



HEAD COVERING POLICY

Head covering for Religious purposes

April 2023



1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to permit judoka to wear certain permitted head coverings while playing judo, including during sanctioned competitions, where such individuals wear head covering for religious purposes.

The reason for this this policy is to encourage participation (both within clubs and at JA sanctioned competitions) from within certain religious communities and supports Judo Australia's strategic goal of 'Judo being a sport for all'.

2. Judo Australia Sporting Code (Reference)

The following sections sets out the Judo Australia policy which items are also referenced in the Judo Australia Sporting Code (JA Sporting Code) April 2023.

2.1 Rule 6.28: Approved head-covering Players who need to wear a head covering in their normal daily routines for religious reasons will be allowed to do so in all JA sanctioned competitions provided that the head covering meets the criteria set out in Appendix 18.

2.2 Attachment 8 (Coaches code of conduct) of the JA Sporting Code

The following are forbidden at any time: short trousers, singlets, sunglasses, undressed upper body, any kind of headcaps and cover (unless such head coverings are required to be worn in the person's normal daily routines for religious reasons, and are expressly permitted under section 6 of the JA Sporting Code), or, flip-flops.

2.3 Appendix 18 - Appendix 18 Players who need to wear a head covering in their normal daily routines for religious reasons will be allowed to do so in all JA sanctioned competitions provided that the head covering meets the following criteria:

3. The material used shall be clean and tidy which does not have any strong safety issues such things as getting fingers caught and causing injury.



4. The tying of the headwear may not include any hard or metallic objects.
5. The player wearing the covering may not wear any hard or metallic objects underneath the covering.
6. The covering will be of a single colour which is the player's personal choice.
7. No additional padding or other materials will be worn in addition to the headwear garment.
8. Players must enter and leave the field of play wearing their head covering in the proper way. If the head covering becomes disarranged during the contest, the judoka is obliged to quickly rearrange it back to the correct position. This can be between mate and hajime or during any break in action. The referee will award a penalty (shido or hansoku-make if it is the third penalties) towards the contestant(s) who does not re-adjust their judogi correctly between the mate and the subsequent hajime.
9. Should either player deliberately remove the headwear of either player without the referee's permission, this will incur a Shido.
10. Retying and arranging a headwear is allowed once per judoka, per contest. Further occasions are penalised with Shido.
11. No branding or advertising will be allowed on the headwear; it must be a plain single colour.
12. 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).
13. 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.
14. In all events organised by International Federations or other National Federations, the rules of the organising Federation will be applicable.

15. Before the start of the contest, a visual inspection should be enough to check that the headwear complies with the rules. Referees should not touch a player's headwear and must not request that it be removed (it remains a disqualifiable offence to wear a hard or metallic object).

16. The referee should interpret these rule adjustments in line with JA's broad intention to be inclusive and widen participation, provided the safety of both players is protected.

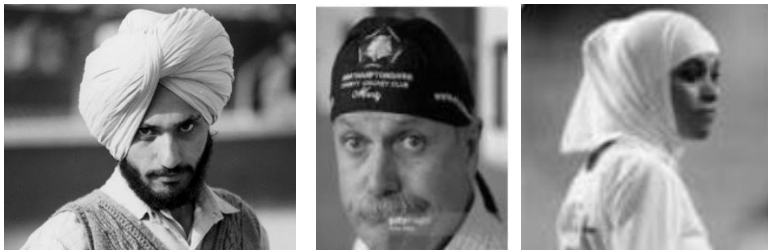
HEADWEAR EXAMPLES

The following examples show types of headwear in keeping with the criteria above and should be permitted: (in the second picture below the tying covers the neck and should not be approved)

APPROVED



NOT APPROVED



CLUB ENVIRONMENT

Member clubs are required to, at a minimum, permit religious headwear meeting the above requirements. However, they may relax these requirements at their discretion provided the headwear remains safe to wear in the club environment.