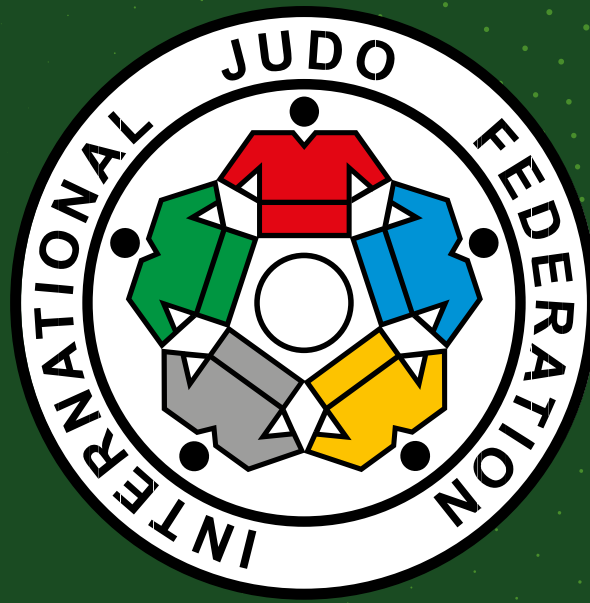


INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION



**SAFEGUARDING
PARTICIPANTS IN JUDO FROM
HARASSMENT AND ABUSE**

Original version in English
Version January 2025



Safeguarding participants in judo from harassment and abuse

Released by:	IJF Safeguarding Officers
Reviewed by*:	IJF General Secretariat, IJF Data Protection Officer, IJF Head of International Relations
Mandatory revision:	No
Recipient:	All those involved in the IJF and its affiliated structures
Qualification:	Unlimited distribution
Version:	2.0 (January 2025)
Validity:	Until withdrawn/modified
Number of attachments:	0
Issuing language:	English
Legally binding language version:	English

***The IJF reserves the right to review and amend this Policy at any time at its sole discretion. Any change will be communicated prior to the date of effect.**



Table of Contents

Preamble	4
1. Introduction.....	4
2. Purpose of the Policy	4
3. Scope of the Policy.....	4
4. Definition of Harassment and Abuse.....	5
5. Impact on Participants.....	6
6. Roles and Responsibilities.....	6
7. Reports, Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures	7
8. Educational and Related Resources.....	7
9. Glossary.....	7



Preamble

At the end of the 19th century Jigoro Kano developed a new school of jujutsu, that he called “judo”, different from the other martial arts Japanese school “ryu” by its aims. Like the other schools, judo cultivated maximal efficiency, but the goal was not the same. Judo for “the improvement of man and society” is a method of physical, intellectual and moral education, by the practice of a martial art.

Today, judo is practised all over the world by several million people and the International Judo Federation (IJF) is recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

1. Introduction

The IJF is a non-for-profit organisation founded for an unlimited period of time and governed by Hungarian law.

The IJF believes that it is a fundamental right of all athletes, staff and volunteers to be able to participate and develop in a non-violent, safe and respectful environment, free from all forms of discrimination, violence, neglect and exploitation.

All forms of harassment and abuse, especially against participants with vulnerabilities, such as minors, para-athletes and ethnic minorities, constitute a violation of the IJF Code of Ethics and the IOC Code of Ethics.

The IJF acknowledges its duty of care in this regard and is committed to creating and supporting an environment, and a culture, free from harassment and abuse. The welfare of all individuals involved with the IJF is paramount and behaviour and actions that constitute harassment and abuse will not be tolerated.

The IJF has adopted this policy to promote good practice, to provide athletes of all ages with appropriate safety and protection whilst involved in judo activities, and to allow staff and volunteers to make informed decisions about specific safeguarding issues.

2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of IJF to safeguarding. The goal of the IJF in the field of violence, harassment and abuse is to:

- Raise awareness on prevention of harassment, abuse and violence among all IJF bodies and populations,
- Raise awareness, clarify, educate all populations on what is considered to be harassment, abuse and violence,
- Provide information on the alert process and the management of cases of harassment, abuse and violence,
- Establish a safe environment for all those involved in the field of judo.

3. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all those involved in the IJF and its affiliated structures, namely:

- Athletes,
- Coaches, medicals, staff and entourage of judoka,
- Technical staff, such as referees, organisers and technicians,
- The managers from world level to local level (clubs, associations or individual structures of judoka),
- All accredited persons or stakeholders in the events of all structures in connection with the IJF (training, organisation, etc.).



4. Definition of Harassment and Abuse

The IJF has adopted the definitions of harassment and abuse as set out in the **IOC Consensus Statement 2016**.

Harassment and abuse can be expressed in five forms which may occur in combination or in isolation.

These include :

- psychological abuse,
- physical abuse,
- exual harassment,
- sexual abuse,
- neglect.

These forms of abuse are defined here as:

- Psychological abuse** — a pattern of deliberate, prolonged, repeated non-contact behaviours that target a person's inner life in all its profound scope, including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilisation, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth of a participant.
- Physical abuse** — means any deliberate and unwelcome act – such as punching, slapping, beating, kicking, biting and burning – that causes physical trauma or injury. Such an act can also consist of forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g., age-, or physique-inappropriate training loads; when injured or in pain), forced alcohol consumption, or forced doping practices.
- Sexual harassment** — any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical. Sexual harassment can take the form of sexual abuse.
- Sexual abuse** — any conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact or penetrative, where consent is coerced/manipulated or is not or cannot be given.
- Neglect** — within the meaning of this document means the failure of a coach or another person with a duty of care towards the participant to provide a minimum level of care to the participant, which is causing harm, allowing harm to be caused or creating an imminent danger of harm.

Harassment and abuse can be based on any grounds including race, religion, colour, creed, ethnic origin, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status and athletic ability. It may be in person or online.

Harassment and abuse often result from an abuse of authority, meaning the improper use of a position of influence, power or authority by an individual against another natural person.

The IOC Consensus Statements 2008/2016, consider that “harassment and abuse are on a continuum and, therefore, should not be separated”.

Harassment and abuse can include a one-off incident or a series of incidents but to be actionable, harassment should be shown to be severe or repeated. All ages and types of participants are susceptible to the various forms of harassment and abuse with elite, disabled, children and LGBT participants being at the highest risk.



5. Impact on Participants

The impact of the various forms of harassment and abuse on a participant may include any or all:

- Physical e.g., illnesses and injuries, loss of performance, eating disorders, sexually transmitted infections, post-traumatic stress disorder,
- Emotional e.g., volatile mood states,
- Behavioural e.g., drop out of the sport / competition, potential for cheating,
- Mental health / cognitive e.g., anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicide, low self-esteem,
- Effect on relationships e.g., belittling, social exclusion.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

6.1 The IJF is responsible for:

- Implementing this policy and appointing a Safeguarding Officer(s).
- Raising awareness of this policy and the procedure for reporting an incident of harassment and/or abuse, across all participants of IJF activities.
- Ensuring that reports of harassment and/or abuse that are brought to its attention are managed in a timely, fair and responsible manner.
- Providing appropriate support to concerned participants of an alleged incident of harassment or abuse.
- Providing reassurance to those who are concerned about a possible alleged incident that personal information will not be disclosed, except, for example, if the concerned person gives their prior consent.
- Imposing appropriate disciplinary or corrective measures when there has been a violation of this policy.
- Ensuring that there is a safeguarding plan and reporting procedure in place at all IJF managed events underlining the commitment of the IJF to ensure that participants know that their safety and welfare are of paramount importance.
- Providing and raising awareness of suitable educational resources and training opportunities for participants.
- Updating the policy and related procedures when appropriate.

6.2 The IJF Member National Federations are responsible for:

- Defining and implementing their own policies and procedures to protect their athletes, staff and volunteers from harassment and abuse, adapted to their own national legal framework and consistent with the IJF policy. It is recommended to use the IOC Safeguarding Toolkit referenced in section 8 of this policy when developing local national policies and procedures.
- Managing reports of alleged incidents of harassment and abuse relating to persons that are members of their national federation, through their regional bodies or clubs, including athletes, staff and volunteers.
- Ensuring all participants representing their federation in an IJF activity, are aware of and understand the IJF Policy on Safeguarding Participants in Judo from Harassment and Abuse.
- Advising the IJF of any formal disciplinary sanctions relating to harassment and abuse imposed by the member federation, and of any suspensions where the individual may present a risk to IJF participants at that time or in the future.

6.3 Participants are responsible for:

- Taking action to safeguard others against harassment and abuse in judo and for taking immediate action once it has been identified regardless of whether a complaint has been made.
- Reporting their concerns to the IJF Safeguarding Officer(s) or appropriate Designated Person where they have reason to believe that another participant has experienced or is experiencing harassment and/or abuse. Information should be shared on a strict 'needs to know' basis only. The person making a report should keep a confidential note of the information they have passed on and to whom.
- Advising IJF of any formal disciplinary sanctions relating to harassment and abuse that they have received.

All those involved in IJF activities have a responsibility to learn how to recognise and respond to signs of harassment and abuse as well as reporting and acting on any concerns.



7. Reports, Investigation and Disciplinary Procedures

The IJF put in place a reporting platform where anyone can report anonymously any form of harassment and abuse:
<https://reportabuse.judobase.org/form>

Each report is treated with the utmost discretion by the IJF Safeguarding Officer(s), and the investigation is conducted according to the applicable IJF procedures.

If a disciplinary action is initiated based on investigations, it will be led in compliance with the "IJF Disciplinary Code".

If during the investigation any suspicion of a law violation or any other criminal offense occurs, the IJF will immediately notify the relevant authorities.

8. Educational and Related Resources

8.1 IOC "Safeguarding Toolkit" document

The IOC "Safeguarding Toolkit" has been created to help the Olympic Movement to develop and implement athlete-safeguarding policies and procedures.

8.2 IOC Tools for Athletes

To complement the IOC "Toolkit" and ensure that athletes, their entourage and other individuals understand the core components of this sensitive topic, the IOC developed athlete safeguarding e-learning courses, launched on the IOC athlete learning gateway which are free and publicly available (<http://onlinecourse.olympic.org/course/baseview.php?id=39>).

8.3 Additional Resources

- IJF Code of Ethics,
- IOC Consensus Statement 2016: Harassment and Abuse in Sport,
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child,
- International Safeguarding Children in Sport guidelines (with resources available in several languages),
- The Council of Europe: Article 1; (ii) of the European Sports Charter (version dated 2001),
- UNESCO: Article 10.1 of the Revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport (version dated 2015),
- United Nations Declaration of Human Rights,
- Safe Sport International.

9. Glossary

Abuse

Abuse is defined as any action that intentionally harms or injures another person. It is also referred to as non-accidental violence.

Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines child as "a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier". Early childhood relates to those below 8 years of age. Juvenile or young person and adolescents are 10-19 years of age.

Designated Person

A Designated Person is an appropriately trained person who oversees safeguarding responsibilities at an IJF event and reports to the Safeguarding Officer(s).

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of vulnerable adults or children and protect them from harm, including protecting them from harassment and abuse.

Safeguarding Officer

The Safeguarding Officer is the main person in the organisation who receives reports concerning the welfare of participants, who coordinates the management of the reports and responds to queries in relation to this policy.



IJF Headquarters and Presidential Office

József Attila Street 1
Budapest 1051
Hungary
www.ijf.org

IJF General Secretariat

József Attila Street 1
Budapest 1051
Hungary
gs@ijf.org