



Judo Federation of Australia (Inc.) AWE Athlete Categorisation Guidelines

1. Introduction

- 1.1. *Australia's Winning Edge (AWE)* is a strategic initiative of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) to reposition Australia to being a world leader in elite sport performance. Developed in partnership with Australia's high performance network, the AWE provides the high performance sport sector with clear performance targets and a framework for collaboration for the 2012-2022 period.
- 1.2. The driving principle behind the ASC's AWE investment approach to high performance sport is to ensure that the resources available are positioned to support Australia's most talented athletes. The ASC recognises that it is equally important to strive to have a strong and sustainable high performance sector to ensure that Australia continues to deliver success into the future.
- 1.3. Each National Sporting Organisation (NSO) (including the Judo Federation of Australia Inc (JFA)) has worked in conjunction with the ASC to develop AWE Athlete Categories to help identify the athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to the ASC's AWE targets, to track performance over time and to inform prioritisation of support for these athletes, from the perspectives of both the ASC and the relevant NSO.
- 1.4. This document outlines the AWE Athlete Categories and the guidelines that will be used by the JFA.

2. Minimum eligibility requirements for AWE Categorisation

- 2.1. To be eligible for AWE Categorisation, an Athlete must satisfy all of the following minimum requirements:
 - a) be an Australian Citizen;
 - b) be a current member of the JFA, having paid all requisite membership fees owed for the relevant membership period;
 - c) returned to the JFA a current JFA Team Member Agreement signed by the Athlete;
 - d) be eligible to compete for Australia as per IJF/IOC rules (as amended from time to time).

3. AWE Panel

- 3.1. Athlete categorisation will be determined by the AWE Panel. This AWE Panel comprises key members of the JFA High Performance Program and relevant Australian Sports Commission representation. The composition of the Panel represents the capability sets required to make informed categorisations of our Athletes.
- 3.2. Currently the AWE Panel includes the the ASC High Performance Manager, National Head Coach or in lieu of that position being filled, the National Coach appointed for the next senior Benchmark Event (e.g. Rio Olympics 2016, Senior World Championships 2017) and each member of the National Selection Committee (NSC).

- 3.3. For each round of categorisation, the AWE Panel will elect a Chair. All decisions of the AWE Panel shall be by majority vote. Each member of the AWE Panel shall have one vote. In the event of a deadlock in voting, the Chair's vote shall determine the decision.
- 3.4. The AWE Panel is subject to change due to the nature of volunteers. The JFA Chief Executive Officer will notify the JFA membership of any changes in membership of the AWE Panel via an announcement on the JFA website at the earliest opportunity.

4. Conditions of AWE Categorisation

- 4.1. To be categorised and / or maintain his or her categorisation, an Athlete must comply at all times with the following conditions:
 - a) Sign and adhere to the JFA Team Member Agreement (as amended from time to time)
 - b) Conduct oneself in a manner that complies with the JFA Teams and High Performance Program Activities Code of Conduct (as amended from time to time);
 - c) sign and adhere to an Individual Performance Plan (**IPP**) that has been negotiated between the Athlete, their personal coach and the HP Team;
 - d) complete, sign and return paperwork as required, committing to the requirements for categorisation;
 - e) provide to the HP Team the Athlete's current contact details (name, address, email address, best telephone / mobile number, passport number and expiry date, IJF Card, contact details of parent/guardian of Athlete (if the Athlete is under 18 years' of age)) and promptly advise the HP Team of any changes to these contact details;
 - f) participate in AIS Training Camps (as required);
 - g) compete in domestic events as outlined in their IPP (approved by the JFA HP Team);
 - h) compete (if selected) at international events for Australia as outlined in their IPP (approved by the JFA HP Team);
 - i) compete (if selected) for any AWE Benchmark Event for Australia as outlined in their IPP (approved by the JFA HP Team);
 - j) comply with all anti-doping requirements for Judo, the JFA and the ASC including completing of e-learning modules and updates as requested from time to time.

5. Factors taken into account in Athlete Categorisation

- 5.1. The AWE Panel must take into account the following factors in assessing Athletes who have the best chance of contributing to the achievement of the JFA's AWE goals:
 - a) recent international competition performance measured against the relevant Key Performance Indicators as set out in Schedule 1 with a particular emphasis on the quality of opposition, placing achieved and progression on WRL;
 - b) any specific guidance from the ASC (as advised from time to time) on AWE Categorisation;

- c) during the 6 months prior to categorisation the extent to which the athlete has:
 - i. demonstrated a strong commitment to all national training and attended all national camps to which invited.
 - ii. if funded (i.e. travel and accommodation), participated in all international competitions and camps for which selected; and
- d) An Athlete's compliance with the conditions set out in paragraph 4.1 (above).

5.2. The AWE Panel may, at its sole discretion, use a number of additional factors in assessing athletes who have the best chance of contributing to the achievement of the JFA's AWE goals, including (without limitation):

- a) consistency in results and ability to repeat World Class results and deliver performances under pressure;
- b) rankings of opponents on IJF World Ranking List (**WRL**);
- c) an Athlete's technical and tactical ability;
- d) an Athlete's ongoing commitment and application, including communication with national coaches, adherence to IPPs, motivation to succeed and use of available resources within a daily training environment to increase performance;
- e) an Athlete's commitment to the level of training necessary to achieve the desired performance;
- f) the depth and quality of talent in each event here in Australia in comparison to our international competitors;
- g) the athlete's age;
- h) difference in depth/strength of field between weight categories and genders – there are notable differences in the number of competitors between different divisions (e.g. between 73kg males and +100kg males, or between lightweight men compared to lightweight women). This difference occurs locally (i.e. in Australia and Oceania), but also to a slightly lesser extent internationally. As a result it is difficult to compare directly between categories - i.e. a top 16 finish in one weight division in a competition may mean something very different from a top 16 finish in another weight division at the same competition; and
- i) noting that Judo is a sport which is very demanding in terms of physical load on the body and hence has a relatively high incidence of periods of injury and drop-out, the impact of any serious physical injury on the Athlete's ability to compete during the 6 month period prior to categorisation. It is the responsibility of any Athlete to notify the JFA HP Team of any serious physical injury that may be impairing their ability to compete.

5.3. Depending on the stage in the Olympic cycle, the AWE Panel may, in its sole discretion, give greater weighting to particular factors.

5.4. The JFA has introduced the "Non-AWE JFA 5B Emerging Category" to identify those Athletes who are not yet ready to be AWE Categorised Athletes but who demonstrate the

greatest potential to progress to being an AWE categorised athlete within the relevant time period.

6. Timing of Reviews

- 6.1. Athlete categorisation will take place every 6 months in February and August. It is expected that most athletes will enter, move between or exit categories in line with this schedule. The AWE categorisations will be published on the JFA website in due course.
- 6.2. In exceptional circumstances, the AWE Panel may (at its sole discretion) approve Athletes entering, moving between categories or exiting the categories at other times. Such circumstances may include (without limitation) failing to comply with these Guidelines, retirement, arrival from overseas but with eligibility to compete for Australia etc.

7. Appeals

- 7.1. If an Athlete does not agree with their categorisation he or she may seek a review of the categorisation decision in the following manner:
 - a) The Athlete must submit to the JFA Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) within 7 days of the AWE categorisation decision being published on the JFA website, or the athlete being notified directly of the AWE categorisation (whichever is the earlier) (**Review Period**) a written request for a review (**Review Request**). A Review Request must set out the reasons why the Athlete feels that the AWE Panel's decision is incorrect. The Review Request must specifically address the criteria in the AWE Guidelines.
 - b) The Review Request must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500 payable to the JFA Inc as contribution towards the costs of the appeal ("**Appeal Fee**"). The JFA will bear all other costs of the Appeal Panel but each party will bear their own costs of the appeal. The Appeal Fee is non-refundable, unless the appeal is successful.
 - c) Within 5 days of the expiry of the Review Period, the CEO will appoint an independent panel to consider any Review Requests received (**Appeal Panel**).
 - d) The Appeal Panel will consider all Review Requests within 21 days of being appointed and shall inform the athlete / CEO of its decision(s) as soon as practical after that.
 - e) The AWE Panel will assist the Appeal Panel by providing relevant reasoning for its AWE categorisation decision.
 - f) The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final. There shall be no further right of review or appeal.

8. Amendments

- 8.1. These AWE Guidelines may be varied from time to time by the JFA. Any updates will be published on the JFA website.

Schedule 1: AWE Athlete Categories

Level	AWE Athlete Category Description	Future Performance Goal	Key Performance Indicators
1 Podium	Medallist (top 4) at Senior World Championships or equivalent benchmark event within last 12 months and is considered capable of winning a medal at the next Senior World Championship or equivalent benchmark event.	Medallist (top 4) at next benchmark event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medallist at benchmark event within last 12 months • # Top 4 placings at benchmark events within last 24 months • # Top 4 placings at Grand Slams and Grand Prix events within last 12 months (dependent on depth of field) • # wins against Top 10 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months
2A Podium Potential	5 th to 8 th at Senior World Championships in past 24 months or equivalent benchmark event and is considered capable of winning a medal within the next Olympic quadrennial	Future medallist at benchmark event (within the Olympic quadrennial)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # Top 8 placings at benchmark event within last 24 months • # Top 8 placings at Grand Slams and Grand Prix events within last 12 months (dependent on depth of field) • # wins against Top 10 WRL ranked athletes within last 12 months
2B Podium Potential	Senior Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to <i>Level 2A - Podium Potential</i> (top 8 at benchmark event) within the next 4 years.	Top 8 placing at benchmark event within 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of top 16 placings at Grand Slam and Grand Prix events (dependent on depth of field) • # of top 8 placings at Continental Open events (excl within OJU and dependent on depth of field).
3	NOT USED	NOT USED	NOT USED
4A Developing	Individual athlete who is considered capable of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gaining Top 8 placing at benchmark events in 6 years; and/or 2. Progressing to level <i>2B - podium potential</i> within in 2 years 	Top 8 placing at a benchmark event within 6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Top 16 placings at Continental Open events (excluding within OJU and dependent on depth of field) • # Top 8 placings at JNR WRL events (excluding within OJU and dependent on depth of field) • # of Medals at OJU Open and Championships (Senior divisions and dependent on depth of field)

Level	AWE Athlete Category Description	Future Performance Goal	Key Performance Indicators
5A Emerging	Individual athlete who is considered capable of: 1. gaining Top 8 placing at a benchmark event within 8 years; and/or 2. progressing to 4A Developing within 2 years.	Top 8 placing at a benchmark event within 8 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Top 16 placings at Continental Open events (excluding within OJU and dependent on depth of field) • # of medals at OJU Open and Championships (senior and junior) • # Top 8 placings at JNR WRL events (excluding within OJU and dependent on depth of field) • # of Medals at OJU Open and Championships (Senior divisions and dependent on depth of field)
Non-AWE JFA Category 5B Potential Emerging	Individual Athletes who are not yet considered ready for AWE Categorisation. However, the Individual Athlete is considered to be most capable of progressing to AWE 5A Emerging within 2 years.	Progressing to the AWE 5A future performance targets within 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of Top 16 placings at Continental Open events (excluding within OJU and dependent on depth of field) • # of medals at OJU Open and Championships (senior and junior) • # Top 16 placings at JNR WRL events (excluding within OJU and dependent on depth of field) • For Cadet and Junior athletes, # of medals in Senior Divisions (within Australia and dependent on depth of field)