

CEO Update to Members – March 2016

Dear JFA Members,

It's certainly been a busy first six months in the CEO role, with the JFA working on many significant projects and activities during this time.

It has been very pleasing to see progress being made across various different areas of our organisation and I have enjoyed the opportunities to meet and work with the many dedicated and passionate individuals that make our sport work.

I thought I'd take this opportunity to provide you with an update on some of the recent activities at the JFA:

National Club Seminar - November 2015

We were very happy to have 60 Club Coaches attend the inaugural National Club Seminar to promote the growth of clubs and increased overall participation in Judo. There were three days of presentations and networking along with on the mat training. It was a great initiative and we only received positive feedback on both the content & concept. A big thank you to Shane Alvisio for organising and delivering the seminar. Congratulations to the Clubs that received plaques at the 2015 Club Recognition Awards. We hope both of these initiatives will continue to grow in 2016 and beyond.

OJU Open - November 2015

I'd like to thank Luis Val and all members of the Sports Committee and volunteers for an outstanding job in running the OJU Open in Wollongong. All of the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and we had several successes from our large Australian team.

Social Media

Currently there are two Facebook pages recognised and monitored by the JFA. We encourage you to 'Like' and promote both of these sites:

"Judo Federation of Australia Inc." – this page is updated by office staff with news and information and is linked to the JFA website.

"Judo Club Coaches Australia" – this page was initiated by Greg Cadorin & Daniel Zammit after the National Club Seminar in November. This page currently has over 160 Club coaches as members who share ideas and concepts about activities that promote Judo around the country.

JFA Board Update

Unfortunately, Tania Zordan made the decision to resign as a Director of the JFA at the start of the year. During her tenure Tania made a huge contribution to the JFA and her contribution will certainly be missed. However, on a more positive note the JFA is pleased to have made two new appointments to the JFA Board. Both Belinda Zordan and Kate Corkery are highly qualified to serve as JFA Directors and we are very fortunate to have engaged them in this capacity.

Belinda is an experienced marketing and public relations manager and former television journalist, having worked in both the private and public sectors. She has recently finished as the Executive Global Public Relations Manager for Australia's largest private retail brand, Lorna Jane, to take up a senior marketing and communications role with the 2018 Commonwealth Games team.

Kate Corkery is an experienced lawyer, advocate and sports administrator with degrees in law, economics and a Masters in International Sport Management. With previous experience as a public prosecutor and in the current position of Senior Lawyer with the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Agency (ASADA), Kate possesses an array of skills directly relevant to addressing the challenges currently facing sporting organisations.

There have also been two new board sub-committees established recently to enable the Board to more effectively govern the organisation. The Nominations Committee is chaired by new Director Kate Corkery with Brad Fong and Andrew Collett as members. While the Finance, Audit & Risk (FAR) Committee is chaired by Director Nick Papadimitropoulos with Paul Rooke and Michael Mulder as members.

National Grading Committee

The JFA recently undertook the process of calling for nominations and appointing a new National Grading Committee. Congratulations to Alan Broadhead (Chair), Akira Yamada, Michael Picken, John Whipp and Frank Dando on their appointments to this committee.

IJF Academy Level 1 Instructor Course

For the first time, the JFA are conducting an IJF Academy Level 1 Instructor course in Australia. Usually this course is only conducted in Hungary, so to have the opportunity to run the course in Australia is fantastic. We were very pleased to attract 32 students, 28 from Australia and 4 from the Pacific, to the course which includes a 3-month online component and concludes with a 10-day practical at the AIS in Canberra during July.

IJF Educational Voyage to Australia

The IJF is sending out a delegation to Australia in April to showcase the uniqueness and beauty of our country while also promoting the sport of Judo. The schedule is still being finalised but it's likely to include Judo activities and events in areas including the far northern tip of Queensland, coastal Victoria, the Barossa Valley and around Sydney. This is a great opportunity to promote our sport, both within Australia and globally.

OJU Championships – Canberra, April 8-10

The JFA is hosting the OJU Championships event at the AIS Combat Centre in Canberra from April 8-10. This event presents a great opportunity for our Rio hopeful athletes to earn crucial Olympic qualification points. Congratulations to all selected Australian team athletes and team staff, best of luck for the competition.

The high quality Judo action then continues in 2016 with the National Championships being held in Geelong in June and then the biggest sporting event this year, the Rio Olympic Games, on during August in Brazil.

This year is already proving to be a positive and productive year for the JFA and I look forward to continuing to work closely with our Member States and other key stakeholders to achieve our organisational goals.

Yours in Judo

Alex Vallentine
Chief Executive Officer