2026/27 Northern Ireland Judo Federation
REGIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Introduction:	The Area Regional Schools Events have been developed to allow players to represent their school and enter a series of events leading to the National Schools Championships without the fear of having to compete against a National Medallist. By competing with players of a similar level, it allows coaches and parents to assess if the player is ready for the opportunity to enter the National Championships. These events are also aimed to assist the development of young people as referees, table officials and coaches.
Organisation / Entries:	Northern Ireland Judo Federation (events@nijudo.com) Online entries only
Venue:	Foyle Arena 2 Limavady Rd, Londonderry BT47 6JY
Date:	Sunday 11th October 2026
Entry Process:	Online via the NIJF website https://www.nijudo.com/event/schools-championship/
Participation:	**Important please note that Dates of Birth and year groups are aligned with the British School System as this is a regional BJA event. Please use the date of birth brackets for each entry not the school year.** This is a Level 2 Development event for those born between 01/09/2012 and 31/08/2018 and a Level 3 Development event for born between 01/09/2008 and 31/08/2012 and is not open to the following: and **is not open to the following**: **DOB 01/09/2016 – 31/08/2018: (Age Group 1)** No eligibility restrictions. **DOB 01/09/2014 – 31/08/2016: (Age Group 2)** No eligibility restrictions. **DOB 01/09/2008 – 31/08/2012: (Age Group 3&4)** Any player who has won a medal at the last British Pre-Cadet/ Cadet/ Junior/ Senior Championships (December 2025). EXCEPTION: any player who won less than two contests at either event IS eligible. Any player with 100 points or more on the Cadet/ Junior/ Senior BJA ranking lists. This event is open to all school children who comply with the criteria above and hold a current valid licence of the BJA, Judo Scotland, NIJF, WJA, BJC or AJA. Players can change weight categories between this event and the British Schools Championships. **If you attend a British School but hold a licence with an unaffiliated governing body, who are recognised by the IJF, there will be an additional charge. Please enter as usual and once entry has been confirmed the events team will in contact.** **NO VALID LICENCE - NO CONTEST – NO EXCEPTIONS – NO JUDO** *To enter the British School Championships, judoka must have competed at least one regional schools' competition between September 2026 to March 2027, (Exceptions may be considered in certain circumstances; any requests must be submitted to the events team via email for approval no later than December 2026). Must attend a school in Great Britain. Those living in Scotland can qualify by competing at either the Scottish National Closed 2026 or Highland Budokan 2026.*

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Competition Format:	**Technical restrictions will apply for Age Groups 1&2** **With the recent change to the technical restrictions, players with DOB 01/09/2016 – 31/08/2018 (Age Group 1) do not have golden score, but if in a pool system, hikiwake is to be given, and if in a knockout system it is referee decision.** **Armlocks & Strangles permitted in Academic Years 10 to 13. This category will be points scoring for eligible players.** Please see the BJA Contest Rules for further information. Method of Elimination The British Judo Association rules will apply throughout the competition. The method of competition will be compound knockout in categories of 8 or more players and pools and knockout in categories of 7 players or less. The Tournament Director reserves the right to combine or alter categories should entries dictate. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Director will be final. Contest Times **Age Group 1.**: 3 minutes, no Golden Score, see above in **bold**. **Age Group 2.** 3 minutes, Unlimited Golden Score. **Age Group 3&4.** 4 minutes, Unlimited Golden Score.
Seeding:	There is no seeding at this event
Weight Categories:	**Please note that the minimum grades for regional competitions are lower than the minimum grade for the British Schools Championships**. **Age Group 1** (born 1st September 2016 to 31st August 2018) Minimum grade 1st mon (Bottom Red Belt). Male: -27kg, -30kg, -34kg, -38kg, -42kg, -46kg, -50kg, -55kg, and +55kg. Female: -28kg, -32kg, -36kg, -40kg, -44kg, -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, and +57kg. **Age Group 2** (born 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2016) Minimum grade 4th mon (Bottom Yellow Belt). Male: -27kg, -30kg, -34kg, -38kg, -42kg, -46kg, -50kg, -55kg, and +55kg. Female: -28kg, -32kg, -36kg, -40kg, -44kg, -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, and +57kg. **Technical restrictions will apply in Age Group 1&2** **Age Group 3** (born 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2014) Minimum grade 6th mon (Top Yellow Belt). Male: -34kg, -38kg, -42kg, -46kg, -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -66kg. -73kg and +73kg. Female: -36kg, -40kg, -44kg, -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg and +70kg. **Age Group 4** (born 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2012) Minimum grade 9th mon (Top Orange Belt) or 4th kyu (Senior Orange Belt). Male: -42kg, -46kg, -50kg, -55kg, -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg and +90kg. Female: -44kg, -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg and +70kg. *Please note, that* **Age Group 4** *is separated into two categories for the final British School Championships. They are merged for the regional events due to entry numbers.* NOTE Players must satisfy the minimum weight limit for their category, ie for -73kg players must weigh over 66.1kg. For the lightest weight categories, you need to weigh no less than 10%, ie for -55kg you can weigh no less than 49.5kg. Players may enter a different weight category at the final event from the one they competed in at the regional school event.

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Registration & Weigh In:	OPEN weigh in: All female and male competitors MUST present themselves to the weigh-in wearing competition acceptable judogi trousers and must wear a plain crew neck t-shirt/rash guard for weigh ins. **All competitors will receive a 0.8kg allowance.** Weigh-in and stary times (maybe subject to alteration, based on entry levels): Age group 1: 9.15am to 9.45am Age group 2: 9.15am to 9.45am Age group 3: 11.30am to 12.00pm Age group 4: 11.30am to 12.00pm We aim to start the contests 30/45 minutes after weigh-in is completed.
British School Championships guidelines – for judoka and parents:	**Judoka** • Help beginners or lower grades, if you can. • Follow all judo rules throughout the event. • Bow correctly at the beginning and end of a contest. It is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game. • Accept decisions; let your coach ask any necessary questions. • Control your temper, do not shout or abuse other judoka or officials. • Be a good sport, cheer all good play, and respect all of your fellow judoka. • Remember that the aims of the British Schools Championships are to have fun, help you develop as a judoka, improve your skills, and conduct yourself in a sportsman-like manner. • Represent the ideals, disciplines and etiquette of British Judo to the highest level. • Treat all judoka as you would like to be treated, do not take unfair advantage of any judoka. • Co-operate with your coach and opponents, without them you do not have a game. • Contestants without instruction, adjust their judogi, so that the front and back of the jacket are inside the belt after every mate. **Parents and Coaches** • Please be aware that children develop differently, at different rates and react differently to the same pressures. • Children and young people are involved in organised sport for their enjoyment as well as yours and so please respect this at all times. • Always encourage your child to train and compete by the rules of judo. • Teach your child that effort and teamwork are as important as victory, so that the result of each contest is accepted without unnecessary disappointment and with a positive sporting attitude. • Never ridicule or shout at your child for making a mistake or losing a contest. • Children learn best by example. Applaud good play by your team and by members of the opposing team. • Do not question publicly the officials' judgement and never their honesty. • Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities. • Set an example by being friendly to the parents of the opposition, emphasise enjoyment and fun, praise and reinforce effort and improvement. • Coaching is allowed throughout competition. • Please remind your child/judoka that without instruction, they should adjust their judogi, so that the front and back of the jacket are inside the belt after every mate (see new BJA rules).

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Important links and policies	By entering and/or attending this event you agree to abide by all British Judo Association policies and codes of conduct. This includes but is not limited to: - Transgender policy https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/what-we-do/policies/transgender-eligibility-and-participation-in-competition-policy/ - Codes of conduct https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/membership-terms-conditions/ - Contest rules https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/compete/organising-a-competition/contest-rules/ o https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/roles-and-clubs/roles/referees/resources/ - Stoma bags: https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/participation-in-competition-with-stoma-bags/ - Prosthetic limbs: https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/participation-in-competition-with-prosthetic-limbs/ You must contact the organisers at events@nijudo.com if you require any support at the event or have any questions regarding the above points. Please note that failure to comply with these policies and codes of conduct may result in not being able to compete/attend this event, or removal from the event, and notification to the British Judo Association. These policies and codes of conduct are in place to ensure everyone attending the event have a good experience.
Closing Date for Entries:	Wednesday 7th October 2026
Entry Fee:	**£ 23.00** **If you attend a British School but hold a licence with an unaffiliated governing body, who are recognised by the IJF, there will be an additional charge.** **For this competition - the extra charge will not apply to IJA licence holders who will only be charged the standard entry fee.** **Late entries and entry on the day will not be accepted.** ENTRY FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE NOR TRANSFERABLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. (including injury) CHANGES TO THE TOURNAMENT MAY BE MADE AT THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IF THE TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED – ONLINE ENTRY ONLY **THE ENTRY LIST WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED**
Spectator Tickets:	Spectators are welcome at the event, with no charge. Seats are unreserved.
Volunteer Deployment:	All volunteers should report to the safeguarding desk before the event commences.

Photography:	By entering this event, you are agreeing to accept the BJA policy in respect of photography and video usage. The use of photographic equipment is permitted. However, should a request be made for you to stop, you should respect the wishes of others. **Anyone taking video or photographs MUST register at the photography desk on entry and have a valid wristband on display.**
Coaching Passes/group leader:	Coaches MUST produce a VALID BJA or IJA Coach Card in person in order to be eligible for the following: • To gain entry free of charge to BJA centrally administered National Events. This excludes EJU and IJF events. • To gain mat-side access with their player at a BJA centrally administered National Event (Only one coach per player will be permitted at any one time). Minimum Level 1 coach award. If you are attending the event but will not have a coach with you (For example you are travelling with your PE teacher) please notify us at events@nijudo.com.

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FAQ's

Q1 Do I have to enter a regional school's competition in my own area?

No, you can attend any regional school's competition in any area.

Q2 Do I have to take part in a regional school's competition to be eligible to take part in the British School Championships?

Yes – to be eligible for the British School Championships, you need to meet the minimum grade requirement and have competed in at least one regional school championships.

Q3 Can I enter the regional championships and the British School Championships if I am home-schooled.

Yes – you are eligible to enter the competitions if you are home-schooled.

Q4 What if my regional championships are cancelled and there is not another opportunity to qualify?

Proof of entry to the regional championships and other competitions you have entered will be taken into consideration when deciding if you qualify for the British School Championships

Q5 If I have entered and taken part in a regional school competition, am I automatically registered for the final British School Championships in March?

No – if you wish to take part in the final British School Championships, you must enter through the BJA entry system.

If you have any further questions about the British Regional Schools events or the Championships, please do not hesitate to contact the BJA events team: events@britishjudo.org.uk