



INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE JUDO FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE JUDO

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Sport in the
Olympic programme

International Judo Federation Disciplinary Committee

Mr Alexis LANDAIS (President)

Mr Tsegaye DEGINEH (Vice-President)

Mr Hirofumi OTSUJI (Member)

Case Number DIS2026-03

Decision

Preamble – The Charge and the Legal Basis

The Disciplinary Committee recalls the disciplinary proceedings initiated by its Chairperson, pursuant to Article 16 of the IJF Disciplinary Code (version 4 May 2023) (hereinafter "the Code"), against Mr [REDACTED], athlete of the [REDACTED] Judo Federation, born on [REDACTED] (hereinafter "the Defendant"), with respect to an incident which occurred on 22 August 2026 during the Cadets World Championships, Guayaquil 2026.

The Committee recalls that the Defendant has been charged as follows:

By refusing to leave the mat, you have committed a potential violation of the IJF Sports and Organisational Rules (SOR), version 14 August 2026:

Section 1.1.1 Behaviour at IJF Events

Everyone attending an IJF WJT event should always be mindful of their behaviour, following the judo values. Unacceptable behaviour, violence or aggression will not be tolerated. Any athlete who disrespects their opponent at the end of a contest risks disqualification, removal of prize money and of World Ranking List (WRL) points and a disciplinary action may be initiated. Disciplinary action will be taken against any athlete refusing to leave the tatami. If a coach is present in the coaches' chair he must intervene otherwise he will also face disciplinary action. If a coach is not present in the chair the IJF Education Commission will intervene to remove the athlete from the tatami.



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The Committee recalls the report of the IJF Ad Hoc Commission dated 22 August 2026, stating that:

Following his defeat in the [REDACTED] contest against Artem [REDACTED] athlete [REDACTED] displayed unsportsmanlike and inappropriate conduct on the tatami. Immediately after the referee announced the decision, [REDACTED] refused to leave the mat and visibly expressed his disagreement with the outcome of the contest. He raised his hands apparently contesting the referee's interpretation of the action. He repeatedly mimed the seoi nage technique and made gestures indicating he was requesting a video review of the action. As he was leaving the field of play he kicked an advertising board. Despite multiple requests from the referee, the athlete delayed leaving the mat drawing attention from the audience and disrupted the normal flow of the event. During the hearing, the athlete's coach conveyed his apologies to the ad hoc commission while the athlete did not express any apology for his behaviour.

Procedure

As the Defendant is a minor, the notice of initiation of the proceedings, together with the report of the IJF Ad Hoc Commission and the video evidence referred to therein, was served on the Defendant and on his legal representative through the [REDACTED] Judo Federation, in accordance with Article 18.1 of the Code. The Defendant was informed of his rights pursuant to Article 26.4 of the Code and invited to present his position either by attending a hearing by videoconference or by submitting a written statement.

Within the time limit set, the Defendant elected to present his position in writing and submitted a letter of apology to the Committee, which constitutes a statement of the person subject to the proceedings within the meaning of Article 26.1 of the Code.

The Committee deliberated in a non-public session on 26 September 2026, in accordance with Article 35.2 of the Code.

Findings

The Committee is competent under Article 9.2 of the Code, the conduct having been committed by an athlete registered by a Member of the IJF at an event of the IJF Competition System (Articles 1.2 (v) and 1.5 of the Code).

The Committee has based its decision on the following evidence: the **report of the IJF Ad Hoc Commission** dated 22 August 2026, the **video recording of the incident** and the **written statement of the Defendant**. No evidence was excluded and no request for evidence was rejected.



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The video evidence shows that, after the referee announced the decision, the Defendant did not leave the mat despite the referee's repeated requests, contested the decision publicly by raising his hands, repeatedly miming a seoi nage and gesturing for a video review, and kicked an advertising board while leaving the field of play. These facts are established beyond reasonable doubt (Article 22.4 of the Code). The acknowledgement expressed in the Defendant's letter of apology is corroborated by this evidence, as required by Article 26.3 of the Code.

The Committee believes that among the main characteristics that distinguish judo from other sports is its insistence on respect, and on proper and self-controlled behaviour on the tatami, including towards the referee and the decisions taken. This concept is a fundamental element of what is known as "the spirit of judo".

Disappointment after a defeat is understandable. The offence lies in the Defendant's deliberate refusal to leave the tatami despite repeated instructions, in the prolonged public contestation of the referee's authority and in the kick directed at event equipment. By this conduct, the Defendant culpably breached Section 1.1.1 of the SOR and thereby committed a disciplinary offence within the meaning of Article 3.1 of the Code.

Sanction

In accordance with Articles 6.1 and 6.2 of the Code, the sanction must be proportionate to the seriousness of the offence, the degree of fault and the circumstances of the case.

As aggravating circumstances, the Committee notes that the Defendant disregarded the repeated instructions of the referee, that his conduct included a physical act against event equipment, that it occurred before the public at a World Championships and disrupted the normal flow of the event, and that he did not express any apology before the IJF Ad Hoc Commission.

As mitigating circumstances, the Committee notes that the Defendant was [REDACTED] years old at the time of the facts; that the conduct occurred in the immediate emotional aftermath of a World Championships quarter final; that it was not accompanied by any aggression towards a person and no damage has been reported; that his coach apologised on his behalf on the day; and that the Defendant has since offered a written acknowledgement of his undue behaviour and apologised. The Committee has not been informed of any previous disciplinary sanction imposed on the Defendant.

The Committee considers that a verbal warning would not reflect the seriousness of the conduct, which the IJF Ad Hoc Commission already considered to call for disciplinary proceedings. It considers, on the other hand, that a ban from competition would be disproportionate for a first offence committed by a minor without aggression towards any person. A written reprimand marks the gravity of the conduct while respecting the educational purpose appropriate to a young athlete.



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Decision

For these reasons, the IJF Disciplinary Committee decides:

1. The Defendant, Mr [REDACTED], has committed a disciplinary offence within the meaning of Article 3.1 of the Code by breaching Section 1.1.1 of the IJF Sports and Organisational Rules at the Cadets World Championships, Guayaquil 2026, on 22 August 2026.
2. A written reprimand is imposed on the Defendant pursuant to Article 7.1 (b) of the Code.
3. No costs are charged to the Defendant.

Right of Appeal

The Defendant is informed that this decision is subject to appeal to the IJF Disciplinary Appeals Committee within fifteen (15) days of its service (Article 40.1 of the Code). The appeal shall be lodged with the Chairperson of the IJF Disciplinary Committee (Article 40.3 of the Code).

Today the 26th day of September 2026

Alexis LANDAIS

On behalf of the Disciplinary Committee