



# **Special Needs Judo Union**

**Technical Advisory Board**

## **Rules for Special Needs Judo**

Release 2018, version 1.1/en

## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>General</b> .....	<b>3</b>
	1.1 Scope of these rules.....	3
	1.2 Eligibility.....	3
	1.3 Restrictions.....	4
<b>2.</b>	<b>Disciplines</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Divisioning</b> .....	<b>4</b>
	3.1 Further Divisioning Criteria.....	4
	3.2 Responsibility of Organisers.....	4
<b>4.</b>	<b>Levels</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	4.1 Level 1.....	5
	4.2 Level 2.....	5
	4.3 Level 3.....	5
	4.4 Level 4.....	5
	4.5 Level 5.....	6
<b>5.</b>	<b>Contest Rules</b> .....	<b>6</b>
	5.1 Starting Positions.....	6
	5.2 Ne-waza contest.....	6
<b>6.</b>	<b>Prohibited Actions</b> .....	<b>7</b>
	6.1 Penalties.....	8
<b>7.</b>	<b>Injuries</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Judo Gi and aids</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Coaching</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Kata Contest Rules</b> .....	<b>9</b>

## 1. General

2. Matches under these regulations are directed by a referee with a valid SNJU-Judo licence or equivalent.
3. A distinction is made between Tachi-waza matches, and Ne-waza matches.
4. Divisioning is conducted according to the stipulations in section 3.
5. In all cases during the match where the referee is of the opinion that the safety of either judoka is at stake, the referee will interrupt the match and take any corrective measurement he/she deems necessary.
6. The referee is also allowed to take punitive action but should always keep in mind the intention of the offending judoka.
7. (\*\*) Using Golden Score in a tournament is at the discretion of the tournament's organisation. SNJU recommends a maximum duration of 1 minute.

### 1.1 Scope of these rules

These rules are in effect for all Special Needs Judo tournaments supported by SNJU. They *augment* the Judo rules stipulated by the International Judo Federation (IJF) which can be found on <http://www.ijf.org>.

- Where this document lacks a clear rule, the IJF rules prevail.
- Footnotes are supportive of the text and intended as a clarification for the main text.
- Rules with the mark (\*\*) are optional and can be modified at the discretion of the organiser of an event. Note that these must be conveyed to the participants, for example in the invitation.

### 1.2 Eligibility

#### Participation criteria for SNJU Supported Events

- All SNJU supported events are open to all judo athletes with a disability; this includes intellectual, physical and social disabilities.
- The tournament organisers have to be a registered member of the SNJU
- Participants of SNJU supported events have to abide by the rules and regulations herein.

### 1.3 Restrictions

A small proportion of people with Down syndrome (around 10% to 15%) suffer from instability between the C1 cervical vertebra and C2 cervical vertebra. If the cervical vertebra are subjected to extension or flexion, this instability, also known as atlanto-axial instability, can lead to accidents.

Athletes who have Down syndrome and AAI or who have a spinal cord compression must therefore undergo a corresponding medical examination to establish whether their cervical vertebrae are at risk of compression.

## 2. Disciplines

The following is a list of various disciplines that can be announced and offered at SNJU supported events. The overview is neither exhaustive nor binding, organisers are free to offer further or less disciplines depending on the event.

1. Single competition – Shiai
2. Team competition
3. Kata and Kata unified – Tori with disability, Uke without disability

## 3. Divisioning

Divisioning takes place:

1. Based on Judo skills
2. Based on weight

### 3.1 Further Divisioning Criteria

**Gender:** Male / Female

**Weight-** The classes described in the IJF rules are only observed with levels 1 and 2, but can be relaxed at the discretion of the tournament organizers, especially in the case of smaller tournaments and low entries. The other levels have a much more relaxed weight pooling so as to easier combine the various classes and weights, and make the matches more equal and fair.

### 3.2 Responsibility of Organisers

The organiser is responsible for the correct setup of the various pools, where a balanced mix exists between weight and technical skills. Important are fair game and above all safety.

## 4. Levels

The levels are determined by comparing the skill level of the SN-judoka with a mainstream *competitive* judoka (for level 1) or a mainstream *recreational* judoka (levels 2-5)

### 4.1 Level 1

**Level 1** is a judoka who can perform in a *shiai* with a mainstream competitive judoka. This judoka is fast and powerful and has an excellent reactivity. He/she has a strong feeling for Judo and an excellent strategic view. This type of judoka has a minimal disability and therefore usually attends regular education. In general, these are judoka with high functioning autism or light physical disability, VI and deaf judokas and some intellectual disabled judoka that has grown beyond level 2.

*Level-1 judoka can only compete against other level-1 judoka.*

*(\*\*) However a tournament organiser can, as an exception, allow good level-2 judoka to compete in a level-1 poule. This should always be done in agreement with the judoka's coach.*

*Safety is always the first and foremost consideration!*

### 4.2 Level 2

**Level 2** is a judoka who can perform *randori* with a mainstream recreational judoka. This judoka is fast and powerful and has moderate reactivity but is usually late responding to judo situations. He has a good judo feeling, but usually no effective strategy.

### 4.3 Level 3

**Level 3** is a judoka who can perform a playful *randori* with a mainstream recreational judoka. This judoka is reasonably fast and powerful and has a reasonably developed reactivity, but is almost always late responding to situational judo. Strategy for this type of judoka consists of repeating the same technique over and over.

### 4.4 Level 4

**Level 4** is a judoka who can grapple and play with another judoka of the same or comparable level. Reactivity is suboptimal. Usually the only judo technique consists of takedown and *osae-komi*.

## 4.5 Level 5

**Level 5** is a judoka who can romp and play with other judoka of the same level. These judokas are very passive, or respond very slowly. Constant coaching to take action is necessary. When they end up in *osae-komi*, the action to escape can take a very long time.

## 5. Contest Rules

The competition rules apply to both the Shiai Single competition and the Team competition. Athletes are allocated to the pools based on their age, gender, level and weight.

### 5.1 Starting Positions

#### Tachi-waza

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

1. In the usual way, according to the IJF Tournament Regulations;
2. In the case where one or both of the judoka has a visual impairment or is blind, or has a disability that impairs the execution of a correct kumi-kata, the judoka will bow at about four metres of distance. The attendant, coach or referee is allowed to support the judoka. At the command of the referee, the judoka approach mat center and perform basic kumi-kata (sleeve, lapel). They will not change position from that moment until the referee announces Ha-jime.

#### Ne-waza

In Ne-waza, starting position can be different depending on the following procedure:

1. The judoka enter the contest area, where necessary supported by attendant, coach or referee. The judoka bow at about two metres of distance, after which referee announces Ha-jime. If either judoka has a visual impairment or is blind, the match starts in basic Kumi-kata (Sleeve-Lapel)
2. If either judoka cannot use one leg for support, this is also not allowed for the opponent. The referee will agree this before the match with the table jury.
3. If either judoka cannot perform the match in kneeling position, the judoka will start the match in a sitting position. In this case, the opponents sit next to each other, facing opposite directions, and kumi-kata is basic sleeve-lapel.
4. If either judoka cannot perform in a sitting position, both judoka will start lying down, facing each other, in basic Kumi-kata (sleeve-lapel).

## 5.2 Ne-waza Contest

1. Ne-waza matches are performed exclusively in Ne-waza posture because either judoka, because of a disability, cannot perform safely in Tachi-waza.
2. When applying for a tournament, the intention to perform in Ne-waza must be clearly stated.
3. A referee is authorised to change a Tachi-waza match into a Ne-waza match. The judoka that triggered this decision will then perform in Ne-waza for the remainder of the tournament.
4. Tilting techniques leading to Uke landing on his/her back will gain a score according to the IJF Tournament Regulations. Uke does not have to leave the mat surface for this.
5. Uke cannot score from Osae-komi.

## 6. Prohibited Actions

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

1. Any and all forms of:
  - a. Sacrifice techniques (sutemi-waza) including Tani Otoshi and Makikomi
  - b. Arm-lock techniques (kansetsu-waza)
  - c. Choking techniques (shime-waza)
  - d. Choking, locking and holding techniques that involve holding the legs in a triangle position (sankaku-waza)
  - e. All throws executed on one or two knees (to the front and rear).
2. Allowing yourself to fall on the opponent after a properly executed technique.
3. To put pressure on head, neck or throat of the opponent.
4. In Tachi-waza:
  - a. To perform Kumi-kata around the head or neck of the opponent. While taking hold over the shoulder or collarbone, the hand may not pass the center line of the back.
5. In Ne-waza:
  - a. In Ne-waza, it is not allowed to put pressure on either head or neck. In Osae-komi situations where Tori is in Kesa position, Tori is not allowed to put either hand or arm under head or neck of Uke.
  - b. Pushing opponent backwards while in kneeling position is not allowed.
  - c. To immediately release kumi-kata after Ha-jime during matches with a modified starting position.
  - d. In Ne-waza matches: Raising the knee to gain leverage when it is agreed beforehand that this is not allowed.

Prohibited techniques will not be scored, and where possible mate will be called before the technique is executed to ensure the safety of the players.

## **6.1 Penalties**

1. The techniques mentioned in section 6 plus leg grabbing will be penalised with Shido.
2. All actions that go against the spirit of Judo or the safety of either judoka will be penalised with Hansoku-make, to protect the judoka affected by this.

The referee is allowed to consider the level, the disability, type and intention of the offense in his decision, as well as the intention, repetition, overall match image and safety while deciding on a penalty

## **7. Injuries**

1. There is no limitation for the number of times the same injury may be treated.
2. If the referee deems it necessary for coach or attendant to treat an injury, these persons may enter the contest area.

## **8. Judo Gi and Aids**

1. Aids are considered all attributes outside the standard Judo uniform as described in the Tournament Regulations.
2. The Judo Gi must be adjusted to the physical limitations of the judoka however must not be a hindrance for the opponent to perform Kumi-kata.
3. Wearing socks and a plain white or blue t-shirt under the Judo Gi is allowed.
4. Wearing a mouth guard is allowed.
5. Aids must be safe for the wearer and the opponent, and cannot contain hard substances or surfaces, to be decided at the discretion of the main referee.
6. Opponent may not be disadvantaged, nor may the wearer have an unreasonable advantage from the aid.

Glasses cannot have hard surfaces and must fit flush to the face

## **9. Coaching**

1. Coaches and attendants must refrain from comments on the arbitration.
2. During Special Needs competition level 1 and 2 coaching is allowed according to IJF rules only during Mate. In Level 3, encouraging positive comments from the coach are allowed throughout the competition. Judo technical coaching is allowed only during Mate. In level 4 and 5, encouraging positive coaching is possible, as well as technical coaching throughout the competition.

## **10. Kata Contest Rules**

In kata contests (Unified), the judges will take the following into account when assessing the competitors' performance:

The kata both begins and ends with a greeting.

1. It should be as normal as possible, adapted as necessary.
2. The kata should be based on an existing kata form (e.g., "nage-no-kata," "katame-no-kata," "gonosen-no-kata," etc.)
3. Attention to connections, for example between throw families and technique families
4. Execution quality
5. Control of Tori
6. The development of the techniques

The actions and movements of Uke may only be judged under point 4 "execution quality" and 5 "control of tori"

A detailed list of kata contest rules and levels will be available under a separate document available from our website in the very near future