

Dear Judo Friends,

13.05.2020

Over the past number of years the SNJU have been working extremely hard on the development of adaptive judo worldwide. We firmly believe in the physical, mental, emotional and social benefits our sport has to offer people with additional challenges. Our main focus is on education and development of the players in judo and also the coaches, officials, volunteers and parents. To this end we have facilitated a vast number of training courses and seminars all over the world both onsite and online.

Our goal is to give everyone the opportunity to participate in judo, regardless of their ability or restrictions. All adaptive judo players partake just for leisure and pleasure and for the benefits and social interactions it promotes. For some athletes the excitement and challenge of contest judo drives them forward and like for all athletes, it's important that we create the opportunities and pathways to facilitate this.

Adaptive judo contest opportunities have been around for a long time now and over the years rules and regulations have been developed and fine-tuned to ensure the safety of all the athletes taking part. Unfortunately depending on where you live and compete the rules vary somewhat.

A number of years ago the SNJU technical advisory board set about compiling a comprehensive set of safety contest & play rules & regulations that focused on one thing only – the safety of the players!

These set of rules were developed in conjunction with some of the worlds most experienced adaptive judo coaches and referees. They have been tried and tested at all major adaptive tournaments over the past four years and are now used by organisations in over 28 countries worldwide.

It is essential for athletes, coaches and referees that the same rules are used at all events. It is particularly important for athletes that they don't have to remember different rules at different events. To help unify these rules across the globe we have been working with Special Olympics and have now aligned SO rules with our own.

It is worth mentioning at this stage that the SNJU rules are developed for adaptive judo contest for all levels 1 – 5. These rules are for what we call, judo games tournaments and are open to all disabilities and ability levels.

Progress by definition keeps moving forward and as our adaptive players progress in skill and ability so does the need to facilitate higher level tournament events. In recent times we have seen the emergence of some high level ID judo tournaments. Although we feel that there are not enough high level ID athletes to accommodate these events yet, we also recognise the need to develop a pathway for up and coming adaptive players to achieve their desired ambitions.

It is our collective opinion that adaptive contest judo should be offered in two separate levels. These are:

- Judo Games Tournaments, designed to facilitate all disabilities and levels 1 – 5
- Judo Championships Tournaments, for ID athletes only. (elite athletes)

Our current set of adaptive rules ensures the safety and enjoyment of all players at judo games events.

For the ID championships Tournaments we would like to present an ID championship set of rules which are close to current IJF rules with some safety adaptations.

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We believe that the new ID Championships should only include one level, the best of the best. This would ensure there is no mixing of levels and all athletes would have to meet the criteria as set out by INAS. No divisioning will be needed before a Championship Tournament.

We see this new level of adaptive judo as a possible pathway to World and European ID championships, Continental Cups and maybe even Paralympics in the future. We have a lot of work already completed and a lot more to do.

The key to the success of this development is to agree a unified set of adaptive rules to facilitate all our adaptive players across the world. We can only achieve this by engaging in positive dialogue with interested parties.

We would like to facilitate this development and invite any interested stake holders to engage with us with a view to uniting adaptive judo worldwide.

Attached are a copy of our Adaptive Contest & Play Safety Rules & Regulations and a copy of our new ID Championship Rules proposal.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course

Kind Regards

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President SNJU

James Mulroy (Ireland)  
Vice President SNJU