Competition Format and Rules

Format et règlement des compétitions

As of WED 21 OCT 2026

Youth Olympic Competition Format

The eight Judo events at Dakar 2026 Summer Youth Olympic Games consist of four men's and four women's individual events as follows:

Women	Men
-44 kg	-55 kg
-52 kg	-66 kg
-63 kg	-81 kg
-78 kg	-100 kg

The competition will be run in accordance with the elimination system with full repechage, where all participants have the opportunity to compete at least twice. Judoka will be divided into two tables (pools), A and B, by means of a draw, and then into two groups (sub-pools) within each table: A1, A2, B1 and B2. The elimination system will be used to produce two finalists.

All judoka defeated after each round of competition will take part in the repechage of their respective table according to the elimination system. The winner of each repechage will face the loser of the semifinal from the opposite half of the draw to compete for the two bronze medals. The winners of table A and table B will compete for the gold and silver medals.

Contest Duration

The duration of the contests will be four minutes (actual time) for men and for women in accordance with the IJF Sport & Organisation Rules (SOR) and Refereeing Rules.

Weigh-in

The weigh-in for the competition will be conducted at the Youth Olympic Village under the supervision of officials appointed by the IJF. The official weigh-in for each weight category will take place the day before the respective competitions. Each competitor will be allowed only one weight control during the official weigh-in.

Athletes competing in the cadet events are not allowed to remove their underclothing (men must wear underpants and optionally a vest top and women must wear underpants and a bra or vest top).
To compensate an additional 200 g will be allowed i.e., for the weight category -44 kg the limit will be -44.2 kg.

Differences between the IJF Cadets World Championships and the Summer Youth Olympic Games

Participation in the IJF Cadet World Championships is open to all eligible athletes, with no qualification requirements. The competition format follows a quarter-final repechage system.

Changes since Buenos Aires 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games

The Mixed Team event has been removed from the programme. The number of participants has been reduced, and the qualification system no longer applies, as participation will be determined through IOC invitations.

Sport Rules and Procedures

Competition Method

The Judo competition will be held in accordance with the lJF Sport & Organisation Rules (SOR) and Refereeing Rules.

The objective of Judo is to score ippon, which puts an immediate end to the contest. Ippon can be scored with a throwing technique as well as on the ground.

Tie Break Rules and Procedures

In regular time (four minutes), a contest can only be won by a technical score or scores (yuko, waza-ari or ippon).

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A penalty or penalties will not decide the winner, except for hansoku-make (direct or accumulative). A penalty never corresponds to a score.

When the time allotted for the contest ends (four minutes for men and women) and both judoka have no technical score, or the technical scores are equal at the end of the regular contest time, the contest shall continue in Golden Score regardless of the number of shido given.

The referee calls "Soremade" and the time clock will be reset.

Any existing score(s) and/or numbers of shido from regular time are carried into the Golden Score period and will remain in all real time outputs (scoreboards, TV captions, etc.).

There will be no rest period between the end of the original contest and the start of the Golden Score period.

There is no time limit for Golden Score.

A Golden Score can only be won by a technical score (yuko, waza-ari or ippon) or hansoku-make (direct or by accumulative shido). If direct hansoku-make is given, the consequences are the same as those in regular time.

Penalties / Disqualification Rules

All penalties are divided into "slight" infringement or shido (a type of warning) and "serious" infringement or hansoku-make (direct disqualification).

For technical and tactical faults that do not affect the integrity of the contestants and are not against the spirit of judo, the judoka will receive shido penalty.

The repetitions of technical and tactical faults, which are penalised with shido, are cumulative and a maximum of three faults (shido) can be given. This means that after a third shido the contest will be stopped and the opponent will be declared the winner by ippon.

There are several circumstances which result in disqualification (hansoku-make):

1. When hansoku-make results from "progressive" penalties (three shidos), the disqualified contestant is allowed to continue to compete in the repechage rounds, etc. including the bronze contest, if applicable.
2. In the case of direct hansoku-make for "protection" of a contestant (e.g. diving headfirst onto the mat), the competitor is allowed to continue to compete the repechage rounds, etc. including the bronze contest, if applicable.
3. In the case of direct hansoku-make for acts against the spirit of judo and/or application of dangerous techniques, the competitor is disqualified from the competition. If the hansoku-make is for acts against the spirit of judo a sanction can be added. For details, please refer to the IJF Sport and Organisation Rules (SOR) and Refereeing Rules.

Remark Regarding Awarding Ceremony

If hansoku-make has been given for "protection" of the athlete (e.g. diving headfirst onto the mat), or for three shidos, medals and places should be awarded; if it is for acts against the Judo spirit, the IJF Ad Hoc Commission will decide.

Winning Technique

To provide information on which technique was used while winning the contest, the IJF uses various codes (140 of them) that are listed together with the contest score in the Contest Result reports and Contest List. These codes are mostly used by statisticians. The full list of codes is available on the IJF website.

Protests / Appeals

Protests against the Referees' decision will not be accepted.

Note:
For further information please consult: www.ijf.org