



BLENHEIM JUDO CLUB Inc.

Dojo: Horton Park Pavilion, Redwood Street, Blenheim

Tel: 021 207 9240

Email: info@blenheimjudoclub.co.nz

Web: www.facebook.com/BlenheimJudoClub



7 May 2021

Attn: Nicole Chauval
Marlborough District Council

Long Term Plan Submission for the leasing of vacated building at 2 Taylor Pass Road, Blenheim

Dear Nicole

Thank you for this opportunity to submit an application for our community judo club to lease the above MDC building and please find this below.

Background

Blenheim Judo Club is an amateur judo club that started in Blenheim many years ago, but it first registered with Judo New Zealand as a club in 2006 where it operated from the Riverlands Settlers Hall, then in an Opawa Street warehouse for six years, Marlborough Lines Stadium 2000 for one year, before moving to its current location at Horton Park Pavilion in Blenheim.

We are a registered not-for-profit **Incorporated Society** focused on the development of its members and growth of the club. We are registered regionally with the Central Districts Judo Association (CDJA) covering the Top of the South Island, from Blenheim to Granity, Nelson & Motueka, nationally through Judo New Zealand (JNZ) and internationally via the International Judo Federation (IJF).

We currently have 40 members, ranging in age from 6 years old to adult and hold weekly Tuesday classes for junior beginners, experienced juniors and seniors (13 years to adult), as well as Thursday evenings where possible. We often have overseas judoka (judo players) train at the club whilst they're visiting or working in Blenheim. Blenheim Judo Club is the only judo club in Marlborough and therefore has members not only from the Blenheim area, but from the wider communities of Picton, the Marlborough Sounds, Rai Valley & the Awatere Valley. Club members attend tournaments and training days around the country and successfully represent Blenheim Judo Club returning with achievements to be proud of.

Our Team of volunteers

Shayne Jacks and Dave Foley are the current coaches and members of Blenheim Judo Club. Shayne, a 3rd dan and former British Champion has been coaching judo for many years in the UK and also since his arrival in New Zealand in 2008. He is the Central Districts Area Coach, has NZ National C Referee status and is also Chair of the JNZ Club Support Commission. Dave, a 2nd dan is one of the Club's founding instructors and has entered many competitions in NZ in his judo life. Between them, they bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and commitment to provide a high level of quality judo coaching in the Marlborough area. We also have two qualified Assistant Coaches and others who are

currently in training through the Judo NZ programme. The Club is run by a dedicated group of volunteers, some of whom practice judo and others who have family at the club or an interest in helping with a community group.

What is Judo?

Judo was developed by Professor Jigoro Kano, a Japanese educator, in 1882, initially as a system of moral and physical development. Over time judo has evolved and spread globally. In addition to the original intentions, judo has become an international sport. It has been included on the Olympic Games program since 1964, and is also a core sport at the Commonwealth Games. There are now over 200 countries affiliated to the International Judo Federation, making judo one of the most widespread sporting codes.

The word judo translates into 'gentle way' and its core values are respect, honesty, self-control, friendship, courtesy, honour, courage and modesty. Judo is practiced in a club's dojo (judo hall). It involves the study and application of a wide range of techniques executed from both the standing position, and also grappling on the ground. Striking of any nature is forbidden, so no kicking or punching involved.

Benefits of Judo

Judo can be a life-long activity done socially, for recreation, fitness, or competitively at levels appropriate to age, size, and ability. The whole family can be involved, and it tends to become a generationally shared experience. In addition to meeting new people in the community and learning new skills, judo is:

- fun!
- safe (no striking, and learning to fall safely is a core skill)
- for everyone (it is scalable to all ages, shapes, sizes, and ability levels)
- ideal for developing 'physical literacy' (learning fundamental, functional movement skills including co-ordination, balance and spatial awareness) & improving well-being
- social (you can't practice judo by yourself)
- a means to develop self-confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, respect, social & emotional needs
- an effective way to improve whole body fitness and a great method of cross-training
- useful in developing transferable skills in both sport & life
- life-long learning and progress
- a means of developing mutual welfare and benefit – nurturing your physical and mental strength will in turn make a positive contribution to society.
- practiced worldwide
- supported and regulated at a national and international level

We believe that judo as a sport or recreation isn't just about winning. It's about helping to build a stronger, happier, healthier and safer community.

Why the building at 2 Taylor Pass Road is a great opportunity for us

For reasons beyond our control, Blenheim Judo Club has been forced to move its home a number of times, particularly in recent years. There is no doubt this has caused disruption to the club and its members. Having our 'own' premises and therefore an identified permanent base will help with continuity and allow us to have a stable professionally-run environment giving us potential for growth.

Having a venue that is fit for purpose will give a sense of pride and 'ownership' to the coaches, committee and club members. Whilst where we are currently at Horton Park Pavilion is a dry warm

environment, that is all; we are unable to make it our own. At Taylor Pass Road, we would be able to put up our noticeboards, JNZ technique posters (essential to the improved learning of the syllabus theory), flags of visiting judoka, create a welcoming inclusive space; have a trophy cabinet to proudly display our members and club certificates and awards. We would also be able to put permanent safety measures in place to facilitate our sport ie clean floors, safety padding on obstructions and leave our mats laid down & equipment out permanently – this would eliminate additional set up & pack up time for classes and therefore greatly reducing volunteer time.

We also have the issue of a place for storing of our equipment that is used at regional tournaments, festivals & courses – the onsite garage at Taylor Pass Road would be perfect storage for this.

Whilst the club is financially stable, our income from member's term fees is primarily used to cover the rental of the dojo. There is little revenue remaining to use for anything else such as replacing and expanding our equipment range, assisting with taking teams to competitions or training courses, offering our volunteers compensation ie fuel vouchers, club advertising etc.

Currently the expansion of Blenheim Judo Club is restricted primarily by rental costs, and also by other bookings in place at the venue. Primarily, if we had the sole use of a building, we would be able to offer more judo training sessions per week to our members. This ultimately creates more invested members and more of an opportunity for them to grow in judo and an even better social environment. In addition to our current activities in the dojo, we can see having a building to use at any time; it would give us the ability to:

- expand classes to cater for a greater range of ages, gender, abilities, those with different requirements which fosters inclusion and allows focussed development.
- offer additional specific block courses eg self-defence for women, students with physical or mental special needs, parent & toddler tumble & play mornings for developing fundamental skills as a pathway towards joining junior judo classes etc.
- have sessions for older people in the community who perhaps haven't been involved the sport in the past but would appreciate the learning and social outlet and some mobility and fitness activities on a regular basis in our friendly club environment.
- use the venue to hold demonstrations/shows to promote and share our discipline with the wider community broadening the club base and increase membership.
- hold regional training days at weekends and during holidays.
- allow us to partner with other sporting codes for mutual benefit.
- use it as a function room for the Club's end of year awards night.
- use the venue for the Club to hold fundraising events in the community e.g. quiz nights, bingo to raise money for the club and other good causes in the community.
- have more and better opportunities to share our vision of the value of sport and recreation with the community

We, as a club, are very excited by this possible opportunity to have a permanent dojo in our community and should you have any questions, please do let us know.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Regards

Robert Stillion

022 696 6933

Assistant Club Coach & Treasurer, Blenheim Judo Club