

2017 IJF Referee & Coach Seminar Report

Baku, Azerbaijan
6-7 January 2017

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Preface: The content of this report is information provided by the IJF and the cooperative efforts of the USA Judo representatives that attended this seminar. The 2017 IJF Referee and Coach Seminar was hosted by the Azerbaijan Judo Federation in Baku, Azerbaijan. We all take this opportunity to thank USA Judo's Board of Directors, Keith Bryant, Corinne Shigemoto, Edward Liddie, Athlete Performance Committee, Patrick Burris, Coach Education Committee, Christopher Skelley, High Performance Committee, and the Referee Committee for this opportunity to attend and participate in this educational opportunity and represent the USA and USA Judo.

USA Judo Attendees:

1. Aronov, Mr. Arkadiy, USA Judo Coach
2. Berliner, Dr. Gary, (IJF-A), IBSA Referee Committee
3. Chi, Mr. Joon, (IJF-A), USA Judo Referee Committee
4. Fukuda, Mr. Robert, (IJF-A), Chair, USA Judo Referee Committee
5. Houston Shimizu, Ms. Barbara, (IJF-A), Referee
6. Johnson, Ms. Janet, (IJF-A), USA Judo Referee Committee
7. Landstreet, Ms. Sharon, (IJF-A), Referee
8. Mallo, Mr. Edson, (IJF-A), Referee
9. Moore, Dr. Gregory, (IJF-A), Referee
10. Prado, Mr. Jhonny, USA Judo Coach
11. Saito, Mr. Raymond (IJF-A), Referee
12. Takata, Mr. Michael, (IJF-A), Referee
13. Takemoto, Mr. Gary, (IJF-A), Referee
14. Terada, Mr. Calvin, (IJF-A), Referee
15. Williams, Mr. David, (IJF-A), Referee

Day 1 - Friday, 6 January 2017 - Morning Session @ Haydar Aliyev Sports Hall

- Official Welcome (Rovnag Abdullayev, President, Azerbaijan Judo Federation & Marius Vizer, President, IJF)
- As spoken by Marius Vizer, President, IJF, the goal of the new rule changes is to make judo more understandable and appealing to the world audience. Over the last few Olympic periods, judo has been able to change due to the creativity and willingness of the judo community to work as one community. The rule changes will take place immediately at the upcoming IJF events planned for 2017.
- Opening Video "JUDO Explained" by Neil Adams (YouTube)
- Opening Session Welcome (Juan Carlos Barcos, IJF Head Referee Director, Yasuhiro Yamashita, IJF Development Director, Bernd Achilles, IJF Referee Director, Vladimir Barta, IJF Head Sports Director, Daniel Lascau, IJF Sports Director). The new rules will be implemented beginning at the African Open Tunis on 14-15 January 2017.
- Opening session included a quick review of the 2012-2016 rule changes to increase the score of Ippon.
- Scoring of Ippon has increased from 44.37% in London to a higher percentage of 52.55% for the Rio Olympic Games.

Please REMEMBER that:

- **Most of the negative Judo penalties have not changed:** non-combativity, defensive attitude/posture, false attack, grip breaking/cutting with two (2) hands, bear hug, abnormal gripping with no intent to attack, and etc.
- **The emphasis increases the focus on positive Judo/technical scores.**
- **Our Olympic, World, Continental, and National Champions are important role models for our children and youth.** Modeling is the most powerful and effective means of teaching. Thus, it is important for our rules to promote safe, respectful, honorable, and correct Judo behaviors with a positive attitude. This provides good role models and examples for young people to emulate and model their own behavior, conduct, and Judo after. This thinking and emphasis is evidenced by some of the rule changes for the new quadrennial.

- **Scoreboard & timing systems will require modifications.**
- Yuko must be eliminated from the display.
- The Wazaari display must now be able to record/display incrementally more than 2 Wazaaris.
- The Wazaari Awasete Ippon functionality must be disabled, as it is no longer possible to score an Ippon by Awasewaza.
- Displayed Shidos must be able to indicate whether a Shido has been assessed for a leg grab vs other Shidos. This will indicate to the referee that on the 2nd leg grab incident, she/he must assess Hansoku Make instead of Shido.
- The Osaekomi timer function must be changed to 10 seconds = Wazaari and 20 seconds = Ippon.
- The Osaekomi timer's Wazaari Awasete Ippon function must be disabled, as Awasewaza is no longer permitted.
- The Osaekomi timing function must now allow all Osaekomi to run to Ippon, as there is no longer a Wazaari Awasete Ippon combination to conclude the match.

The following items were discussed and include the original language as initially distributed by the IJF as the new referee rules for the 2017-2020 Olympic Cycle on December 26, 2016.

Please note that:

- « **black & underlined** » new IJF rules language
- « **red** » **additional clarification, rule precision, or information**
- **Duration of contest:**
 - Men and women contest four (4) minutes. Respect for parity as wished by the IOC and fight unity for the Olympic mixed team event.
- **Evaluation of the points:**
 - There will now only be Ippon and Waza-ari - Ippon evaluation will remain the same (speed, force, control, emphasis on the back exposure, and impact).
 - The value of Waza-ari includes those given for Yuko in the past.

- The Waza-ari do not add up. Two Waza-ari are no longer the equivalent of one Ippon. A competitor can earn/accumulate multiple Wazaaris. Regardless of the amount of Wazaari scores earned, they will not add up to an Ippon). For example: 2 Wazaaris \neq Ippon, 5 Wazaaris \neq Ippon. Wazaari Awasete Ippon no longer exists.
- **Immobilizations (Osaekomi Time):**
 - Waza-ari 10 seconds, Ippon 20 seconds. Reminder: Wazaari Awasete Ippon no longer exists.
- **Technical score:**
 - In regular time, a contest can only be won by a technical score or scores (Waza-Ari or Ippon). The main goal is to have contests won by a technical score and NOT by penalty.
 - A penalty or penalties will not decide the winner, except for Hansokumake (direct or accumulative). This is referring to during regulation time.
 - In case of team matches, Ippon will be 10 points and Wazaari will be 1 point (No one asked about points for a win by Shido in Golden Score overtime).
- **Golden Score:**
 - In the case where there is no score(s), or scores are equal, the contest will continue in Golden Score. Technical scores are what count at the end of regulation time. Regardless of what the Shido counts are, if the technical scores for both athletes are tied, the match will be extended into the Golden Score overtime period. Thus, during regulation time, Shidos may essentially be ignored unless they accumulate up to Hansoku Make. In regards to time concerns, the average duration of Golden Score overtime period over the last 4 years was 1 minute and 40 seconds to complete the match.
 - Any score and/or penalties from regular time will remain on the scoreboard.
 - The decision in the Golden Score is made by the difference of scores or Shido. Unlike regulation time, Shidos are important during the Golden Score period and can determine the outcome of the match. If an athlete receives a Shido during Golden Score that makes his/her total of Shidos greater than that of the opponent, that will conclude the contest by that Shido. If it makes her/his total

equal to or less than the opponent's Shido total, the contest will continue in Golden Score.

- **Penalties:**

- There are now three Shido, instead of previously four.
- The third Shido becomes Hansoku Make.
- To simplify the refereeing and its understanding some of the actions on how to grab the judogi, which were punished in the past, will no longer be penalized: (pistol grip, pocket grip...) As long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is trying to attack. The athlete has some time (≈3 seconds) to setup/prepare for attack; the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous.
- Fingers inside the sleeve will still be penalized. No change - penalization is immediate.
- Unconventional Kumikata such as cross gripping, one side gripping (2 hands on the same side) and belt gripping will not be penalized as long as Tori is preparing an attack. If any of these five grips (cross, one-side/same side, belt, pocket/cat's paw, & pistol) are used to be defensive, then Shido is given immediately. The athlete has some time to setup/prepare for attack; the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous.
- Negative positions will be penalized by Shido, because they are against the spirit of judo (no searching for an attack, a defensive attitude, etc....). No change.
- Recognizing the difficulty of preparing a throwing action, the time between Kumikata and making an attack is extended to 45 seconds (as long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is preparing to execute a technique). This is after the athletes have obtained normal/standard Kumikata. The athletes should be given more time and opportunity to prepare/setup for an attack. This may be as much as 45 seconds. But, if there is a situation where normal/standard grips are maintained for 45 seconds with no real attack, we should ask ourselves, "What's going on here? Are they really sincerely working, looking for, and preparing for a real attack?". 45 seconds is a long time. Reminder: the language and duration of non-combativity has NOT changed.
- Leg grabbing or grabbing the trousers, shall be penalized first by Shido and secondly by Hansoku Make.

- **Safety:**

- The committee examined the rules with regard to safety to ensure that judo has as little trauma as possible.
- If Uke attempts to avoid landing on their back by any movement, which is dangerous for the head, neck or spine, they shall be penalized with Hansokumake. (Part bridge in Article 20) Reaching with the head, stretching the neck out, not protecting the head and/or neck can/should is considered as bridging.
- The competitor loses this contest, but can continue in the competition in applicable. The competitor loses this contest, but may continue in the competition if the situation in the tournament system allows it.
- In order not to give a bad example for young judokas, the landing on both elbows is considered valid and evaluated as Waza Ari.
- Landing on only one elbow is invalid and cannot be used for assessment. Uke's elbow must be posted and torso must not touch tatami.
- Anti judo will be immediately penalized as an act against the spirit of Judo. No change. If an athlete is running to avoid competing in a judo contest or to escape from the opponent, that athlete will be considered to be acting against the spirit of judo and will be penalized with Hansoku Make.

- **Throw and counter-attack:**

- In a case of attack and counter-attack the first competitor landing will be considered as thrown. If a score can be given, it will be assigned. This assumes that the initial attack results in throwing the opponent first, as you are NOT able to successfully counter-attack and score if you are already being thrown. You cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.
- In case if the two athletes land together, no score will be given. Assuming that there is no clear control by either athlete.
- If an action is led by a competitor after the landing (Kaeshi-Waza), this action will not be counted. You cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.
- Any action after landing will be considered as a Ne-Waza action. Again, you cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.

- **Judo gi:**
 - For better efficiency and to have a good grip it is necessary for the jacket to be well fitted in the belt, with the belt tied tightly. To reinforce that, the competitor shall arrange their Judo gi and belt quickly between Matte and Hajime announced by the referee. Apply strictly to make sure that the competitor shall automatically fix their judo gi during Mate and Hajime. If an athlete does not comply with this requirement, they should be penalized with Shido.
- **World Ranking Points:**
 - Points will be modified. The document will be sent shortly.
 - Juniors: the medalist of the Junior World Championships will get points in the Senior World Ranking List for this event only.
- **Miscellaneous Information:**
 - The coaches were excused for the lunch break and the referees were retained for some referee specific matters.
 - Bernd Achilles, IJF Referee Director, talked about referees registering three weeks after the registration deadline. This is a big problem. Please be considerate, responsible, and professional. Please observe deadlines.
 - All referees must be in JudoBase (all must have current IJF membership card).
 - All referees must quickly respond to invitations issued by the IJF Referee Commission.
 - Age limit for the international referee license will be 65 years old. The age limit for referees qualifying for the Olympics and World Championships is 60 years old.
 - No mouthpieces will be used in competition. Important to note that USA Judo allows athletes to use mouthpieces in domestic competition ONLY. IJF & PJC events hosted in the USA do NOT allow the use of mouthpieces as they are conducted using the full IJF rules. For example: the 3rd (international) day of the Junior Olympics (PJC & IJF point event).

- **Day 1 - Friday, 6 January 2017 - Afternoon Session @ Haydar Aliyev Sports Hall**

- Afternoon session on the mat in judo gi was comprised of many demonstrations of various difficult situations similar to those found in the videos earlier in the day.
- 5 Grips to allow more time to allow offensive technique (pocket grip, pistol grip, cross grip, grabbing the obi, and cross guard grip). If grips are used to be defensive, then a Shido is given.
- First offense to grab and/or block the leg is Shido and the second instance is Hansokumake. First leg grab Shido must have a special sign on the scoreboard to distinguish this Shido because second offense is Hansoku Make.
- Bridging is when the chin is extended away from the chest, stretching/reaching with the head.
- Wakigatame was reviewed. We were reminded that there are NO changes to the rules regarding Wakigatame. Wakigatame may be legally applied in a standing position if it is completely executed in a standing position. It may also be legally applied from a standing position with the Uke being taken to the tatami in a safe & controlled manner. Wakigatame may also legally be applied in Newaza situations. In ALL of these situations, care must be taken to prevent injury to Uke and give Uke a fair opportunity to indicate/show Maitta. Applying Wakigatame while standing and then falling directly to the tatami while applying is a Hansoku Make violation. It is extremely dangerous, does not give Uke a fair opportunity to indicate/show Maitta, and most often results in grave injury to the Uke. Reminder: all Kansetsuwaza applications must give the Uke a fair opportunity to enable Uke to indicate/show Maitta to protect themselves and prevent injury. This idea/concept is exemplary of the philosophy and goals of Judo.

- **Day 2 - Saturday, 7 January 2017 - Morning Session @ Haydar Aliyev Sports Hall**

- Opening Session started with Vladimir Barta, Head Sports Director, IJF, provided a brief update regarding the changes to the Olympic qualification. He also talked about the IJF making a decision to eliminate the two athlete rule per country for the continental quotas. Finally, he talked about the IJF applying for a mixed gender team demonstration event at the 2020 Olympic Games (3 men and 3 women).

- Mohamed Meridja, Director Education Committee, IJF, also provided a brief update to explain a Coach Training Opportunity funded by the IJF. Main program includes; technical training for coaches, Olympic scholarships for coaches, and the development of a National Sports Structure. Recognized academic centers include: Delaware (USA) and Montreal (Canada) in Pan America.
- A presentation was provided by Angelika Wilhelm, Referee Director, International Blind Sports Association, regarding the role of the IBSA referees, followed by a video. IBSA is working with the IJF to have IJF referees integrated into the IBSA system so that the same referees working the IJF World Tour Events will also work the IBSA events. This would include the Paralympics. The ultimate goal is to select the Paralympic Referees from the same pool as the Olympic Referees.
- Video Situational Discussion: The main points for each area of emphasis are listed in the notes of the answer key.
- Special remarks made by Marius Vizer, IJF President, regarding the goal and purpose of the new rule changes for the next Olympic period. A point of emphasis was that for some, especially for coaches, there is a negative attitude towards changes in the rules for competition. Unfortunately, it seems that this negative attitude is transmitted from the coach to the athlete and results in an overall negativity that affects the performance and achievement of athletes. The IJF's vision for Judo is very broad and is not limited just to competition for members of the Judo community. The IJF's vision is to expand Judo's appeal and interest to everyone, especially those outside of the existing Judo community. For this to occur, Judo must be easily understandable, exciting, enjoyable, and fun for everyone. Judo must be made spectator friendly. This concept is one of the primary motivations for the evolution of Judo, with the Olympic Games, World Championships, and other high level competitions being the IJF's product to sell. A superior product to sell will eventually lead to the growth of Judo worldwide. The IJF is open to suggestions and discussion. If you have some ideas or suggestions, please submit them via your national federation to the IJF. It is important to try and experiment with new ideas, evaluate, modify, and etc. Close scrutinization and fair criticism is important, but it is even more important to offer potential viable solutions or alternative proposals for consideration. This is much more productive and supportive in finding better solutions and improvements. If you have some ideas, submit them to the IJF through your national federation.
- Closing remarks by the Jean Luc Rouge, IJF General Secretary and Juan Carlos Barcos, IJF Referee Head Director, Vladimir Barta, IJF Head Sports Director, and Daniel Lascau, IJF Sports Director.

- **Day 2 - Saturday, 7 January 2017 - Farewell Dinner**

- Farewell Dinner was held at 20:00 or so with most/all people involved with seminar: IJF dignitaries, staff, and presenters; Azerbaijan Judo Federation dignitaries, guests, staff, & members; special guests; and all/most seminar attendees.
- Multi-course Azerbaijani cuisine dinner with drinks, refreshment, and entertainment. Wonderful hospitality and a good chance to mingle and make new friends and renew acquaintances.