

## REFEREE COMMISSION



**Head Directors:** BAGDASAROV Armen, JEON Ki Young, LASCAU Florin Daniel  
**Continental Directors:** GARNERO Ovidio, JATSKEVITCH Alexander, NGOM Ababacar, OSAKO Akinobu, PETR Lubomir  
**International Refereeing Seminars Coordinator:** BARCOS Juan Carlos

**Supervisors:** BUKHBAT Mashbat, CORTES Jose Manuel, FLEURY Cathy, KNOESTER Carlo, MADDALONI Giuseppe, RAKHLIN Evgeny, TRSTENJAK Tina

**Secretary:** CHYURLIA Pasquale

Since May 2023 the IJF Referee Commission took part in the following competitions:

Event	2023	2024
<b>Grand Prix</b>	Linz AUT, Dushanbe TJK, Zagreb CRO	Odivelas POR, Linz AUT, Zagreb CRO
<b>Grand Slam</b>	Ulaanbaatar MGL, Baku AZE, Abu Dhabi UAE, Tokyo JPN	Paris FRA, Baku AZE, Tashkent UZB, Tbilisi GEO, Antalya TUR, Dushanbe TJK, Astana KAZ, Abu Dhabi UAE, Tokyo JPN
<b>Masters</b>	Budapest HUN	
<b>World Championships</b>	Seniors - Doha, QAT; Cadets - Zagreb, CRO; Juniors - Odivelas, POR; Veterans - Abu Dhabi, UAE	Seniors - Abu Dhabi, UAE; Juniors - Dushanbe, TJK; Cadets - Lima, PER; Veterans - Las Vegas, USA
<b>Other</b>	Universiade - Chengdu, CHN; World Combat Games - Riyadh, KSA	Arab Judo Championships - New Alamein, EGY and Amman, JOR

### Olympic Games

Following the Olympic Games test event in 2023, the Olympiad finished with the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games taking place in Paris, France. To ensure the quality and best possible refereeing at both Games, two groups of referees were trained, prepared and sent to Paris. As preparation for the Olympic Games, the Olympic referees had a last opportunity to referee together, as a group, at the EJU Open in Madrid, Spain.

### Olympic Games Paris 2024 Referees (16)

- Mrs Akiko Amano (JPN)
- Mrs Ioana Babiuc (ROU)
- Mr Matthieu Bataille (FRA)
- Mr Ofer Ben Zvi (ISR)
- Mr Raul Camacho (ESP)
- Mrs Roberta Chyurlia (ITA)
- Mr Orlando Cruz (DOM)
- Mr Jean-Claude Djimbi (GAB)
- Mr Mariano Dos Santos (BRA)
- Mrs Elizabeth Gonzalez (MEX)
- Mr Balazs Gosztonyi (HUN)
- Mr Veli-Mati Karinkanta (FIN)
- Mr Vladimer Nutsbidze (GEO)
- Mr Vyaceslav Pereteyko (UZB)
- Mr Lubomir Petr (AUS)
- Mrs Guangyue Zhang (CHN)



### **Paralympic Games Paris 2024 Referees (12)**

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Craig Bartlett (NZL)     | 7. Mr Roland Poiger (AUT)        |
| 2. Mr Olivier Desroses (FRA)   | 8. Mr Jhon Ramaekers (NED)       |
| 3. Mrs Katalin Fridrich (HUN)  | 9. Mrs Hana Safarikova (CZE)     |
| 4. Mr Hiroyuki Hirano (JPN)    | 10. Mr Brian Toth (USA)          |
| 5. Mrs Heather Loontjens (BEL) | 11. Mrs Enkhtsetseg Turbat (MGL) |
| 6. Mrs Katharina Marzok (GER)  | 12. Mr Nazim Umbayev (AZE)       |

### **Referee Training Sessions**

Before each World Judo Tour (WJT) event and world championships, the IJF Referee Commission members prepare and present different aspects of the refereeing rules and offer the WJT referees solutions for solving problem situations. National coaches present on the WJT, members of the IJF sport, education, coaching and media commissions, continental union referee directors, national coaches and referee commission members of the hosting country, guests and officials are invited to attend these sessions, where rules and open points are discussed and analysed. Explanations are offered via demonstrations from the IJF Refereeing Commission members and referees. Practical training of the WJT referees and video training sessions, with the support of the IJF IT Commission are an essential part of the WJT referees' education.

### **Judo for Veterans**

The co-operation of the IJF Referee Commission with the IJF Veterans Commission continued during the Abu Dhabi World Championships Veterans in 2023 and the Las Vegas edition in 2024. A selection of referees, recommended by the continental unions' refereeing directors, delivered the refereeing for these events. Under the observation of the IJF Referee Commission and IJF Veterans Commission, the referees had the chance to present their skills and abilities, to be promoted to the next level, the WJT. The IJF Referee Commission use this platform to identify the next generation of referees, ensuring the continuity of the quality and standard of refereeing.

### **International Blind Sports Federation Judo Committee Events (IBSA)**

The co-operation with the IBSA judo committee continued at a high level. WJT referees and supervisors prepared for the WJT in referee training sessions were updated for IBSA events in meetings before competitions, so they understood the visually impaired judo requirements and could offer high quality refereeing.

The following events were covered:

- IBSA Grand Prix in NED – 8 WJT referees and 1 IJF Supervisor.
- IBSA Grand Prix in GBR – 15 WJT referees and 1 IJF Supervisor.
- IBSA Grand Prix in AZE – 8 WJT referees.
- IBSA Grand Prix in CHN – 4 WJT referees.
- IBSA Grand Prix in CHI – 6 WJT referees.
- IBSA Grand Prix in JPN – 12 WJT referees and 1 IJF Supervisor.
- IBSA Grand Prix in GER – 12 WJT referees and 2 IJF Supervisors.
- IBSA Grand Slam in TUR – 12 WJT referees and 2 IJF Supervisors.
- IBSA Grand Prix in GEO – 12 WJT Referees and 1 IJF Supervisor. This event was used as preparation for the Paralympic Games, the nominated referees having this last opportunity to referee together and consolidate as a group.
- IBSA World Tournament in KAZ – 4 WJT referees.



### The IJF Continental Referee Examinations

In co-operation with the continental union referee commissions, a new generation of the best national referees were selected, examined and performed as follows:

**2023:** 4 candidates passed their examination in Casablanca, MAR, Africa. 11 candidates passed their examination in Calgary, CAN, Panamerica.

**2024:** 26 candidates passed their examination in Graz, AUT, Europe. 11 candidates passed in Lima, PER, Panamerica. 15 candidates passed in Almaty, KAZ, Asia. 10 candidates passed in Dakar, SEN, Africa.

Each IJF continental examination prioritised the continent in which it took place, but was also open to candidates representing other continental unions.

### The IJF International Referee Examinations

In addition, on the recommendation of the continental union referee commissions, referees had the opportunity to upgrade their licences to 'IJF International Referee,' in four different parts of the world:

**2023:** 8 candidates passed their examination in Casablanca, MAR, Africa; 8 candidates passed their examination in Malaga, ESP, Europe; 12 candidates passed their examination in Calgary, CAN, Panamerica.

**2024:** 14 candidates passed in Warsaw, POL, Europe; 11 candidates passed in Lima, PER, Panamerica; 13 candidates passed in Almaty, KAZ, Asia; 16 candidates passed in Dakar, SEN, Africa.

Due to the aligned and transparent way the continental and international examinations are run, candidates have the same chances all over the world. Good collaboration between the continental judo unions offers candidates flexibility when planning their refereeing career.

### Refereeing Seminars

Refereeing seminars play a central educational role for both referees and coaches. Together with the IJF Sport Commission and IJF Education and Coaching Commission, we delivered opportunities to explain, clarify and answer questions around the refereeing rules, but also the sport and education rules.

#### 2023:

- IJF Seminar - Shanghai, CHN - 200 participants.
- IJF Seminar - Nouakchott, MTN - 90 participants.

#### 2024:

- IJF Refereeing Seminar in co-operation with the European Judo Union in Gyor, HUN - 229 participants from 65 countries representing all five unions.
- IJF Refereeing Seminar in co-operation with the Panamerican Judo Confederation in Lima, PER - 104 participants from 19 countries representing Panamerica.
- IJF Refereeing Seminar in co-operation with the Judo Union of Asia in Almaty, KAZ - 64 participants from 18 countries representing three continental unions.
- IJF Refereeing Seminar in co-operation with the African Judo Union in Dakar, SEN - 87 participants from 23 countries representing three continental unions.
- IJF Technical Seminar in Istanbul, TUR - 264 participants from 80 countries representing all five continental unions.



### **Co-operation with the IJF Academy**

The identification and recognition of the Kodokan classified judo techniques and their variants in competitions is essential for the evaluation of scoring in competition. The IJF Academy offers students a platform for learning and practising the 68 nage-waza and 32 katame-waza classified techniques and their variations. Therefore, the IJF Referee Commission strongly recommends all referees worldwide to take the chance to update their knowledge through IJF Academy courses. To improve the technical quality of refereeing, from January 2026 an IJF Academy certificate will be a minimum requirement for the IJF continental and IJF international examinations.

### **Honorary Referees Certificates**

Due to different reasons, not all referees could take the IJF continental or IJF international referee examinations. On the recommendation of their federations, with the approval of the continental refereeing directors, six referees received IJF Honorary Continental Referee certificates. This is a way of supporting the development of refereeing commissions in different regions of the world.

### **The IJF Referees**

The years 2023 and 2024 were the years in which we gave priority to the 16 Olympic referees and the 12 Paralympic referees. We trained and prepared the two groups to deliver high quality refereeing during the Olympic qualification period and the Games in Paris.

At the end of 2024, we analysed the previous year's performances of all referees. Taking into consideration their progress, development and work but also their ages, we selected the next generation of WJT referees for the period 2025–2028.

### **The IJF Supervisors**

The number of IJF supervisors for the 2024 WJT grew to thirteen. Their judo understanding, due to personal competition performances, high level refereeing and continuous judo development, added great value to the WJT refereeing level. The co-operation between supervisors and referees and between supervisors and refereeing directors was a good example of 'Jita Kyoei' throughout the year.

### **Co-operation with the Continental Unions**

The co-operation with the Continental Refereeing Directors Ovidio Garnero (Pan-America), Alexandr Jatskevitch (Europe), Ababacar Ngom (Africa), Akinobu Osako (Asia), Arek Zygmunt (Oceania) and their refereeing commissions was exceptional.

Together we have been able to cover the refereeing calendar, to visit the WJT events, to run examinations, to prepare the seminars and to prepare the next generation of top referees on all continents. Their ideas, feedback and suggestions have been integrated in the development of refereeing around the world.

### **Co-operation with the IJF Sport and Education Commissions**

The refereeing, running of events, competition decisions and seminar agendas for 2025 have been completed in co-operation with Mr Vladimir Barta, IJF Head Sport Director and Mr Mohamed Meridja, IJF Education Director.

### **Co-operation with the IJF IT Department**

The technical support of the IT team through slow motion reviews at events, videos for analysing difficult situations and the recorded material for the seminars was essential in the development of refereeing worldwide.



### **Co-operation with the IJF Media Commission**

The IJF Media Commission was an important partner in presenting and explaining WJT refereeing. The co-operation during refereeing training sessions, seminars activities and individual discussions with directors, the secretary, supervisors and referees shows the world the complexity of judo refereeing.

### **Co-operation with the Presidential Office**

Organising the calendar and delivering the logistics of flights, transfers, accommodation, in addition to answering worldwide correspondence, was possible through exemplary co-operation with the Presidential Office staff.

### **Co-operation with the IJF Secretary General**

IJF Secretary General Dr Lisa Allan has always supported the IJF Referee Commission, help with the activities associated with refereeing.

### **Co-operation with the IJF Director General**

Vlad Marinescu, IJF Director General has offered many good solutions and ideas for the year 2025, for presenting judo in a positive, transparent and TV orientated way.

### **Co-operation with the IJF President**

The IJF President, Mr Marius Vizer, offers great possibilities to build and develop worldwide refereeing, for male and female referees, on all continents and in all regions of the world. His observation and feedback have raised refereeing to higher standard.