



Updated version: 07.01.2025: Sports
Hall

EVENT OUTLINES

Sofia European Open Men & Women

Sofia – Bulgaria

January 31st – February 01st 2026



IJF World Ranking Event



1. ORGANIZER

Bulgarian Judo Federation

Address: 1040 Sofia, 75 Vasil Levski Blvd.
Email: bfjudo-events@abv.bg
Tel: +359 2 930 0602/+359 2 930 0609

Emergency Contacts:

General matters: Ms. Diana Maximova; +359899737733; bfjudo-events@abv.bg
Accommodation: Ms. Diana Maximova; +359899737733; bfjudo-events@abv.bg
Transport: Mr Iliya Zapryanov; Mr Nikolay Ignatov; +359886317037
+359897211165; zaprianov_tr@abv.bg

2. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Before Travelling

Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of arrival.

- Check host country entry requirements and airline requirements (if applicable).
- Check if you need a visa, and if yes, request it from the LOC according to the details in the **ENTERING THE HOST COUNTRY** section.
- Send travel information (arrival and departures) to the LOC.
- Book accommodation with the LOC.

Entering host country

Each individual is responsible to ensure they follow the entry rules (passport validity, visas, entry permission letter) for the host country. Entry rules may be subject to change, current rules can be found under the link: <https://www.mfa.bg/bg/uslugi-patuvanja/konsulski-uslugi/patuvane-bulgaria/viza-bulgaria>

Insurance

It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that in addition to their normal insurance they have sufficient insurance in place to cover any pandemic related costs, including repatriation. The LOC of the event and the EJU accept no liability for any claims relating to cancellation of the event due to any pandemic or medical costs for any illness that may affect them during the event.

3. COMPETITION PLACE

Sport hall: Arena 8888

Address: Sofia, 1 Asen Yordanov Blvd; <https://arenaarmeeccsofia.net/>

4. AGE

15 years old and over (born in 2011 and before)

5. PARTICIPATION

This European Judo Open is open for all EJU/IJF Member Federations. **There is no limit** in the number of participation for each weight category for every federation. The competitors must be of the same nationality as the National Federation, which enters them.

6. COMPETITION RULES

System of competition: quarter-final (last 8) repechage, duration of contests: four (4) minutes (real time); Golden Score – no time limit.

Weight categories:

Male: -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg

Female: -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, -78kg, +78kg

7. DEADLINES

Visa Application:

Friday, 19th December 2025

Hotel Reservation:

Friday, 16th January 2026

Hotel Payment:

Monday, 19th January 2026

Travel details:

Monday, 19th January 2026

JUDOBASE Registration:

Friday, 16th January 2026

8. PROGRAM

Attention: The schedule may be modified according to total number of entries and circumstances of competition. *The start time will be confirmed once the final number of athletes is known

Friday, January 30th 2026		
10:00 – 17:00	Accreditation	Hotel Ramada
18:00 – 18:30	Unofficial weigh-in	Hotels Ramada & Moskva
18:30 – 19:15	Official weigh-in Women: -63, -70, -78, +78 kg Men: -60, -66, -73 kg	Hotels Ramada & Moskva
19:30	Draw	online
Saturday, January 31st 2026 Women: -63, -70, -78, +78 kg Men: -60, -66, -73 kg		
TBC	Referee Meeting	Arena 8888
TBC*	Eliminations/Repechage/Semi finals	Arena 8888
After	Final Block: Bronze Medal Contests, Finals	Arena 8888
18:00 – 18:30	Unofficial weigh-in	Hotels Ramada & Moskva
18:30 – 19:15	Official weigh-in Women: -48, -52, -57 kg Men: -81, -90, -100, +100 kg	Hotels Ramada & Moskva
Sunday, February 01st 2026 Women: -48, -52, -57 kg Men: -81, -90, -100, +100 kg		
TBC*	Eliminations/Repechage/Semi finals	Arena 8888
After	Final Block: Bronze Medal Contests, Finals	Arena 8888



9. JUDOBASE REGISTRATION

All participants and delegates must be registered for this event in the IJF Registration System (**JUDOBASE**): <https://admin.judobase.org/> .

Deadline for JUDOBASE Registration is **Friday, January 16th 2026**

	NO IJF Official ID Card	Late entry IJF Official ID Card: YES	Replacement IJF Official ID Card: YES
Athletes		LATE ENTRY FEE 60 Euro	0€
Other delegates (Head of delegation, Coaches, Physios, Doctors, ...)	• ENTRY NOT POSSIBLE • REPLACEMENT NOT POSSIBLE	0€	0€

Please note:

- Late entries can be done on spot after payment of 60 Euro late entry fee. Late entry fee has to be paid additionally to the regular EJU participation fee which is 60 Euro. In general 120 Euro has to be paid in case of late entry.
- Persons, who are banned by their Federation or IJF cannot be entered as late entry or replacement.

10. ENTRY FEE

The EJU entry fee of **60€** per athlete must be paid.

11. ACCREDITATION & CONTROL OF NATIONALITY

At least one team delegate (and not more than 2) must attend the accreditation/team list confirmation on **Friday from 10:00 – 17:00** on time in order to confirm the entries of all athletes and officials with his signature on the delegation confirmation list. A delayed appearance or no-show may result in the exclusion of all participants from the draw and the event. In case of unforeseen delay of arrival, the National Federation must immediately contact both the organiser and the EJU (headoffice@eju.net). Passports or photocopies of passports from all competitors must be available on request (national ID Card showing nationality, picture and date of birth or a copy is also accepted). The competitors must not be present at the nationality control.

Very important: Each National Federation must be represented by a team leader or coach responsible for registration of **ALL athletes from the respective National Federation**, regardless club or other membership. **Every National Federation will be accepted for accreditation only once**, when all entries and payments can be confirmed at the same time.

12. DRAW

The draw will be held **ONLINE**.

Seeding: the top eight (8) from the entered competitors in each weight category will be seeded according to the current IJF World Ranking List.



13. WEIGH-IN

Official weigh-in for each weight category is held the evening before the competition day (see program). **Athletes must present their EJU accreditation card and their passport** (National ID Cards showing nationality, picture and date of birth are also accepted).

Official scales or test scales will be available for test weigh-in on Friday and Saturday from 08:00 – 22:00 (except during official weigh-in from 18:30-19:15).

It is forbidden to take photos or film inside the weighing room.

15. RANDOM WEIGH-IN

Random weight checks for athletes will be organised in the morning before the start of the competition. Random weigh-in will open one hour before the start of the competition each day. The time limit to arrive to the random weigh-in is 30 minutes or 6 contests before the athlete's first contest at the latest.

The athletes must bring their accreditation for identification. The weight of the athlete cannot be more than 5 % higher than the official maximum weight limit of the category.

16. REFEREEING

Each National Federation may enter 2 referees with at least continental license. Only referees who have a FINAL ranking of at least 6,8 in the 2025 ranking list are allowed to referee in European Open. The referees with a lower ranking can only referee at European Cups. The control if a referee fulfils the requirement of ranking, will be checked at the moment of inscription in Judobase by EJU Head Office. However, when a referee got classified with at least 6,8 in an European Cup in 2026, he/she can go to the next European Opens. The organizing federation may enter a maximum of 2 referees with required classification

JUDOBASE registration deadline for referees: Friday, 16th January 2026.

The bow:

- The contestants must not shake hands BEFORE the start of the contest.
- When the athletes are leaving the mat they must wear judogi in proper way and are not allowed to take out any part of the judogi or the belt before leaving the field of play.

17. COACHING

All coaches must fully adhere to the Code of Conduct for Judo Coaches.

Dress Code: Elimination rounds:

National track suit with trousers reaching down to shoes or jacket suit with tie

Final block:

Formal suit (jacket, trousers, shirt, and tie for men; jacket, trousers/skirt/dress, blouse for women) and formal shoes (no sport shoes or flip-flops).

18. TRANSPORT

Airport: Sofia Airport

The organizer will provide transfers between the airport and official hotels and all other facilities related to the event.



19. ACCOMMODATION

All delegations, who inscribe for an EJU event should reserve their accommodation in the official hotels published in the event outlines. The reservation must be made with the local organising committee (not directly with the hotel).

The organiser proposes the following official hotels:

Cat. A

Ramada by Wyndham Sofia City Center*

Address: 131 Maria Louisa Blvd, Sofia, 1202, Bulgaria; www.ramada

Check-in time: 14:00; check-out time: 12:00

Distance to the airport: 12 km; distance to the sports hall: 8 km.

Prices per person/per night	B&B	Lunch in the hotel	Lunch box in the venue	Dinner
Single room	185 €	30 €	17 €	30 €
Double room	155 €			

*Ramada Hotel offers a large fitness center, spa & swimming pool for free for hotel guests.

Cat. B

Park Hotel Moskva

Address: 25 Nezabrvka Str., Sofia 1113; <https://www.parkhotelmoskva.net/?lang=en>

Check-in time: 14:00; check-out time: 12:00

Distance to the airport: 11,5 km; distance to the sports hall: 5,2 km.

Prices per person/per night	B&B	Lunch in the hotel	Lunch box in the venue	Dinner
Single room	153 €	30 €	17 €	30 €
Double room	123 €			

Hotel booking and transfers have to be made directly with the organiser: Ms. Maximova Diana; + 359899737733; bfjudo-events@abv.bg

Organizer will allocate hotels at his own discretion depending on the category booked, until all places in the chosen category are filled.

Obligatory minimum stay in the official hotel is 2 nights.

Participants are allowed to book their own accommodation. In this case for every accredited person a service fee of **200 €** applies to be paid to the organizer.

Hotel reservation deadline: Friday, 16th January 2026

Hotel payment deadline: Monday, 19th January 2026

Cash payment upon arrival is not allowed. All payments have to be done in advance per bank transfer. Credit cards' payment is not available on spot.

Deadlines and cancellation policy:

Hotel reservation deadline is January 16th 2026. The reservation sent by then is binding. For reservations sent after the hotel deadline, the organizer can charge an **extra surcharge of 10%**. However, in this case the organizer is not obliged to provide accommodation and can just charge the service fee.

Replacements must be free of charge.

Cancellations:

30 and more days before accreditation date: full refund.

29-15 days before accreditation date: 50% refund

14 and less days before accreditation date: no refund



In case of tournament cancellation by the local authorities full payment will be refunded.

Important: Injuries, visa problems or sickness are not valid reasons for cancellation of rooms.

In case of any damage to hotel property or competition venue caused by members of a delegation, their national federation will be charged by the organizing committee.

20. PAYMENT

Kindly complete the payment for accommodation and entry fee to the organiser's bank account:

Bank Address:	19, Moskovska street, Sofia 1036, Bulgaria
Bank Name:	DSK BANK
IBAN:	BG84 STSA 9300 0023 3024 40
SWIFT:	STSABGSF
Payment reference:	EO Sofia 2026 (Name of Country/Club)

After the reservation a document with a number reference will be sent to the National Federation, please use this number as reference of payment and for the accreditation.

Please, be careful with the fraudulent emails. Always check the email address from which you receive the invoice and check the details of payment from the outlines.

21. JUDOGI CONTROL

Approved Judogi

All Judoka must compete in IJF Approved Judogi (only red and green label allowed). In particular sponsors of the European Judo Union: Danrho Kwon KG (www.kwon.com), Essimo (www.essimo.nl), Ippon Gear (www.ippon-shop.com), Double D Adidas (<https://combat-sports.net>), Mizuno (mizuno.com) and other IJF suppliers are allowed (see <https://www.ijf.org/supplier-list>)

Judogi Control

It will be operated with a Sokuteiki prior to the fight. Judogi must have an IJF Official Label "APPROVED JUDOGI" with an optical code which cannot be falsified. The label will be controlled with an optical lamp. Each of the competition clothing articles (jacket, trousers and belt) must have an IJF official label.

Backnumber

Each competitor taking part in the EJU events is obliged to have sewn on the back of his Judogi the official backnumber bearing his surname and his National Olympic Committee abbreviation. The backnumber can be ordered from sponsors of the European Judo Union: Judo Backnumber (<https://judobcknmbr.com/>), mybacknumber (<https://www.mybacknumber.com>) or Official Backnumber (<https://www.officialbacknumber.com>) and others IJF suppliers are allowed (see <https://www.ijf.org/supplier-list>)

Attention: production and delivery may take around 4 weeks!!!.

The SPONSOR part (if needed) will be given to the head of delegation during registration, and the athletes can stick it themselves using the special glue on the back number.

Markings and Advertising

The space on the **shoulder stripes** (25cm x 5 cm on both right and left side) and on the **upper arms** (10cm x 10cm on both right and left side) can be either used for own sponsors of the Federation or Judoka or EJU Suppliers, **BUT not for any other Judogi supplier**.



The space on the **right chest** (5cm x 10cm) can be used by the Judoka for his/her own sponsor. The logo of a Judogi brand can only be used, if it corresponds with the brand of the Judogi itself and if it is an EJU Supplier. Further, no logo of a competing brand of the advertising reserved for the Federation can be used (unless approval granted by the Federation).

Please note: On all advertising spaces it is strictly prohibited to promote tobacco, alcohol, any substances listed in the doping code, or any product or service contrary to public morals.

The space on the **left chest** (10cm x 10cm) can be used for the national colours or the national emblem corresponding with the IOC code on the backnumber (regional emblems are not allowed).

All other markings on the Judogi, like Judogi brand logos, name of Judoka, etc. have to comply with the IJF Judogi Rules.

Detailed information is available on <http://www.eju.net/statutes>.

Important:

- If an athlete does not respect the Judogi rules, the athlete will not be permitted to pass the Judogi Control, and the coach who is responsible for the athlete will be suspended for the rest of the competition day.
- The organiser is not obliged to provide reserve Judogi at Judogi Control, but the athlete is allowed to present himself in another IJF Approved Judogi, complying with the Sokuteiki rule (and without backnumber) - in this case no coach can go with this athlete to the mat!
- In the case of a repeated offence the coach will be suspended for the rest of the competition.

22. RESPONSIBILITY OF FEDERATIONS

The competitors will compete under the full responsibility of their federations. Insurance: Each national federation is responsible for insuring its competitors against "injury and third part risk (public liability)" during the period of the event. The European Judo Union and the organiser decline all responsibility.

Consent for Photography/Videos/Filming

Delegates inscribed by their National Federations for EJU events consent to the EJU and its media partners to use content of them, including data, live results, photographs and/or video recordings (hereafter referred to as Media). This media may be obtained from National Federations and EJU. It will also be acquired by the EJU and its media partners from in and around all EJU event venues. Media could be used in print and digital media formats including print publications, websites, e-marketing, posters banners, advertising, film, broadcast, social media, education purposes and other purposes. The National Federation must ensure that they have the permission of each delegate or in the case of a minor the permission of the parent/guardian. If a delegate does not give consent, then the National Federation must inform the European Judo Union by writing to headoffice@eju.net.

23. ANTI-DOPING

Doping control will be executed according to the **IJF MEDICAL AND ANTI-DOPING HANDBOOK (IJF SOR – Appendix E)**.

24. MEDIA

Journalists can apply for Media accreditation online using the following link: <https://www.eju.net/media/> or per email: media@eju.net.



25. VISA

For nations who need VISA to enter Bulgaria, please send the "Visa Application Form" fully filled not later than Friday, 19th December 2025 and submit to Ms. Diana Maximova; bfjudo-events@abv.bg.

26. TRAINING

Tatami for training will be available:

Thursday: from 16:00 till 19:00 at Dianabad

Friday: from 09:00 till 20:00 at Dianabad

Saturday: from 07:00 at Asics Arena

Booking of training sessions must be done by the organiser per email nyvelichkov@gmail.com (Mr. Nikola Velichkov) or on spot during accreditation.

Training on competition days in the sports hall warm up arena can be allowed only after 14:00.