



Special Needs Judo Foundation

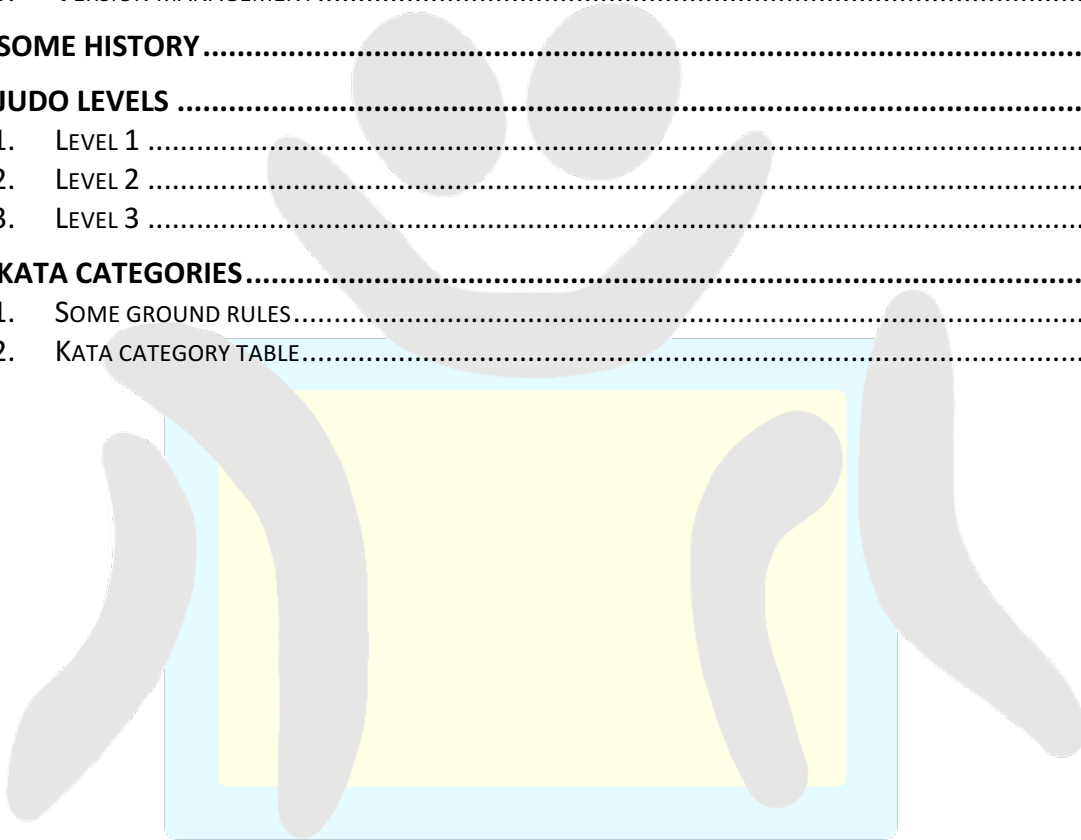
Special Needs Kata Rules

Version 2016-01.01 (EN)



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2. This document

2.1. Document status

This is the first version of the Rules and Regulations document for Kata for Special Needs Judoka. As with all Special Needs regulation documents, this document is an addition to the regular rules. There are multiple earlier versions of this document around. As per July 2016, the only correct version is the PDF file 2016-01.01.

2.2. Guideline

This document is the guideline for SN (Special Needs) Kata competition in the Netherlands starting from the season 2015-2016.

2.3. Version management

Versie	Auteur en redactie	Opmerkingen
Dec 2015	Tycho van der Werff, Bob Lefevere	Original
2016-01.01	Bob Lefevere	Redacted



3. Some history

In 2014, SNJF organised the first Special Needs Kata Tournament alongside their Open European Special Needs Tournament in Beverwijk. This was a great success, with 28 teams performing. Furthermore, the Katastrof Kata Team, part of SNJF, took part in the Dutch National Championships with amazing results. The Special Needs Kata community was received with wide open arms, and SNJF decided to continue the Katastrof project.

Very soon, SNJF found a need for regulations. After all, it is not fair to have a paralysed judoka compete against a fully articulate judoka with only a social handicap. If we want Kata competition to be fair, we will have to create clear categories.

In line with our adagium: “Normal where possible, but modified where necessary” we developed a set of rules under which SNJF feels every judoka can perform his own version of kata.

It is now 2016. A number of our kata judoka have performed so well that they decided to leave the Special Needs Kata behind, and switch to performing in regular Kata competition. At the same time, they lend their experience to their handicapped team mates. We are happy to report that the kata Judo is thriving in the Dutch Special Needs Judo community!

This document describes our rules, and the various classifications.



4. Judo Levels

4.1. Level 1

Is a judoka with a social, or light intellectual or physical disability. This judoka has an excellent Judo instinct, and knows very well what he¹ is doing. This judoka can handle his disability very well. The Judo-abilities of this judoka are comparable to a mainstream, non-handicapped judoka.

4.2. Level 2

Is a judoka with a intellectual or physical disability. This judoka has a moderate Judo instinct and understands what he is doing after repeated explanation. With the assistance of uke, trainer or coach, this judoka can handle his disability and this judoka can train with mainstream (or level 1) judoka when some adjustments are made.

4.3. Level 3

Is a judoka with a heavy mental or physical disability. This judoka has little or no Judo instinct, and needs a lot of explanation and guidance in order to understand and perform the kata. This judoka can NOT train with mainstream or level 1 or 2 judoka.

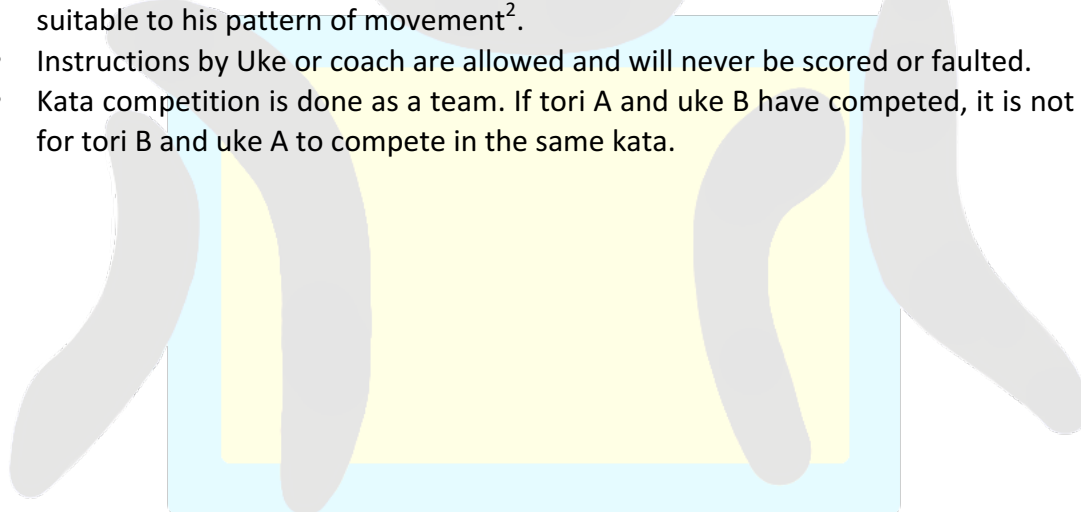
¹ For reasons of readability, the male form is used in the text. However the female form must be read implicitly.



5. Kata categories

5.1. Some ground rules

- Tori must always be a Special Needs judoka.
- Level of Uke depends on the category.
- Levels 2, 3 and 4 are allowed to modify the kata, but techniques must be replaced with a similar technique, to be approved by the judges. For example, a kata-guruma: Some judoka will initiate this throw by lowering to their knee, and some tori will even roll with the throw, for safety. This must be described in the application.
- If there is a throw that does not seem correct when looking at the judoka's mobility and is therefore not properly modified, this scores as an error. Example: If a judoka is very unstable due to Cerebral Paresis, makes an ippon-seoi-nage and has to be stabilised by Uke after the throw then this counts as an error, as stabilisation by the Uke is not correct. More logical is that the judoka uses a rolling version of ippon-seoi-nage, as this is more suitable to his pattern of movement².
- Instructions by Uke or coach are allowed and will never be scored or faulted.
- Kata competition is done as a team. If tori A and uke B have competed, it is not possible for tori B and uke A to compete in the same kata.



² In a sense, one could say that the coach is also scored for this. SNJF is of the opinion that coaches should teach their judoka how to perform techniques in a safe manner and this should be visible in the kata.



5.2. Kata category table

Category 1	Scoring is identical to normal, mainstream kata. These are level-1 judoka, being able to compete in mainstream tournaments.	
1A	Nage-no-kata, 3 series	Uke is mainstream or Level 1
1B	Katame-no-kata, 3 series	Uke is mainstream or Level 1
Category 2	Scoring as with Dan examinations. Good performance is rated rather than errors. Modifications to the kata are allowed but must be reported to the jury before the tournament.	
2A	Nage-no-kata, 3 series	Uke is mainstream or Level 1
2B	Nage-no-kata, 3 series	Uke must be SN and same level as tori
Category 3	Scoring as with Dan examinations. Good performance is rated rather than errors. Modifications to the kata are allowed but must be reported to the jury before the tournament.	
3A	Katame-no-kata, 3 series	Uke is mainstream or Level 1
3B	Katame-no-kata, 3 series	Uke must be SN and same level as tori
Category 4	Open class. Scoring is identical to normal, mainstream kata. Level 1 and 2 judoka only.	
4	All competition kata allowed	Uke is mainstream or Level 1
Category 5	Kata for the lowest levels. No regular competition kata but rather a work piece described and submitted to the main jury, before the tournament. Level 3 judoka only.	
5	A work piece describing a kata	Uke can be mainstream or SN