

EXPERT CONSENSUS GUIDING EVIDENCE-BASED CLASSIFICATION OF VISION IMPAIRMENT IN JUDO

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JUDO FOR ATHLETES WITH VISION IMPAIRMENT

- On the Paralympic program since 1988
- In VI judo, all athletes compete in the same class
- Starting with both athletes taking a grip on the opponent



AIM OF THE STUDY

*To guide research on evidence-based classification of vision impairment in judo, by **reaching expert consensus** on the specific needs of a new classification system for VI judo.*

DELPHI EXPERT CONSULTATION

Expert panel

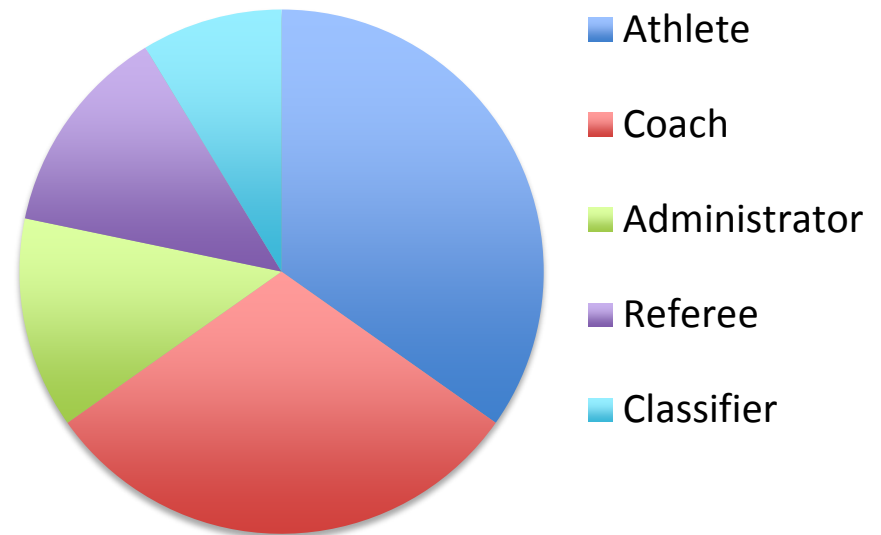
18 experts in VI judo

From across the world

Different roles

3 rounds of online surveys

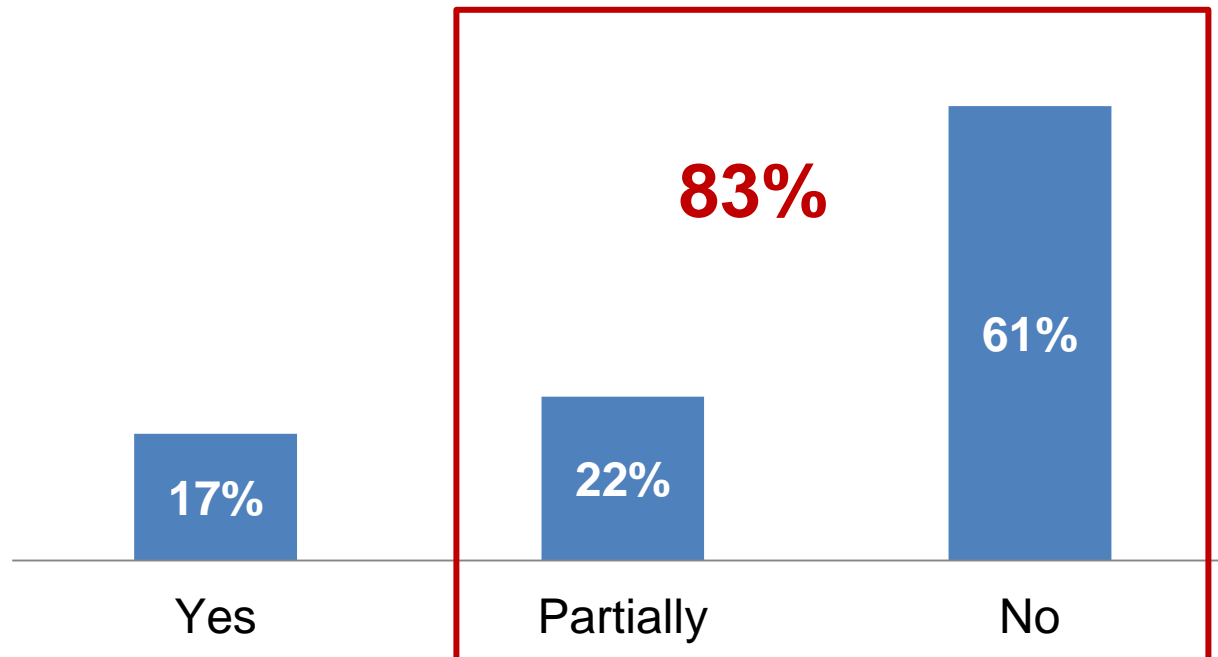
Consensus: >75% agreement



AIM OF CLASSIFICATION

The aim of classification in Paralympic sport is *to minimise the impact of eligible impairments on the outcome of competition.*

Does the classification system in VI judo fulfil this aim?



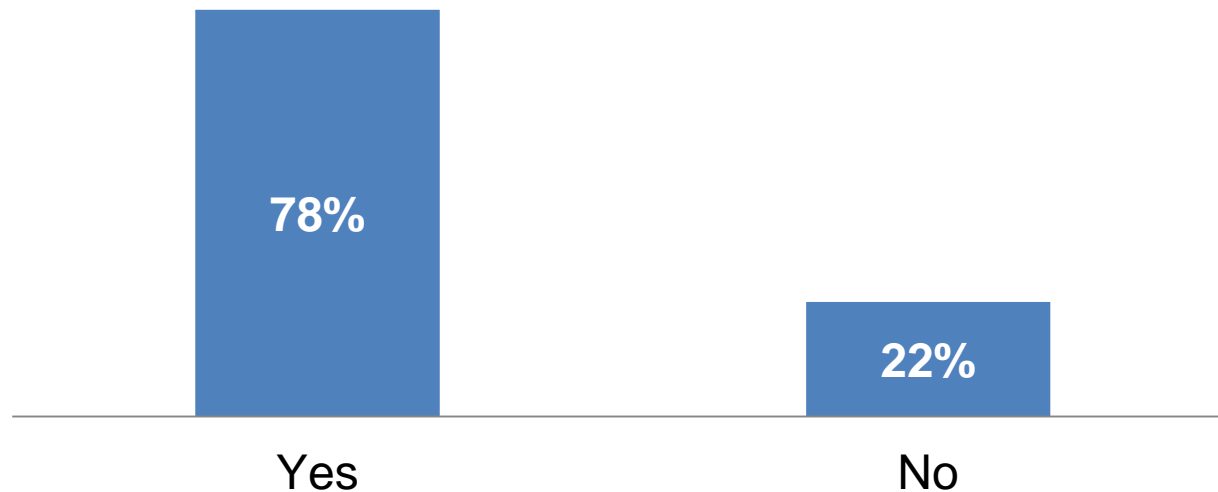
KEY FINDINGS

The panel believed that the classification system in VI judo does not (entirely) fulfil its aim. **Why not?**

1. It is unfair that blind and partially sighted athletes compete against each other in the same class.
2. Additional measures of visual function might need to be included in classification.
3. The MIC should be reconsidered and might need to become narrower (i.e. less inclusive).
4. Intentional misrepresentation of vision impairment undermines fair competition and measures needs to be taken against this.

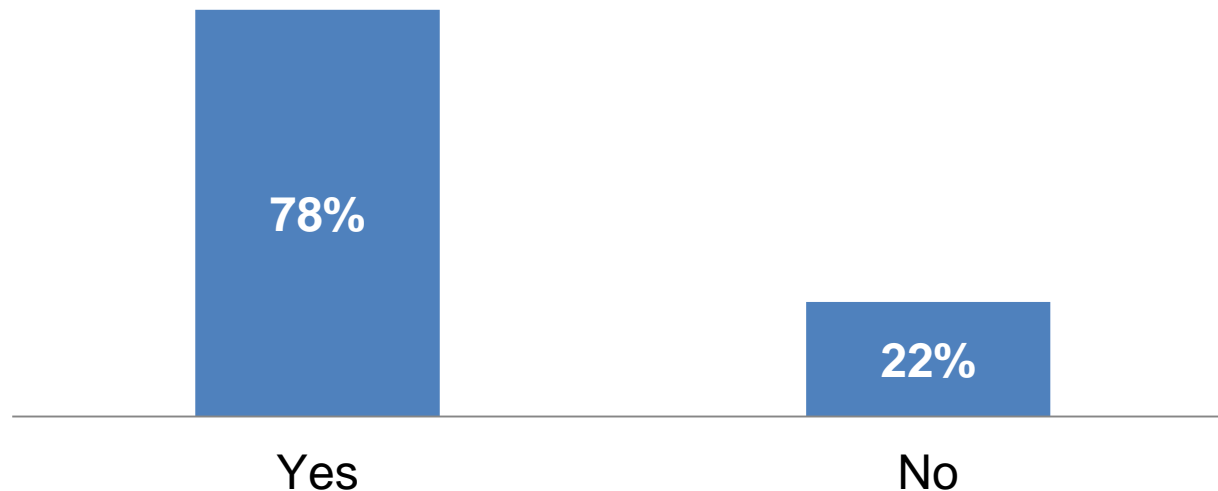
SPORT CLASSES

Do you believe that *splitting VI judo into more than one sports class* would create a more fair competition?



SPORT CLASSES (2)

*Do you believe that having **a separate class for blind athletes** would be more fair than the current system?*



FOLLOW UP STUDY

Are blind athletes at a disadvantage when fighting partially sighted opponents?

1. Blind judokas win far less medals in VI judo competitions than their partially sighted opponents.
2. Able-sighted judo players performed worse when fighting blindfolded in simulated matches under VI judo rules.

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Fight without sight: The contribution of vision to judo performance

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ASPECTS OF VISION

Measures of visual function	Important enough to include in VI classification	Not important enough to included in VI classification
Visual acuity	100%	0%
Visual field	100%	0%
Motion perception	71%	29%
Dynamic visual acuity	69%	31%
Light sensitivity	69%	31%
Depth perception	64%	36%
Ocular coordination	56%	44%
Contrast sensitivity	53%	47%
Colour vision	19%	81%

FOLLOW UP STUDY

Which measures of visual function best predict performance?

- Data collection at European Championships (August 2017)
 - 31 athletes tested
 - Broad range of visual function tests
 - Compare vision test results to performance in competition
 - Data analysis is ongoing



CONCLUSION

Strong consensus was found amongst the VI judo community **to change the way that judokas with vision impairment are classified** for competition.

These expert opinions helped us to **guide further research** on evidence-based classification of VI in judo.

THANK YOU

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the International Blind Sports Federation
and the International Paralympic
Committee.*

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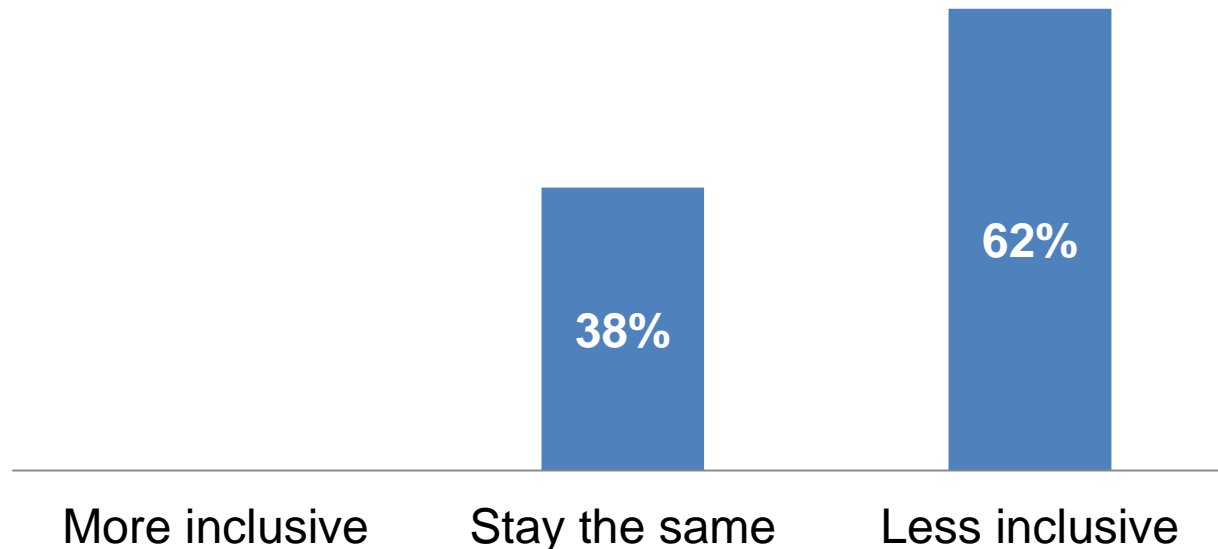
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MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA

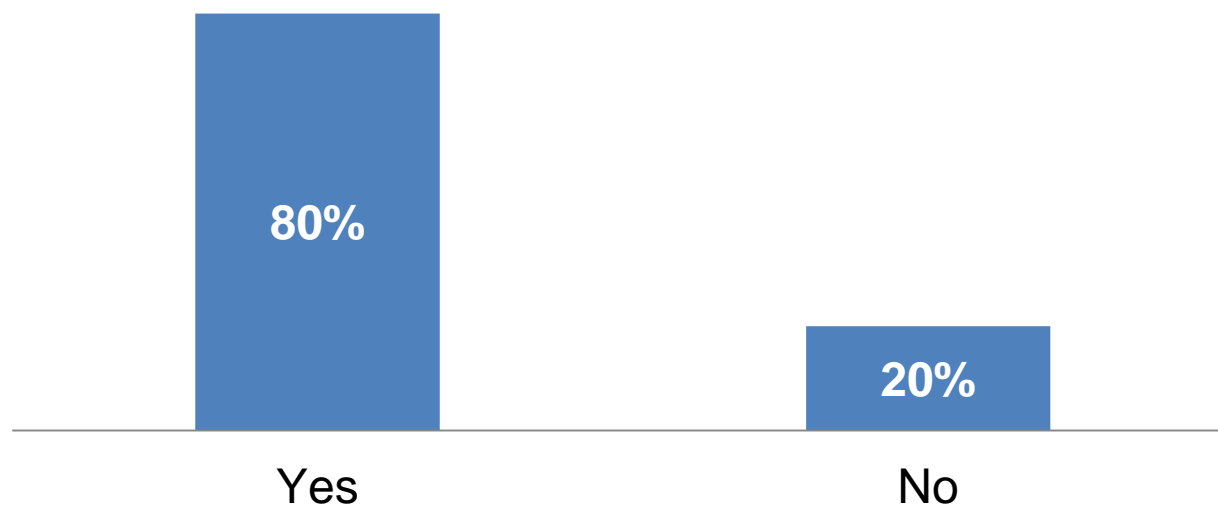
Should the MIC for VI judo become:

1. more inclusive (i.e. allowing more athletes to compete)
2. Stay at they are
3. less inclusive (i.e. allowing less athletes to compete)



MINIMUM IMPAIRMENT CRITERIA (2)

*Do you believe that **further research is needed** to define the minimum level of vision impairment that would decrease performance in judo?*



CLASSIFICATION PROCEDURES

Classification testing both eyes together or best eye only?

- **78% both eyes**
- 22% best eye

What optical correction should be used?

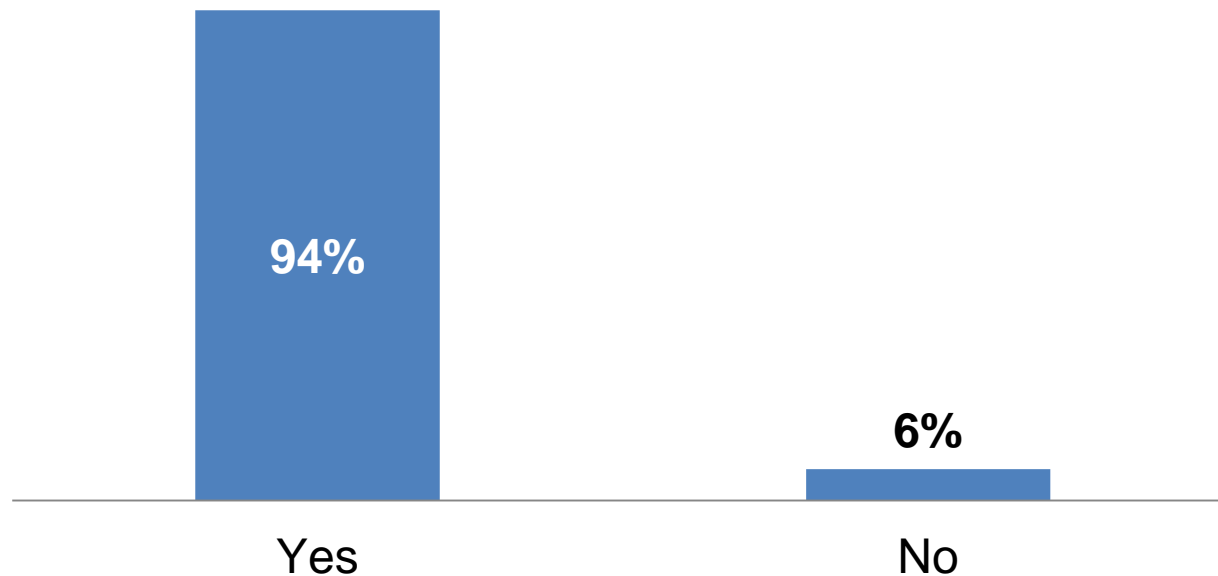
- **76% Best possible correction**
- 18% best that can be worn on the mat
- 6% no correction

*Would you be in favour of the use of **centralised classification centres** instead of classification at competition venues?*

- **82% YES / 18% NO**

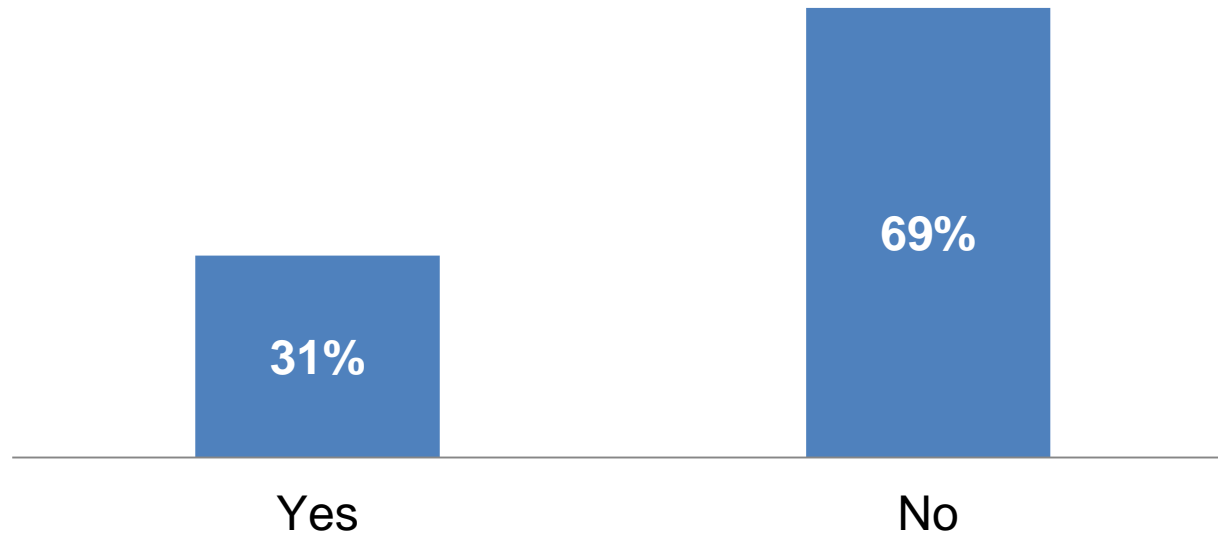
INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION

*Do you believe that some VI judo athletes are currently **intentionally misrepresenting their level of visual ability** during classification?*



BLINDFOLDING

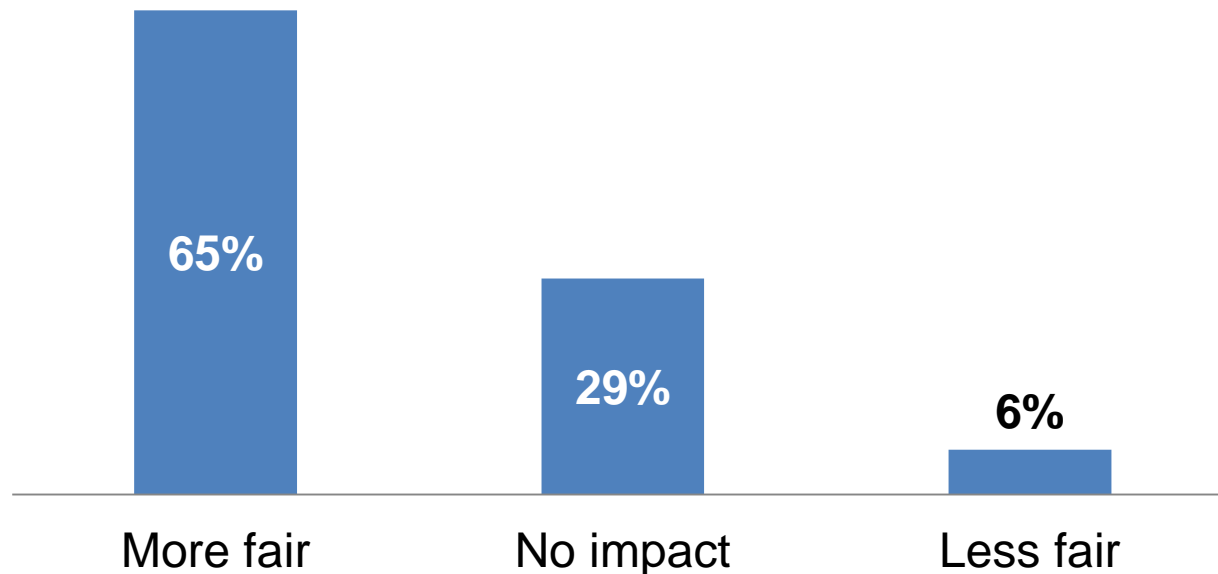
*Do you believe that the use of blindfolds would **be an appropriate way to create fair competition** in VI judo?*



BLINDFOLDING (2)

Requiring all athletes to wear blindfolds, would:

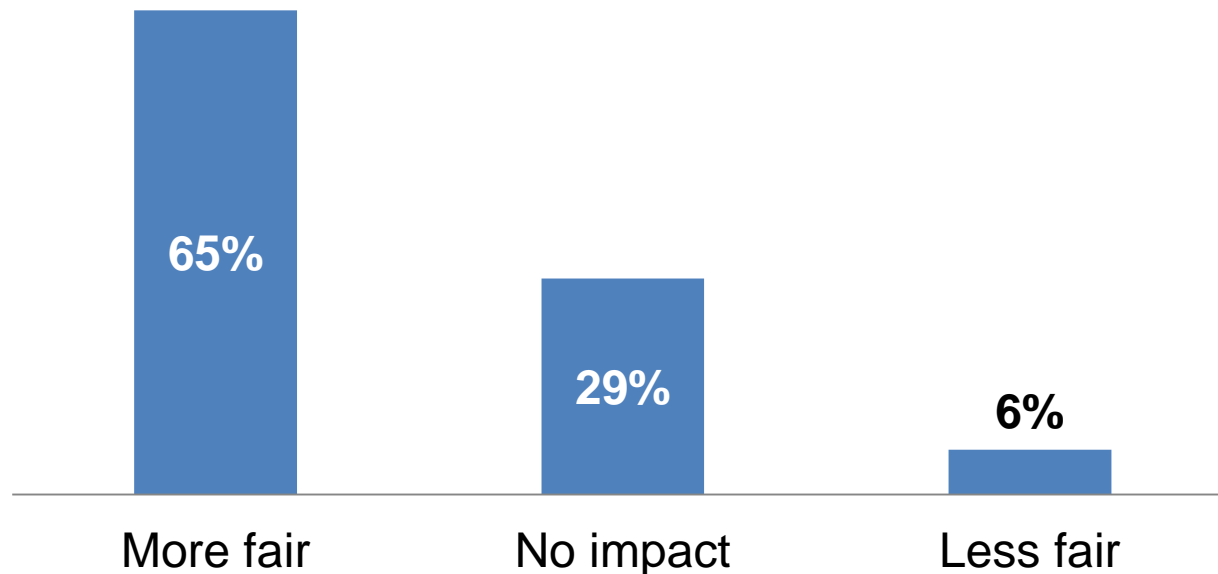
- make VI judo more fair than it currently is
- not impact the fairness of competition
- make VI judo less fair than it currently is



BLINDFOLDING (2)

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- make VI judo more fair than it currently is
- not impact the fairness of competition
- make VI judo less fair than it currently is



BLINDFOLDING (3)

Blindfolding all athletes would be too dangerous

29% YES / 71% NO

Blindfolding all athletes would be too unpractical

71% YES / 29% NO