies to inter-club competitions even where an event may not independently satisfy the statutory definition of a contest.

Sanctioning is intended to set minimum outcomes and information requirements. It does not require an organiser to use a particular competition platform, software product or administrative process. Schedule 1 establishes the standard competition divisions and formats, while permitting properly assessed and approved departures.

2. Scope and definitions

Inter-club competition: a judo competition hosted by a Judo WA member club that invites, accepts or permits competitors from more than one club, whether or not entry fees are charged or the public may attend.

Intra-club competition: a competition conducted solely for current members of the host club. Intra-club competitions are outside this Policy, but remain subject to all applicable law, insurance conditions and Judo WA/ Judo Australia requirements.

Sanctioned Competition: an inter-club competition for which the Chief Executive Officer, or the Board on appeal, has issued written approval that remains in force.

Organiser: the member club and the person nominated by that club as responsible for the competition. The club remains accountable for the Organiser's compliance with this Policy.

3. Responsibilities

3.1 Organiser

- apply for sanctioning, provide complete and accurate information, and comply with any conditions imposed by Judo WA;
- conduct the competition safely and fairly in accordance with this Policy, the approved event rules and the Judo Australia or International Judo Federation contest rules adopted by Judo WA;
- verify that only eligible persons participate and that persons performing regulated roles hold the required membership, accreditation, screening or authorisation; and
- create, preserve and provide the records required by this Policy.

3.2 Judo WA and its Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer will assess applications and issue written approvals or refusals. Judo WA will verify membership eligibility, communicate conditions, monitor a Sanctioned Competition and request further information reasonably required for safety, integrity, insurance or regulatory purposes. The Board will determine any appeal under clause 4.1.

4. Application and approval

The Organiser must apply at least one calendar month before the competition, unless the Chief Executive Officer agrees otherwise in writing. Applications must be submitted through the Judo WA event booking form at:

Open the Judo WA event booking form

The application must contain the requested event, venue, contact, eligibility, competition-format, officiating, first-aid and safety information, and the Organiser must accept the sanctioning terms.

4.1 Decision and appeal

The Chief Executive Officer may approve an application, approve it subject to conditions, request further information or refuse it. In making the decision, the Chief Executive Officer must consider compliance with this Policy, participant safety, integrity, insurance requirements and Judo WA's capacity to exercise appropriate oversight.

The decision must be communicated in writing. Sanctioning takes effect only when the Chief Executive Officer gives written approval on behalf of Judo WA. An event must not be described as 'Judo WA sanctioned' before approval, or after approval has been suspended or withdrawn.

If the Chief Executive Officer refuses an application, the Organiser may appeal by giving Judo WA written notice stating the grounds of appeal and providing any additional information on which it relies. The Board will consider the appeal and may affirm, vary or set aside the Chief Executive Officer's decision, request further information or approve the competition subject to conditions.

A competition remains unsanctioned while an appeal is pending. The Board's written decision on the appeal is final under this Policy.

4.2 Key sanctioning timeframes

The following timeframes apply unless this Policy or Judo WA's written approval requires earlier action:

When	Required action	Reference
At least one calendar month before the competition	**Submit the sanctioning application through the Judo WA event booking form, including any planned departures. The Chief Executive Officer may agree otherwise in writing.**	Clause 4
Before entries open	Publish or provide entrants with the approved divisions, eligibility requirements, draw structure, contest duration, techniques, weigh-in arrangements and approved departures.	Clause 5.2
By 5:00 pm two calendar days before the competition	Provide the complete competitor entry list for membership and eligibility checking.	Clause 6.1
As soon as practicable and within 24 hours	Report any serious incident or integrity matter specified in clause 7.	Clause 7
Within seven calendar days after the competition	Provide the complete post-event records, including final entries, weigh-in data, draws, results, departures and required incident records.	Clause 6.2

5. Minimum conditions for a Sanctioned Competition

5.1 Eligibility and membership

- Every competitor must be a current and financial member of Judo WA on the day of competition.
- The Organiser must not accept a late or replacement competitor after the pre-event list has been submitted unless Judo WA has confirmed that person's eligibility in writing.
- Coaches, referees and other judo officials must hold the membership, accreditation, Working with Children Check, screening and role authorisation required by applicable Judo WA or Judo Australia rules and policies.

5.2 Competition rules, divisions and matching

Unless Judo WA approves otherwise in writing, competition divisions, draw structures and contest times must comply with Schedule 1 and the current contest rules adopted by Judo WA. The Judo Australia Sporting Code does not of itself apply to local club or State competitions; it applies only to the extent expressly adopted by Judo WA in this Policy, the sanctioning terms or the written approval for the competition.

Before entries open, the Organiser must publish or otherwise provide the approved age and weight divisions, eligibility requirements, draw structure, contest duration, permitted and prohibited techniques, weigh-in arrangements and any approved departures from Schedule 1.

A planned departure must be disclosed in the application and approved by Judo WA. An on-the-day departure, including combining or reallocating competitors across age, weight or sex/gender groupings, is permitted only where the nominated event director:

- reasonably determines that the match remains safe after considering the competitors' age, actual weight, grade, experience, physical maturity and the rules and duration to be applied;
- documents the departure, the reason and the safety assessment; and

Specifically, for combinations beyond one age/weight category or for combinations across genders, the event director must obtain and record informed agreement from each competitor, their coach and, if under 18, parent/guardian.

Consent does not make an unsafe match acceptable. A competitor must not be pressured to accept a departure and may withdraw without penalty. Judo WA may prohibit a proposed match or class of departure.

5.3 Safety, integrity and event control

- A nominated event director must have overall operational authority and a nominated head referee must control refereeing matters.
- The venue, competition area and tatami installation must be suitable and safe, with controlled access and an emergency response plan.
- First-aid and medical coverage must be proportionate to the number of competition areas, competitors and identified risks, permit a prompt response to each competition area, and include emergency access and transfer arrangements. Judo WA may impose additional medical conditions when granting approval.
- Weigh-ins must be private, child-safe and respectful of dignity. Photography, filming and mobile-phone or other recording-device use are prohibited in the weigh-in area. A competitor under 18 must not be required to remove underclothing.
- Organisers, coaches and officials must not promote, encourage or facilitate unsafe rapid weight loss, fasting or deliberate dehydration, particularly for children.
- Referees and other officials must be suitably competent for the divisions and roles assigned to them.
- Child safeguarding, member protection, codes of conduct and privacy requirements must be observed.
- Every match must be genuine and fairly contested. Suspected competition manipulation, arranged outcomes or other integrity concerns must be stopped where safe to do so, documented and reported promptly to Judo WA.

6. Information and records

6.1 Pre-event entry list

By 5:00 pm two calendar days before the competition, the Organiser must give Judo WA a complete entry list containing, for each competitor: full name, date of birth, club, proposed division or pool, entered weight category (if applicable), and Judo WA membership number where available. Judo WA will cross-check membership and notify the Organiser of any eligibility issue.

6.2 Post-event records

Within seven calendar days after the competition, the Organiser must give Judo WA complete and legible records containing:

- the final list of competitors who competed;
- final weigh-in data, including each competitor's recorded weight and final division or pool;
- complete results and draw sheets for every division or pool, showing match outcomes, final placings, withdrawals, forfeits, direct hansoku-make or other disqualifications, and injury or medical withdrawals;
- details of every departure from the published divisions or applicable rules, together with the documented assessment and approvals required by clause 5.2; and
- any incident, injury or integrity report required under clause 7.

Judo WA does not prescribe the system or file type used to create these records. Competition-platform exports, spreadsheets, PDFs, or legible scans or photographs are acceptable if the required information is complete, readable and capable of being retained by Judo WA.

Personal information must be collected, transferred, accessed and retained securely and only for legitimate competition, membership, insurance, integrity and regulatory purposes.

7. Incident and integrity reporting

The Organiser must first respond to any incident, obtain medical or emergency assistance and protect those involved. The Organiser must then:

- notify Judo WA as soon as practicable, and within 24 hours, of any death, hospital admission, serious injury, suspected concussion requiring removal from competition, allegation of child harm, police or emergency-service attendance, significant integrity concern, or incident reasonably likely to attract media or regulatory attention; and
- include all other competition-related injuries, incidents and integrity concerns in the post-event records due under clause 6.2.

Records and evidence relevant to an incident or integrity concern must be preserved. Reporting to Judo WA does not replace any obligation to report to police, child-protection authorities, insurers, venue operators, Judo Australia or another body.

8. Sanction status and non-compliance

The Chief Executive Officer may refuse an application or approve it subject to conditions, subject to the appeal right in clause 4.1. Judo WA may suspend or withdraw existing sanctioning where information is incomplete or inaccurate, a material safety or integrity risk exists, or the Organiser has not complied with this Policy or a sanctioning condition. Where practicable, Judo WA will first work with the Organiser to correct the issue.

Judo WA may require corrective action, decline future applications, or address serious or repeated non-compliance under its constitution, regulations, codes or disciplinary processes. It may also refer a matter to Judo Australia, an insurer, the Combat Sports Commission or another relevant authority.

An inter-club competition that is not sanctioned, or whose sanction has been withdrawn, is not represented by Judo WA as being conducted under its authority. It must not use Judo WA branding or claim Judo WA recognition or insurance. The organiser remains responsible for determining and meeting all legal, regulatory and insurance requirements that may apply.

Sanctioning does not transfer responsibility for event delivery to Judo WA and does not guarantee insurance cover. Any cover remains subject to the terms, conditions and exclusions of the applicable insurance policy.

9. Related instruments and review

- Combat Sports Act 1987 (WA)
- Combat Sports Regulations 2004 (WA), especially regulation 5A(2)(d)
- Judo WA constitution, regulations, codes and policies
- Judo Australia Age and Weight Divisions for Children U15 (14 December 2023), as adopted and modified by Schedule 1
- Judo Australia Sporting Code (February 2025), only to the extent expressly adopted by Judo WA
- Current Judo Australia and International Judo Federation contest, medical, concussion, integrity and refereeing requirements adopted by Judo WA

This Policy will be reviewed at least every two years and earlier if relevant legislation, insurance arrangements, national rules or Judo WA's regulatory status changes.

Schedule 1 - Standard competition divisions and formats

This Schedule forms part of the Policy. It sets the default requirements for a Sanctioned Competition unless Judo WA approves a departure in writing under clause 5.2. An Organiser is not required to offer every category. Age is determined by the age a competitor turns during the calendar year of the competition. Overlapping Cadet, Junior and Senior eligibility does not itself authorise entry in multiple divisions; the approved event rules apply.

S1.1 Age groups, weight divisions and contest times

Category	Age in calendar year	Standard weight divisions	Contest time
U9	Turns 8 or younger	Mixed gender. No fixed weight classes; group by closest weight with no more than 15% difference across the pool.	2:00
U11	Turns 9-10	Separate girls' and boys' pools. No fixed weight classes; group by closest weight with no more than 15% difference across the pool.	2:30
U13	Turns 11-12	Boys: -32, -35, -38, -41, -45, -49, -54, -60, -66, +66 kg Girls: -32, -35, -38, -41, -45, -50, -56, +56 kg	3:00
U15	Turns 13-14	Boys: -36, -40, -45, -50, -55, -60, -66, -73, -81, +81 kg Girls: -36, -40, -44, -48, -52, -57, -63, +63 kg	3:00
Cadet	Turns 15-17	Male: -50, -55, -60, -66, -73, -81, -90, +90 kg Female: -40, -44, -48, -52, -57, -63, -70, +70 kg	4:00
Junior	Turns 15-20	Male: -60, -66, -73, -81, -90, -100, +100 kg Female: -48, -52, -57, -63, -70, -78, +78 kg	4:00
Senior	Turns 15 or older	Male: -60, -66, -73, -81, -90, -100, +100 kg Female: -48, -52, -57, -63, -70, -78, +78 kg	4:00
Veteran	Turns 30 or older; five-year age bands	Male: -60, -66, -73, -81, -90, -100, +100 kg Female: -48, -52, -57, -63, -70, -78, +78 kg	3:00 (ages 30-59) 2:30 (ages 60+)

Weight notation. A minus category includes competitors up to and including that weight; a plus category includes competitors over that weight.

U9 minimum participation age. The minimum age and any readiness requirement must be stated in the approved event rules. Judo WA may impose a minimum age or other eligibility condition when sanctioning the competition.

Golden Score. Golden Score is conducted under the current contest rules adopted for the division. For Veterans aged 65 or older, the standard Golden Score limit is one minute; otherwise it is uncapped unless Judo WA approves and the event rules publish a different format.

Recovery time. A competitor must receive at least 4 minutes between U9-U15 contests and at least 6 minutes between Cadet, Junior and Senior contests. Veteran recovery requirements must follow the approved event rules and current Judo Australia Veterans guidance.

S1.2 Standard draw structures

Competitors	Standard draw structure
1	No contest
2	Best-of-three
3	Round robin
4-5	Round robin, or the Judo Australia 2+2 system for four competitors and 3+2 system for five competitors
6-10	Best of Two Pools, or the applicable elimination and repechage system
11 or more	The applicable elimination and repechage system is required

- In round-robin divisions, competitors from the same club should compete against each other first where practicable. In elimination draws, competitors from the same club should be separated where practicable.
- Equivalent electronic or paper implementations are acceptable. Judo WA does not prescribe competition software, provided the approved structure and the record requirements in clause 6 are met.

S1.3 Departures

A departure may include combining age or weight categories, using a different draw structure, shortening contest time or modifying the rules applied to a division. Planned departures require prior written approval from Judo WA. An on-the-day departure is permitted only under clause 5.2 and must not exceed any absolute limit or prohibition stated in this Schedule or an approval condition.

