



February 19, 2010

To fellow Judoka,

Just a further update for you on the upcoming Edmonton International Judo Championship, March 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We have a number of positive things to add to our tournament package which will add to the attraction of this high quality tournament.

First, we have been able to secure an excellent price on DAX mats from our friends at Hatashita.com and accordingly, the competitors will be competing on the same mats used at the Olympics and World championships. Thank you, former Olympian Roman Hatashita, for your support of our tournament.

Hotels are filling very quickly, and in fact we have had to add a third hotel, West Harvest Inn (1 888 882 9378) to our preferred list, as the first two are effectively sold out. West Harvest inn is directly adjacent to the Executive Royal Inn from a location perspective. Please endeavor to book your accommodations as soon as possible to ensure that you are not disappointed with your hotel. Please see page six of the tournament package for detailed contact information and options.

In light of the concentration of "IJF A" referees, the tournament is pleased to advise that grading opportunities for referees is now extended up to National A, please ensure that interested referees are contacting Alberta's head Referee, Brian Fujimoto ( jbu@telusplanet.net), confirming your interest in this aspect of the tournament. Registration for the referee Symposium is also encouraged at this time to ensure available space with our amazing panel, which will endeavor to explain the new rules and how they effect today's competitor and referee.

We have been asked by the sports bodies to add a "female only" training session to the curriculum on Friday afternoon from 3:00 pm until 4:30pm that will be onsite at the tournament venue. Professional High Performance Judo Coach Fatira Merah, will run the training session and has assured the organizers that the focus of the training is to enhance judo skills and develop some further athlete identification on a regional and a national basis. This event is in addition for the general Sunday morning training session

run by two time Olympian Ewan Beaton, and Fatira Sunday morning. For more information on the "female only training session please contact Fatira directly at [hpcoach@telus.net](mailto:hpcoach@telus.net)

Interested in Kata? Gord Okamura and Kelly Palmer, Canadian Kata Champions, have offered to review katas with interested participants on Sunday morning on the warm up mats adjacent to the Sunday am training session. Please contact Gord at [gordon.okamura@gov.ab.ca](mailto:gordon.okamura@gov.ab.ca) to confirm your participation.

Due to popular demand we have now added a younger age category to our Sunday competition, please review page two of the attached tournament package for detail and applicability to younger club members that may be interested in participating.

We are very excited about the potential success of the tournament for 2010, registrations are beginning to flow in from various parts of Canada and abroad, and from the emails and telephone calls we are receiving, interest is very high. Your early submission of competitors would be appreciated by our Registrar Helen Bienart to eliminate late hours and confusion. Once we have a few hundred registered competitors we will begin regularly loading the registrations by weight class on our website [www.edmontonjudo.com](http://www.edmontonjudo.com) .

As always, if you have any questions on the event please don't hesitate to contact me by email and I will endeavor to respond as quickly as possible. Accordingly, please mark your calendars, adjust your budgets, and plan to travel this March 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2010, to the Edmonton International Judo Championship . . . truly a unique Judo tournament experience.

Yours in Judo,

*Mark Hicks*

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Electronic distribution of this correspondence by yourself to your club members, potential competitors, and referees would be appreciated and welcomed.