

Introduction

The British Judo Association is keen to identify a suitable pool of candidates with the potential to referee at the very highest levels. Fast tracking ex-athletes into refereeing as this has clearly been successful in other countries. It is anticipated that high quality athletes will be fast tracked to Level 4 (National B grade) of the refereeing system at the earliest opportunity and then on to Level 5 (National A grade) for those that respond well to training within 3 years (National Levels are 1 to 5). From then on, those that consistently demonstrate the required skills to progress would have a referee performance programme to take them to the IJF level; this will include international competition experience and an assigned referee mentor of suitable IJF standing.

Selection Process

Selection for the programme may come from one of three sources: direct application from the candidate; nomination from a credible source or direct invitation by the BJA/NRC. The guide for applications are athletes with a track record of at least 10 funded selections for GBR and a return of at least 2 medals at senior European cup or above, other profiles (highly experienced coaches for example) may also be accepted on to the programme depending on their profile and motivation. This programme is intended to produce IJF referees of good standing, therefore because of international rules and trends on age; we must put a limit on the age of entry to the programme. It is expected that candidates will be above 30 years old on entry to the programme unless exceptional circumstances apply. Whatever route a candidate comes through, a detailed interview will be necessary with the candidates in order to outline the requirements of the programme, check suitability and agree the programme before starting.

Mentoring

Successful programme candidates will be assigned a specific mentor who will be the single point of contact for formal feedback on performance progression. It is crucial that the messages being fed back are consistent and accurate, therefore mentors will be carefully selected by the NRC and be referees of suitable standing in both refereeing and tutoring skills.

Applications

Anyone wishing to consider this option to progress their judo career should apply in writing to the British Judo NRC secretary, applications should include:

- A full CV of their judo career to date specifically identifying national and above medals
- A covering letter stating why the candidate wants to enter this programme and why they are suitable
- Details of any current refereeing experience / qualified level

Should anyone wish to discuss this opportunity before applying, please contact the NRC secretary, who will log the interest and contact the relevant NRC member to communicate with the potential applicant.