



Media Release

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Red Tape Scuppers Potential Judo Champ

A Judo player from Cleethorpes is returning from the British Junior Open Championships with a gold medal.

The gold medal win means that Youseph Alfajare, who is 18 years old and trains at the Grimsby Judo Club, has become the British Junior Open Champion in the +100 kg weight category.

The event, which took place last weekend at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, proved to be an opportunity to see Great Britain's young sporting talent in action and competing on home soil against players from around the world. Young fighters from the UK, Ireland, South Africa, USA, India and Europe took part in the tournament.

Youseph, who was born in Palestine, has been living in the UK since last year. A Judo player in his native country, Youseph was keen to continue his love of Judo in Great Britain. He was quickly taken on by top Judo coach Terry Alltoft, from the Grimsby Judo Club, who trained ex World and Olympic Champion, Sharon Rendle.

Although Youseph is able to compete for Great Britain on British soil, he is unable to compete internationally until the Home Office makes a decision on his citizenship.

Terry Alltoft, Youseph's coach said: "Historically Great Britain has lacked the top level players in the +100kg weight category but Youseph has the potential to go all the way and win medals and titles for this country. He is one that can make it right to the top given the opportunity."

Scott McCarthy, Chief Executive of British Judo: "British Judo are very proud of Youseph. His gold medal win for Great Britain is a great achievement. We look forward to great things in the future from this talented player."

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