History of judo

In 1882, famous Japanese wrestler, teacher and trainer Jigoro Kano (1860-1938) and several of his followers and pupils opened a school at Eiosho-ji temple. The school was called the “Institute to teach the path” or Kodokan. From this moment, the history of judo began, which has not just become a martial art, but a science, a system for bringing up young people, and rule of conduct on the mats and in life. The Judoka’s Philosophy “Gentleness in relation to the enemy and to life”.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Judo went beyond Japan's borders. Branches of Kodokan opened in America, Germany, France, Britain and Holland. During World War II and the early post-war years, the spread of judo around the world, in spite of its increasing popularity, was suspended in connection with the introduction of a ban on the development of martial arts in Japan by American occupation troops.

Today, the world-famous Kodokan Institute is a multi-storey building in Tokyo, the mat area exceeds 1,100 square metres, and it is a place of judo pilgrimage from around the world. The number of graduates of this institute and its courses total over a million people.

Development of judo in the world

The International Judo Federation (IJF) was founded in 1951, and its first elected president was the only son of Jigoro Kano – Risei Kano. The current IJF president is Marius Vizer (Austria). The federation unites more than 180 national federations.

In 1956, Tokyo hosted the first World Championships, which was attended by 31 representatives from 21 countries. In 1964, judo was included in the Summer Olympic Games programme.

Women's judo owes its birth to the wife of Jigoro Kano. The first world women's championships was held in 1980, and women have been taking part in the Olympics since 1992.

Currently, 203 countries are members of the International Judo Federation. Japan, South Korea, France, Germany, Russia, Cuba, and the Netherlands occupy leading positions in the world Judo.

More than 30 million people worldwide regularly engage in judo, 8 million of whom are in Japan, and about 200,000 are in Russia. According to United World
Wrestling (FILA), judo, along with Greco-Roman wrestling, freestyle wrestling and sambo, is among the four most popular types of wrestling in the world.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is an honorary president of the European Judo Union and International Judo Federation.

**Development of judo in Europe**

In 1889, Jigoro Kano began educational activities in Europe, and personally opened the first judo school in France. From 1910, master of judo Gunji Koizumi lived in London permanently, and on 26 January, 1918, he began organisation of the study of Budokwai martial arts there.

In 1929 in Germany, the first European international competitions in judo among judokas from the English Budokwai club and athletes from clubs in Frankfurt and Wiesbaden took place. Although these meetings began as a tournament between clubs, by 1932, they reached the level of full-scale international competitions.

In the early 1930s, Gunji Koizumi invited a group of friends to organise the European Judo Union, but World War II prevented creation of the organisation.

However, on 24 July, 1948 in London, the British Judo Association was created, and on 26 July of the same year, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland, formed the **European Judo Union (EJU)**. In 1951, Austria and France entered the European Judo Union. Currently, EJU includes **51 national sports federations**.

In September 2007, for the first time, a Russian was elected president of the European Judo Union – **Sergey Soloveychik, from Moscow**.

**Development of judo in Russia**

**Vasily Oshchepkov** (1892-1937) is recognised as the father of Russian judo. He was born in 1892 in South Sakhalin. In October 1911, he enrolled at the famous Kodokan school, founded by Jigoro Kano. On 15 June, 1913, Oshchepkov was awarded 1st dan, and 2nd dan on 4 October, 1917. He became the first Russian and the fourth foreigner to achieve the master's level.

Returning to Russia in 1914, Oshchepkov organised a judo club in **Vladivostok**, which included approximately 50 people.
Moreover, Oshchepkov did a great job of bringing judo to the civilian population. In 1935, Moscow hosted the first championships, and in 1937, a friendly meeting between the teams of Moscow and Leningrad took place.

A judo section was opened within the Sambo Federation of the USSR in the early 1960s. At the same time, Russia became a member of the European Judo Union. The official date of birth of judo in the USSR is considered to be February 1972, when the USSR Judo Federation was created, which aimed to develop, promote and popularise judo in the country.

The first successes of Soviet judo are connected with the names of sambo athletes Anzor Kiknadze and Anzor Kibratsashvili, who won two gold medals at the European Championships in 1962.

In 1964, four participants of the Olympic Games in Tokyo – Oleg Stepanov, Aron Bogolyubov, Parnaoz Chikviladze and Anzor Kiknadze – returned home with bronze medals.

The first Olympic gold for the USSR was awarded to Shota Chochoshvili, who won at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

Three years later, at the World Championships in Austria in 1975, Vladimir Nevzorov became the first Soviet champion.

Subsequently, Soviet judokas again and again climbed to the top spot of the Olympic and world podiums. The following won gold: Vladimir Nevzorov and Sergey Novikov (1976, Montreal); Nikolay Solodukhin and Shota Khabareli (1980, Moscow). At the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992, the united CIS team had two champions: David Khakhaleshvili from Georgia and Nazim Guseynov from Azerbaijan.

The winners of the world championships were: Nikolay Solodukhin and Tengiz Khubuluri (1979, France); Tengiz Khubuluri repeated his achievement in 1981 in the Netherlands; in 1983, the USSR champion was Khazret Tletseri, and Nikolay Solodukhin became the world champion for the second time. The highest awards of the world championships have also been received by Yury Sokolov (1985, Korea); Grigory Verichev (1987, Germany); Koba Kurtanidze and Amiran Totikashvili (1989, Yugoslavia); Sergey Kosorotov (1991, Spain); Nikolay Ozhegin (1995, Japan).

At the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, the Russian team won 3 gold medals (Arsen Galstyan, Mansur Isaev and Tagir Khaibulaev), one silver (Alexander Mikhaylin) and one bronze (Ivan Nifontov).
Russian club Yawara-Neva, composed of the best athletes of the country, defended the honour of the country in international competitions with dignity. Yawara is the only team to have ever ascended the podium at the European Club Championships eight times. The youth teams are preparing worthy successors. Russians are performing successfully in European youth (under 17), junior (under 20) and youth (under 23) level competitions.

Over the past few years, judo centres were built and began operating in various Russian cities, including Kemerovo, Chelyabinsk, Tyumen, Zvenigorod, Nalchik, Orenburg, Krasnodar, Ryazan, Altai Krai, Samara, St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Tver, where there are now fully fledged judo bases.

The Russian team is currently one of the strongest and most successful. Each weight category has talented and technically skilled athletes, demonstrating high quality judo in all competitions. After the success of the 2012 Games, a “judo boom” was observed across Russia, and thousands of children participate in sections and schools.

Staging representative Russian and grandiose international competitions in Russian regions contributes to the promotion and development of sport. In the last few years alone, the following were successfully staged in Russia:

- the European Championships and Judo World Championships in Chelyabinsk,
- the World Championships Open,
- the European Youth Championships,
- the Masters and Grand Slam tournament series in Tyumen,
- the judo competitions within the 27th Summer Universiade Kazan,
- the Golden League European Club Championships in Samara,
- and the annual Cadet European Cups in Tver, St. Petersburg and Orenburg.

The Russian Judo Federation is a member of the International Judo Federation (IJF) and the European Judo Union (EJU). It organises and stages Russian championships and other all-Russian and international competitions in judo in the Russian Federation.

The Russian Judo Federation brings together more than 200,000 athletes and conducts its activities on the territory of over 80 constituent entities of the Russian Federation.

Vasily Anisimov has been President of the Federation since 2010. He is head of COALCO Group of Companies, which has been a general partner of the Federation for many years.
Development of judo in Tatarstan

Judo has been developing in the Republic of Tatarstan since 1971. The first section in Kazan opened at the Tasma association, and in Naberezhnye Chelny at the KAMAZ plant.

Since 1974, the republic's athletes have participated in competitions and championships in Russia, the USSR, Europe and the world. They include Gennady Boryushkin, Sergey Alekhanov, and Zulfiya Garipova.

Gennady Boryushkin received the first title of master of sports of the USSR, and the first prize winner of the USSR was Amir Minlebaev.

Representatives of Tatarstan participated in the Olympics twice: V. Kuznetsov at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich (2nd place) and Z. Garipova at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta (7th place).

In Kazan, the Russian Judo Championships was successfully staged in 2011, and in 2013, judo competitions in the framework of the 27th Summer Universiade Kazan were held, and the Russian Youth Championships took place in 2015.

The Tatarstan Judo Federation was founded in 1996. For 16 years, the president of the Russian Federation was honoured judo coach Vladimir Osipov, who trained 109 masters of sports of Russia.

In 2012, in anticipation of the 27th Summer Universiade Kazan, the Federation was headed by General Lieutenant Fayaz Shabayev, the head of the Department of the Federal Drug Control Service of Russia in the Republic of Tatarstan.

Today, the Tatarstan Judo Federation combines 35 sports schools and clubs throughout the country, where 85 professional trainers and 5,503 judokas are taught.

In Tatarstan, new sections and clubs open annually (in 2015 alone, 7 new sections were opened: 5 in Kazan and 2 in Naberezhnye Chelny).

The development of judo in the republic is paid particular attention. The practice of promoting successful work of the best sports organisations with gift certificates for the purchase of mats and sports equipment was introduced.

Just last year, athletes of Tatarstan were sent to official international and federal competitions more than 60 times.
Today, the Russian national team includes a prominent representative of Tatarstan, 20-year-old graduate of Olimpiysky Naberezhnye Chelny Sports School, Niyaz Bilalov. In 2015, he won bronze medal at the European Championships among athletes under 23 in Slovakia, and bronze medal at the Summer Universiade in Korea. In addition, this sports season, he won a gold medal and qualifying standard of master of sports of international class at the European Cup stage in Orenburg. He also won a gold medal at the International tournament in Austria, silver medal at the African Open Cup in Morocco and silver medal at the European Cup in Minsk.

According to forecasts of the Judo Federation of the Republic of Tatarstan, Niyaz Bilalov has high chances in participating in the European Championships in Kazan.

Also, the team of Tatarstan has active participants in master tournaments for judo veterans: four-time world champion and seven-time European masters champion Sergey Shturbabin and three-time world champion and four-time European masters champion Igor Chichkanov.

**History of European Judo Championships**

The European Judo Championships has been staged by the European Judo Union (EJU) since 1951.

Until 1974, the championships was only conducted among men, and then a trial championship for women was staged. From 1975 to 1986, championships for men and women were held separately.

From 1987 to the present, joint championships among men and women have been held.

At the initiative of the Russian Judo Federation and the European Judo Union, the International Judo Development Fund was created in 2006, the head of which was the first vice-president of the Russian Judo Federation and head of the Yawara-Neva club, Arkady Rotenberg.

The last European Judo Championships was staged in June 2015 in Baku (Azerbaijan) in the framework of the 1st European Games. 400 athletes representing 49 countries took part in the competition. As part of these championships, the signing of the agreement for the tournament in 2016 in Kazan took place. There, the head of the European Judo Union, Sergey Soloveychik, presented the president of the Judo Federation of Tatarstan, Fayaz Shabaev, with the flag of the 2016 European Championships.