

REFEREE BEHAVIOR and the CODE of ETHICS

- You're always a referee and representative of Judo
 - living in a “glass house” – live your life and behave in all actions as if your mother, your spouse and your coach are always watching you and your behavior is being documented by the media
 - cannot separate character from position – how you act helps define who you are and you cannot just put on a uniform to change how you are perceived as a person – if you are known to be of flawed character in any aspect of your life, your reputation will influence how people will accept you as a referee
 - you are known whether in uniform or not – you cannot assume that the judo community will forget you or no longer remember that you are a referee once you replace your referee uniform with your normal clothes – your behavior therefore will always be seen as representative of the referee corps
- General expected behavior
 - Legal – there are laws that apply to personal behavior and it is imperative that referees comply with all such laws – violation of such laws not only brings negative impact to the perpetrator, but also reflects negatively on referees (as a group) and the sport of Judo
 - Moral – some actions are not covered by the laws of our land, but are against the commonly accepted moral standards of our society – high moral standards are expected of all judo referees at all times
 - Ethical – some actions are “just the right thing to do” – approaching issues without deceit and treating everyone fairly are behaviors expected of referees
 - Setting a good example – it is expected that all referees will set good examples for others to follow and will help maintain high standards of behavior – marginal or negative sexual behavior, use of illegal drugs and excessive alcohol that interferes with normal functioning are examples of improper behavior and bad examples to others.
- Interactions with players, coaches, other officials and others
 - Position of leadership – by virtue of holding the position of referee, you are automatically a leader in the judo community – the higher your certification level, the more people will look up to you and the greater is your responsibility to have the highest behavior standards – it is extremely important that referees do not use (nor imply the use of) their position to influence others to take part in or overlook negative behavior – portions of this issue are expanded in the “Referee’s Code of Ethics”, especially as it applies to coaches and players.

- Promote proper behavior by all – not only should you exhibit appropriate behavior you should expect such behavior from all referees (and others involved in Judo) and help them behave in a way that will bring credit to themselves and our sport
- Deescalate the situation if possible – if you are involved in, or come upon, a situation that is headed toward improper behavior by one or more participants, you should try to calm the situation, resolve the issue if you can and get the individuals involved back to behaving properly
- Referees Code of Ethics, Standards & Conduct
 - Review main points – the major topics covered by the Referee’s Code of Ethics, Standards & Conduct were enumerated and reference to access to this code on the USA Judo web site on the referee page was noted
 - Limitations – the majority of the code is related to interaction of referees with others in the judo community, especially as related to competition – some areas of the code are specific in nature while others are very general, which allows application and coverage of a wide variety of situations but does not detail the expectations with specific examples
 - Signing to verify understanding and pledge to follow the document – all referees are requested to download the Code of Ethics, Standards & Conduct from the USA Judo web site, read it, and sign and return a statement that documents the referee understands and will abide by the Code