



HEAD REFEREE DIRECTORS REPORT

REFEREE COMMISSION



Head Directors: BAGDASAROV Armen, JEON Ki Young, LASCAU Florin Daniel

Members: CHYURLIA Pasquale, NGOM Ababacar, JATSKVITCH Alexander, KAWAGUCHI Takao, ZYGMUNT Arek, GARNERO Ovidio, ADAMS Neil, CORTES Jose Manuel, FLEURY Catherine, KNOESTER Carlo, MADDALONI Giuseppe, OSAKO Akinobu, MASHBAT Bukhbat

Refereeing rules

Judo is an active and dynamic Olympic sport with standing changes and developments. The IJF executive committee is working hard to improve the organisation and presentation of judo. One of the important instruments is refereeing.

After the Tokyo Olympic cycle, at the request of the IJF President, Mr. Marius Vizer, a group of experts analysed the suggestions of the national federations, coaches and other judo personalities and concluded with a twelve points document. The twelve points have been recorded, reinforced with competition videos, presented professionally, and implemented at the first World Judo Tour (WJT) event of the year in Lisbon, Portugal.

Finally, the IJF media commission interviewed refereeing commission members, explaining the reasons and details of the twelve points changed. During the first 2022 Continental refereeing seminar, 174 videos were selected as the base for explaining rules adaptations.

Sports and Organisation Rules (SOR)

The IJF SOR defines the regulations and illustrates all updates of rules. We will maintain this document as the basis of the organisation in general and judo refereeing in particular. In addition to the twelve points updates, eliminating confusion between paragraphs is another priority. The SOR refereeing textbook shall be the base for questions and answers of theoretical tests for referees at the IJF Continental and IJF International examinations. It is a never-ending work that we reached with the great teamwork of Dr Lisa Allan.

Theoretical Refereeing Paper Tests

Using the materials given by the IJF Academy education and in the preparation of the judo coaches - Level 1, we introduced theoretical refereeing paper tests. Each test contains 60 questions in English that the candidates should answer in 60 min, mostly with "true" or "false" answers.

The theoretical test aims to identify the understanding of refereeing rules and knowledge in English. This year the test was an exercise. In 2023, an updated test that includes new questions and multiple-choice answers will be the base of IJF Continental and IJF International referees' examinations.

HEAD REFEREE DIRECTORS REPORT



IJF Academy Practical Examinations

Analogue to the World Judo Tour (WJT) referees from the last Olympic period, most of the newly selected WJT referees in this Olympic cycle were at the practical module of the IJF Academy this year in Zagreb, Croatia. During the training module, the 68 nage-waza and 32 katame-waza techniques were reviewed and demonstrated left and right in two different movement directions.

The goal of the Nage-waza and Katame-waza examinations is to identify and recognise Kodokan classified judo techniques to make correct refereeing decisions.

Refereeing Training Sessions

Before each WJT event, the IJF refereeing commission members and the WJT referees prepare together for the situations appearing during the events. We want these training sessions to be an open platform for training and discussions on the cases chosen for analysis and in which all arguments and details are considered.

The sessions are open not only to the members of the executive committee, who, by participating, can observe and understand the arguments and how decisions are made but also to other IJF specialists. Representatives of the sports and education commissions can exchange expertise, and the IJF medical team also explains the dangers of certain situations. Last, IJF media representatives get incentives for commentary, press articles, and more arguments about refereeing decisions.

The refereeing training sessions become a benefit for specialists and judo spectators. By reviewing the video and analysing unclear situations in practice, the result of the actions will have rarer different interpretations, and each act and decision will be able to be assessed according to the criteria and rules in force, establishing standards for future decisions.

Video Training Session

The WJT referee corps attended the first video training session at Ulaanbaatar MGL. The video case was a long Golden Score, where the exemplified match ended with penalties. Timed, each referee had to decide individually on the mobile phone, using WhatsApp and immediately sending the result of his decisions to the heads of the referee commissions. We analysed the differences in judgments regarding actions and time and concluded that there was a huge gap between the final score and the time given individual by the participants.

The video training session aims to solve decisions in matches with complicated content and implicitly help calibrate all WJT referees' decisions.

Video Records

To have clear and fair decisions, the IJF refereeing commission needs good quality videos, recorded by at least two cameras and more, prepared at normal speed and slow motion, showing the action details, landing pictures and other important elements. This essential part of refereeing is possible due to the professional activity of the IJF IT Team.



HEAD REFEREE DIRECTORS REPORT

Refereeing Seminars

During the first refereeing seminar of the European Judo Union in Lisbon POR, from a total of 500 videos, we presented 174 representative videos to the audience for explanation and debate.

The video materials, well prepared by the European Refereeing Commission in cooperation with IJF Refereeing Commission, have been presented in the following refereeing seminars around the world, organised by/in collaboration with the Continental Unions with a respectable number of participants: European Union in Lisbon POR (113 participants), Pan-American & Oceanian Unions in Lima PER (78 participants), on Asian continent in Almaty KAZ (37 participants), African Judo Union in Oran ALG (122 participants) and Oceanian Judo Union in Perth AUS (39 participants).

In addition, seminars for improving and developing refereeing have been organised by different institutions and national federations in cooperation with IJF: Council of Asia Seminar in Kuwait City, Kuwait (60 participants), Referees' & Coaches' seminar of OCA Development Programme Central & South Asia Stage 2 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (42 participants), Refereeing seminar in Dakar, Senegal (31 participants), Refereeing & Coaches' seminar in Baku Azerbaijan (147 participants) and refereeing summit in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (52 participants), with a total of over 700 participants.

IJF Referees' Licenses Examinations

After the travel and events restrictions caused by the pandemic, we restarted the examinations for licenses in 2022. The following IJF Continental and IJF International examinations were in: Lima, Peru, with 16 new continental referees and 12 new international referees; Almaty, Kazakhstan, with 20 new international referees; Oran Algeria, with 12 new international referees, Madrid, Spain, with 14 new international referees; Celje Slovenia with 24 new continental referees; Perth Australia with ten new continental referees and 11 new international referees.

In Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 11 new continental and 12 international aspirants are expected to take the exam (results can be considered later, not included here when we wrote the report).

Honorary referees' certificates

This year six national referees who, for different reasons, did not complete their refereeing career with the Continental examinations, on the recommendation of their federations, received IJF Honorary Continental Referees Certificates.

Analogue, three referees who already had the IJF Continental Referee Certificate but did not pass the last possible IJF referee examination, on the proposal of their federations, received IJF Honorary International Referees Certificates.

WJT Events and other Competitions

The IJF refereeing commission covered refereeing responsibilities through referees, supervisors and head refereeing directors at the Grand Prix of Portugal and Croatia, Grand Slams in France, Israel, Türkiye, Georgia, Mongolia, Hungary, United Arabs Emirates, Azerbaijan and Japan, World Judo Masters in Israel, all levels, cadets, juniors and seniors, of Continental Championships of Pan-America and Oceania in Lima, Peru, at the African Continental Championships seniors in

HEAD REFEREE DIRECTORS REPORT



Oran, Algeria, at the World Championships for cadets in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, juniors in Guayaquil, Ecuador and seniors in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Additionally, we covered the refereeing at the Mediterranean Games in Oran, Algeria, the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, Great Britain, the Islamic Games Konya in Türkiye and the Saudi Games in Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

At each WJT event, we proved proper compliance management, offering video replay and explanations to coaches and national federation-accredited representatives.

IBSA – Judo for Visual Impaired

According to the MoU between IJF and IBSA, the commission nominates WJT referees and supervisors for all top Visual Impaired events, increasing the quality of refereeing in Paralympic judo. After the Tokyo Paralympic games, the cooperation with IBSA Judo improved this year continuously.

We covered three IBSA Judo Grand Prix: Antalya, Türkiye, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, and San Paulo, Brazil. The support counts the European Championships in Cagliari, Italia, the World Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, the Pan-American Championships in Edmonton, Canada and the Judo Open in Tokyo, Japan.

Judo for Veterans

The IJF refereeing commission continuously worked with the Judo Veterans commission and supported their World Championships with selected referees from all continents. This year the events was hosted in Krakow, Poland.

Our common goal is to deliver high-quality refereeing in the veterans' judo and run the event with active referees. We set this event as practice for the IJF examinations, selecting referees who just passed the examination and WJT referees who need more training.

Who Goes Where When (WGWW)

We solved the challenge of planning the referees, supervisors and directors for Olympic and Paralympic judo this year due to many WGWW versions. In 52 calendar weeks, the IJF refereeing commission had to revise the schedules more than 40 times because of random personal agendas and calendar changes.

It is our goal, and we are confident in ensuring the refereeing quality, according to the WJT and IBSA events and the availability of refereeing staff.

Refereeing Commission Members

In 2022 we had in componse the following supervisors: France - Catherine Fleury, Great Britain - Neil Adams, Italy - Giuseppe Maddaloni, Japan - Akinobu Osako, Spain - Manuel Cortes, Australia - Carlo Knoester, Mongolia - Bukhbat Mashbat and from Germany - Udo Quellmalz* (*He ended earlier this year the job for personal career reasons).



HEAD REFEREE DIRECTORS REPORT

We did the refereeing knowledge and experience transfer in cooperation with the former IJF Head Refereeing Director, Mr Juan Carlos Barcos, for the refereeing seminars on the African continent in Dakar, Senegal and on the Asian continent in Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

We benefited from the knowledge and experience of Pasquale Chyurlia, the long years Secretary of the Refereeing Commission, and the assistance and support of Teodor Pop, IJF Project Manager and Safeguarding Officer. The administrative works are essential in organising the layout and infrastructure for refereeing seminars, training sessions, activities, and communication with referees before, during and after events.

Continental Unions Refereeing Commissions

The activity of the IJF refereeing commission remains based on strong cooperation with the continental unions refereeing directors. We are thankful for their contribution to Mr Ovidio Garnero, Mr Alexander Jatskevitch, Mr Ababacar Ngom, Mr Takao Kawaguchi and Mr Arek Zygmunt. All their feedback and suggestion have been carefully listened to and implemented when feasible. We strived to transmit all information and key points and invited them to work together in competitions, seminars, and examinations to develop refereeing to the next level.

Cooperation and Thanks

Part of the great IJF family, we appreciate the outstanding cooperation with the Offices of the IJF President, the IJF General Secretary, Mr Jean-Luc Rougé and the IJF General Treasurer, Mr Naser Al Tamimi. We include the thanks for the ongoing exchange of expertise with the IJF Sport Commission, Mr Vladimir Barta, the IJF Education Commission, Mr Mohamed Meridja, and IJF Medical Commission, Dr Antonio Castro. Last but not least, we are thankful for the confidence in our work and mission from the IJF President, Mr Marius Vizer.

Thank you for your trust!