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To: All Athletes, National Coaches

CC: BoD, State Presidents, Secretaries

Topic: DRAFT Revised AWE Guidelines

Date: 3 December 2015

From: National Selection Committee

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The National Selection Committee (**NSC**) has conducted an extensive and careful review of the JFA AWE Guidelines in consultation with the Australian Sports Commission (**ASC**), the HP Team, members of the AWE Panel and the JFA Board.

Given the ASC's AWE strategic initiatives and the limited public funding available, the JFA AWE Guidelines are critical to ensuring that our available resources are positioned to support Australia's most talented and best-performing athletes who are capable of contributing to the AWE performance targets of the ASC and JFA.

In undertaking this review we have given 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 state of development.

The NSC today releases the revised Draft JFA AWE Guidelines and invites submissions for comment by 6 January 2016. Following this consultation period, the AWE Guidelines will be updated (where relevant) and published in final form in late January 2016. The new AWE Guidelines will take effect from 1 February 2016.

The next round of categorisation was scheduled for December 2015. Given the importance of AWE categorisation to athlete funding and support, we have decided to postpone the next round of categorisation until February 2016 to provide an appropriate opportunity for JFA community comment on the revised Draft AWE Guidelines.

The AWE categorisations announced in June 2015 will continue to apply until the next round of categorisation in February 2016. This also conveniently accommodates the new timing for AWE categorisation under the revised Draft AWE Guidelines.

### **Key changes**

The key changes under the revised Draft 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 Performance Director (once appointed), 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. 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 revised Draft 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 is currently 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 revised Draft AWE Guidelines. This timing will accommodate both the AWE categorisation process itself as well as the appeal timeframes.

### **JFA Community consultation**

The NSC invites comment from the JFA Community on the revised Draft AWE Guidelines. Formal comments are due on or before 6 January 2016. All submissions should be sent to [nsc@ausjudo.com.au](mailto:nsc@ausjudo.com.au).

Following this JFA Community consultation period, the AWE Guidelines will be updated (where relevant) and published in final form in late January 2016. The new AWE Guidelines will take effect from 1 February 2016.

The AWE Panel will commence the next round of categorisation in early February 2016 pursuant to the new AWE Guidelines.

Please direct any questions to [nsc@ausjudo.com.au](mailto:nsc@ausjudo.com.au).

Best regards

Catherine Arscott  
NSC Chair