



## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUDO NATIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE ALBERT PARK – MELBOURNE**

Judo Australia (JA) in partnership with the Combat Institute of Australia (CombatAUS) are excited to announce the establishment of a full time Judo National Performance Centre at Albert Park, Melbourne. A National Performance Centre will provide the highest level of training and preparation for Australian Judoka to develop into competitive international athletes.

The establishment of a National Performance Centre (NPC) is supported by research of other international judo programs, with a centralised model demonstrating the most successful performance outcomes for high performance athletes. The Judo NPC will run in conjunction with, and gain numerous cross-combat sport benefits from, the CombatAUS Taekwondo NPC, run out of the same venue.

Judo Australia CEO, Emma Taylor is pleased to see the Judo high performance program further evolve- “Our involvement with CombatAUS has presented an opportunity to engage with the infrastructure of an existing high performance centre and we know a centralised environment will benefit our athletes and enable them to achieve more competitive international results, including international medals. The National Performance Centre, in the Albert Park precinct, is ideal for the HP needs of judo in Australia.”

In preparedness for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and 2024 Paris Olympic Games, the NPC will provide judo athletes with a full time venue, elite coaching and supplementary performance support services focussing heavily on strength and conditioning, medical, physiotherapy and nutrition – all quality controlled through the Victorian Institute of Sport. JA and CombatAUS are aiming to have judo athletes training in the NPC by October 2021.

Alex Vallentine, CombatAUS CEO, is pleased to have these two programs working together: “The opportunity to have centralised national high performance programs for two CombatAUS sports is incredibly exciting. CombatAUS has been able to facilitate shared opportunities and infrastructure that Judo and Taekwondo would not have been able to realise on their own. Together we are strengthening both of these sports by working together collectively.”

JA and CombatAUS recognise the continued importance of Judo clubs across the country, as well as the JA state-based Performance Hubs, in supporting aspiring high performance athletes to reach their potential. Judo Clubs and state-based Performance Hubs continue to be central to the JA National athlete pathway.

JA and CombatAUS would like to acknowledge and thank the Victorian Institute of Sport for their engagement and support of the NPC. JA and CombatAUS also acknowledge the support of the Australian Institute of Sport for their support through the Small NSO Infrastructure Grant.



**AIS**

