



# FASANOC

Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee



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## **TEAM FIJI TO THE LONDON OLYMPIC GAMES**

Nominations for Team Fiji's flagbearer at the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 London Olympic Games were called from participating National Federations. Team Fiji is very pleased to announce that the flag bearer for Fiji at the Olympic Games will be Fiji's Judoka Josateki Naulu. From nominations received, Josateki was the highest internationally ranked Fiji athlete. He is currently ranked at 34/264 in the world in his weight category of 81kg with 284 points. Josateki won Gold at the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea and also Gold at the Oceania Judo Championships, the qualifying event for the Olympic Games held in Cairns, Australia in May this year. The Oceania Judo Union had a Continental Quota of 10 athletes only made up of 7 men and 3 women from the 10 weight categories with one person per country only eligible for selection. Josateki was the top male athlete selected by the OJU for a Continental Quota place where he was ranked in 3<sup>rd</sup> position behind two females from Australia and New Zealand.

Josateki is based in Japan where he trains with his coach Takashi Iwasaki, who will accompany him together with Section Manager Nacanieli Takayawa to the Games.

Unfortunately with only one place per country, Sisilia Naisiga Rasokisoki missed out on selection. Sisi has met with FASANOC officials and is keen to continue training towards the Judo World Cup to be held in Samoa in October. She has also indicated interest in coaching juniors and becoming a certified coach.



## Updates on Team Fiji athletes

**Athletics - Leslie Copeland** and coach James Golding have finished their two month training attachment in Saabrucken, Germany where Leslie trained under world renown Javelin Coach Boris Henry, himself a former Olympian medalist.

Leslie had the opportunity of competing in events in Europe and has adjusted to the change of climate and temperature where it has been rainy and windy. Leslie and James are now based in Preston, in the North West of the UK at the University of Central Lancashire, at a Pre Games Training Camp funded by LOCOG.

**Dannielle Alakija** has been training in the USA and recently participated at the AVIVA Championships in Bedford, UK in unfavorable weather where some races had to be re-run due to the cold and rain. She is this week representing Fiji at the IAAF World Junior Championships in Spain and will return to the USA for her final phase of preparations with coach Maurice Greene before joining the team in London.

**Miri Senokonoko** spent 2 weeks training at the Gold Coast in Australia at the Oceania Athletics High Performance Centre in preparation for the Oceania Championships, the final qualification event for the Olympic Games.

Again only one female athlete was eligible for the Universality Place position. Dannielle Alakija was selected based on her performances as she is currently the number one ranked female athlete in Oceania in the 400m with a time of 55.00s. She is also ranked 2nd in the 200m behind PNG's Toea Wisil.

**Shooting – Glenn Kable** is currently in Germany training and will travel to Italy next week to take part in an ISSF World Cup event Milan. He will then travel to London to join Team Fiji at the Games Village on 22 July.

**Swimming – Matelita Buadromo** and coach Eugene Panuve flew out of Fiji last week and are based in Preston at the Pre Games Training Centre where Leslie Copeland is. Male swimmer **Paul Elaisa** and Swimming Section Manager Willie Elaisa depart this week and will join up with Matelita in Preston. The swimming team will travel to the Games Village on 21 July.

**Weightlifting – Manulei Tulo and Maria Liku** continue training at the Oceania Weightlifting Centre under the guidance of OWF Coach Paul Coffa. They will arrive into Nadi on 21 July where Coach Josefa Vuet will meet them and train locally for two days prior to their departure on 23 July for London. Section Manager Atma Maharaj will be awaiting the team's arrival in London.

**Archery – Robert Elder** is training in Korea at the Kim, Hyung-Tak Archery Training Center. This attachment has been kindly sponsored by Korean Government through a MOU signed between the Korean Olympic Committee and FASANOC. Section Manager Richard Elder will join Robert this week in his final phase of preparation. The duo will travel to the UK on 16 July and have a few days attachment at the PGT in Preston.

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