
To: All Athletes, National Coaches

CC: BoD, State Presidents, Secretaries

Topic: Revised JFA AWE Guidelines

Date: 8 February 2016

From: National Selection Committee

In late 2015, the National Selection Committee (**NSC**) conducted an extensive and careful review of the JFA 'Australia's Winning Edge' Guidelines (**AWE Guidelines**) in consultation with the Australian Sports Commission (**ASC**), the HP Team, members of the AWE Panel and the JFA Board.

Based on this review, the NSC published its revised Draft AWE Guidelines on 3 December 2015 and invited the Australian Judo community to submit comments by 6 January 2016. The NSC received three written submissions and one verbal submission during this consultation period.

Following the consultation period, the NSC has made several minor amendments to the AWE Guidelines. These are largely geared towards tightening and clarifying the earlier drafting. As previously noted:

- In undertaking this review we have given serious consideration to the current stage of development of Australian Judo relative to the international level and the very significant challenges facing Australian Judo in achieving the ASC's AWE performance targets at benchmark events (e.g., Olympic Games and Senior World Championships).
- We must acknowledge that currently very few Australian athletes will be able to contribute to the ASC's demanding AWE performance targets for Judo in the short to mid-term future. This acknowledgment is not intended to devalue or diminish the hard work, discipline and achievements of many Australian Judo athletes nor the contribution of their coaches. We recognise that to move Australian Judo forward we need to determine processes and systems that are relevant to and accurately reflect our current stage of development.

Following the Consultation Period, the NSC today releases the final JFA AWE Guidelines that will take effect from 1 February 2016.

The new AWE Panel will shortly commence the next round of AWE categorisation per the new AWE Guidelines.

Key changes

The key changes under the new AWE Guidelines are set out below:

- **AWE Panel composition** – The composition of the AWE Panel has been updated to remove redundant positions and to bring the right balance of minds and experience to AWE deliberations. The new AWE Panel will comprise the ASC High Performance Manager, the National Head Coach or in lieu of that position the National Coach appointed for the next Benchmark Event (i.e., Rio Olympics 2016) and the NSC. The AWE Panel Chair will be elected by the AWE Panel. To improve the accountability of decision-makers, we are moving towards engaging those who hold formal positions.

- **Improved clarity regarding categorisation process and the factors that are taken into account by the AWE Panel** – In the interests of transparency and improving the level of understanding of AWE categorisation across the broader Australian Judo community, the new AWE Guidelines more fully and clearly articulate the reasons for AWE categorisation, the minimum eligibility requirements, the key obligations of AWE categorised athletes, the categorisation process itself and the factors taken into account by the AWE Panel in its deliberations (including performance KPIs).
- **Non-AWE JFA 5B Category** – We have introduced a “Non-AWE JFA Category 5B Potential Emerging” category to enable the JFA to identify those athletes who are not yet ready for AWE categorisation but whom the AWE Panel considers have the greatest potential to progress to being AWE categorised athletes within the relevant time period.
- **Appeal mechanics** – An effective, transparent and efficient appeal mechanism is an important feature in the AWE categorisation process. Appeals will be determined by an independent appeal panel appointed by the JFA CEO. In the interests of certainty and efficiency, the timeframes and appeal mechanics have been tightened. Furthermore, a small fee (\$500) will be applied to help cover the costs associated with AWE appeals and also to discourage people from submitting appeals which lack any substantive merit and which divert resources away from genuine AWE appeals. The appeal fee will be non-refundable, unless the appeal is successful. We also note that the AWE appeal fee is substantially less than the appeal fee that currently applies under the *National Selection and Points System*.
- **Timing** – AWE categorisation was previously conducted bi-annually in June and December. Like all National Sporting Organisations (**NSOs**), the JFA is required to provide the ASC with substantial reporting on the performance and categorisation of our AWE athletes. The ASC conducts an extensive calibration review of all AWE categorised athletes across all Olympic sports in April and October each year. This calibration informs ASC funding allocations to NSOs. We wish to synchronise the timing of our AWE categorisation with the ASC’s calibration process for several reasons. Firstly, it will ensure that the ASC calibrates our categorised athletes based on the most current available performance data and analysis of development potential. Secondly, synchronising the timing of our AWE categorisation with the ASC’s calibration review will improve the ease of reporting given that AWE deliberations will be top of mind. Furthermore, as judo athletes compete all year round at the international level and we do not have an ‘off-season’ like other sports, there is no particular benefit of retaining the June / December timing. Accordingly, the AWE Panel will conduct AWE categorisation in February and August each year under the new AWE Guidelines. This timing will accommodate both the AWE categorisation process itself as well as the appeal timeframes.

Please direct any questions to nsc@ausjudo.com.au.

Best regards

Catherine Arscott
NSC Chair