

## **Shufu Referee Committee report May 2017**

Congratulations to Edmond Nsheuko, the newest National Referee in Shufu.

Congratulations to Sharon Landstreet, who was selected by the IJF to referee the Grand Prix in the Republic of Georgia and the Grand Prix in Turkey and was selected to referee finals in each event. Further congratulations to Sharon for being selected to referee the upcoming IJF Grand Prix in Mexico.

Congratulations to Bobby Donaldson, who worked the IJF Cadet event in Berlin and was selected to referee multiple finals.

The annual Shufu Referee Clinic took place in January 2017 at Pure Performance Martial Arts in Rockville. The clinician was Gary Takemoto, who had refereed the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio. The clinic was a success, and thanks are due to both Pure Performance and Mr. Takemoto.

It is, however, important to clarify two things as to which the understanding has evolved since that clinic. First, when a player takes a non-normal grip, the grip is permitted ONLY as long as the player is showing positive efforts to perform a technique with that grip. Otherwise, the grip may be penalized in as little as 3 seconds, even without being used defensively. If the non-normal grip is clearly being used for a defensive purpose, it may be penalized immediately.

Second, the new guideline of allowing 45 seconds between attacks without calling a noncombativity penalty applies ONLY if the player is showing a positive attitude and demonstrating that he or she is looking for opportunities to attack. Pure passivity can still be penalized in as little as 20 seconds.

Roy Englert, Esq.