

# Head Covering Policy



**May 21, 2018**

## HEAD COVERING POLICY

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### **Policy Statement**

Judo Canada is committed to providing an environment in which the organization acts within applicable code of conduct policies and applicable laws and observes the highest standards of business and personal ethics in the conduct of its responsibilities.

### **Purpose**

To provide guidelines for tournament organizer, technical support staff, Judo Canada staff, Judo Canada Committee members and the Judo Canada Board of Directors to make appropriate decision while managing events in Canada.

### **Application**

This Policy applies to all events organized in Canada.

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### 1) Head Covering for Athletes

Whereas, from time to time Judo Canada receives questions as to what is acceptable and what is not acceptable to be worn during a judo contest and;

Whereas, Judo Canada fully realizes that an individual's religious beliefs must be accommodated to the point of undue hardship;

Therefore, Judo Canada's policy with respect to the wearing of a head covering for religious reasons during a judo contest is as follows:

The International Judo Federation (IJF) Contest Rules define what a judo uniform (judogi) is and by omission, answers what is not allowed. For example, head coverings, stockings and shoes are not acceptable items of a judo uniform because they are not listed in Article 3 of the Contest Rules. Personal preferences outside of the specifications allowed by Article 3 are not permitted.

In some sports, accommodation for religious beliefs is easier than in others. By its very nature, Judo is a combative sport which involves throwing, grappling and choking. The head area is aggressively attacked and must be controlled during the application of a variety of grappling techniques (osae-waza) and choking techniques (shime-waza).

Anything that is worn on the head is therefore subject to accidental removal or may cause injuries to either contestant. Additionally, anything that is worn on the head puts the attacker at a disadvantage if he/she must carefully work around the item being worn for fear of dislodging it. There is a potential injury to the hands or fingers of the attacker due to entanglement in the head covering and potential injury to the wearer if the attacker uses the head covering to choke the wearer or control the wearer's head.

Interruptions in the flow of the contest to adjust a head covering provide a further advantage to the wearer and conversely, a disadvantage to his/her opponent. For example, long hair is required to be tied to avoid causing an inconvenience to the other contestant. A penalty is assessed to a contestant if his/her long hair continually comes untied and causes delays in the match.

It must be noted that the IJF has 185 member countries, a number of which are primarily Muslim based countries, who all follow the IJF Contest Rules and do not allow competitors to wear such religious head coverings.

Therefore, Judo Canada, in adhering to the International Judo Federation Contest Rules as well as the reasons listed above, will not allow competitors to wear head coverings during a judo contest for either religious reasons or for personal preference.

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### **2) Head Covering for referees and coaches**

In addition to the IJF dress/uniform code for referees and coaches, Judo Canada will reasonably accommodate the sincerely held religious beliefs of referees and coaches by allowing them to wear appropriate religious related head coverings while coaching or refereeing at a Judo Canada sanctioned competition.

To be accommodated by Judo Canada and allowed to wear a head covering, a coach or referee must declare in writing to the competition organizer that he/she is wearing a head covering related to his/her sincerely held religious beliefs.

*Approved by Board on May 21, 2018.*