



Refereeing News

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NRC Newsletter

Bring enjoyment back
into refereeing

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* **National
Convention
April 5th/6th**

* **Do you know the
new rule
interpretations?**

Editor's Comments

First of all Happy New Year to all BJA Referees from the new NRC team.

What new NRC team? Carry on reading this newsletter to find out!

Thanks go to Paul Clay who snapped the new team, what a rogues gallery!

For some time now, there have been complaints from some referees about poor communication to/ between referees.

Poor communication does exist both Nationally and within several BJA Areas. This newsletter is one method of 'opening up' communication to all.

It will be produced both electronically

and in traditional printed format initially distributed to all Refereeing Reps and available at National events.

This is not the first time a newsletter has been produced by a NRC. In order to be successful it needs to be useful. Therefore it should appear regularly and contain up to date information.

We welcome any ideas, articles, pictures that you may wish to see appearing in the Newsletter. Perhaps you may wish to receive your personal newsletter electronically. Please email the editor at david.martin@archant.co.uk or write to the NRC secretary, 15 Orchard Grove, Claydon, Suffolk I6 0BZ.

Chairman of the Refereeing Commission

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me in my successful bid to be a member of the Board of Directors. I have now achieved two ambitions. The first was to be elected to the Board, and the second was to become the Chairman of the Refereeing Commission.

My first obligation is to all of our members within the BJA. I hope during my term of three years I will, with the help of the rest of the Board, make changes, that will benefit everyone. I have a lot to learn about the running of our association, and I am determined to do my best on behalf of every member.

On the refereeing side my aim is to run a



system that is fair and open to every referee, no matter what level they are. I aim, not only to maintain the high standard of refereeing in our country (and I truly believe we have some of the best referees in the world), but to improve it.

It is my commitment and that of the Commission I have chosen, to help referees achieve their full potential, and to bring enjoyment back into what they do. I want everyone to feel they are part of the team.

I will not promise you the earth, but I will promise you, I will do my utmost to help our association do the best it can for all of us.

Regards Reuben Davison.

Congratulations go to the following Referees ;

Paul Thomson and Claire Greenwood have been confirmed as IJF Assessors following final 'sit in' at the British Closed at Wigan in December. Martin Rivers passed his National A examination at this event.

Robert Devlin, Walter Caeser and Andrew Laister were promoted to National C referees at the Scottish Open with P Laverty, J Imrie, R Sharp, A Philips and G Bateman joining the ranks as Area referees. Keith Smith completed his final 'sit in' and has been confirmed as an Area Examiner. Well done to all of you.

NRC Team



International Coordinator

Paul Thomson



Coaching and Training Coordinator

Alan Medley



Junior Refereeing Coordinator

Alan Lingham



Senior Refereeing Coordinator
Meetings, Minute Secretary

Paul Sheard



General Secretary
Refereeing Examination
Coordinator

David Martin

A new approach to training referees

This system is totally independent of any other grading system considered by the NRC.

At the end of last year, I accepted an invitation to become the Training Representative for the National Refereeing Commission with a brief to try and improve the level of skills of Area, National 'C', National 'B' and National 'A' referees throughout the BJA. It was agreed that we needed a fresh approach to improve the general standard of refereeing while still maintaining the pleasure element.

My view is that referees should be coached for improvement in the same way that players are coached. When coaching a player, you only give him one or two points at any one time to concentrate on. In this way you give him bite-size portions of skill to learn and he makes steady progress one step at a time.

In the same way, a referee will improve his skills more effectively if you give him bite-size steps to work on until he is competent in that area, and then move on to the

next area of improvement.

We have therefore created a small team of Senior National Referees who have a high level of knowledge and experience in the refereeing field but also have the ability to treat other referees with respect and discuss areas for improvement without lecturing or de-motivating. They will coach players but not examine for grades. This function will continue to be carried out by existing examiners.

The new coaching programme does not measure abilities against a refereeing grade it is just as possible for a National 'A' to need coaching on correct line situations and signals as a National 'C'. Obviously the overall skills of the National 'A' should be higher but every referee has pockets of ability which need improving and they can be in the same pocket whatever the Refereeing Grade.

Within the programme, each referee will be observed during a competition by a member of the coaching team who will make notes and identify one or areas where the

referee can improve his or her performance. Ways of improvement (such as clarification of the interpretation of the related contest rule), will be discussed and, with his agreement, these areas will be set as achievable targets.

He will then be asked to practice his skills in that area at future competitions and thereby raise the standard of his refereeing. On the next occasion that the referee is observed, his progress will be assessed and discussed with him.

If he has improved, he will be congratulated and set further targets in the same way. If he has not improved, discussions will be held with him to identify any underlying problems in an effort to find a solution. The targets and a record of progress will be entered on an individual log which will be updated after each coaching session.

He is therefore being measured against his own past performance and encouragement to make a continuous improvement in his refereeing standards.

The coaching team can guide and encourage but it is up to the individual to take on the responsibility for his own improvement.

For various reasons, some referees have no ambition to move up to the next grade. We are quite happy for a referee to say that he doesn't want to look for promotion but that does not preclude him from wanting to be the best at his current grade in his Area! Constant updates in the interpretation of the rules mean that every referee needs to keep learning just to maintain his existing standard.

We aim to encourage and motivate referees by coaching in a constructive and positive manner. We don't want to bombard them with a whole string of criticisms on minor points and thereby demoralise them and knock their confidence. Contrary to public opinion, referees are also human, have feelings and the need for recognition of their skills. Self-confidence can be very fragile and easily destroyed.

Our aim is to improve the standard of refereeing within the BJA, not drive referees away by strong or excessive criticism— after all, they are volunteers and judo is a hobby which they do for pleasure— remove the pleasure and satisfaction and we lose a referee. Alan Medley

New Rules for 2003

The IJF have announced some rule changes for 2003, as from the IJF spring seminar in April 2003 their application will be compulsory. The NRC has already provided information during the referee's briefing at the British Closed in December. The minor changes to Golden Score, Bowing Procedure and Calling the Doctor were implemented. The other main changes, **not currently implemented**, will be introduced at the British Open this year. Further information and briefings will be given to all BJA referees, via Area Referee Rep's/ National Convention April 5th/6th. Please find below a brief summary of the new rules and Interpretations.

KAWAZU GAKE

In the case where a player attempts Kawazu Gake, where both players whilst facing more or less in the same direction as the opponent and falling backwards onto him and even if the thrower during the throwing action twists/turns, this is forbidden and the penalty will be **Hansoku Make**.

Techniques such as O-soto-Gari, O-uchi-gari, and Uchi-mata where the foot/leg is entwined with Uke's leg will be permitted and should be scored.

GOLDEN SCORE

The Golden Score rule, which had been on trial is now to be used at all events. NB. In the case of Ne-waza where a player is being held and Osaekomi has been called, the Referee will allow the hold down to continue for the 25 seconds (Ippon) until the Osaekomi is broken (Toketa) or a Shime-waza/kansetsu-waza is applied by either Tori or Uke with immediate result. In this case, the competitor has won by the points according to the reached score.



BOWING

It is very important to respect the bow in a very correct way. The IJF Referee Commission proposal will be that when the players walk to the edge of the Danger Area it will not be compulsory to bow. When the players walk to their starting position facing each other they will officially bow with a strict control of the referees. The players will repeat this procedure at the end of the contest.

CALLING THE DOCTOR

When calling the doctor, Judges remain seated and controlling the situation by watching. Only the central Referee standing with the doctor besides the fighter. However the Referee may call the judges in case he needs to comment on any decision.

REFEREES DRAW SYSTEM

A computer program will be used to select the referees for each fight during all IJF events. The neutrality of referees to be selected will be based on Countries and not on Continents.

PENALTIES IN TWO BIG GROUPS

All penalties will be divided into 'Slight' infringements (Shido) and 'Grave' infringements (Hansoku Make) All the prohibited acts or tactical actions who do not attempt the integrity of the players nor against the spirit of Judo (former Shido and Chui penalties) should be penalised with Shido. The rest of prohibited acts or actions which may endanger or injure the opponent or may be against the spirit of Judo (until now most of them penalised with Keikoku and Hansokumake) they will now be penalised with Hansoku make.

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Northern Ireland	Jim Toland	Northern Home Counties	Ron Cleere
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Scotland	Paul Thomson	South	Chris Mullen
Y & H	Alan Medley	Wales /(National)	Karen Baguley
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* If you are happy for me to publish your full contact details please let me know and they will be included in future newsletters



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