



Referee Accreditation Framework

National Referee Licences

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SPORTAUS



Judo Australia - National Referee Licences

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

It is the responsibility of the Judo Australia (JA) Referee Committee to support national accredited referees and to train and provide continuous feedback to such referees.

The JA Referee Committee will hold minimum of one (1) national course per calendar year. This course will cover the finer detail of refereeing at national and international level, as well as communicate and educate referees on new international rules, and interpretation of rules.

It is encouraged that the players, coaches, and managers attend referee courses as part of ongoing education to increase understanding of referees' rules.

The JA Referee Committee will hold pre-event briefing before each seven (7) National Event Series (NES) stages.

1.1 National referee level requirements

Referee Licence	Recommended time in grade	Judo Grade	Minimum Age	Examination format	Examination authority
National C	30 hours and 1 year as State A	1 st Kyu	18	Practical test	National Committee Member or their delegate
National B	50 hours and 18 months as National C	Sho Dan	19	Practical test	National Committee Member or their delegate
National A	80 hours and 2 years as National B	Sho Dan	20	Practical test	National Committee Member or their delegate

Note:

The above time limits should be a guideline only. In exceptional cases, the JA Referee Committee can consider a shorter time limit for upgrading licences.

The time requirement starts at zero (0) hours after every upgrade. This is to recognise all gradings should be competency based. If a referee shows rapid progress, they should be graded accordingly.

It should be clear that recommended time in grade includes hours both on and off (resting) the mat – from opening to closing bow on competition day.

2. EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

2.1 Practical examination

The practical examination will be according to the IJF format. For the practical examination, the applicant will be required to referee a minimum of six (6) contests. There will be a minimum of two (2) examiners for the practical examinations.

2.2 Examination events

All NES stages, excluding the national championships are national licence examination events.

30 days before the examination event State Referee Committees must nominate their candidates for a National Level C licence. This is done by completing a relevant form and sending it to the Chair of the JA Referee Committee.

Due to limited number of examination events and reduced quotas of referees for these events, no more than three (3) candidates will be assessed at any one of these events.

- Examinations for national licences are done at NES stages
- At least two (2) tournaments, which provide a sufficient number of contests to meet the number required for each certification level, will be selected for national licence examination in a calendar year.
- No examination will be held at the national championships.
- Examinations for all national licences are conducted by the JA Referee Chair or by a delegated member of the JA Referee Committee.

When acting as the examiner it is necessary to provide feedback to candidates, feedback should be direct, clear, and given in such a manner to ensure the candidate is confident of the proper procedure expected. In this situation it may be necessary to criticise 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.).

3. EVALUATION

All national accredited referees are evaluated by JA Referee Committee Member, or their delegate, at NES stages. National practical examination procedures and a relevant assessment form to be used for ongoing evaluation. All evaluation scores are recorded in the national referee database. Ongoing referees' ranking will be developed and will be used for selecting and nominating referees for NES stages and international tournaments.

3.1 Aim of Evaluation

The national referee evaluation strategy aims to provide all stakeholders with:

- A continuous, objective monitoring tool of referees' performance
- Reliable data that will support improved training and investment decisions
- An indication on how our training programs are performing
- Reliable data used when assessment for promotion is considered and conducted
- Evaluation scores and feedback for each referee who officiates at:
 - National championships
 - NES stages

3.2 Evaluation Events

- The JA National Referee Committee evaluates all referees at NES stages
- To be considered for selection for nationals, OJU and International events a referee must be evaluated at least three times in a reporting cycle (June – May)

3.3 Procedure

- Minimum of eight (8) fights at one event is required for evaluation
- Immediately after each fight, referees need to liaise with a JA Referee Committee Member on their mat for specific and relevant feedback
- All evaluation scores are recorded in the national referee database

3.4 Evaluation Criteria

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	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.	<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

	The referee should know exactly where the medical team are situated and should immediately call in that direction when they are required.	
Mobility	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. The referee should be appropriately positioned to effectively view and assess Katame Waza situations such as Shime Waza, Kansetsu Waza and Osaekomi Waza.	<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	The referee should demonstrate a calm and confident control of the competitors and coaches during a contest. The referee should be aware of the scoreboard throughout the contest, and any discrepancies/ inaccuracies should be resolved immediately. Any problems with scoreboard/timing equipment should be addressed promptly and resolved professionally and respectfully.	<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 • Fails to address inappropriate behaviour of coaches
Judgement (Table Referees)	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. 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. The table referee should be quick to supervise any medical activity for a competitor, of the contest area, when this is required.	<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	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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeatedly has technical scores overruled by table referees • Scores to a wrong player in Kaeshi Waza

	Repeated occurrence of a referee having technical scores changed, during the same contest, would be regarded as a poor scoring performance.	
Penalties	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.	<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	The referee should demonstrate an accurate and consistent understanding of Katame Waza by calling Matte, OsaeKomi, Toketa and Ippon at the appropriate time. 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'.	<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

3.5 Active accreditation requirements:

Level	Minimum Refereeing Activity	Minimum Professional Development
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.

3.6 Reactivation Requirements

Level	Reactivation Requirements
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

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.

4.0 PROMOTIONS

To be eligible for promotion a candidate must:

- Be a financial member with Judo Australia
- Be nominated by their State Referee Committee
- Meet time requirements in referee licence
- Meet minimum judo grade
- Have required hours of refereeing.
- Be a certified Special Needs (No Limits) Referee
- Demonstrate superior skill in the following categories:
 - Overall Appearance (Voice, Signals, Mobility, Presentation)
 - Control and Collaboration (Determination, Contest Control, Judgment)

- Technical Abilities (Scoring, Penalties, Katame Waza)

5. RESOURCES

[No Limits Referee Accreditations](#)