



HEAD COVERING POLICY

May 8th, 2020

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. Judo Canada is committed to accommodate individuals with sincere religious beliefs to take part with dignity.

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for tournament organizers, athletes, referees, coaches, technical support staff, Judo Canada staff, Judo Canada Committee members and the Judo Canada Board of Directors to make appropriate decisions while taking part in or managing events in Canada.

APPLICATION

This Policy applies to domestic Judo events organized in Canada and under the authority of Judo Canada. This policy does not apply to any IJF, IBSA or PJC event sanctioned by those governing bodies that takes place in Canada.

This Policy is in addition to IJF Refereeing Rules and IJF Sport Organization Rules (SOR) relating to appropriate dress codes for athletes, coaches and referees.

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 is fully committed to the fact that an individual's religious beliefs must be accommodated to the point of undue hardship;

Whereas by its very nature, Judo is a combat sport which involves throwing, grappling and strangulation techniques. The head and neck area is aggressively attacked and must be controlled during the application of a variety of grappling techniques (osae-waza) and submission strangulation techniques (shime-waza).

The circumstances involved in establishing a policy for Judo that accommodates religious head covering are:

1. Will the wearing of religious head covering create a safety issue for either competitor?
2. Will the wearing of religious head covering result in an advantage or disadvantage to either competitor?
3. Will the wearing of religious head covering cause an unwarranted delay in the contest?

If the answers to the circumstances are “no”, Judo Canada will permit an athlete to wear a head covering for religious purposes provided that it meets the following criteria:

1. The material used must be strong, durable, clean, non-abrasive, without markings of any kind and of a single colour.
2. No additional materials are to be used with the head covering.
3. The head covering must be of reasonable size and a secure tight fit so that it does not become easily dislodged.
4. The head covering must not cover any part of the face as it is defined in the IJF Refereeing Rules.
5. A head covering that involves covering the neck must not restrict or hinder the application of techniques that involve the neck area.
6. The contestant wearing religious head covering must comply with the IJF Refereeing Rules regarding hard or metallic objects.

ADDENDUM

Before the start of the contest, the referee shall make a visual inspection of the head covering to be sure it is in compliance with this policy.

In any case where the head covering becomes dislodged during a contest, the referee will allow the athlete to recover only at the appropriate time where there is a break in the action.

A contestant must not remove the head covering without permission from the referee.

HEAD COVERING FOR REFEREES AND COACHES

In addition to the SOR 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 Judo events in Canada.

Approved by Board on May 8, 2020