



Referee Accreditation Framework

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Judo Australia – Referee Accreditation Framework

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

This document is intended to constructively guide and assist the membership on refereeing development matters. It includes the structure, qualification, assessment and examination processes and procedures, which are underpinned by the educational and training programmes.

This document supersedes all previous referee pathway documents.

1.1 Referee Licence Delivery

Member States are endorsed to coordinate the delivery of the four state level referee licences. Judo Australia (JA) will deliver the three national level referee licences.

1.2 Referee Licence Levels

State Licences	Emerging
	State C
	State B
	State A
National Licences	National C
	National B
	National A

1.3 Licence Fees

Licence fees will include the costs of JA referee accreditation, certification, and other administration costs.

1.3.1 State Level Licence Fees

Fees may vary in each Member State. Licence fees will include the costs of accreditation, certification, and other costs such as administration. All State licences will be managed by Member States.

1.3.2 National Fees

The fee for National Level C and B examinations is \$35. This is paid at the time of examination and includes cost of the certificate, official badge and referee official tie. The fee is charged directly to the referee.

National A examinations are being paid by JA. This is a JA budget decision made year by year and is subject to change.

1.4 Assessor Qualifications

All state accreditation assessors will be members of the State Referee Commissions, or their appointed delegate, and hold minimum State Level A referee licence.

All National Level Accreditation Assessors will be members of the JA Referee Committee, or their appointed delegate, and hold minimum IJF continental.

JA has the right to:

- Approve assessors at any level who do not meet the assessor criteria after evaluation of the persons experience and knowledge of the sport and having regard to the circumstances.
- Conduct random checks to assess the quality of assessment being conducted
- All assessors will be selected by the respective Member State or JA

- The work of referee assessors may be checked by the JA Referee Committee to ensure consistency and integrity of the accreditation processes. Assessments of referee accreditation comments and participant evaluation may be reviewed to ensure quality of referee competency levels

<u>Level</u>	<u>Minimum Assessor Qualification</u>
Emerging	State Level A Referee
State C	State Level A Referee
State B	State Level A Referee
State A	State Level A Referee
National C	IJF Continental
National B	IJF Continental
National A	IJF Continental

1.5 Insurance

All referees are required to be a financial member of their relevant Member State to ensure relevant insurance coverage. Once a referee obtains accreditation, they must remain a financial member of their relevant Member State to maintain accreditation.

2. POLICES AND PROCEDURES

2.1 Member Protection

The sport's officials have a high duty of care to promote the basic right of all JA members to participate in an environment that is enjoyable, safe, and healthy, and to demonstrate JA's values in action.

The JA National Member Protection Policy (MPP) sets out applicable codes of conduct for members including officials. JA's values are Politeness, Courage, Sincerity, Honour, Humility, Respect, Self-Control, and Friendship and the concept of Jita Kyoei - Mutual welfare and Benefit.

2.2 Referee Code of Conduct

The specific referee code of conduct is at section 3 below. Any breach of the MPP, including the Code of Conduct, may result in disciplinary action, including loss of referee licence accreditation.

2.3 Dispute Resolution

Any complaints about referee assessment outcomes or other matters must be submitted in writing to the relevant Member State or the JA National Office.

Appeals regarding the outcome of an application or assessment must be received within 14 days of receiving notification of the application or assessment.

The appeal will be considered, and notification of the outcome of the consideration provided within 30 days of receipt of the appeal. If the appeal is related to the outcome of an assessment task, the applicant may be permitted to be re-assessed in the units deemed non-passing. An independent assessor must undertake the re-assessment, at a time suitable to both parties. This process must be completed within 3 months of the appeal being lodged by the participant. No further appeals will be considered.

A referee not passing an examination for the next higher level of referee accreditation may undertake another full assessment after 6 months of refereeing at their level.

2.4 Age Entry to Levels

<u>Level</u>	<u>Age Requirement</u>
Emerging	13 years
State C	16 Years
State B	17 years
State A	18 Years
National C	18 Years
National B	19 Years
National A	20 Years

2.5 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

RPL is based on the awareness that people learn and develop competencies in many ways, throughout their lifetime – through work experience and life experience as well as through education and training. RPL considers a person’s skills and experiences, no matter where these were learnt, to enable people to gain credit in a training program of study.

A person can apply for RPL if they can provide evidence of their prior learning and experience, showing they are already competent in the learning outcomes of the relevant level. Member State Referee Commissions are responsible for assessing applications of RPL for State Level Licences. They may seek assistance from the JA Referee Committee. The JA Referee Committee will consider RPL for National Level Licences.

Individuals will apply in writing to the relevant organisation for RPL providing evidence of relevant education, qualifications and experiences.

2.6 Accelerated Path

JA recognises that knowledge and expertise developed in other judo disciplines is valuable and highly transferable to refereeing.

Internationally, many Olympians and international competitors have chosen refereeing as a pathway to continue to play an active role in the sport after they retire from competition. They have gone on to become Olympic and World Championship referees.

To attract advanced candidates and give credit to previous experience, the refereeing structure allows ‘Accelerated Path’ entry to the higher referee levels.

High performing athletes or coaches with significant international experience are encouraged to take up this opportunity and will be supported to do so.

2.6.1 For International Athletes

Accelerated path to National Level A accreditation - Judoka of at least 22 years old who have had at least ten (10) senior selections for international events, minimum Oceania Judo Union events or above, and have won at least two (2) medals at these senior events may directly attempt the National Level A accreditation.

2.6.2 For International Coaches

Accelerated path to National Level B accreditation - International coaches who have coached at least ten (10) international events, minimum Oceania Judo Union events or higher, may apply to directly attempt the National Level B accreditation.

2.6.3 For Competitive Judoka

Accelerated path to National Level C accreditation - Judoka of at least 20 years old and a competitive 1st Dan (minimum) at National Event Series (NES) stages may apply to directly attempt the National Level C accreditation.

2.6.3 For State Level Accreditation

Accelerated path to State Level B accreditation - A competition player of at least 18 years old and minimum grade 1k Kyu (brown), may apply to directly attempt the State Level B accreditation, under the authority/direction of the State referee commission.

2.7 JA Emerging Referee Policy

The JA Referee Committee are actively seeking to create opportunities for emerging' state level referees to gain exposure and experience with a focus on developing future JA National Level referees.

To facilitate this aim, the JA Referee Committee has adopted the JA Emerging Referee Policy, which can be found on the JA website.

JA Referee Committee will forward notification seeking 'Expressions of Interest' from Member States to nominate referees to officiate at each of the NES stages.

Included in this 'Expression of Interest' will now be an opportunity for Member States to nominate emerging referees.

2.8 Access and Equity

To promote access and equity, all state and national licences will:

- Have minimum entry restrictions including an age limit and previous refereeing prerequisites
- Be flexible in assessment tasks to allow those with special needs to undertake alternative forms of assessment

2.9 Records

JA will maintain a national register of all accredited referees including name, contact details, referee accreditation level and the accreditation attainment date.

Member States will keep state level referee accreditation records including name, contact details, referee accreditation level, the accreditation attainment date and whether the referee is active or inactive. Member States will also provide JA with state level accredited referee information to keep on the national register.

2.10 Re-Accreditation Requirements

<u>Level</u>	<u>Re- Accreditation Requirements</u>
Emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively referee at a minimum of two (2) state or club level events per year• Participate in 1x State Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing per year• Resubmit/maintain all pre-requisites as required
State C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively referee at a minimum of two (2) state or club events per year• Participate in 1x State Referee Seminar or relevant pre-event referee briefing per year• Resubmit/maintain all pre-requisites as required
State B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively referee at a minimum of four (4) state level events per year• Participate in 1x State Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing per year• Maintain/resubmit pre-requisites as required

State A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively referee at a minimum of four (4) state level events per year Participate in 1x State Referee Seminar per year Participate in 1x NES Seminar/pre-tournament referee briefing per year Resubmit/maintain all pre-requisites as required
National C, B, A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have refereed a minimum of 30 hours over the previous 2 years Including a minimum of 20 hours over the previous 12 months Including attending a minimum of one NES event in the previous 12 months Resubmit/maintain all pre-requisites as required <p>All reactivation of the prior National Level Licenses will be based upon the assessment of the referee's current standard, by the JA Referees Committee, at one of the NES stages, and is not automatic.</p>

2.10.1 Accreditation Renewal Process

When an inactive referee wishes to be re-accredited, the referee needs to be reassessed by the relevant Member State Referee Commission or the JA Referee Committee. Applications for re-accreditation must be accompanied by a completed logbook of refereeing activities and requirements as stated above.

2.11 Active Accreditation Activities

It is the responsibility of all referees to remain current. This means they must keep up to date with the latest IJF rules, and interpretation of such rules, as well as remain active.

2.11.1 Active accreditation requirements are:

Level	Minimum Refereeing Activity	Minimum Professional Development
Emerging	2x State or Club Sanctioned Events (per year)	1x State Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year)
State C	2x State or Club Sanctioned Events (per year)	1x State Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year)
State B	4x State Sanctioned Events (per year)	1x State Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year)
State A	4x State Sanctioned Events (per year)	1x State Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year) 1x NES Seminar/pre-tournament referee briefing (per year)
National C	1x NES Stage (per year)	1x National Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year)
National B	2x NES Stages (per year)	2x National Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year)
National A	3x NES Stages (per year)	3x National Referee Seminar or pre-event referee briefing (per year)

Failure to comply with these minimum requirements will result in referee licence being classified as inactive.

Referees who have become inactive for more than one year need to retake assessments for their level or a lower level at their discretion for both theory and practical; this will incur a full examination fee. If an examination retake is done at a lower level, the referee would then officially become that lower level referee.

In exceptional circumstances the State or JA Referee Committee reserve the right to reaccredit any referee at their discretion without the need for assessment.

2.12 Level Evaluation and Review Process

In addition to an evaluation document completed by participants, the following methods will be used to assess and review levels:

- Brief informal discussions with the State Referee Commission and State Level A, focusing on the organisation of the level and suggestions for any changes
- Data on numbers of referees completing the levels and progressing to the next level will be analysed on a regular basis
- The levels will be reviewed on a regular basis and input will be sought from relevant referee development stakeholders
- Appropriate updates will be made from time to time to ensure the accreditation framework and levels remain current and suitable

2.13 National Evaluation Criteria – Practical Assessments

Component	Description	Examples
Voice	Voice should be loud and clear using correct and distinguishable pronunciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice too loud – or – too quiet • Incorrect or indistinguishable pronunciation
Signals	<p>All hand signals should be correct, clearly identifiable, displaying good posture, and should be held for approximately 2-3 seconds. The referee should not pre-empt any score before the action has finished.</p> <p>The referee should know exactly where the medical team are situated and should immediately call in that direction when they are required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signals not clear – or – not held for sufficient time • Wrong signal used when scoring – or – applying penalties • Pre-empting score prior to completion of the throwing action
Mobility	<p>The referee should adopt the most appropriate position and distance to accommodate the activity and movement of the competitors. Attention should also be given, by the referee, to the view of the table referees, the position of the CARE-system cameras and the position of the tournament control staff. The pace and movement of the referees should be calm and purposeful and not rushed or random.</p> <p>The referee should be appropriately positioned to effectively view and assess Katame Waza situations such as Shime Waza, Kansetsu Waza and Osaekomi Waza.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too far from – or – too close to the activity/movement of the competitors • Wrong or poor positioning with regards to CARE-system camera(s) • Movements appear rushed or random
Presentation	This criterion identifies the physical appearance, presentation and posture of the referee, including the ability to display a calm and confident demeanour and a high level of control throughout the contest. Elements would include facial expressions, unnecessary gestures, lack of confidence, showing disrespect for the competitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making unnecessary facial expressions and/or physical gestures • Poor posture. Appears nervous/anxious/tense • Displays disrespectful 'attitude' towards competitors and/or coaches
Determination	The referee should consistently demonstrate the ability to be competent and confident in providing accurate opinions of varying situations and activity during the contest. Whilst the referee may request the table referees' support in difficult situations the referee should not regularly defer to the table referees to make the decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks initiative/confidence when assessing action and/or making decision(s) • Fails to refer 'difficult' (controversial) decisions for review by table referees • Displays disrespectful 'attitude' when over-ruled by table referees and/or Committee members
Contest Control	<p>The referee should demonstrate a calm and confident control of the competitors and coaches during a contest.</p> <p>The referee should be aware of the scoreboard throughout the contest, and any discrepancies/ inaccuracies should be resolved immediately.</p> <p>Any problems with scoreboard/timing equipment should be addressed promptly and resolved professionally and respectfully.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoreboard not observed, and a discrepancy/inaccuracy not fixed quickly enough • Displays a 'lack of feel' for the contest. Calls Matte at an inappropriate time. • Appears distracted by coach(es) and/or spectators

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to address inappropriate behaviour of coaches
Judgement (Table Referees)	<p>The table referees should always demonstrate attention to the action on their mat area. This would include avoiding unnecessary or distracting behaviour during the contest.</p> <p>The table referee should offer prompt and clear support to the referee on any close or unclear decision. However, the table referee should not appear overly or unnecessarily critical of the referee on close decisions and should always attempt to maintain the unity of the referee team.</p> <p>The table referee should be quick to supervise any medical activity for a competitor, of the contest area, when this is required.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not demonstrate paying attention to the contest • Does not offer an opinion on an action/decision when required • Is over-talkative or dominating • Uses poor radio procedure • Relies too much on the CARE system
Scoring	<p>The correct level of technical scoring for all actions in Tachi Waza is paramount and must be applied consistently. Scores should not be pre-empted, and should accurately reflect the throwing action, and be awarded to the correct competitor (particularly in Kaeshi Waza situations).</p> <p>Repeated occurrence of a referee having technical scores changed, during the same contest, would be regarded as a poor scoring performance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeatedly has technical scores overruled by table referees • Scores to a wrong player in Kaeshi Waza
Penalties	<p>It is important that the referee award penalties consistently and at the appropriate time for the level of infringement committed. Penalties should be awarded taking in to account the intent of the competitor and should be applied using a clear and accurate signal to the competitor who infringed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows poor timing when applying 'Negative Judo' penalties • Use an incorrect hand signal for intended penalty • Calls Matte at the wrong time to award Shido
Katame-Waza	<p>The referee should demonstrate an accurate and consistent understanding of Katame Waza by calling Matte, OsaeKomi, Toketa and Ippon at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The referee should also demonstrate a clear understanding of when the overall action transitions from Tachi Waza to Katame Waza. The referee should allow the competitor an appropriate opportunity to apply Katame Waza actions whilst identifying situations where one or both competitors are 'time-wasting'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor timing when in calling OsaeKomi and/or Toketa • Does not accurately interpret transition between Tachi Waza and Katame Waza • Poor timing when announcing Ippon for Shime Waza or Kansetsu Waza (Too early/Too Late) • Calls Matte too early – or – too late

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Referee Code of Conduct is a positive document for all referees. It affirms a referee's support for the concepts of respect, impartiality, competence, safety, honesty, professionalism, equity and sportsmanship. The code also provides a reference point for clubs, parents, athletes, schools and employers to expect that a referee will demonstrate appropriate standards of behaviour.

Referee Code of Conduct

Impartiality

A referee must be fair, honest and impartial at all times. He/she must not display favoritism or prejudices in behaviour and expression.

Competence

A referee must be familiar with the rules and regulations governing the sport of judo. He/she must maintain his/her competency by being active in refereeing and keeping abreast of rule changes and interpretations.

Uniform

A referee must be properly attired as required by the IJF Refereeing Rules and Sporting Rules (pertaining to refereeing aspects).

Promptness

A referee should be on the mat promptly before the contestants. He/she should be prompt when attending meetings, clinics or seminars.

Attentiveness

A referee must always be attentive. He/she must devote his/her full attention in officiating the contest.

Mutual Respect

A referee must respect the opinion of the other referees. Each referee must be able to express his/her opinion without fear of ridicule or criticism from others.

Team Work

All referees must work as a team in a cooperative spirit so that a contest may run smoothly without unwarranted interference. However, each member of a refereeing team should make independent judgements.

Criticism

A referee must not criticize other referees. Difference of opinion should be discussed with the referees concerned, or with the referee Committee.

Socialising

A referee should exercise prudence when socializing with athletes, coaches and spectators to minimize the possibility of confrontation, or accusations of bias

Coaching and/or Verbal Support of Competitors

A working referee must not visibly support (coach or call out/cheering) any contestants during the tournament.

Confrontation

A referee must not have confrontations with athletes, coaches or spectators. If a Referee is faced with such a situation, he should make all attempts to remove himself/herself from the situation and to direct the grievance via the proper channels.

Conflict of Interest

A referee must avoid any direct or indirect conflict of interest.