



## Judo Athlete Categorisation Guidelines (September 2021)

### Introduction

- 1.1. The Judo Athlete Categorisation Guidelines are in support of the Australian Institute of Sport's (AIS) drive to reposition Australia as a world leader in elite sport performance.
- 1.2. The driving principle behind the AIS's investment approach to high performance sport is to ensure that available resources are positioned to support Australia's most talented athletes. The AIS recognises that it is equally important to strive to have a strong and sustainable high performance sector to ensure that Australia continues to deliver success into the future.
- 1.3. The Combat Institute of Australia (CombatAUS), in consultation with Judo Australia (JA) has worked in conjunction with the AIS to develop Athlete Categories that help identify the athletes with the greatest potential for podium success at Olympic and Paralympic level and track performances over time to inform prioritisation of support for these athletes.
- 1.4. This document outlines the Athlete Categories and guidelines that will be used for categorising athletes for the sport of Judo in Australia.

### Minimum eligibility requirements for Categorisation

- 2.1. To be eligible for Categorisation, an Athlete must satisfy all of the following requirements:
  - a) be an Australian Citizen or be on a committed path to obtaining Australian Citizenship to be eligible to compete for Australia at the next Pinnacle event.
  - b) be a current member of JA, having paid all requisite membership fees owed for the relevant membership period.
  - c) have signed and adhere to the CombatAUS and/or JA Athlete Agreements (as amended from time to time).
  - d) be eligible to compete for Australia as per IJF/IOC rules (as amended from time to time).
  - e) Be actively training to compete in a judo event that is to be contested at the 2024 Olympic Games or 2022 Commonwealth Games.

### Judo Athlete Categorisation Panel

- 3.1. Athlete categorisation will be determined by the National Categorisation Panel (NCP). The NCP comprises key members of the CombatAUS High Performance program and the JA Performance Pathways Program. The composition of the NCP ensures the knowledge and capability required to make informed athlete categorisation decisions.



- 3.2. Current members of the NCP are the CombatAUS Judo Technical Director, the CombatAUS Performance Director, CombatAUS Performance Pathway Manager and select coaches from the JA National Coaching Pool and/or State Performance Hubs.
- 3.3. For each round of categorisation, the NCP will elect a Chair. All decisions of the NCP shall be by majority vote. Each member of the NCP shall have one vote. In the event of a deadlock in voting, the Chair's vote shall determine the decision.
- 3.4. The NCP is subject to change due to the nature of volunteers. CombatAUS and JA will notify the JA membership of any changes in membership of the NCP via an announcement on the CombatAUS and JA websites at the earliest opportunity.

## **Conditions of Categorisation**

- 4.1. To be categorised and/or maintain categorisation, an Athlete must comply at all times with the following conditions:
  - a) sign and adhere to CombatAUS and/or JA Team Member Agreements (as amended from time to time);
  - b) conduct oneself in a manner that complies with the CombatAUS/JA High Performance Program Activity Code of Conduct (as amended from time to time);
  - c) sign and adhere to an Individual Performance Plan (IPP) that has been agreed between the Athlete, their club coach and the CombatAUS Judo Technical Director;
  - d) complete, sign and return paperwork as required, committing to the requirements for categorisation;
  - e) provide to the HP Team the Athlete's current contact details (name, address, email address, best telephone/mobile number, passport number and expiry date, IJF Card, contact details of parent/guardian of Athlete (if the Athlete is under 18 years of age)) and promptly advise the HP Team of any changes to these contact details;
  - f) participate in CombatAUS/JA Training Camps (as required);
  - g) compete at the National Championships, if not engaged in National Team activities;
  - h) compete in domestic events as outlined in their IPP;
  - i) compete at international events for Australia as outlined in their IPP;
  - j) compete (if selected) for any Benchmark Event for Australia;
  - k) maintain personal private health insurance to ensure access to medical services as required;



- I) comply with all anti-doping requirements for Judo, CombatAUS, JA and the ASC including completion of e-learning modules and updates as required from time to time.

### **Factors taken into account in JA Categorisation**

- 5.1. In determining an athlete's current performance standard and future Olympic/Paralympic podium potential the NCP must take into account the following factors in assessing Athletes who have the best chance of contributing to the achievement of CombatAUS and JA's High Performance goals:
  - a) recent international competition performance measured against the relevant Key Performance Indicators as set out in Schedule 1 with a particular emphasis on the quality of opposition, percentage of wins, placing achieved and progression on WRL;
  - b) any specific guidance from the AIS (as advised from time to time) on Athlete Categorisation;
  - c) during the 12 months prior to categorisation the extent to which the athlete has:
    - i. demonstrated a strong commitment to all national training and attended all national camps to which invited;
    - ii. if funded (i.e. any contribution to travel and accommodation), participated in all international competitions and camps for which selected; and
  - d) an Athlete's compliance with the conditions set out in paragraph 4.1 (above).
- 5.2. The NCP may, at its sole discretion, use a number of additional factors in assessing athletes potential for future Olympic/Paralympic podium success, including (without limitation):
  - a) consistency in results and ability to repeat World Class results and deliver performances under pressure;
  - b) rankings of and performance against opponents on the IJF World Ranking List (WRL);
  - c) an Athlete's technical, tactical, physical and mental performance and ability as determined by the NCP through assessment against the JA athlete profiling tool;
  - d) an Athlete's ongoing commitment and application, including communication with national coaches, adherence to IPPs, motivation to succeed and use of available resources within a daily training environment to increase performance;
  - e) an Athlete's commitment to the level of training necessary to achieve the desired performance;



- f) the depth and quality of talent in each event here in Australia in comparison to our international competitors;
  - g) the athlete's age, with a particular and increased focus on junior and cadet international results (World Championships, Asian Championships and European Cups) in informing decisions for categorisation at Emerging and Developing;
  - h) Variance in depth/strength of field between weight categories and genders – there are notable differences in the number of competitors between different divisions (e.g. between 73kg males and +100kg males, or between lightweight men compared to lightweight women). This difference occurs locally (i.e. in Australia and Oceania), but also to a slightly lesser extent internationally. As a result, it is difficult to compare directly between categories - i.e. a top 16 finish in one weight division in a competition may mean something very different from a top 16 finish in another weight division at the same competition; and
  - i) noting that Judo is a sport which is very demanding in terms of physical load on the body and hence has a relatively high incidence of periods of injury and drop-out, the impact of any serious physical injury on the Athlete's ability to compete during the 12 month period prior to categorisation. It is the responsibility of any Athlete to notify the HP Team of any serious physical injury that may be impairing their ability to compete.
- 5.3. Depending on the stage in the Olympic cycle, the Panel may, in its sole discretion, give greater weighting to particular factors.
- 5.4. The "Commonwealth Medal Potential" category has been introduced to identify those Athletes who do not currently satisfy the criteria to be categorised on the Podium Pathway but who demonstrate the potential for medal success at the next Commonwealth Games.

## **Associated Policies**

- 6.1. The NCP recognise athletes who are identified as contributing to the performance outcomes of the sport at the next pinnacle event (Olympic & Paralympic Games) where one of the following may apply:
- a) An athlete is recovering from major injury or illness.
  - b) An athlete is taking time away from competition.
  - c) An athlete is transitioning into a sport from another;
  - d) An athlete is pregnant; or
  - e) An athlete is transitioning out of competitive sport (retirement or non-selection resulting in non-categorisation)

**a) Athletes recovering from major injury or illness**

The NCP recognise that an athlete may still be a contributor to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event despite suffering/recovering from a major injury or illness.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Pre-injury/illness the athlete is categorised AND was receiving dAIS support;
- Has an individual athlete performance plan with a return to competition focus and timeframes outlined – including working with the AW&E team member (or equivalent).
- Is meeting the requirements of the agreed rehabilitation plan; and
- Is tracking against rehabilitation benchmarks to achieve pre-injury/illness performance outcomes.

**b) Athletes taking time away from competition**

The NCP recognise that on occasion, to contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event, an athlete may require some time away from competition for family, health and/or wellbeing reasons.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to taking some time away, the athlete is categorised AND was receiving dAIS support in the past 12 months.
- Has an individual athlete performance plan focusing on maintaining physical and mental wellbeing as it aligns to the sports needs and performance standards.
- Has an agreed return to sport and competition plan including timeframes and regular pre-determined meetings scheduled with the sport PD (or equivalent); and
- Maintains contact with AW&E staff (or equivalent) on a regular basis to ensure athletes are focussed on maintaining their wellbeing.

**c) Athlete transitioning into a sport from another**

The NCP recognise that on occasion, high performing athletes may transition into a sport from another with the expectation they will contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event of the new sport. Usually, a high performing athlete would only transition into a new sport if there was a strong likelihood of success.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should be identified within the NEW sport, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- the athlete was categorised in the previous sport in the past 24 months.
- Has an individual athlete performance plan focusing on contributing to the national performance targets at the pinnacle event within a 4-year period; and



- The athlete has an individual performance plan with the new sport, agreed milestones and is meeting progression targets.

**d) Athletes who are pregnant**

The NCP recognise that athletes may take some time away from intense training and competition when they become pregnant or have recently given birth. These athletes may still be on track to contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to becoming pregnant, the athlete was categorised AND was receiving dAIS support in the past 12 months.
- Has an individual athlete performance plan focusing on maintaining physical and mental wellbeing as it aligns to the sports needs and informed by specific medical advice as it relates to pregnancy.
- Has an agreed return to sport and competition plan including timeframes and regular pre-determined meetings scheduled with the sport PD (or equivalent); and
- Maintains contact with AW&E staff (or equivalent) on a regular basis to ensure athletes are focussed on maintaining their overall wellbeing.

**e) Athletes who are transitioning out of competitive sport (retirement or non-selection resulting in non-categorisation).**

Athletes in this category, with a history of contributing to sport outcomes, may be eligible for half an allocation of dAIS on the recommendation of the NCP.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category may still be eligible for dAIS for a period of 6 months if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to transitioning out of competitive sport, the athlete was categorised as podium, podium ready or podium potential AND be receiving dAIS support in the past 12 months.
- The athlete has developed a transition plan with a member of the sport specific AW&E team (or equivalent) and meets regularly focussing on maintaining their wellbeing during the transition; and
- The NCP require that the athlete contributes to the sport in a specific way as part of being nominated for dAIS e.g., speaking at camps, promo material for upcoming events, inclusion in formal or informal mentoring programs, developing a plan to transition to sport specific coaching/administration/support services etc.



## Timing of Reviews

- 7.1. Athlete categorisation will take place every 12 months (year-end process) and is applicable to the following calendar year. It is expected that most athletes will enter, move between or exit categories in line with this schedule. The list of categorised athletes will be published on the CombatAUS and JA websites following each round of categorisation.
- 7.2. In exceptional circumstances, the NCP may (in its sole discretion) approve Athletes entering, moving between categories, or exiting the categories at other times. Such circumstances may include (without limitation) failing to comply with these Guidelines, retirement, arrival from overseas but with eligibility to compete for Australia, substantial performance gains etc.

## Appeals

- 8.1. Only athletes who have previously been categorised may request reconsideration of the decision regarding their exit from categorisation or their change of categorisation level (Request). This Request must be put in writing to the CombatAUS High Performance Director. In their Request, the athlete must address either or both of the following grounds for reconsideration, namely that the NCP (a) made an error of fact, or (b) failed to consider a relevant performance standard. The Request must be made within seven days of the notification to the affected athlete.

Upon receipt of a valid Request, the CombatAUS High Performance Director will ask the Independent Observer to review the athlete's Request. Following this review, the Independent Observer may invite the NCP to reconsider their decision or may request the NCP to provide further detail to the athlete addressing its concerns and/or the reasons for the NCP panel's decision. The Independent Observer should provide reasons for their decision to the affected athlete and NCP.

For the avoidance of doubt:

- a) The Independent Observer is not entitled to make or substitute selection decisions; any changes would need to be made by the NCP.
- b) Athletes are not entitled to appeal against the categorisation of any other athlete.
- c) There is no further avenue of appeal.

## Amendments

- 9.1. These Guidelines may be varied from time to time by CombatAUS and JA. Any updates will be published on the CombatAUS and JA websites.

## Judo Athlete Categories 2020 – 2024

### Schedule 1:

Podium Pathway Category	Athlete Category Description	Key Performance Indicators	Time in Category
Podium	<p>Medallist at Olympic/Paralympic Games or Senior World Championships in the previous 24 months</p> <p>Athletes are assessed against factors outlined at 5.1 through 5.4, and are deemed capable of a podium outcome at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games</p>	<p><b>Compulsory for consideration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medallist at Olympic Games or Senior World Championship</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of medal performances at Grand Slams and Grand Prix events within last 12 months (dependent on depth of field)</li> <li>• # of wins against Top 10 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months</li> <li>• Medal winning performances in 50% of events in the 12-24 months prior to Olympic/Paralympic Games</li> </ul>	<p>Undefined – until no longer meeting the KPIs for Podium categorisation.</p> <p>Must show improvement in the areas identified in the IP</p>
Podium Ready	<p>5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> at the most recent Olympic/ Paralympic Games or Senior World Championships, and/or</p> <p>Top 8 on the IJF Senior WRL at the time of categorisation</p> <p>Athletes are assessed against factors outlined at 5.1 through 5.4, and are deemed capable of a podium outcome at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games</p>	<p><b>Compulsory for consideration:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 8 placing at the last benchmark event, and/or</li> <li>• Top 8 on the IJF Senior WRL</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medallist at Senior Asian-Oceania Championships</li> <li>• Medallist at Grand Slam/Grand Prix events</li> <li>• # of wins against Top 10 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months</li> <li>• Win/loss % across all International events</li> </ul> <p>Must show improvement in the areas identified in the IP</p>	<p>Undefined – until progressing to Podium categorisation; or until no longer meeting the KPIs for Podium Ready categorisation.</p>

Podium Potential	<p>Senior athletes that have achieved defined international competition performance benchmarks that reliably confirm their world standard.</p> <p>Athletes are assessed against factors outlined at 5.1 through 5.4, and are deemed capable of a podium outcomes at future Olympic/ Paralympic Games</p>	<p><b>Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medallist at Senior Asian-Oceania Championships</li> <li>• Medallist at Grand Slam/Grand Prix events</li> <li>• Top 16 at Senior World Championships</li> <li>• # of top 8 placings at Grand Slam and Grand Prix events (dependent on depth of field)</li> <li>• # of wins against Top 20 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months</li> <li>• Win/loss % across all International events</li> </ul>	<p>May stay at this category for up to 4 years</p>
Developing	<p>Athletes that have progressed through a reliable national talent confirmation phase, including achievement of relevant international competitions performance outcomes.</p> <p>Athletes are assessed against factors outlined at 5.1 through 5.4, and are deemed capable of a podium outcomes at future Olympic/ Paralympic Games and Senior World Championships.</p>	<p><b>Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of medal performances at Junior and Senior Continental Open events (excl OJU Open and dependent on depth of field)</li> <li>• Medallist at Junior Asian-Oceania Championships</li> <li>• Top 8 at Junior World Championships</li> <li>• # of top 8 placings at Grand Slam, Grand Prix and Asian Oceania Championships events (dependent on depth of field)</li> <li>• # of wins against Top 40 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months</li> <li>• Win/loss % across all International events</li> </ul>	<p>May stay at this category for up to 4 years.</p>
Emerging	<p>Athletes who has been identified by JA/CombatAUS via a valid and reliable talent identification profiling method and are going through a set, time-limited talent confirmation period.</p>	<p><b>Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 8 at Cadet World Championships</li> <li>• # of Top 8 placing at Cadet, Junior and Senior European Cups (depending on depth of field)</li> <li>• # of Top 8 placings at Junior and Senior Continental Open events (excluding OJU Open and dependent on depth of field)</li> </ul>	<p>Cadet/junior athletes may stay at this category for up to 4 years.</p> <p>Senior athletes may stay at this category for a maximum of 2 years.</p>

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Non-Podium Pathway Category	Athlete Category Description	Key Performance Indicators	Time in Category
Commonwealth Games Medal Potential	<p>Athlete who does not satisfy any of the Podium Pathway category criteria but has demonstrated potential for medal success at the next Commonwealth Games</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of wins against Top 50 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months</li> <li>• Win/loss % across all International events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has international experience but not progressed to podium pathway results</li> <li>• Win/loss % against athletes of Commonwealth Countries, and other international performances</li> <li>• Winner of most domestic events</li> <li>• Number one in Australia on the National Points Table for their division</li> </ul>	<p>Must show improvement in the areas identified in the IP</p> <p>Undefined - until progressing into the Podium Pathway; or until no longer meeting the KPIs for CWG Medal Potential.</p> <p>Must show improvement in the areas identified in the IP</p>