

Pathway Development Program

From January 2021, the national high performance programs for Boxing, Judo and Taekwondo will be delivered by a newly established, sport owned, aggregated high performance entity called the Combat Institute of Australia (CIA). This innovative and collaborative new approach will deliver enhanced high performance outcomes for all three sports by ensuring a dedicated high performance focus, increased and more secure funding and access to a greater range of performance support services for categorised athletes.

JA will continue to carry out all its existing roles and responsibilities to develop, grow and enhance the sport of Judo in Australia, with the benefit of our high performance programs now being given dedicated and better resourced focus under this new model.

For this new model to work it is essential that there is an adequate pathway for young athletes who are working towards international representation. This document serves as the outline of the pathway development program under the new structure.

High Performance Pathway

Under the new structure the high performance pathway will be delivered under either of the two entities depending on the stage of development of athletes:

- programs for categorised athletes categorised Developing and above will be delivered and funded by the Combat Institute of Australia;
- program for athletes categorised as Commonwealth Games Medal Potential will be delivered by the Combat Institute of Australia and funded by Commonwealth Games Australia; and
- programs for athletes not yet categorised or categorised Emerging will be delivered and funded by Judo Australia from AIS Pathways Funding and/or other funding sources if and when available.

Moving through the pathway – under Judo Australia



Athletes categorised Emerging will be managed under JA and they can be either Cadet, Junior or Senior depending on the international results achieved to date.

Moving through the pathway – under Combat Institute of Australia



Cadet & Junior Development Squads

Starting from January 2021 Judo Australia will select a Cadet and a Junior development squad. Athletes will be selected by the respective coaching team, the State Performance Hub coaches and the CIA Technical Director. Selection to these squads will occur in November each year and athletes will be notified by December. Selection will be more inclusive than exclusive at this stage and the following will be taken into account:

- An athlete's ranking on the Cadet and Junior National Points tables. Due to the growth of athletes in these age groups, points across multiple divisions may be considered.
- An Athlete's history of prior performances
- An Athlete's potential for future success

In assessing an athlete's potential for future success, a number of factors will be considered including (without limitation and in no particular order):

- An athlete's judo specific skills:
 - ability to dominate kumikata;
 - ability to throw for ippon;
 - ability to win in newaza;
 - defensive skills;
 - ability to manage and read a contest; and
 - an athlete's courage (ability to overcome fear and adversity).
- An athlete's physical attributes
- An athlete's performance behaviour and psychological profile:
 - attitude to training and development;
 - engagement with national programs;
 - mental toughness and resilience;
 - self believe and confidence; and
 - whether an athlete strives for excellence on and off the mat.

Once selected into the development squad, athletes will be provided with a selection pack outlining the athletes' obligations and responsibilities and what opportunities will be provided to them. Athletes will need to accept their position into the squad and confirm that they are prepared to commit to the required activity to further develop.

The Cadet and Junior national coaches will be responsible for the development squads. Program planning and delivery will be overseen by the CIA Technical Director.

Being selected into the development team does not necessarily mean selection to all and/or any international events. Selection to international events will be performed according to the [Selection Guidelines for Cadet and Junior International Events](#) published on the JA website. An athlete may be selected to multiple age group events, however they will sit in the squad relevant to their age group.

Yearly Program

The program for each age group will be set by the CIA Technical Director and the National Coaching Teams for each age group.

Dependent on available funding and international circumstances the proposed activities are:

Senior Boys and Girls

- one training trip to Japan, approximately two weeks in the second half of the year;
- one trip to Europe for a highly attended international event that is followed by a training camp;
- futures camp; and
- national camp after the National Championships.

Athletes turning 13 and 14 will be considered for this opportunity and they will be required to fully self-fund these trips.

Cadet Team

- one training trip to Japan in January (if possible);
- one trip to Europe that includes two competitions and two training camps;
- Asian-Oceania Championships;
- Cadet World Championships;
- at least two national training camps; and
- must attend hub sessions to be considered for selection.

Junior Team

- one training trip to Japan in January (if possible);
- two trips to Europe that includes two competitions and two training camps;
- Asian-Oceania Championships;
- Junior World Championships;
- at least two national training camps; and
- must attend hub sessions to be considered for selection.

As indicated above selection for international events will be performed according to [Selection Guidelines for Cadet and Junior International Events](#) published on the JA website.

Emerging Seniors

The goal of this group is to gain international experience and achieve Grand Slam/Grand Prix eligible status. They need to attend 10 – 12 appropriate level events per year, that enables them to have 35 – 45 fights per year. Proposed activity:

- one training trip to Japan;
- at least one trip to Europe that includes multiple European Cups and/or European Opens;
- at least two Asian Continental Opens;
- Asian-Oceania Championships (if selected);

- national camps; and
- must attend hub sessions to be considered for selection.

Due to limited funds JA will only be able to provide partial funding for these activities and athletes will be required to self-fund a significant share of each activity.

Any questions regarding this new JA Pathway Development Program approach should be directed to CIA Technical Director Maria Pekli via hp@ausjudo.com.au