



Southern Area Judo Jersey Judo Annual Report for SA AGM 2026

It has been an encouraging and busy year for Jersey Judo, with progress across performance, participation, workforce development, governance and facilities. We continue to build from a strong community base, while supporting athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers to develop within Jersey and through links with British Judo and the Southern Area.

Performance and athlete pathway

A major highlight has been the selection of Steven Rabet to represent Jersey at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games. Steven lives and trains in Scotland and qualifies through his Jersey-born grandfather. His selection marks the first Jersey Judo athlete at the Commonwealth Games since 1990. We are delighted for Steven and look forward to supporting him as he prepares for Glasgow.

Judo has also been selected for the 2027 Island Games in the Faroe Islands, and several senior athletes are now training towards that event as part of Jersey's wider multi-sport team. During the year our athletes gained valuable experience at events including the British Veterans Open, Northern Ireland Open, Hampshire County Closed and the Inter-Counties team event.

Participation and community engagement

We held local club festivals in November 2025 and March 2026, giving members valuable on-island competition experience and helping our referees and officials continue to develop. Our juniors also travelled to UK events including the Southern Area Schools, Southern Area Closed, Hampshire Closed and Liverpool Open. We remain very grateful to mainland organisers for welcoming our young athletes, and to our fellow island clubs in Guernsey and the Isle of Man for their continued support.

On 4 June we hosted the King's Commonwealth Baton, giving our juniors the opportunity to learn more about the Commonwealth Games and take part in an online question-and-answer session with Steven Rabet. We also supported promotional activity with Jersey Dairy and attended the Jersey Sports Showcase in June 2026, helping to raise the profile of judo locally and encourage new families to get involved.

Coaches, referees and volunteers

Workforce development remains a priority. We have a coach revalidation course scheduled for 4 July 2026, with Laurence Kenyon delivering "Finding Your Feet", and we plan to run a referee course in Jersey later in 2026 to reinforce understanding of the latest rules. We also recognise the outstanding contribution of Tony Palmer, who stepped down in December 2025 after 40 years of service to judo in Jersey across coaching, refereeing and committee roles. We thank Tony warmly and send him our very best wishes.

Governance and facilities

In June 2026 we completed our sport health check with Jersey Sport, confirming our eligibility for Jersey Sport funding and reviewing key standards including safeguarding, safety, insurance, governance, volunteers and data protection. This process has helped us keep improving the way the club is run and supports our commitment to providing a safe, well-managed environment for all members.

A significant milestone was our permanent relocation from Fort Regent to Oakfield in Q4 2025 as part of the Government of Jersey's wider facilities programme. The new sports centre includes a purpose-built dojo, and the facilities are working very well for members. We were pleased to mark the move with an opening ceremony and to thank the local politicians and partners who helped make it possible.

Thank you to our coaches, volunteers, parents, athletes, committee members, Jersey Sport, British Judo, the Southern Area and our wider judo community for their continued support. We look forward to building on this progress over the coming year.

Bill Baker
Chairman, Jersey Judo