



# International Judo Federation

**Attention to:**  
**IJF Member National Federations**

**Subject:** Removal of coaches from tatami's border during competitions

11 December 2008

Dear Sirs,

The founder of judo, Jigoro Kano, wished when he created judo in 1882 to set up an educational system.

Our mission today is to sustain his will. It comes to survival of our sport in the world where competition is growing among various sports participants. We must also be attentive to the presentation of judo which must remain a discipline included in the Olympic Games.

The image we give of judo, especially at major events with important media attendance like Olympics, is a reference for all current and future judo participants.

An athlete is alone against his opponent in a fight. In the educational concept of judo, the role of coaches is to prepare his players for this autonomy. We must reserve for a Judoka the decision-making and ability to manage this confrontation.

Mainly for this reason we made a decision to remove coaches along the tatami from 1 January 2009. A specific location will be reserved for them in the competition hall.

Some outbursts on coaches' side have also hurt the image of our sport at the Beijing Olympics. Unjustified and continuing criticism against referees had undermined our refereeing in public and media's opinion.

We hope for your help in our mission so that judo continues to set a good example for every person.

Sincerely yours,

A blue ink signature of Jean Luc Rougé, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by 'ougé' and a long horizontal stroke.

Jean Luc Rougé  
Project manager

A blue ink signature of Vladimir Barta, featuring a stylized 'V' and 'B' followed by 'arta' and a long horizontal stroke.

Vladimir Barta  
Head Sport Director