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Hampshire Leagues & Cups

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Executive Summary

Objective

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed league and cup competitions for BJA Hampshire County. It has been prepared to answer the interest in this form of activity expressed by the committee. The document outlines several options for a league system and also a club cup system.

Both the league and the cup proposals have the objective to increase the access to and participation in competitions for Judoka in Hampshire. The secondary objective is to increase the interaction between clubs and foster closer relationships. The third objective is to increase the level of Judo in Hampshire, in terms of technical development, competition ability, positive competition experience; and also the opportunities for volunteering.

Goals

The goal of all the proposals is to increase participation in competition by Hampshire Judo clubs. We aim to increase participation in pre-existing tournaments and also form a team based club league to increase inter-club competition and interactions.

Solution

The proposed solution is to form a inter-club team league competition and a club cup competition.

Hampshire Judo Club Cup

The club cup proposed is based on the cup systems used outside of the UK (notably Croatia and Slovenia). The cup works similarly to the IJF and BJA ranking lists. Individual results in competitions are recorded and points awarded for players that finish in positions 1-5 (or 1-7). These points are awarded both to the individual and to their club. At the end of the “season” or year the winning individuals and clubs are awarded the “cup”.

There are a large number of “cups” that are possible. The divisions can be defined to allow even small clubs a chance at winning. For example cups can be awarded by age group (under 12, under 15 etc etc), by gender, etc. For simplicity a smaller number of clubs might be sensible with further expansion in later years.

A sensible proposal might be Male and Female categories in the official BJA age categories. Mini-mons (u12 years), Junior (u16), Young Men/Women (17-20), Senior(20+), Veterans(30+).

Points would be collected at any and all official event, ranging from Hampshire events through to BJA, EJU and IJF events. Varying amounts of points would be awarded based on age and event. For example, a Hampshire under 12 year old winning the Hampshire Closed may be awarded 20 points. Where as a Senior winning the Hampshire closed might be awarded 40 points. A senior winning an Olympic gold might be awarded 4000 points.

Points would be collected and collated by the cup organiser, using an electronic, internet based system. All results would be visible on the BJA Hampshire Website, with clubs being ranked by age group.

The cup would run from January to December.

The cup could include results from league matches and also Hampshire Gradings to provide further incentives for participation in these events.

Hampshire Club League

The league is proposed to encourage inter-club competition, providing more opportunities for participation within the county. Key elements of the league are as follows:

- 5 person teams (including 1 female).
- 3 Divisions: Junior (u16), Senior (16+), Veterans (30+).
- 2 “conferences”, North and South.
- 12 teams per conference.
- Round-Robin format
- Top 4 teams from each conference play in “Finals”

The proposal is that clubs visit other clubs and compete informally. The visiting team will pick the weights (From official BJA categories) and the home team must (if possible) match those weights. Clubs will cooperate to pick weights where both clubs can field a team of 5. If however this is not possible then the weight will remain and the team unable to field a player in that weight will be forced to forfeit that match. A league “commissioner” will have final decision in regard to all team disputes.

Given 12 teams per conference, the “regular season” will take 11 rounds. We propose that the North and South conferences compete on alternate weeks (if possible). This means clubs have up to 2 weeks to arrange their matches. This is an unproven length of season and could be shortened by different formats. For example, 4 conferences (North, South, East, West) consisting of 5 teams each? This would require 4 rounds for each team to meet one another. This would allow us to have “Home” and “Away” rounds in 8 rounds.

It is envisioned that some clubs may collaborate and have league days where 2,4 or even 12 teams meet on one day to hold their matches at a sport centre. This might make exciting Judo events that attract more support from parents etc.

Season

It is proposed that the season follow the Hampshire County Council school term dates as many clubs operate primarily during term times. This would mean the season started in September and runs following half-term and school holiday breaks.

Draw

Unless a dual round-robin system is implemented, clubs will have approximately half their matches “away” and approximately half at “home”. The draw for which teams fight who will be generated electronically as will the Home and Away selections.

In following years, draws can factor in the previous years home and away fixtures to ensure over time all clubs visit all other clubs.

Year One - Trial

It is proposed that a trial version of the league is trialled in 2011 and early 2012. This test league would operate until June 2012 approximately and will consist of volunteer clubs. This will allow us to test the ideas, format and discover difficulties before launching the full league in September 2012.

Growth and expansion

Smaller and larger league formats and sub leagues are imagined. An obvious candidate (which may happen as part of the trial) is a University League, with regular fixtures between the University Judo Clubs (Southampton, Winchester and Southampton Solent). The same might be possible for schools based Judo Clubs. The Cup system could also be expanded to include University and Schools as well as clubs; allowing us the opportunity to highlight Judo within schools be it via clubs operating in schools or simply students within schools who compete.

Tiered league structures could be implemented, with promotion and relegation based on end of season results is also possible and can be explored.

Discussion

This document outlines the proposed Club Cup and Club Leagues for BJA Hampshire. The ideas have been gleaned from the former Hampshire Judo League and from existing leagues and cup systems in other countries.

Leagues and cups are associated with the strongest Judo nations. Examples include Japan, Germany and France. Much of the ideas in this document are based on discussions with members of the Slovenian Judo community. Slovenia is a small nation with a population approximately the same as Hampshire County. Unlike Hampshire, Slovenia has 38 athletes on the IJF ranking list including 4 in the top 20 (2 ranked 3rd in the world). The Slovenians credit much of their success to their club cup system.

This document does not detail all the intricacies of the proposed league, rather outlines the structure and direction proposed so that the committee and clubs can review the work so far and have an opportunity to add their input to the final format of the league and cups.

Questions for all clubs:

1. Given the information provided, would your club be interested in participating?
2. Would your club be able to field a team (5 people incl. 1 female)? Junior? Senior? Veteran?
3. Would your club be able to fit matches into your schedules?
4. What approximate entry fee (if any) would be suitable?
5. Ideas please.

Summary

The club cup and league proposals have been developed to increase the level and opportunity to participate in competition locally and wider afield. The league is envisioned as a semi-formal competition format, providing access to the sporting element of Judo at a local level with a friendly feel. The cup provides incentive for players and clubs to participate in formal BJA events to gain prestige for their clubs.

The cup and league ideas have already received the broad (unofficial) support of Sport Hampshire as they are seen to be increasing participation locally in “a sporting active lifestyle” and the health and social benefits of sporting competition at a local level; whilst supporting national governing body events and programmes.