

**BRITISH JUDO
AMENDMENTS TO
THE IJF CONTEST
RULES**

Introduction

Scope

The International Judo Federation decides the judo contest rules for all international and continental events. However, it is understood that these may not be suitable for all levels of competition for a variety of reasons. Therefore, each national federation is authorised to make such adjustments as they see fit for their domestic events.

This document details the adjustments made by the British Judo Association to the contest rules and when they apply, and incorporates all previously communicated amendments to the rules that are current and valid.

Application

The 'IJF Contest Rules' (and 2017 Contest Rules Update) as modified by this document 'BJA Amendments to the IJF Contest Rules', form the contest rules to be used at all BJA licenced events. Unless a specific level of event (e.g. Level 2) is mentioned, these rules apply to all levels. No other rule sets are authorised for use.

All British Judo licenced events must be run wholly in line with these documents unless written dispensation has been specifically agreed by the BJA/NRC. No one has discretion to vary these rules in anyway whatsoever without the written authority of the NRC/BJA prior to the change.

The latest version of this document and the IJF Contest Rules are published and maintained on the BJA website and replace all previous versions. These documents shall prevail over any other documents in circulation that purport to vary the contest rules in use by the BJA.

Abbreviations

BJA	British Judo Association
NRC	National Referee Commission
RIC	Referee in Charge

Releases to Membership

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Contents

Introduction	2
Scope.....	2
Application	2
Abbreviations.....	2
Releases to Membership	2
1 Technical Restrictions	5
1.1 Applicable Categories	5
1.2 No forward throwing techniques with the hand of tori around uke's neck.....	5
1.3 No drop-knee techniques	5
1.4 No Tomoe-Nage or Sumi-Gaeshi or similar techniques.....	5
1.5 Dangerous Turnovers.....	5
1.5 Shime-Waza for Cadets.....	6
1.6 Shime-Waza and Kansetsu-Waza.....	6
1.7 Below the Belt Penalties	6
2 Durations and Timings	7
2.1 Arrival for Contest.....	7
2.2 Contest Duration.....	7
2.3 Rest Period	7
2.4 Golden Score for Minors and Younger Athletes	7
3 Penalties	8
3.1 Hansoku-make	8
4 Judo Uniform	9
4.1 Judogi Colour	9
4.2 Judogi Sizes	9
4.3 Advertising	9
4.4 Non-Compliant Judogi.....	9
4.5 Shin Pads	9
4.6 Religious Headwear	10
5 Event Setup	12
5.1 Scoreboards	12
5.2 CARE System	12
5.3 Tatami	12
5.4 Refereeing Team	12
5.5 Referee Neutrality.....	13

6	Medical	14
6.1	Request for Medical.....	14
6.2	Medical Personnel	14
6.3	Emergency Medical Intervention by Referees.....	14
7	Coaching	15
7.1	Coaching During the Contest	15
7.2	Challenging a Refereeing Decision.....	15
8	Referee Communications	16
8.1	Referee Briefings.....	16
8.2	Referee Ranking Assessments	16
8.3	Referee Event Participation	16
8.4	Jury, Commission and RIC's.....	16

1 Technical Restrictions

1.1 *Applicable Categories*

Technical restrictions apply to:

- All Level 1 events (regardless of age)
- All exclusively under 12 years' categories (regardless of Level)

Technical restrictions do not apply:

- To any category where any athlete aged 12 years or older can enter

Technical restrictions are classed as prohibited acts and will be penalised with Shido.

1.2 *No forward throwing techniques with the hand of tori around uke's neck*

It is prohibited to apply any form of forward throwing action with the hand of tori around the back of uke's neck at shoulder level. The rule prohibits the whole hand of tori going past uke's back of neck centre line at shoulder level or higher, if the hand around the back goes below shoulder level, this is valid for nage-waza.

1.3 *No drop-knee techniques*

It is prohibited to apply any forward throwing technique by tori dropping with one or both knees to the ground before uke has landed on the tatami.

1.4 *No Tomoe-Nage or Sumi-Gaeshi or similar techniques*

It is prohibited to apply Tomoe-Nage or Sumi-Gaeshi or similar techniques, this means techniques where the body of tori impacts with the tatami before that of uke and uke is being thrown with techniques such as or very similar to Tomoe-Nage or Sumi-Gaeshi.

1.5 *Dangerous Turnovers*

In cases where uke is lying flat on their front and tori has a grip on the collar of uke behind their neck, pinning uke's head to the mat, then proceeding to lever the leg or foot of uke and attempt to turn uke over by bringing the body directly over the head, will be penalised at Level 1, 2 and 3 events. The referee is authorised to stop the contest immediately that this action becomes clear in order to prevent major injury to uke. For this penalty to be awarded, the legs of uke must be moving in a direction which is likely to cause uke's neck to be unnaturally bent backwards. To maintain the athletes' safety and at the same time keep the integrity of the contest, the following will apply:

- If this action is completed, the penalty given will be Hansoku-make
- If the action is started and the referee can successfully intervene before completion of the full movement, Shido will be awarded.

Note: Contestants infringing any of the technical restrictions will be penalised at the appropriate level immediately, i.e. no "free" chances will be given. The referee should briefly explain to the contestant the reason for the penalty on every occasion a penalty is awarded due to a technical restriction.

1.5 Shime-Waza for Cadets

Athletes competing in Cadet age band events who are strangled unconscious, regardless of the period of unconsciousness, will be withdrawn from the competition and will not be allowed compete again that day.

1.6 Shime-Waza and Kansetsu-Waza

Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza will allowed in:

- a. All exclusively Cadet, Junior and Senior competitions using the international category criteria (minimum of 15 years in that calendar year).
- b. All competitions involving athletes of at least 18 years, in a minimum of a Level 2 event.

Shime-waza and Kansetsu-waza must not be allowed in:

- a. In any category which may have an athlete (whether they actually do or not) who is below 15 years in that calendar year.

Applying Shime-waza or Kanestu-waza in a category where it is not allowed will result in Hansoku-make, whether it results in a submission or not.

1.7 Below the Belt Penalties

Until 22nd April 2017 - In Veteran and Development events, the below the belt penalty is Shido for every offence.

From 22nd April 2017 – This adjustment shall no longer apply.

2 Durations and Timings

2.1 Arrival for Contest

The time allowed to get to the start position will be three (3) calls at one (1) minute intervals, failing to do so will result in the contestant losing by Fusen-Gachi.

2.2 Contest Duration

The contest duration at Cadet, Junior and Senior level will be 4 minutes in all cases.

For all other events, organisers are authorised to reduce these times for the younger athletes.

2.3 Rest Period

The rest period allowed will be a minimum of one full contest duration for that category.

2.4 Golden Score for Minors and Younger Athletes

The following rules will apply to contests involving technical restrictions:

Level 1 Competition

Where pools are used, if the scores are level at the end of the contest, Hiki-wake (draw) should be given with no 'golden score' contest.

If final positions in the pool are tied, and it is felt necessary to re-fight any contests, then they should be fought as a 'golden score' contest only, i.e. no preceding normal period.

Level 2 and 3 Competitions

In categories involving technical restrictions, the 'golden score' element of the contest will be limited to a maximum of two minutes.

If the scores are still level at the end of the 'golden score', Hiki-wake will be given. The athletes will then have a minimum of three minutes' rest time, after which the contest will recommence in 'golden score' mode again for a maximum of two minutes.

If the scores are still level at the end of the second 'golden score', Hiki-wake is again given and the three minutes' minimum rest and re-commencement in golden score is repeated.

Each subsequent 'golden score' element will be a maximum of two minutes and each rest period will be a minimum of three minutes.

3 Penalties

3.1 *Hansoku-make*

The referee and table judges should all be in agreement before awarding a direct Hansoku-make.

If any contestant receives a direct Hansoku-make, he/she will normally be disqualified from that contest only.

Notwithstanding the above, if all three officials agree that the action was “against the spirit of judo” then they may recommend to the Competition Controller that the offending athlete should not be allowed to continue in the competition. In all instances, the final decision to disqualify any athlete from the remainder of the competition will be made by the Competition Controller on recommendation from the Referee and table Referees involved, and/or the Referee in Charge. The Referee and table Referees, having made a unanimous decision to recommend disqualification from the competition, will inform the table officials who will advise the Competition Controller of this recommendation.

All instances of direct Hansokumake apart from Head Diving and Bridging it will result in the referees recommending that the athlete is withdrawn from the competition.

There is no requirement for the refereeing team to consult with the RIC before awarding direct Hansoku-make when they have a unanimous decision.

4 Judo Uniform

4.1 Judogi Colour

British Judo permits the wearing of white and blue judogi only in competition. In no case may the contestant who is called first wear a blue judogi.

Competition organisers may specify on their entry form that either:

- Wearing of white and blue judogi is *mandatory* – judoka must have both blue and white judogi available. The first contestant called shall wear the white judogi, the second shall wear the blue.
- Wearing of white and blue judogi is *optional*. The second contestant called may wear either white or blue.

Where the second contestant wears a blue judogi, both contestants shall wear their grade belt. Where both contestants wear white, the first shall wear a white belt and the second a blue belt

By exception, and generally only at Level 1 or 2 events, the RIC may authorise alternative belt colours be worn.

4.2 Judogi Sizes

The judogi sleeves must reach to the wrist joint as a maximum and 5cm above the wrist joint as a minimum. In the case of the very young, the gap between the arm and the cloth or the leg and the cloth may be as little as 5cm.

4.3 Advertising

The same advertising rules on the Judogi apply to all levels apart from the wearing of grade badges on the front of the skirt below the belt. There is no maximum number, as long as they are not above the belt and are not sown onto any part of the lapel for the whole length. Badge sizes must be adhered to, i.e. a maximum of 10cm x 10cm.

4.4 Non-Compliant Judogi

Should a contestant arrive for their contest in a Judogi that is not compliant with the rules, they will be given a maximum of 4 minutes to change in to a judogi which does comply, should they fail to do so, they will lose by Kiken-Gachi.

4.5 Shin Pads

Shin pads are allowed providing they do not constitute hard objects. They must be made of soft padding and not contain hard stiffeners. They may incorporate an underfoot band but the band must be in good condition and, in the referee's opinion, sufficiently wide enough not to constitute a danger

to either athlete's fingers or toes. The shin pad must not incorporate an instep pad (which covers the top of the foot), as this pad would give an advantage to a "kicker".

4.6 Religious Headwear

British Judo do not govern Continental or International level events; therefore, should an athlete qualify for this level they will need to comply with the IJF rules in full at that point in time.

Contestants who need to wear head covering in their normal daily routines will be allowed to do so in all British Judo domestic competitions, provided the covering meets with the following criteria.

- a. The material used shall be a clean and tidy covering which does not have any substantial safety issues by such things as getting fingers caught and causing injury.
- b. The tying of the headwear may not include any hard or metallic objects.
- c. The contestant may not wear any hard or metallic objects underneath the covering.
- d. The covering will be of a single colour which is the contestant's personal choice
- e. No additional padding or other materials will be worn in addition to the headwear garment
- f. No branding or advertising will be allowed on the head covering, it must be a plain single colour only
- g. The headwear may not cover any part of the neck or face (face is defined as the area in-between the forehead, chin and in front of the ears, as to do so would disadvantage a judoka attempting to apply shime-waza (strangles/chokes)
- h. The headwear must be tight fitting in such a way that it does not easily become dislodged and cause lengthy delays in the contest, headwear that does repetitively become dislodged may be deemed inappropriate and not allowed

During the contest, the following rules shall apply:

- a. Should the headwear become accidentally dislodged during the contest, the referee will allow it to be retied at the next break in the action (no technique being applied) and shall not stop the contest solely for the retying of the headwear unless considered dangerous (in the same manner as if the belt were to fall to the ground). For example, this may mean that in a Ne-Waza exchange that the headwear may come loose accidentally but the next opportunity to replace it (when no progression is apparent) may be 20 or more seconds later. The continuity of the contest cannot be disrupted as to do so may cause a disadvantage.
- b. Should either contestant deliberately remove the headwear of either contestant without the referee's permission, this will incur a Shido

British Judo – Contest Rule Amendments

Referees are advised not to touch an athlete's headwear, nor to request it is removed. A visual inspection is sufficient. The athlete should confirm, if requested, that no hard or metallic components have been worn. It remains a disqualifiable offence to wear a hard or metallic object.

In case of doubt, referees should interpret these adjustments in line with the BJA's broad intention to be inclusive and widen participation, provided at all times the safety of both athletes is protected.

Headwear Examples:

The below are examples, other headwear in keeping with the criteria above should be permitted.

Approved:



Not allowed:



Too Big



Covers Neck



Advertising

5 Event Setup

5.1 Scoreboards

It is preferable to have two scoreboards 180 degrees apart across the tatami, however one scoreboard that is clearly visible to the athletes, referee and spectators is acceptable.

5.2 CARE System

Use of the CARE system is required at BJA events as follows:

- **Level 4 and above – Mandatory** - The CARE system package of at least one camera and display with a referee audio link must be used, in full. It is however, very much preferred especially at level 4 and above to have two cameras 180 degrees out of phase with each other and two displays for the table referees to view actions from opposite sides.
- **Level 3 – Highly recommended** – It is highly recommended that the full CARE system be used, particularly for any sort of national qualification event. A single camera and display system is permissible, but double is preferred.
- **Levels 1 and 2 – Not required** – Organisers can choose to make use of the system; it is also a very useful tool to train new referees under less pressure on care system usage.

Where table referees do not have radio communication at their disposal they must signal to advise the central referee of any differing opinion

5.3 Tatami

Event organisers are responsible for providing suitable Tatami, this includes the layout of the tatami, colours, sizes and any safety considerations.

The referee should not start the contest on any Tatami where they identify a safety issue that increases the chance of injury to the athletes. These issues should be reported to the RIC who should find a solution in conjunction with the organisers.

It is preferred that the field of play is laid out so that that adjacent competition areas are in one straight line with officials on one side and competitors, coaches and spectators on the other. However, it is understood that this may be very difficult to arrange and therefore it is acceptable to have any configuration that the organizers' and referee RIC deem suitable and safe.

5.4 Refereeing Team

Level 3 and above – It is mandatory for a referee to be supported by two table judges.

Levels 1 and 2 – It is generally expected that two table judges will support the referee. At the RIC's discretion, it is permissible to use a single referee without table judges.

5.5 Referee Neutrality

Referee neutrality (by nation, area or club) is not enforced at BJA events.

At Level 3 events and above, it is good practice to have a neutral referee for the final block, but this is not mandatory.

6 Medical

6.1 Request for Medical

Levels 1 to 3 - the contestant will not automatically lose the contest by Kiken-Gachi when asking for medical intervention. However, if the medical attendant recommends that the injured athlete should not continue, the Referee should declare the uninjured athlete the winner by Kiken-Gachi by a majority of three decision, assuming the injury was not caused by a prohibited act of that athlete.

Levels 4 and above – full medical rules apply.

6.2 Medical Personnel

Competitions should not be started without appropriate medical cover in place at all levels.

6.3 Emergency Medical Intervention by Referees

The referee has the primary responsibility to recognise that medical aid is required, to stop the contest and summon medical assistance. Even if the referee is qualified to administer aid, it is generally not appropriate for them to do so, as this is the role of the medical team.

The following guidelines are provided for medical professionals who are referees and who find themselves in a situation where they may be required to intervene by their professional body if it could save harm. The general rule in BJA competitions is that only the appointed medical team should administer aid to an injured contestant.

On the rare occasion when an injury occurs that is suspected of being serious or life-changing and the official medical team does not have a currently fully qualified paramedic or doctor in the team, or where the medically qualified referee deems it necessary to intervene instantly to prevent further harm, it will be permissible for a referee possessing the qualifications to attend to the injured person, should they deem it appropriate. In this instance the referee should call 'mate' and the contest put 'on hold' until one of the judges or resting referees can take the place of the referee to continue the contest.

7 Coaching

7.1 Coaching During the Contest

Levels 1 to 3 – Coaches may coach their athlete throughout the contest.

Levels 4 and above – Coaches may only coach during the period between Mate and Hajime.

7.2 Challenging a Refereeing Decision

Any challenge to a refereeing decision must be brought to the table Judges attention within 10 seconds of the incident by the official mat side coach for the affected athlete. If the official mat side coach remains dissatisfied with the Judges response, they must request the RIC attendance from the other table officials within 10 seconds of being given the judges final decision. In these cases, the other table officials will call for the RIC to intervene.

The contest will not be interrupted (stopped) unless the refereeing team deem it necessary to do so, the referee RIC has the authority to stop the contest if deemed necessary to do so.

The RIC will speak with the applicable coach(s) to understand the concern and then consult the refereeing team and maybe the care system before making a decision. This decision is final and without appeal, it is binding upon the refereeing team to take the action advised by the RIC.

Appeals are subject to the following:

- a. Any incident that did not end the contest cannot be contested after the contest has finished, unless the end was less than 10 seconds away. Appeals can only be made within 10 seconds of the alleged error.
- b. Any incident that ended the contest may be contested after the contest has finished, as long as the initial query was within 10 seconds to the table Judges.
- c. Only the athletes accredited mat side coach may make an appeal
- d. The Referee should not leave the competition area until any appeal has been resolved to the referee RIC's satisfaction (if called, otherwise the allocated refereeing team for that contest).

Generally, the referee should stop the contest temporarily once the Referee RIC has been called to allow time for resolution. Exceptional circumstances may apply stopping this; such as mid-way through the application of a shime-waza or kansetsu-waza.

It is understood that in some rare cases, the time taken for the referee RIC to attend a contest area may be such that the contest time has expired rendering intervention difficult. It is not possible to stop contests for every appeal during a match, especially where the refereeing team are satisfied all is correct (3-0 or 2-1).

Any athlete who has no mat side coach, has no method of appeal.

8 Referee Communications

8.1 Referee Briefings

Referee roll calls and briefings will generally be conducted approximately one hour before the estimated start of the competition, however, event organisers have the authority to schedule this meeting at any point before the event starts.

8.2 Referee Ranking Assessments

Referee assessments inclusive of national ranking points will generally be arranged for all national events and for specific referees on training programmes as defined by the NRC. Where organisers other than the BJA organise national events, the organiser must ensure this happens and all documentation is returned to the referee administrator within one week of the end of the event.

Organisers may request that formal assessments are conducted on a particular event within their area, however, all necessary costs must be paid by the organiser requesting it. Only the NRC can sanction this request together with approving those people conducting the assessment.

8.3 Referee Event Participation

At all events from level 3 upwards, referees must attend for the whole event and conduct a full and complete role in their refereeing duty to gain a revalidation credit, this means that:

- ✓ Referees must be on time from the first briefing until the last debrief, or last competition match if no de-briefing
- ✓ Referees must attend for all sessions of the event in order to have their attendance card completed and be on the attendance document returned to the BJA. Referees who only referee at part of an event must be preapproved by the organisers to do so and will not have a credit towards their biennial revalidation criteria
- ✓ Referees at level 3 events and upwards may attend for part of an event with the organisers permission, but it does not count for revalidation purposes
- ✓ Referees who attend events for part or in whole but do not provide a full service (e.g. they judge only for some reason) may be authorised to officiate by the organisers but do not qualify for a revalidation credit. In these cases, their card will not be validated and their name will not be included on the referee attendance document sent to the BJA for revalidation purposes.

8.4 Jury, Commission and RIC's

In British competitions, the international Jury and Commission members' roles are both performed by RIC role.

It is vital that each Tatami has a suitably qualified mat leads to act as both the mat organiser and supports the rest of the team on technical decisions etc. In cases where the mat lead / mat referees need help or it is requested from the coach, the RIC (Jury role) is called to the mat for a final decision.

British Judo – Contest Rule Amendments

The international federation normally have one commission member per Tatami at competitions. In British events, each Tatami will also have one mat lead each who as well as performing the lead role also referees themselves.

All competitions from level 2 upwards must have at least one RIC in charge of the event, the BJA recommend a minimum of one RIC per two Tatami's, plus others if formal assessments or examinations are taking place. For example, a four mat event which also includes mat assessments or examinations for any level would be staffed with at least 3 RIC's, two for competition management and one for the examination or assessment.

Note: It may be that the three RIC's would all do RIC duties and all do assessment or examinations, this is acceptable as the correct staffing levels are there irrespective of how the roles are performed.