

## MEDICAL COMMISSION



**Chair:** CASTRO Antonio

**Members:** HEINZ Vladimir, HIDAS Peter, BRONS Arnold, KAMIYA Nobuhiro, ELKETTANI Chafik, ELOKIURU Rauno, LAMBERT Christophe, EMBER Andrea

The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in July 2021 were a success, the continued COVID-19 testing that the Judo Family was familiar with from the World Judo Tour (WJT) events resulted in no positive cases among the athletes, all with a quota were able to compete.

In 2022 the Medical Commission welcomed three new members, Dr Rauno Elokioru from Finland, Dr Nobuhiro Kamiya from Japan and Dr Christophe Lambert from Germany, all active judoka and coaches, bringing not just medical but thorough judo knowledge with them.

Following the Olympic Games, 2021-2022 were the years of transition for the Medical Commission. Constantly monitoring the pandemic, the Commission initiated several amendments to the IJF COVID-19 Protocol to provide a smooth transition back to normalcy while at the same time assuring the highest safety for the World Judo Tour (WJT) participants. From the initial 2 PCR tests before travel and 2 PCR tests after arrival, in 2022 it was possible to demand no tests after arrival for the last two event of the year.

In 2022 there were 5208 PCR and 10753 Antigen tests that resulted in only 72 positive cases.

	Positives 2022*	Total tests	%
GP Portugal	22	1059	2,08%
Paris GS	6	1054	0,57%
Tel Aviv GS	6	1237	0,49%
Antalya GS	4	1519	0,26%
Tbilisi GS	0	838	0,00%
Ulaanbaatar GS	0	656	0,00%
Budapest GS	14	1392	1,01%
Zagreb GP	9	1417	0,64%
Guayaquil WCJ	4	1045	0,38%
Sarajevo WCC	4	1359	0,29%
Krakow WCV and WCK	1	1220	0,08%
Tashkent WCS	0	1800	0,00%
Abu Dhabi GS	2	765	0,26%
Baku GS	0	669	0,00%

\*There were no COVID-19 tests at the last 2 events, Tokyo GS and World Masters Jerusalem.



The 3 events with the highest numbers were due to breaching the protocol, when some delegations were not following its regulations. These cases indirectly showed the importance of the IJF COVID-19 Protocol and its role in keeping the judo events safe.

In 2023, unless the pandemic still necessitates, IJF will not require any tests before or during the events.

Unlike COVID-19 testing, the anti-doping activities, in and out of competition doping tests were carried out uninterrupted. During the WJT events, in partnership with the International Testing Agency (ITA), the Commissioners continued their effort in keeping judo not just safe but clean.

In 2022 there were 423 in-competition doping tests. Besides these tests the ITA commissioned 166 urine and 16 blood test out-of-competition doping tests on the 60 Registered Testing Pool athletes.

The ITA partnerships also provided several webinars, covering the topics from doping control to supplement use, therapeutic use exemption questions, the prohibited list or result management of the cases. Anti-doping education, development of an online platform for athlete courses, athlete support personnel (doctors, coaches, etc.) course and a certificate system is an IJF-ITA joint project to accomplish.

The Members participated in various conferences and seminars, one of which was the joint EJU-IJF Medical Seminar in Istanbul. The doctors discussed among many topics the question of the transgender athletes. The Commission is preparing a thorough analysis of the impact of transgender athletes' participation on judo. The document will follow the legal frame set forth by various Court of Arbitration of Sport (CAS) awards and the International Olympic Committee guidelines on fair decisions that respect the rights of all athletes.

The Medical Commission in close relationship with IJF IT Team is working on digitalising the injury statistics; future recommendations on rule changes for the Referee Commission will be based on the data analysis to be more effective in protecting the health of judokas. Beyond physical health, the Commission is also concentrating on mental health studies and how to provide better psychological support to the athletes, aiming a holistic approach of wellbeing.