

**OKLAHOMA JUDO ASSOCIATION
REFEREE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

I. Aim & Purpose of the Oklahoma Judo Association (OJA) Referee Certification Program:

The aim of this referee certification program is to train all Judo officials in Oklahoma to understand & utilize the international procedures & interpretations of the Judo rules as stipulated by the members of the International Judo Federation (IJF) Referee Certification Committee. 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. It must be remembered that 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 in Oklahoma. 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 United States Judo, Inc. (USJI), the Pan American Judo Union (PJU) & 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 Oklahoma & 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. OJA Referee Certification Committee (OJA-RCC) Functions:

The OJA-RCC is composed of all officials who are certified as National (N) Referees or higher & who are registered members of the OJA.

The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the President of the OJA, & approved by the voting delegates 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 OJA-RCC shall be answered using the most recent IJF rulings on the topic as interpreted by the USJI National Referee Certification Subcommittee (USJI-RCS).

III. Levels of Certification & How Referees are Certified:

All candidates for Local, Regional, National or International Certification must be current members of the OJA (USJI). Candidates who are not current members of the USJI 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.

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

National testing & certification is now conducted at designated sites by (at least 3) members of the USJI-RCS. Referees wishing to be certified to National Level (N) must be examined at one of these designated sites & must hold a valid Regional (R) Certificate.

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 OJA-RCC, taking this into account, has therefore adopted 3 levels of Regional Referee (3, 2 & 1) with a minimum requirement of 1 year-in-grade between each level. It is the policy of the OJA-RCC not to recommend any OJA member for candidacy for National Certification until that individual has successfully been examined for a higher level Regional Certification (2 or 1). **(SEE CHART ON PAGE 3 FOR DATA).**

IV. National Testing Sites Include (on alternate years):

1. The Sensei Memorial Championship-San Jose, CA
2. The Midwest Open Championship-Chicago, IL
3. The Liberty Bell Championship-Philadelphia, PA
4. The Am-Can Judo Challenge-Amherst, NY
5. The USJI National Ladder/Fall Classic Judo Tournament-various sites.
6. The Dallas Invitational Championship-Dallas, TX

V. Crossover & Reciprocal Certification:

Those officials who were certified to Local (L) Level by any other state RCC (recognized by the USJI) or by either Class A member of the USJI (USJA & USJF) shall be accepted & recognized at that level by the OJA-RCC. Those officials who were certified to Regional (R) Level by any other state RCC or by either Class A member of the USJI will be accepted & recognized as a Regional 3 (R-3) official unless his/her certificate indicates that the individual in question has been certified to a higher level (ie: USJA Regional 2 will be accepted at that level by the OJA-RCC).

VI. Recertification of Referees:

TJI certification automatically expires 2 years from the date of issue, unless the individuals are recertified or upgraded before the expiration date.

Local & Regional Officials are recertified by the same method that national officials are recertified, in that they are expected to work at least 1 tournament in a calendar year & be evaluated by the OJA-RCC. If they were to miss an entire year without working an event Local & Regional Referees will be placed on probation. Upgrading to the next higher level will include retaking the written & practical examinations, with progressively higher scores required. It is the general policy of the OJA-RCC not to test candidates for higher level certification who do not have a history of working as many in-state events as possible.

National Officials are reevaluated at each USJI-RCS-approved event by members of the USJI-RCS, as well as local events if attended by a member of the USJI-RCS. If a National Official falls below standard he/she will be placed on probation by the members of the USJI-RCS. The official in question will then have to request reevaluation by the members of the USJI-RCS & may do so at any of the approved events. If upon reevaluation the members of the USJI-RCS believe that the official has not improved the candidate will then lose his/her National License for cause.

Failure to officiate at least 1 of the approved events within any given year will also result in loss of license for inactivity. The approved events include:

1. All National (N) Level Examination Sites (See IV above);
2. USJA Junior Nationals;
3. USJF Junior Nationals;
4. The High School Nationals (N-2 & higher levels).
5. The Collegiate Nationals (N-2 & higher levels).
6. The USJI National Junior Olympics (N-3 & higher on the first day; N-2 & higher on the second day).
7. USJI Senior Nationals (N-1 & higher levels)
8. USJI Junior Open Judo Championship (N-1 & higher levels)
9. USJI Open Judo Championship (International levels).

VII. Materials Used in the OJA 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 USJI Certificate & Referee Patch indicating the grade successfully examined for. The referee should attach the patch to the left breast-pocket of the Black Blazer which is part of the official uniform (see X) & should have a copy of the certificate in his/her possession at all times when officiating. The patch will be supplied to the successful candidate upon certification, & the certificate will be sent within 10 days of certification, by the chairman of the OJA-RCC.

VIII. Evaluation Procedures:

Members of the OJA-RCC may conduct evaluations of any USJI member at any event held within the state of Oklahoma providing that sufficient matches are provided to complete the evaluation. Tournaments outside the state may also be employed to evaluate members of the OJA, & any other member of the USJI as long as approval for so doing is received by the Chairman of the OJA-RCC from either the President or Chairman of the state RCC of the state in which the candidate resides.

IX. Fees:

The nonrefundable administrative fee for examination & evaluation for any level of the OJA Referee Program is \$10. The fee is paid when the candidate successfully passes the certification process & is charged to cover the cost of the certificate, postage & patch.

X. 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 in Oklahoma, an all-white, collared, pull-over shirt has been approved for use without tie or jacket by the OJA-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 in the state, from March through October. OJA officials should remember however to wear official dress when officiating outside the state of Oklahoma.

The attitude of all officials should be that of a respected professional. They should remember that, once certified, they represent OJA as well as the USJI & 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.).

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:

		Written Exam	Practical Evaluation
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)
5. National	(N)	70% (15 incorrect)	The evaluation is conducted by members of the USJI-RCS utilizing the IJF evaluation system.

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

A first time candidate may be certified to either Local (L) or 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 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 (ie: koka for an obvious waza-ari), 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 (ie: always when a player lands on his/her buttocks, the referee refuses to give Koka) and 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 & should 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 should not be counted against the candidate. Signals by the judges that are 1-score-off should also be recorded for discussion.

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 (ie: 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 (the wrong player wins due to an incorrect or lack of a call by the referee and 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 OJA-RCC that no candidate should be certified as a 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). We recommend 24 matches if possible) (12 as referee & 12 as judge), and 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 OJA-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 which he/she will return 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 OJA member & passes the written examination & the evaluation, receive \$10 for the certification fee & send it with the answer-evaluation form to the Chairman of the OJA-RCC. A USJI patch & certificate will then be sent to the successful candidate. If the successful candidate is a USJI member from another state, the \$10 & answer-evaluation form will be sent to the President or RCC Chairperson of that other Class B member of the USJI & it will be up to that Chairperson to certify the candidate.

XV. Sample Questions Similar to those Found on the OJA Written Exam:

- Please select the most correct answer (correct answers on bottom of next 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 Koka?
 - a. 4 seconds.
 - b. 9 seconds.
 - c. 14 seconds.
 - d. 24 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 a Chui to the contestant.
 - c. Start the contest but watch for unfair advantage.
 - d. Award the contest 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.
 - b. Matte or a penalty.
 - c. Sonomama or Jikan.
 - 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. Classification of National Level Referees Instituted by the USJI-RCS (All National (N) Level Referees are classified into the following sub-classes):

N-1=A superior National Official, who has been reevaluated by members of the USJI-RCS at the Senior National Championship & deemed ready to officiate at international events. Officials designated N-1 are expected to work as many national level events as possible (see N-2 below), and/or the U.S. Senior National Championship & the U.S. Junior International Invitational, at least once in a 2-year period. Officials designated as N-1 are also considered to be candidates for the Pan American Referee (C) examination. Those N-1 officials designated as candidates for the PJU examination may also be chosen to officiate at the U.S. International Invitational.

N-2=An above-average National Official with at least 1 year in grade as a N-3 level official, who has been reevaluated by at least 3 members of the USJI-RCS & deemed ready to officiate at the more arduous national events. Officials designated N-2 are expected to work as many national level events as possible (see N-3 below), but at least one per year; & the U.S. High School &/or Collegiate National Championship or the National Junior Olympic National Championship, which is limited to N-2 & higher-level officials, at least once in a 2-year period.

N-3=A competent National Official or any new National Official (1st Year). Officials designated N-3 are expected to work as many of the following national level events as possible but at least one per year: Any National Testing Site designated by the USJI-RCS (see Section VI above);

N-4=Referees who are placed on probation by the majority vote of the USJI-RCS due to either: a) a serious error at any event reported to the USJI-RCS by any of its members; b) a record of continuous poor performance as a Class N official; c) failure to work at any of the approved events for maintaining the National License within a calendar year period. Referees placed on probation must request a performance review by the examiners at any of the National Testing Sites designated by the USJI-RCS in order to be removed from probation within the next calendar year after being placed on probation;

XVII. Members of the Oklahoma Judo Association Referee Commission:

Dr. Richard A. Redner, Chairman, (PJU-C), 7088 E. 53rd St.; Tulsa, OK 74135

Dr. Martin L. Bregman (IJF-A), PO Box 701164; Tulsa, OK74170-1164

Dr. Wm. Graves, (PJU-C), 2105 Creighton Drive; Norman, OK 73071

Mr. Clint A. Dake, (USA-N), 3437 NW 24th St.; Newcastle, OK 73065

In Abstentia:

Ms. Meredith (Bregman) Commender (IJF-B), 1922 Damon St.; Moscow, ID 83843

Inactive:

Mr. Tom E. Sowell (PJU-C), 10960 S. Houston Ave.; Jenks, OK 74037

Answers to the questions in Section XV above:

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