

GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION



Chair: CORAK Sanda

Members: ALLAN Lisa, BIRO Rozalia-Ibolya, CORKERY Kate, KARAKAS Hedvig, KISS Larisa, PRIDGEON Estony, ROUGE Jean-Luc, SANTAELLA Katiuska, SOUAKRI Salima, WAGNER Anna-Maria

Introduction

In the period 2023–2024, the IJF Gender Equality Commission had the following members: Lisa Allan, Larisa Kiss, Estony Pridgeon, Biro Rozalia-Ibolya, Kate Corkery, Hedvig Karakas, Santaella Katiuska, Jean-Luc Rouge, Salima Souakri and Anna-Maria Wagner, with Sanda Corak as commission chair.

GEC Activities – Round Tables

A virtual meeting of the GEC was held in 2023, followed by two virtual round tables with the main aim of discussing possible obstacles for women when working in judo, but also to illustrate the projects and activities that proved to be successful. As the number of women in different positions rose, I wanted to organise the third round table in 2024 with women who became presidents of national judo federations – as there was a poor response, this round table was postponed.

GEC Activities - Statistics

As stated in the GEC Strategy, we use the data from Judobase as our source, every two years, so we can make conclusions about the level of inclusion and percentage share of women in different positions.

IJF gender statistics

Retrieved from IJF Judobase, April 2024

Position	Women	Men	Total	2022-2024 shift in %
Athletes (active)	5243 (33.25%)	10523 (66.75%)	15766 (100.00%)	+ 7.01
Coaches (active)	346 (12.88%)	2548 (87.12%)	2925 (100.00%)	- 0.84
Referees	171 (23.04%)	571 (76.96%)	742 (100.00%)	- 1.49
NF presidents	18 (9.23%)	177 (90.77%)	195 (100.00%)	+ 1.19
NF general secretaries	46 (23.83%)	147 (76.17%)	193 (100.00%)	+ 0.3

From the numbers drawn from Judobase, presented in the above table, it is clear that women have smaller shares in every position in judo. The expected result is that athletes are those most represented in the overall judo population (33%), followed by IJF referees (23%) and administrators (general secretaries – 24%). Coaches and women in leadership positions (presidents of national judo federations) are most underrepresented (13% and 9% respectively). The last column in the above table illustrates the shift that happened in the period from 2022 to 2024. Again, the biggest growth is recorded in the athlete population, as winning medals on the IJF World Judo Tour is among the main goals of all national federations.



The IJF Gender Equality Commission collaborates with the national judo federations and continental unions to remove the obstacles for more pronounced involvement of women in judo, ensuring the necessary initial conditions that all genders need for progress and success in their fields of activity.

Promotion of Judo as Self-defence for Women

The IJF Academy has launched an interesting and complex project, 'Self-defence for Women.' The project includes judo techniques and principles that benefit the female population on several levels. The first level is the concept of physical activity with basic judo techniques and movements, while the following levels move towards specific self-defence goals. The system uses a small number of techniques adapted to a large number of situations. The entire programme was filmed at the Fighting Films studio in Bristol, UK. The video was filmed with IJF Academy experts: world champion Daniela Krukower, world and Olympic champion Tina Trstenjak, and Olympic champion Giulia Quintavalle, under the guidance of Dr Slavisa Bradic. The programme has been written and the videos are almost ready for release.

The 'Guardian Girls in Judo' project ran a pilot during the Abu Dhabi World Championships. Larisa Kiss organised it with students of the Sorbonne University in Abu Dhabi. Salima Souakri and Sabrina Filzmoser gave an introduction to the training session with emotional illustrations from their life experiences with judo. Hedvig Karakas and Denisa Deliu delivered the exercises having trained previously with IJF expert Dr S. Bradic.

Co-operation with the IJF Academy

The IJF offered 5 scholarships for women interested in the IJF Academy courses, selected by their continental union presidents. As many women coming from diverse regions, where judo is less developed, expressed their interest in education, this kind of support is needed and very important.

Media Contribution

Inspired by many women judoka, coaches, referees and officials, Jo Crowley and Nicolas Messner wrote numerous articles published on the IJF website, especially during 2024. All topics were tackled, from gender equality projects and inclusion projects to personal stories of women who are role models for the younger generations of women to come.

Titles of some of the articles:

- Akyama Hinako, Kodokan Judo Instructor : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/akyama-hinako-kodokan-judo-instructor>
- Gender Equality Reaches the Stars in Paris : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/gender-equality-reaches-the-stars-in-paris-2024>
- Ryoko Tani: The Importance of Judo for Women and For All : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/gender-equality-reaches-the-stars-in-paris-2024>
- Sanda Corak has Many Reasons to Enjoy Judo : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/sanda-corak-has-many-reasons-to-enjoy-judo>
- Salima Souakri Promotes Gender Equality : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/salima-souakri-promotes-gender-equality>
- Sierra Leone: Investing in Women : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/sierra-leone-investing-in-women>
- Coming Soon: The IJF Self-Defence Programme : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/coming-soon-the-ijf-self-defence-programme>
- Promoting Equality in Judo: the Example of Benin : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/promoting-equality-in-judo-the-example-of-benin>
- A Samurai in Abu Dhabi : <https://www.ijf.org/news/show/a-samurai-in-abu-dhabi>



Overall Achievements

Gender equality should not be a topic only for the Gender Equality Commission as different areas need to be included. I would like to thank Nicolas Messner as the project leader of the Judo for Peace project, and Dr Slavisa Bradic of the IJF Academy for always embracing gender equality conversations and projects and for promoting judo for women in their projects.