JudoScotland

2027 JudoScotland National Squads and Performance Support Guidelines



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Performance Principles

JudoScotland's performance programme is funded by sportscotland and aims to achieve:

- More Scottish athletes on the GB World Class Performance Programme (WCPP).
- More Scottish athletes representing Team GB and ParalymicsGB.
- Scottish Olympic and Paralympic medallists.
- Team Scotland Commonwealth Games medallists.

The programme is guided by the judo principles of **Jita-Kyoei** – Mutual Welfare and Benefit & **Seiryoku-Zenyo** – Maximum Efficiency.

These principles are delivered through:

- Enabling appropriate development opportunities.
- Prioritising athlete welfare.
- Recognising current results while prioritising long-term development.
- Supporting technical, physical and behavioural development.
- Encouraging greater athlete ownership as performance level increases.
- Efficient use of available funding.

National Squad Structure

Age Group / Category	Squad Type
Pre-Cadet	Academy Squad
U18	Academy Squad & National Squad
U21	Academy Squad & National Squad
U23	National Squad

National Squad Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for selection to a JudoScotland (JS) squad, Judoka must:

- Be eligible to compete for Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and meet the eligibility requirements of both the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS).
- Live in Scotland, be born in Scotland, or have a parent born in Scotland.
- Hold a current JS membership
- Hold a British passport.
- Be available to participate in international competitions and training camps.
- Agree to and comply with the JS Judoka Code of Conduct.
- Not be serving a competition ban due to disciplinary action, a doping offence, or a lifetime funding ban from any Sports Council.

Selection Notes

For all squads:

- Meeting the published criteria does **not automatically guarantee selection**.
- The Selection Panel may consider athlete welfare, current programme engagement, athlete behaviours, injury status, illness and other relevant factors.
- Athletes have the right to appeal selection decisions.
- Full appeals information can be found on the JS website: www.judoscotland.com
- Athletes are encouraged to speak with the JS Performance Coaching Team if they need support with attendance, scheduling or programme commitments.

Selection Process Timelines

- Eligible athletes will be notified following the 2026 British Championships.
- Athletes must accept their place by **31 December 2026**.
- Athletes may appeal selection decisions - Appeals information is available at: www.judoscotland.com
- Club coaches can recommend players to the listed squads below via co-option:
    - Pre-Cadet Academy Squad
    - U18 Academy Squad
    - U21 Academy Squad

  *Recommendations should be made in writing to performance@judoscotland.com between **24th April to 1st May 2027** based on results dated from **1st Jan 2027 to 23rd April 2027**. Co-options will be considered on **1 May 2027** by the Performance Working Group*

Pre-Cadet Academy Squad

Purpose

For athletes who have demonstrated potential at British-level events and aspire to progress into the JS Performance Programme.

Age Eligibility

- Born in 2013 or 2014

Pre-Cadet Academy Performance Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 3 at the 2026 Scottish National Closed Championships
- Top 5 at the 2026 British Pre-Cadet Championships
- Attend at least 3 of the 4 Grand Prix events in 2026 and achieve 2 Top 3 placings

Benefits & Requirements

- Weekly Hub training sessions.
- All Hub training days scheduled throughout the year
- *Athletes must attend at least 50% of Academy and Hub session*
- An introduction to developing athlete performance (eg, anti-doping, Physical preparation, Performance nutrition).
- Domestic and international development opportunities
- Subsidised JS performance clothing

U18 Academy and National Squads

Purpose

To support athletes showing potential at British-level events and prepare them for future performance.

Age Eligibility

- Age Bands C1, C2 and C3
- Born in 2010, 2011 or 2012

U18 Academy Squad Selection Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 3 at the 2026 Scottish National Closed Championships
- Top 5 at the 2026 British Cadet Championships
- Attend at least 3 of the 4 Grand Prix events in 2026 and achieve 2 Top 3 placings
- Attend at least 3 Home Nation Opens during 2026 and achieve 2 Top 5 placings

All placings require a minimum of two contest wins.

Benefits & Requirements

- Weekly Hub sessions

- Academy training sessions scheduled throughout the year
- *Athletes must attend at least 50% of Academy and Hub sessions*
- Ongoing athlete performance development (eg, anti-doping, Physical preparation, Performance nutrition)
- Opportunities for domestic and international competition
- Subsidised JS performance clothing

U18 National Squad Selection Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 3 at the 2026 British Championships
- Top 5 on the GB Ranking List, after the 2026 British Championships.
- Two wins at a Cadet European Cup

Benefits & Requirements

Includes all Academy Squad benefits & Requirements plus:

- Access to European Cadet Championship qualification opportunities
- Access to European Cadet Cups and training camps aligned to GB selection criteria
- Access to regional physiotherapy support at reduced rates

U21 Academy and National Squads

Purpose

To support athletes progressing toward international success and the World Class Performance Programme.

Age Eligibility

- Born in – 2007, 2008 or 2009

U21 Academy Squad Selection Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 3 at the 2026 Scottish National Closed Championships
- Attend at least 2 Home Nation Opens in 2026 and achieve 2 Top 7 placings

Benefits & Requirements

- Access to National Training Centre judo and physical sessions
- *Athletes must attend at least 50% of JS training activities*
- Opportunities for domestic and international training and competition
- Part funded U21 European Cup opportunity
- Athlete performance education
- Subsidised JudoScotland performance clothing

U21 National Squad Selection Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 3 at the 2026 British Championships
- Top 5 on the GB Ranking List (post-2026 British Championships)
- Two wins in any one Junior European Cup

Benefits & Requirements

Includes all Academy Squad benefits & Requirements plus:

- U21 European Championship qualification pathway
- Access to European Cups and training camps aligned to GB selection criteria
- Access to regional physiotherapy support

U23 National Squad

Purpose

To support athletes transitioning into the Senior age group and towards the World Class Performance Programme.

Age Eligibility

- Born in 2005 or 2006

U23 National Squad Selection Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 7 on the GB Senior Ranking List (Post 2026 British Championships)
- Top 7 at the 2026 British Championships
- Top 7 at a Senior European Cup

Benefits & Requirements

- Access to National Training Centre and weekly training sessions
- One part funded Senior European Open opportunity
- Domestic and international competition opportunities
- Athlete performance support
- Subsidised JudoScotland performance clothing
- U23 European Championship qualification pathway
- Access to regional physiotherapy support

Senior (SNR) National Squad

Purpose

For athletes performing at national and international level with the goal of progressing towards the World Class Performance Programme.

Age Eligibility

- Born in 2004 or earlier

SNR National Squad Selection Criteria

Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- Top 5 on the GB Senior Ranking List
- Top 3 at the 2026 British Senior Championships
- Top 7 at a Senior European Cup
- Top 7 at a European Open

Benefits & Requirements

- National Training Centre training access
- *Athletes must attend at least 50% of JS activities*
- Part-funded Senior European Cup opportunities
- Athlete Performance support
- Subsidised JudoScotland performance clothing
- Access to regional physiotherapy support

Visual Impairment (VI) Academy and National Squads

Purpose

For athletes with a visual impairment who wish to improve performance and progress towards national, international and Paralympic pathways.

VI Academy Squad Selection Criteria

- Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:
- Match wins at domestic competitions
- Match wins at IBSA international competitions

Benefits & Requirements

- Weekly training
- Athletes must demonstrate commitment to training
- All-Hub sessions scheduled throughout the year
- Athlete performance development/education (eg, anti-doping, Physical preparation, Performance nutrition
- Access to domestic and international competitions
- Subsidised JudoScotland performance clothing

VI National Squad Selection Criteria
Athletes must achieve at least **one** of the following:

- A Top 7 placing at an IBSA international event

Benefits & Requirements
Includes all Academy Squad benefits & Requirements plus:

- Support toward the Paralympic World Class Performance Programme
- Access to regional physiotherapy support

sportscotland Institute of Sport (SIS) Support for JS Judoka

Nomination
Timeframes for qualifying events to meet selection criteria will be 1st Jan 2026 - 31st March 2027 (SIS Support Commences 1st April 2027)

SIS Cadet (U18) Selection Criteria:

- Cadet European Championship or European Youth Olympic Medal

SIS Junior (U21) Selection Criteria:

- 2 Top 7 Placings OR 1 top 7 Placing and 3 Wins at Junior European Cup level (at the Same event) *Must win 2 minimum of 2 fights to validate top 7

SIS U23 Selection Criteria:

- 2 Top 7 Placings OR 1 top 7 Placing and 3 match wins at Senior European Cup level (At the same event) *Must win 2 minimum of 2 fights to validate top 7

SIS Senior Selection Criteria:

- 1 Medal and 2 top 7 Placings at European Cup or Open (At the same event) *Must win 2 minimum of 2 fights to validate top 7

SIS VI Selection Criteria:

- Para Potential top 7 Placing at IBSA Grand Prix Events

1. Athlete nominations for SIS support are guided by the below:
   (a) Judoka identified by the British Judo Association (BJA) as being within the World Class Programme (WCPr), including World Class Podium Potential (WCPP) and World Class Podium (WCP).
   (b) Athletes demonstrating a trajectory towards selection for the WCPr within the next two years, based on agreed performance indicators and progression benchmarks.
   (c) Athletes demonstrating medal potential at an upcoming Commonwealth Games (CWGs), where appropriate benchmarking is available to support this assessment (identified when benchmarking is appropriate eg, two years from CWGs).
2. Athletes considered for SIS support will be achieving the minimum requirements outlined in Appendix One.
3. Please note that all support available is dependent on continued funding of the performance programme by our funding partners at **sport**scotland and therefore can change if funding/resource allocation changes.

Performance Service Support

4. Where a Judoka is identified as an SIS supported athlete, they will have access to required SIS support services as identified and agreed with the JS National Coaching team (services may include Physical Preparation, Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine, Performance Psychology, Performance Physiology, Performance Nutrition, Performance Lifestyle).

(a) It is recognised that nominated athletes basing themselves remotely from the JS National Training Centre (NTC) and or outside of Scotland may only require some services. Support will be offered where the athlete environment and identified support needs indicate that SIS involvement is appropriate. Decisions regarding support will be made in collaboration with the Athlete, the JS National Coaching team and where applicable British Judo.

(b) As part of receiving support Judoka will be required to attend and significantly contribute to bi-annual Individual Athlete Planning (IAP) meetings where they will have the opportunity to outline their plan (training & competition schedule, support needs, overarching goals).

5. SIS supported judoka are encouraged to engage with the National Programme delivered at the JS NTC but can be based remotely at a recognised performance training centre. The training centre will be discussed and agreed on a case-by-case basis.
6. Athlete engagement, behaviours and progress will be monitored and discussed within IAP meetings maintaining clear expectations.

Discretion

7. SIS-supported athletes who have been unable to compete for a period exceeding six months due to identified medical circumstances will receive support to facilitate their return to competition. Following their return, athletes will be allocated a defined period of 6-12 months, aligned with relevant competition schedules, to achieve the required performance standard.
8. JS will prioritise support to Judoka based on a range of criteria including programme adherence, athlete behaviours, progress and contribution to cycle goals.

Physiotherapy Support Scheme

1. JS has implemented a regional physio support scheme, which consists of a network of regional physiotherapy clinics where JS Squad athletes can access high quality physiotherapy support at a subsidised rate.
2. To qualify for this subsidised support you will have been named as an athlete on any of the JS National Squads and only through consultation with the JudoScotland Performance Team.
3. The establishment of this regional support network allows athletes to access physiotherapy regionally and will mean that athletes will pay a significantly subsidised rate per appointment.
4. The identified 3 clinics are shown below:
   (a) East – FASIC, 46 Pleasance, Edinburgh
   (b) West – Hampden Sports Clinic, Hampden Park, Glasgow G42 9ED
   (c) North – SPEAR Physiotherapy, Aberdeen Sports Village, Linksfield Road, Aberdeen, AB24 5RU
5. To access the subsidised rate:
6. JS provide each Clinic with a list of JS qualifying athletes:
7. Athletes/parents book and pay full cost directly with the relevant Clinic **AND obtain a receipt**
8. Athletes can claim back £20 per appointment (to a maximum of 10 appointments per year) from JS via an expense claim form - with receipt(s)

9. JS process athlete appointment subsidy once approved by JS coaching team.
10. Should you have any questions regarding the above, contact JS Performance: performance@judoscotland.com

Athlete Welfare

1. British Judo, together with JS and other Home Nations, has produced weight-cutting guidelines to ensure the protection, safety and welfare of young judoka.
2. Should these guidelines be breached and concerns arise regarding an athlete's health, **JS reserves the right to withdraw the athlete from JS activities in order to safeguard their wellbeing.**
3. If an athlete's wellbeing or safety is likely to be at risk by being on the Pre-Cadet Academy Squad, a member of the JS National Coaching Team will discuss these concerns with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and coach of the athlete and may choose not to select the athlete for the Academy Squad.

Subsidy Guidance

JS National Squad Financial Support*				
U18	**U21**	**U23**	**SNR**	**VI**
SUBSIDY Part Funded Training Camps and Competitions				
Invited to Competition and Training Camp				
40% off accommodation cost for the training camp + travel				
Invited to Competition Only				
40% off accommodation cost for the training camp + travel				
Invited to Training Camp Only				
40% off accommodation cost for the training camp + travel				
* National Squads Only. Academy squads **may** be subsidised depending on funding				

SIS Supported Athletes Financial Support*				
U18	**U21**	**U23**	**SNR**	**VI**
SUBSIDY				
Invited to Competition and Training Camp				
60% off accommodation cost for the training camp + travel				
Invited to Competition Only				
60% off accommodation cost for the training camp + travel				
Invited to Training Camp Only				
60% off accommodation cost for the training camp + travel				
*SIS Supported Athletes will be subsidised depending on funding				

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Appendix One

Squad Structures & Results Criteria 2027	
ACADEMY SQUADS:	**Minimum Requirements** At least 1 of the below. **Timeframes: Jan- Dec 2026**
Pre-Cadet (U15)	• Top 3 SCO National Championship • Top 5 at British Pre- Cadet Championship • 2 x top 3 Grand Prix places (Must attend at least 3 Grand Prix events)
Cadet (U18)	• Top 3 SCO National Championship • Top 5 2026 British Cadet Championships • 2x top 3 Grand Prix places (Must attend at least 3 Grand Prix events) • 2x Top 5 Home Nation Open Placings (Attend at least 3)
Junior (U21)	• Top 3 Scottish National Championship • Top 7 at any Home Nation Open Event (Must attend at least 2)
VI	• Domestic Event Match Wins • IBSA International Match Wins
NATIONAL SQUADS:	**Minimum Requirements** At least 1 of the below. **Timeframes: Jan - Dec 2026**
Cadet (U18)	• Top 3 at British Championship • Top 5 GB Ranking List (Post GB Championships) • 2 Wins at any one Cadet European Cup
Junior (U21)	• Top 3 at British Championship • Top 5 GB Ranking List (Post GB Championships) • 2 wins at any one Junior European Cup
U23	• Top 7 at British Championships •Top 7 Senior GB Ranking List (Post GB Championships) •Top 7 at Senior European Cup
Senior	•Top 3 at British Championships • Top 5 GB Ranking List (Post GB Championships) • Top 7 at Senior European Cup/Open
VI	• Top 7 Placing at IBSA Events
SIS:	**Minimum Requirements** At least 1 of the below. **Timeframes: Jan 2026- April 2027** **(SIS Support Commences 1st April 2027)**
Cadet (U18)	• Cadet European Championship medal or EYOF Medal
Junior (U21)	• 2 Top 7 Placings OR 1 top 7 placing and 3 match wins at a JNR Euro Cup level (at the same event) **Must win minimum of 2 fights to validate top 7**
U23	• 2 Top 7 Placings OR 1 top 7 placing and 3 match wins at a SNR Euro Cup level (at the same event) **Must win minimum of 2 fights to validate top 7**
Senior	• 1 medal and 2 top 7 placings at European CUP or OPEN **Must win minimum of 2 fights to validate top 7**
VI	• Top 7 Placing at IBSA GRAND PRIX Events