

7/01/10

## **UNITED STATES JUDO ASSOCIATION REFEREE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

### **I. Aim & Purpose of the United States Judo Association (USJA) Referee Certification Program:**

The aim of this referee certification program is to train all USJA Judo officials to understand & utilize the international procedures & interpretations of the Judo rules as stipulated by the members of the International Judo Federation (IJF) Referee Certification Commission.

Consistency of interpretation & use of procedures is necessary so that all officials will be perceived as competent & fair by the contestants & coaches. Only those officials trained in this manner (& certified at specified grades indicating their progress under this training program) will eventually be able to proceed onward to the highest level of international officiating. A junior contestant competing in the smallest local event still requires first class officiating, so that the player will always have faith that the officials will always do things in the same manner.

This system allows potential National Referees to be identified by the USJA. The standards under which certification will be given will steadily be raised with the ultimate aim of qualifying individuals for certification as International Referees within the framework of the IJF.

Above all, however, the primary aim of the program is to produce competent Judo officials who will be of service to the competitive judo players of the U.S. The program will provide the competitors with fairly-officiated Judo tournaments in which all of the rules are interpreted correctly & in the same manner by all officials certified under its auspices.

### **II. USJA Referee Certification Committee (USJA-RCC) Functions:**

The USJA-RCC is composed of all officials who are certified as International (A) Referees or higher & who are registered members of the USJA.

The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the President of the USJA, & approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) of the organization & is responsible to the President in all matters relating to the program, & is charged with the overall supervision of the program. The Chairperson is also responsible for the periodic republication of this manual as necessary.

All questions of a technical nature addressed to the USJA-RCC shall be answered using the most recent IJF rulings on the topic as interpreted by the USJA-RCC. Only IJF Rulings, changes to rules, etc. received in writing from the IJF Referee Commission & disseminated by the proper authorities will be used. Hearsay "rules", and those proposed but not yet acted upon by the IJF will not be addressed nor utilized in USJA-sanctioned competitions.

### **III. Levels of Certification & How Referees are Certified:**

All candidates for USJA Local or USJA Regional Certification must be current members of the USJA. Candidates who are not current members of the USJA may become members at the Evaluation Testing Site at the time of the examination. Examiners must insure that candidates have valid & current certification at required levels.

USJA Local & USJA Regional testing & certification may take place at any USJA-sanctioned event which provides a sufficient number of contests to meet the number required for each certification level.

Testing & certification may be conducted at any Judo tournament by National or higher (International) level Referees approved by the USJA-RCC. All National & higher referees interested in becoming Referee Examiners need first attend a clinic given by one of the members of the USJA-RCC covering what is expected of a USJA Local & USJA Regional Referee. Referee Examiner clinics will be held free of charge at the USJA Junior Nationals & the USJA Senior Nationals.

Site acceptance for USJA Referee testing may be requested by tournament organizers conducting USJA-sanctioned events of the USJA-RCC. The following fees will be required to have the site recognized as a testing site:

- A. Transportation costs for the examiner.
- B. Lodging Fee for the examiner.
- C. A per diem of \$50 per day to cover food, etc for the examiner.
- D. Coffee & water for all referees participating in the event.
- E. If the event is a day-long event, a reasonable lunch for the referees is expected.

Based on past performance at National Testing Sites it has been determined that Regional Officials who have only a short time-in-grade (1 year or less) have been almost unanimously unsuccessful in their attempts to be certified to the National Level. The USJA-RCC, taking this into account, has therefore adopted 3 levels of USJA Regional Referee (3, 2 & 1) with a minimum requirement of 1 year-in-grade between each level. It is the policy of the USJA-RCC not to recommend any USJA member for candidacy for National Certification until that individual has successfully been examined for at least the Regional 2 level.

#### **IV. Crossover & Reciprocal Certification:**

Those officials who were certified to Local (L) Level by any other Nationally recognized RCC (i.e., USJF, USA Judo, State Judo Organization) shall be accepted & recognized at that level by the USJA-RCC. Those officials who were certified to Regional (R) Level by any other Nationally recognized RCC will be accepted & recognized as a USJA Regional 3 (R-3) official unless his/her certificate indicates that the individual in question has been certified to a higher level, i.e., USJF Regional 2 will be accepted at that level by the USJA-RCC.

#### **V. Recertification of Referees:**

The USJA certification level is automatically renewed as long as the official continues to officiate during each year (& should submit a list of events officiated at by December 31 of each year to the USJA Central Office) unless the individual is upgraded to a higher level or put on probation by the USJA-RCC.

USJA Local & USJA Regional Officials will be recertified if they work at least 1 tournament in a calendar year & where they can be reevaluated by National (or higher level) officials. If they were to miss an entire year without working an event USJA Local & USJA Regional Referees will be placed on probation.

Upgrading to the next higher level will include retaking the written & practical examination, with progressively higher scores required. It is the general policy of the USJA-RCC not to test candidates for higher level certification who do not have a history of working as many local events in their own area as possible.

## **VI. Materials Used in the USJA Referee Program:**

In addition to this Referee Certification Manual there are 2 forms used in this program: **1) The Application-Answer sheet-Evaluation form; 2) The Referees Written Examination.**

Each referee certified under this program shall receive an official USJA Certificate indicating the grade successfully examined for. The referee should have a copy of the certificate in his/her possession at all times when going to officiate.

## **VII. Evaluation Procedures:**

Members of the USJA-RCC or any clinic-certified National Referee may conduct evaluations of any USJA member at any event providing that sufficient matches are provided to complete the evaluation.

## **VIII. Fees:**

The nonrefundable administrative fee for examination & evaluation for any level of the USJA Referee Program is \$25. The fee is paid at the time of the examination & is charged to cover the cost of the certificate & postage.

## **IX. Dress & Conduct of Officials:**

Referees & judges should be dressed in a manner that enhances the presence & dignity of the official.

The official dress code of the IJF includes: **Black single-breasted blazer, medium- to dark-gray slacks, white (short-sleeved shirt), black tie & socks.**

As the temperatures during the Spring, Summer & Fall of the year may be excessive, an all-white, collared, pull-over shirt has been approved for use without tie or jacket by the USJA-RCC for local events during that time of the year. A buttoned short-sleeved white shirt without tie or jacket may also be utilized during the traditionally warm seasons. USJA officials should remember however to wear official dress when officiating at National events.

The attitude of all officials should be that of a respected professional. They should remember that, once certified, they represent USJA as well as the sport of Judo. The off-the-mat conduct of officials should be such as to bring credit to their position. They should not publicly criticize other officials nor argue their actions or decisions with a player, coach, or spectator, although a courteous explanation is permissible. When acting as an examiner & it is necessary to criticize candidates, the criticism should be direct, clear & given in such a manner to insure that the candidate is sure of the proper procedure expected. In this situation it may be necessary to criticize a candidate in the presence of other candidates, however at no time should it be done in the presence of non-candidates (coaches, players, spectators, etc.).

## **X. Eligibility:**

All members of the USJA may be examined for USJA Local or USJA Regional Referee certification based upon the following criteria:

	<u>Minimum Age</u>	<u>Minimum Rank</u>	<u>Minimum Time in Grade</u>
1. Local Certification	15 years old	Sankyu	0
2. Regional 3 Certification	15 years old	Sankyu	0 (1 year if previously certified L)
3. Regional 2 Certification	16 years old	Nikyu	1 year as R3
4. Regional 1 Certification	17 years old	Ikkyu	1 year as R2

## **XI. Grading of the Examination & Evaluation:**

The written exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions at 2 points each, & the maximum attainable score on the practical evaluation is also 100. The passing score for each level of certification is:

	<b>Written Exam</b>	<b>Practical Evaluation</b>
1. Local (L)	64% (18 incorrect)	60% (40 negative points)
2. Regional 3 (R-1)	70% (15 incorrect)	65% (35 negative points)
3. Regional 2 (R-2)	74% (13 incorrect)	70% (30 negative points)
4. Regional 1 (R-3)	80% (10 incorrect)	75% (25 negative points)

Candidates should successfully complete the written examination before being allowed to be practically evaluated.

A first time candidate may be certified to either USJA Local (L) or USJA Regional 3 (R-3) depending upon the written & practical evaluation scores. Once a candidate is certified he/she may then be examined for the next level (R-2) no sooner than 1 year from the date of certification (see chart above for required time-in-grade between levels).

If both examiners agree that the referee's call on a technique is off by 2 or more scores, i.e., yuko for an obvious Ippon, then it should be counted as a procedural error. It should count against both judges, if neither made the correct call after the referee's incorrect call.

In the case of a consistent 1-score-off problem, i.e., always when a player lands on his/her buttocks, the referee always gives Yuko & the examiners feel that there is a definite lack of understanding concerning the technique, it should be counted as a procedural error.

Calls that are occasionally off by 1 score may be due to the angle of view & may not be counted against the candidate. If 1 examiner feels the call is off by 2 scores, & the other examiner feels that it was off by 1, the situation should be recorded for discussion, but normally may not be counted against the candidate. Signals by the judges that are 1-score-off should also be discussed.

## **XII. Notes on the Evaluation Form:**

Points are deducted from a possible perfect score of 100% on the practical evaluation sheet for errors which are divided into 3 degrees of severity:

**1) Minor Errors:** errors in attitude & conduct including, but not limited to, standing between the players & a judge, not holding hand signals long enough, being too far away, being too close, poor posture, inaudible commands, too much mobility & unwarranted touching of the players. When working as a judge: failing to observe the other judge when a score is called. 2 points are deducted for each Minor Error committed.

**2) Procedural Errors:** errors such as failing to call "Matte" when the players go outside, or calling "Matte" at the wrong time, i.e., just as a player is about to enter into newaza, giving the wrong hand signals or no hand signals, failing to check the scoreboard (this may be a gross error), calling the wrong verbal command, failing to stop the contest when the judges stand up, awarding an incorrect penalty, conducting too long discussions, not having appreciation of scoring techniques, etc. As a judge, failing to check the scoreboard, changing the board without the referee's knowledge, failure to indicate or incorrectly indicating "in" or "out" for a throw on the line (both examiners must agree). In general procedural errors confuse the contest but do not necessarily change the outcome of the match. 5 points are deducted for each Procedural Error committed.

**3) Gross Errors:** errors which change the outcome of the match, i.e., the wrong player wins due to an incorrect or lack of a call by the referee & include: failure to check the scoreboard allowing the wrong player to receive the score & thereby be awarded the match, penalizing a player with an incorrect penalty, calling "Matte" instead of "Sono Mama", turning away from players still in newaza after calling "Matte" or "Sore Made" which may lead to an injury of 1 player by the other. 25 points are deducted for each Gross Error.

It is the policy of the USJA-RCC that no candidate should be certified as a USJA Regional (R) who commits a Gross Error during the evaluation. 25 points are deducted, in most cases failing the candidate. Committing a Gross Error even at the Local (L) level makes successful completion of the examination almost impossible.

### **XIII. Number of Matches to be evaluated:**

The examiner(s) will score 1 evaluation form for each candidate, regardless of the level being applied for. The minimum required number of matches for each level (L, R3, R2, R1) is 6 matches (based on IJF requirements for International Grades). It is recommended to observe the candidate for 24 matches if possible) (12 as referee & 12 as judge), & observation for more matches is recommended where possible. The candidate should, upon successful completion of the written exam, be examined for at least the required number of matches even if he/she commits sufficient errors to fail the evaluation early. The evaluation & subsequent critique is a valuable learning tool. The exception to this policy would occur only if the candidate is so poor as to be detrimental to the nature of the contest (committing uncorrected gross errors) in which the individual should be removed from candidacy (& the mat) immediately.

### **XIV. Summary of Procedures:**

- A) National referees should take adequate supplies of this manual & the certification material (exams, evaluation sheets) with them to all sanctioned events so that they will be prepared to evaluate candidates.
- B) Each candidate must pass the written examination (before being allowed to continue with the evaluation), & after returning the examination & the answer sheet to the examiner.
- C) If the candidate fails the written exam the examiner should review the incorrect answers with the candidate so that he/she may pass at the next opportunity. This explanation may have to come at the end of the Judo event used for testing dependent upon time allowable.
- D) If the candidate passes the written examination he/she should then be evaluated on the mat. If the candidate fails the evaluation the examiner should review the reasons for failing so that the candidate can work to improve before the next examination.
- E) Do not let anyone write on the examination as it may be used over again. All answers must go on the answer-evaluation form.
- F) If the candidate is a USJA member & passes the written examination & the evaluation, receive \$25 for the certification fee & send it with the answer-evaluation form to the Chairman of the USJA-RCC. A certificate will then be sent to the successful candidate.

## **XV. Sample Questions Similar to Those Found on the USJA Written Exam.**

Please select the most correct answer (correct answers on bottom of page):

1. The referee shall stop the contest & following the usual procedure, indicate the winner after announcing Sogo-Gachi when:
  - a. Blue has gained Waza-ari & White subsequently receives a third Shido.
  - b. Blue already has 3 Shidos & is subsequently awarded a Waza-Ari.
  - c. Blue has already received 3 Shidos & is further penalized.
  - d. None of the above.
  
2. Which of the following durations of Osae-komi will score Yuko?
  - a. 6 seconds, b. 11 seconds, c. 16 seconds, d. 21 seconds.
  
3. If a contestant appears on the mat in an undersized or damaged Judogi, the referee must:
  - a. Order the contestant to change into a proper Judogi.
  - b. Assess Hansoku Make to the contestant.
  - c. Start the contest but watch for unfair advantage.
  - d. Award Ippon to the other contestant.
  
4. An Osaekomi has been called & 1 judge stands up, what should the referee do?
  - a. Speak to the standing judge.
  - b. Wait until the other judge stands before taking any action.
  - c. Call matte.
  - d. Call Sono Mama.
  
5. The time-keeper will stop the match when the referee announces either:
  - a. Matte or Jikan, c. Sonomama or Jikan.
  - b. Matte or a penalty. d. Sonomama or Matte.
  
6. To hold the opponent's Judogi continuously on one side with both hands without attacking is an infraction of the rules which should be assessed:
  - a. With a warning, b. Honsoku Make, c. Shido, d. None of the above.

## **XVI. Members of the USJA Referee Committee:**

Dr. Martin L. Bregman (IJF-A), PO Box 700149; Tulsa, OK 74170-0149.

Mr. Hayward Nishioka (IJF-A), 3721 Almeria Street; San Pedro, CA 90731.

Mr. Richard Celotto (IJF-A), 8 Sylvan Knoll Rd.; Stamford, CT 06902.

## **Answers to the questions in Section XV above:**

1(a); 2(c); 3(b); 4(d); 5(d); 6(c).