

INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION



***Special
Olympics***

JUDO

**SARAJEVO SPECIAL OLYMPICS
JUDO OPEN 2026**

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

25 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

#JudoSpecialOlympics

(Version 15 September 2026)



**@MariusVizer**

Dear national federations, dear friends,

We welcome you to Sarajevo, an accessible capital city that keeps its doors open for all branches of the judo family tree. This is a destination which will deliver excellent organisation and warm hospitality, providing our Special Olympics participants with a tried and tested venue, a place for everyone to feel is a home away from home.

We are looking forward to sharing this wonderful global event with you in the spirit of inclusion, equity and connectivity; these are principles which underpin our sport and will be celebrated under the perfect spotlight in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a Central European destination steeped in history, a place of culture and heritage openly shared with the world. Now this incredible city extends arms of friendship to our Special Olympics participants and their coaches.

Since 1968 the Special Olympics organisation has been shining a light on all that is possible when barriers to achievement, health and enjoyment are broken down and we are proud that the International Judo Federation is now an integral part of this essential sporting pathway.

I wish all our delegations, friends and the wider judo family a healthy and successful event. Sarajevo welcomes you!

Yours in judo,

Marius L. VIZER
President
International Judo Federation



Dear Judo Friends,

On behalf of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Judo Federation, I would like to welcome you to the World Judo Championships Veterans and Kata 2026 and Special Olympics 2026, one of the biggest official sports manifestation, which is being held in the Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am honoured to invite all distinguished members of the International Judo Federation and Special Olympics to our beautiful country and the Mayor City of Sarajevo where we organized these Events on September 20. – 27. 2026.

Our Federation and all persons involved in the technical organization, as always, will do their best to make the event go well.

Therefore, the Judo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a relatively young member of the IJF and EJU, but we are proud of the fact that we have so far successfully organized a large number of World Championships, European Championships, European Cups for seniors and juniors, Europe Opens and for the third time we have the honor and pleasure to host an International Judo Federation event and organized World Judo Championships Veterans and Kata 2026 and Special Olympics 2026.

I would like to thank Mr. Marius Vizer, President of the International Judo Federation for the confidence shown in the assignment of the event and the local Authorities for the support provided to the Organizers.

Ognjen PAVLOVIC
President
Judo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Dear Judo Friends,
Dear Friends of Special Olympics,

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports movement for people with intellectual disabilities, providing year-round training and competition in Olympic-type sports and promoting inclusion through sport.

In May 2025, Special Olympics International and the International Judo Federation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create more opportunities for judoka with intellectual disabilities and to strengthen inclusion within the global judo community.



We are proud to take part in the IJF World Championships Veterans and Kata and are deeply honoured to have the opportunity to be part of the IJF judo family. We thank the IJF for this important step and for making it possible, for the first time within this cooperation, for judoka with intellectual disabilities to participate in an IJF world-level event. We are pleased to have already received pre-registrations from 150 participants representing 20 nations.

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Special Olympics Bosnia and Herzegovina, who worked hand in hand with the Judo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and supported us on many levels in the planning, organization, and implementation of this special occasion.

We look forward to continuing this collaboration and to showing the world that judoka with intellectual disabilities are proud members of the global judo family, and that judo, in this context as well, is truly more than just a sport.

Miroslaw KROGULEC
Vice President, Sports and Organizational Development
Special Olympics

Cecilia EVENBLIJ
Global & SOEE Sport Advisor Judo
Special Olympics

PLEASE RESPECT ALL DEADLINES AND RULES DETAILED IN THESE OUTLINES.

1. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

During this tournament, the Special Olympics (SO) International Judo rules apply, based on the IJF rulebook. Exceptions and clarifications are listed in these outlines.

2. DEADLINES FOR DELEGATIONS

Days before Competition day 1	Deadline	Action
208	01 March 2026	Pre-registration
128	20 May 2026	Final registration for pre-registered delegations
127	21 May 2026	Re-opening of registration for unfulfilled pre-registration places
56	31 July 2026	Deadline for new registrations
105	12 June 2026	Hotel first reservation
75	12 July 2026	Visa application (with passport photocopies)
35	21 August 2026	Hotel final reservation and full payment
35	21 August 2026 (23:59 CET)	Full refund in case of hotel cancellation

3. EVENT INSCRIPTION AND ENTRY FEES

Special Olympics programs and Adaptive Judo clubs have received their quota confirmation following completion of the pre-registration. They are now invited to submit their full entries according to this quota by no later than 20 May 2026.

Registration will remain open until the final registration deadline or until the maximum number of athletes has been reached.

Any pre-registered places not taken up by the deadline will be re-distributed and registration will reopen until **31 July 2026** or until entry limit is reached. **Places are limited and will be given on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Link: [Special Olympics Judo Open - Sarajevo - Registration Form – Fill out form](#)

Entry fees - Thanks to the cooperation with Special Olympics Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Judo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, no fees are expected for SO judo athletes.

Delegations are encouraged to include at least one-third (1/3) of women, and athletes from different skill levels if possible.

Athletes can enter in the following categories:

- Shiai.
- Shiai and kata.

Divisioning for shiai and kata will be combined. Entering only in kata is not possible for this event.

4. REGISTRATION - MEDICAL & RELEASE FORM

To take part, athletes, coaches and all others MUST in addition to the registration link, fill out a Registration & Release Form. In addition to this registration form, all athletes must supply a medical form/certificate issued by an authorised body of the country they represent. The forms/certificate must be send by email to Special Olympics Europe - Piotr Rogalski (SOEE GRT): grt.soe@gmail.com

Link: [Special Olympics Registration & Release Judo Open Sarajevo 2026](#)

1. Please download the form.
2. Fill out the form for each person.
3. Save the form and add the family name at the end of the document name.
4. Send all forms to grt.soe@gmail.com

5. PAYMENTS (FOR HOTELS) AND CANCELLATION POLICY

PAY ATTENTION TO FRAUDULENT EMAILS! USE ONLY THE BANK DETAILS FROM THE OFFICIAL OUTLINES.

According to the IJF rule enacted on the 2 December 2012 in Tokyo, «the organising country should not request penalties fee for participating countries who cannot make bank transfers but can pay in cash upon arrival. Those countries who cannot make bank transfers should inform the LOC well in advance that they will pay cash on arrival».

All hotel payments, bank fees and bank transfer costs must be paid by the participating SO program/Adaptive Judo Club/national federation to the following bank:

Beneficiary's name	Udruzenje ZDZK Sarajevo, street Mis Irbina 8, 71000 Sarajevo
Bank name	Raiffeisen Bank DD Bosna i Hercegovina
Bank address	Zmaja od Bosne BB, 71000 Sarajevo
IBAN	BA391610000105380035
SWIFT/BIC Code	RZBABA2S
Payment reference	WCSO 2026 - Number of the invoice

If payment is being made by bank transfer the bank information must be inserted correctly and completely on the transfer document and any procedures related to amendment of the bank transfer must be done before arrival. Participants must ensure that all bank charges are paid at their end so that the LOC receive the correct amount of funds without any deductions. Participants must have proof of the bank transfer, upon arrival.

Whenever possible, cancellations should be made before accreditation. The LOC has the right to charge cancellation fees below.

If participation is cancelled the local organising committee has the right to charge as follows:	
Accommodation - 100% refund from	Up to and including 21 August 2026
Accommodation - no refund, 100% of the hotel costs must be paid from	22 August 2026



**Special
Olympics**



SARAJEVO SPECIAL OLYMPICS JUDO OPEN 2026
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
25-26 SEPTEMBER 2026



6. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Name	Judo Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Address/telephone number	Alipasina 14L, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina / +38761929188
Website	https://www.judosavezbih.ba
Email	sarajevo.wcvkso2026@gmail.com

7. LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE EVENT CONTACTS

Accommodation	Ms Arijana JAHA	sarajevo.wcvkso2026@gmail.com	+38761929188
General Enquiries	Ms Arijana JAHA	sarajevo.wcvkso2026@gmail.com	+38761929188
Training	Ms Aleksandra SAMARDZIC	sarajevo.wcvkso2026@gmail.com	+38765860967
Visa	Ms Lejla SABETA	kovacevic.lejla@gmail.com	+38761379395
Emergency (24 hours, English-speaking)	Ms Arijana JAHA	sarajevo.wcvkso2026@gmail.com	+38761929188
National Director, Special Olympics Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms Kada DELIC-SELIMOVIC	specolymp.bih@gmail.com	+38765866072

8. SPECIAL OLYMPICS CONTACTS

Technical Delegate & Competition Manager	Ms Cecilia EVENBLIJ Mr James MULROY	evenblij@specialolympics.ch james@judoassist.ie	+41795625815 +353860612544
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9. PROGRAMME

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Wednesday 23 September 2026	13:00 - 17:00	Arrivals of SO delegations, check-in, accreditation	Hotel Hills
	17:30 - 19:00	Weigh-in per delegation/team	
	19:30 - 20:30	Meeting for coaches and referees	
Thursday 24 September 2026	10:00 - 10:30	Tatami time for all (pre-divisioning)	Arena Hotel Hills
	11:00 - 12:30	Divisioning: All men on tatami	
	12:45 - 13:15	Divisioning: Kata check	
	13:45 - 14:30	Divisioning: All women on tatami	
	19:30 - 21:00	Referee meeting on tatami	
Friday 25 September 2026	09:00	Opening Ceremony (Athletes to prepare in the warm-up at 08:30. Line-up at 08:45. Only athletes and coaches in white judogi can take part)	Arena Hotel Hills
	10:00	Start Group 1 - Special Olympics Judo Open	
	11:45	Short break - Medal ceremonies	
	12:30	Start Group 2 - Special Olympics Judo Open	
	14:00	Medal ceremonies	
	Late afternoon	Departures of some SO delegations	
	16:00	SO Kata judges meeting	Arena Hotel Hills
Saturday 26 September 2026	08:00 / 08:30	Special Olympics Kata Competition	Arena Hotel Hills
	11:00 / 12:30	Medal ceremony SO Kata	
	Late afternoon	Departures of all SO delegations	

10. COMPETITION VENUE

Name	Arena Hotel Hills
Address	Butmirska cesta 18, 71000 Sarajevo
Website	https://hotelhills.ba
Seats for spectators	300
Tickets	Free

11. ENTRY TO THE HOST COUNTRY

Each individual is responsible to ensure they follow the entry rules (passport validity, visas, entry permission letter etc.) for the host country. Entry rules may be subject to change, the current information can be found here: <https://mvp.gov.ba/bs/vize>

The LOC will assist with visas where possible but having the correct visa is the responsibility of each participant.

It is the responsibility of the national federation to ensure that their delegation respects the conditions of stay defined by the Government of the country hosting the event. If any participant does not respect these conditions, any costs arising will be borne by the national federation concerned.

Please note that visa approvals or rejections are done by the Government authorities and the LOC has no control over this and cannot be held responsible for any rejections.

Contact the LOC if you need help for a visa			
Complete the form	Sarajevo WCVKSO 2026 Form Visa		
Deadline	12 July 2026		
Visa contact	Ms Lejla SABETA	kovacevic.lejla@gmail.com	+38761379395

12. TRANSPORT

Transport is NOT provided by the LOC.

From the Sarajevo airport (SJJ), taxi may be used to reach your final destination. If using the company Sarajevo Taxi the LOC recommends to agree on a maximum price of 15 euros (if going to the Hotel Hills/Arena Hills area). Official taxi companies include Sarajevo Taxi, Crveni Taxi, Žuti Taxi.

For larger groups you may contact the bus company recommended by the LOC, Vildan Tours doo Sarajevo.

13. ACCOMMODATION

Delegations can optionally book their accommodation through the LOC.

Complete the form	Sarajevo WCVKSO 2026 Form Accommodation		
Deadline final reservation and full payment	25 August 2026		
Accommodation contact	Ms Arijana JAHA	sarajevo.wcvkso2026@gmail.com	+38761929188

DELEGATION HOTELS

Bed and breakfast includes breakfast at the hotel.

CATEGORY A - Hotel Hills	
Address	Butmirska cesta 18, 71000 Sarajevo
Phone	+38733947947
Website	https://hotelhills.ba
Check-in time	14:00
Check-out time	11:00
Early check-in / Late check-out	Early check-in from 08:00 (no charge if the room is available). Late check-out until 18:00 (30 euros).
Air-conditioning	Yes (free)
Gym and pools	Yes (free)
Wi-Fi	Yes (free)
Room service	Yes
A La Carte restaurant	Yes
Food delivery allowed	No

All prices are per person per night in: **euro**

CATEGORY A - Hotel Hills	Bed & breakfast	Full board
Single	150	170
Twin	120	140
Triple	120	140
Deposit required by hotel at check-in	No	

Distance and approximate travel time from hotel to:	Km	Time (hh:mm)
Airport Sarajevo (SJJ)	3.7	00:11
Training venue	Same hotel	
Accreditation	Same hotel	
Sport hall	Same hotel	

CATEGORY B - Hotel Hollywood	
Address	Dr. Mustafe Pintola 23, 71000 Sarajevo
Phone	+38733773100
Website	https://www.hotel-hollywood.ba/bs/
Check-in time	14:00
Check-out time	11:00
Early check-in / Late check-out	Early check-in from 08:00 (no charge if the room is available). Late check-out until 18:00 (30 euros).
Air-conditioning	Yes (free)
Gym and pools	Yes (free)
Wi-Fi	Yes (free)
Room service	Yes
A La Carte restaurant	Yes
Food delivery allowed	No

All prices are per person per night in: **euro**

CATEGORY B - Hotel Hollywood	Bed & breakfast	Full board
Single	130	150
Twin	110	130
Triple	110	130
Deposit required by hotel at check-in	No	

Distance and approximate travel time from hotel to:	Km	Time (hh:mm)
Airport Sarajevo (SJJ)	3.7	00:11
Training venue	0.4	00:05
Accreditation	0.4	00:05
Sport hall	0.4	00:05

CATEGORY B - Hotel Spa Terme/Austria/Bosna/Hercegovina/Crystal	
Address	Hrasnicka Cesta 14, 71000 Sarajevo
Phone	+38733772000
Website	https://hoteliilidza.ba/spa-hotel-terme/
Check-in time	14:00
Check-out time	11:00
Early check-in / Late check-out	Early check-in from 08:00 (no charge if the room is available). Late check-out until 18:00 (30 euros).
Air-conditioning	Yes (free)
Gym and pools	Yes (free)
Wi-Fi	Yes (free)
Room service	Yes
A La Carte restaurant	Yes
Food delivery allowed	No

All prices are per person per night in: **euro**

CATEGORY B - Hotel Spa Terme/Austria/Bosna/Hercegovina/Crystal	Bed & breakfast	Full board
Single	130	150
Twin	110	130
Triple	110	130
Deposit required by hotel at check-in	No	

Distance and approximate travel time from hotel to:	Km	Time (hh:mm)
Airport Sarajevo (SJJ)	4.0	00:15
Training venue	0.85	00:08
Accreditation	0.85	00:08
Sport hall	0.85	00:08

14. GENERAL INFORMATION

INSURANCE

Please refer to IJF SOR 1.3 Insurance and Civil Liability.

Each national federation or Special Olympics Program is directly responsible for all its delegates for any event. It must assume all responsibility for accident, health and civil liability insurance for everyone under their charge during events.

Delegations are responsible to provide insurance guarantees to their delegates during any IJF event. If the SO program/Adaptive Judo Club/national federation does not provide insurance to the members of their delegation, those members shall be liable for any damages caused by or incurred to them. The LOC of the event and the IJF will not be responsible in the absence of insurance.

The LOC of the event and the IJF accept no liability for any claims of injury, illness or death arising from the travelling to and the participation in this event nor any claims relating to the cancellation of the event or medical costs related to illness that may affect a participant during the event.

CONSENT FOR USE OF DATA/PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOS/FILMING

The national federation or Special Olympics Program must ensure that they have the permission of each delegate or in the case of a minor the permission of the parent/guardian.

If a delegate does not give consent for use of data, photography, videos and filming then the national federation must inform the SO by writing to Mr Miroslaw Krogulec (mkrogulec@specialolympics.org).

Special Olympics and the IJF, together with their partners, are committed to promoting appreciation, acceptance, and equality for people with disabilities in judo. To highlight the achievements of athletes with intellectual disabilities and raise awareness, these organisations use media coverage.

All participants agree that any photos and videos taken may be used by Special Olympics, the IJF, and their partners without any temporal, geographical, or content-related restrictions. This includes publication in print media and online platforms such as websites and social media platforms.

All organisations guarantee that the content will not be distorted or discriminatory and that the dignity and integrity of the athletes will be respected at all times. This consent is given free of charge. By signing in for the event, the participant agrees to settle any claims against the aforementioned organisations or third parties, with the consent of the organisations, arising from the creation, reproduction, distribution, exhibition, or public display of the recordings.

KEY POINTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS SHIAI RULES

- All athletes will be divisioned into groups of equal skill level, weight and age bracket.
- SO adapted safety rules will apply, these include all prohibited actions as described in the official IJF judo rules and the following prohibited actions, all forms and variations of:
 1. Sutemi-waza, kansetsu-waza, shime-waza and sankaku-waza.
 2. All throws executed on one or two knees forward or backwards.
 3. To put pressure on the opponent's head, neck or throat.
- In relation to penalties and prohibited actions, the referee can give a verbal warning and explain to the athlete the nature of forbidden action before giving a shido. This can be done with the assistance of the coach if deemed necessary.
- Sideline coaching for levels 1 and 2 are in line with IJF rules, however for judoka at level 3, coaches may offer encouragement throughout the contest but may only offer technical advice during "Mate!". For judoka at level 4 and 5, technical advice as well as encouragement may be offered throughout the entire contest.
- In SO, all three (3) referees are on the tatami during the contest – one (1) main referee and two (2) corner judges.

KEY POINTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS KATA RULES

- Pairs only perform once (no final).
- There will be three (3) kata judges who will evaluate the performances in comparison to the others in the category. They are allowed to briefly discuss after each performance.
- All coaches need to fill out a form with all adaptations the pairs will demonstrate.
- Errors in kata that are due to disabilities (not learnable or as a result of a specific condition) are only counted once and must be filled in and justified on the form in advance by the coach.
- Level 3, 4, and 5 SO athletes are not allowed to demonstrate techniques that are not permitted in shiai, such as throwing from the knees or grabbing the trousers.

Category	Kata	Tori	Uke
1	Nage-no-kata 1 Group	Special Olympics Athlete Level 1, 2, 3	Special Olympics Athlete Level 1, 2, 3
2	Nage-no-kata 1 Group Unified	Special Olympics Athlete Level 3, 4, 5	Unified Partner
3	Nage-no-kata 3 Groups	Special Olympics Athlete Level 1, 2, 3	Special Olympics Athlete Level 1, 2, 3
4	Nage-no-kata 3 Groups Unified	Special Olympics Athlete Level 3, 4, 5	Unified Partner

CATEGORY COMBINING

At registration, the exact weight of each athlete, including their judogi, must be recorded. Shiai categories may be combined if nessessary. Kata categories may be combined if nessessary. This decision will be made by the Technical Delegate from SOI.

ACCREDITATION

The purpose of accreditation is to identify people and their roles at events and allow them necessary access to perform their roles. It is the personal identity document of the participant for all security and access controls.

This card contains: last (family) name, first (given) name, category Special Olympics, country, delegation and optionally a photo.

Accreditation cards may be picked up from the accreditation room.

An accredited person should never wear another person's accreditation card. The accreditation card remains the property of the IJF and can be withdrawn, with immediate effect, at the IJF's sole discretion.

OFFICIAL IJF BACKNUMBER

IJF official backnumbers are highly recommended. The list of official judogi and backnumber suppliers can be found here: www.ijf.org/supplier-list.

SEWING SERVICE

The LOC will provide delegations with a sewing service for repairs. They have the right to charge for this service. The place, time and rate (if applicable) will be communicated to delegations on the event's official notice boards.

In case of non-respect of the place and persons providing this service to the delegations, the LOC, in agreement with the IJF, may refuse this service to those who were disrespectful.

AWARDING CEREMONY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

All participants, athletes and unified partner will be invited to the medal ceremony and get a medal, ribbon or souvenir.

REFEREES AND KATA JUDGES

Referees and kata judges will be nominated by Special Olympics International.



IJF Headquarters and Presidential Office

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