A 10-year Analysis of Fight Outcomes Between Athletes of Different Classes in the Paralympic Judo
Classification and technical rules of IBSA Judo

- B1, B2, B3 classes
- Athletes with hearing impairments can also participate
- Weight categories
Classification and technical rules of IBSA Judo

Athletes of different classes fight against each other.

A totally blind individual can compete against one with remaining vision!
Why are you stealing from blind persons?

Many athletes, coaches and officials argued:

- B1 athletes have fewer chances of winning against B2 or B3 athletes
- B1 athletes have fewer chances of being selected for the National Teams
- B1 athletes will no longer stay in the sport
How to validate these assumptions?

- outcomes of 1,936 official fights
- 10 major international IBSA Judo competitions
- 10-year period (2007-2016)

- estimation of number of athletes across all groups
B1 against B2 fight outcomes

Success of B1

- Male: 35.1%
- Female: 34.3%
- Both: 34.8%

Diagram showing the success rates of B1 and B2 for different gender categories.
B1 against B3 fight outcomes

Success of B1

- Male: 36.5%
- Female: 16.1%
- Both: 31.8%

Diagram showing the success rates of B1 and B3 in different categories.
B2 against B3 fight outcomes
Overall fight outcomes

B1 VS B2

- B1: 65.2%
- B2: 34.8%

B1 VS B3

- B1: 31.8%
- B3: 68.2%

B2 VS B3

- B2: 50.6%
- B3: 49.4%
The number of B1 athletes decreased by 7%
True or False?

Many athletes, coaches and officials argued:

- B1 athletes have fewer chances of winning against B2 or B3 athletes **TRUE**
- B1 athletes have fewer chances of being selected for the National Teams ???
- B1 athletes will no longer stay in the sport **TRUE**

Why are WE stealing from blind persons?
Visual Impairment VS Sports Performance

- Visual Impairment
  - Balance
  - Coordination
  - Muscle endurance
  - Health-related quality of life

Sports Performance
Food for thought

Is it fair for a totally blind athlete to compete against one with remaining vision?

Logic and common sense  NO  (opinion)
Physiology  NO  (science)
Fight outcomes  NO  (statistics)
Solutions?

1. Change the classification rules
   Functional classification in VI sports
   Vrije University Amsterdam
   IBSA Judo Grant – Kai Krabben
   How long will it take? 2020-2022...

2. Change the technical rules
   B1 compete in separate class
Should we have more classes in Para sports?

Development of new classes in Paralympic sports

- Medicine, physiology, biomechanics (classification)
  - Make the sport fair
- Sports management
  - Do we have enough athletes?
- Financial issues
  - Do we have enough funds?
If we don’t change it

- How many athletes will compete in unfair competitions in the next 5 years?
- How many medals will B1 athletes lose BECAUSE of the impact of their impairment?
- How many athletes will be take out from the teams?

How will we feel watching unfair competitions?
The Beggar

By gates of an abode, blessed,
A blind man stood, asking for donation,
A beggar, cruelly oppressed
By hunger, thirst and deprivation.

He asked just for a piece of bread,
And all his looks were full of anguish,
And was a cold stone laid
Into his arm, thin, gnarled and languished.
Thank you!

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