

**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION  
REFEREE RULES  
2014 - 2016**

**(w/notes from the 2014 IJF Referee Seminar – Ft. Lauderdale, FL – 17 & 18 January 2014)**

**Preface:**

The content of this document is a product of the IJF and the cooperative efforts of individuals from the Executive Management, Coach Cadre, & Referee Cadre of USA Judo:

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The content of this document has been reviewed, approved, and accepted by the USA Judo Referee Commission, USA Judo Coaches Commission, and the USA Judo Board of Directors.

The goal of this document is to guide you and your students in understanding, adjusting, and adopting these additional rule changes and interpretations so that they may compete effectively between the Olympic Qualification years of 2014-2016.

As suggested in previous documents:

- The IJF rule changes are made by the International Judo Federation (IJF). They are not subject to debate as to whether they should be or will be accepted and used by the IJF. They have and already been accepted. The first use of these new rules will occur at the Grand Slam Paris 2014.
- The description and interpretations are those that were presented at the IJF/PJC referee seminar in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 17 & 18 January 2014. The seminar was conducted by the IJF Sports Head Director, Mr. Vladimir Barta/CZE and IJF Referee Head Director, Mr. Juan Carlos Barcos/ESP, IJF Coach Expert, Mr. Neil Adams/GBR.
- This document is the collaborative effort among all of the attendees. After reviewing and editing this document, we all agree that this accurately presents the information disseminated at the seminar.
- The IJF Referee Rules are the standard rules used by USA Judo, United States Judo Association, and the United States Judo Federation.
- We recommend thinking simply when implementing these modifications and changes.

**Additional Resources:**

The IJF has made available some video clips that illustrate some practical examples of the refereeing rule changes at the following URL:

<http://refereusb.judobase.org/>

The same video clips are being distributed via DVD at clinics around the country.

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**Implementation Schedule in the United States:**

These rules will be implemented fully starting at the 2014 Junior Olympic Championships on June 27, 2014, in Irving, Texas. The period before the 2014 Junior Olympic Championships will be considered a test period and local/regional tournaments are encouraged to test implementation during this time.

**New Judogi requirements will be implemented at the following USA Judo National Championship events in 2014: Junior Olympic Championships on June 27, 2014, and the President's Cup for all categories for Cadet aged athletes and older. Athletes participating in age categories younger than Cadets will be required to comply with the new judogi requirements starting on January 1, 2015.**

**All USA Judo point rostering categories at D & E level events will require athletes competing in the elite categories to wear judogis that satisfy these new requirements after June 27, 2014.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All USA athletes participating at IJF/PJC and non-domestic events will be expected to comply with the IJF rule changes starting January 1, 2014. Compliance with judogi regulations starting on April 1, 2014. Athletes in +78kg and +100kg will be expected to comply with judogi regulations once the Rio 2016 Olympic Qualification period commences.

**Definition of the Word, "Immediate" With Regard to Gripping, Attacking, Stepping Out-of-Bounds and Crushing:**

- Means immediate/simultaneous
- A moment or couple of steps to set-up is no longer acceptable

**In « red » new rules or rule precision**

**Referee and Judges:**

- Three referees of different nationalities to the two competing athletes will referee each contest. One referee on the mat with a radio communication system is connected to the two referees on the table of the mat who will assist with a video CARE system.
- A rotation system will be implemented for the referees to ensure neutrality.

The IJF Jury will interfere only when there is a mistake that needs to be rectified. The intervention and any change to the decisions of the referees by the IJF Jury will be made only in exceptional circumstances. The IJF Jury will interfere only when they consider it to be necessary.

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The IJF Jury, like referees, must be of different nationalities to the athletes on the mat. There is no appeal process for coaches, **but they may approach the IJF Jury table after the match, to watch the reason for the change to the final decision.**

There must be an education system to improve the level and consistency of the referees. Seminars with referees and coaches all together will be organized.

**Technical assessment:**

- **Ippon:** To give more value and to take into account only the techniques with a real impact on the ground on the back. **When the fall is rolled without REAL IMPACT, it is not possible to consider it Ippon.** This point is very important and it must be consistent during the whole Olympic qualification period.

(Note: Ippon must be clearly an impact landing on a large portion of the back. Any rolling motion toward the back after initial landing should be considered Wazaari for scoring purposes.)

- **Yuko:** Article 24 a) When a contestant throws his opponent, with control, and the opponent falls on the side of the upper body it should be Yuko.

(Note: Any time the side landing is toward the stomach, the landing should not be considered Yuko. Since the position of the upper body must land clearly on the side or toward the back, the hips and legs could be still facing toward the tatami for scoring purposes. As an aid to deciding whether the upper body has landed toward the stomach, consider whether uke's bottom position is extended at all toward tori, which suggests that the upper body has probably turned enough to merit yuko, or whether uke's arm position is instead parallel with uke's body, behind uke's body, or under uke's body, all of which suggest that the upper body may not have hit the mat on the side or toward the back.)

- **Landing in the bridge position:** All situations of landing in the bridge position will be considered Ippon. This decision is taken for the safety of the competitors so they do not try to escape from the technique and endanger their cervical spine.

(Note: In order to ensure the safety of the competitor and avoid dangerous situations, all bridging used and/or actions that intend to bridge to avoid a scorable landing (head, head/neck, neck/shoulder) will be considered Ippon. For injury prevention, coaching and competitors must use alternative defensive techniques to avoid being thrown in a scoring position other than using a bridging position.)

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**Penalties:**

During the fight there will be three Shidos, and the fourth will be Hansoku-make (3 warnings and then disqualification). Shidos do not give points to the other fighter, only technical scores can give points on the scoreboard. At the end of the fight, if scoring is equal on the scoreboard, the one with less Shidos wins. If the fight continues to Golden Score, the first receiving a Shido loses, or the first technical score will win.

- **Shido-on-the-fly:** Shido will be given to the fighter deserving it, in place, without having both fighters return to the formal start position (Mate – Shido – Hajime) except when a Shido is given for leaving the contest area.

**Procedure is:**

- (1) Call Mate
- (2) Make sure players disengage with adequate separation
- (3) Gesture the penalty
- (4) Issue Shido
- (5) Make sure adequate separation between players for fair re-start
- (6) Call Hajime

- **Penalized with Shido:**

- Breaking the grip of the opponent with 2 hands.
- Cover the edge of the Judogi jacket to prevent the grip.
- Cross gripping should be followed by an **immediate attack**. Same rule as for belt gripping and one-sided gripping.
- The referees should penalize strictly the contestant who does not engage in a quick Kumikata or who tries not to be gripped by the opponent. **If one of the contestants breaks the Kumikata twice in the gripping period sequence then the third time they will receive a Shido.**
  - **Note: (1) Examine whether the grip breaking action is negative or not and (2) assess whether grip breaking result in a positive action or a real attack**
- **Breaking grip by hitting, swatting, striking, or slapping is penalized by Shido**
  - **Note: Pushing the hand away is allowed**
- Pistol and Pocket Grip on the bottom of the sleeve without **immediate attack** is penalized by Shido
- To hug the opponent for a throw (Bear hug). It is not a Shido when the competitor has Kumikata with a minimum of one hand.
- To force the opponent with either one or both arms to take a bending position without immediate attack will be penalized by Shido for a blocking attitude, **otherwise known as crushing.**
  - **Note: (1) Is the player with the high grip trying to setup a real attack? (2) Is the player in a defensive position attempting to regain an upright posture or improve their situation?**
- To take the wrist or the hands of the opponent only to avoid the grip or the attack on him should be penalized by Shido.

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- - False attack is penalized by Shido. False attacks are defined as:
    - Tori has no intention of throwing.
    - Tori attacks without Kumikata or immediately releases the Kumikata.
    - Tori makes a single attack or a number of repeated attacks with no breaking of Uke's balance.
    - Tori puts a leg in between Uke's legs to block the possibility of an attack.
      - **Note: Look for false attack in all techniques, including sutemi-waza.**
  - **Going outside of the competition area:**
    - **One foot outside of the contest area without an immediate real attack or not returning immediately inside the contest area, is penalized by Shido.**
    - If the competitor is pushed outside the contest area by his opponent, then the opponent will receive the Shido.
    - Two feet outside the contest area is penalized by Shido.
    - If the fighters leave the contest area, they are not penalized by Shido when the attack is engaged in a valid position
- **Penalized with Hansoku-make:**
  - Leg Grab: All attacks or blocking with one or two hands or with one or two arms below the belt in Tachi-Waza will be penalized by Hansoku-make. It is possible to grip the leg only when the two opponents are in a clear Newaza position and the Tachi-Waza action has stopped.

**Note: Tachi-Waza is defined as either or both competitors being able to throw.**

**Osaekomi, Kansetsu-Waza and Shime-Waza:**

Osaekomi will also continue outside of the contest area as long as Osaekomi was called inside.

- Osaekomi scores 10 seconds for Yuko, 15 seconds for Waza-ari, and 20 seconds for Ippon.
- Osaekomi outside the contest area if the throwing action is finished outside the competition area and immediately one of the players applies Osaekomi, Shime-Waza or Kansetsu-Waza, this technique shall be valid.
- If during the Ne-Waza Uke, takes over the control with one of these nominated techniques in a continuous succession, it shall also be valid.
- **Osaekomi will go to 10 seconds only during Golden Score as a Yuko will have been earned at that time.**

The correct procedure is:

- (1) Announce Yuko
- (2) Announce Soremade
- (3) Have athletes fix judogi
- (4) Award the match to proper contestant

**(Note: Local/regional events that rely on a point system may modify this rule)**

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- The Kansetsu-Waza and Shime-Waza initiated inside the contest area and recognized as being effective to the opponent, can be maintained even if the contestants are outside the contest area.
- Article 26: Osaekomi - The contestant applying Osaekomi must have his body in Kesa, Shiho or Ura position, i.e. similar to the techniques Kesa-Gatame, Kami-Shiho-Gatame or Ura-Gatame. *The Ura position is now valid.*
- Article 27: Prohibited Acts and Penalties - **Points 14 and 18 will be strictly observed. Shime-Waza is not allowed with either your own or your opponents belt or bottom of the jacket, or using only the fingers.**  
(Note: The “Gerbi Choke” is not allowed.)

**Cadets – U18:**

- Kansetsu-Waza is authorized for Cadets - If a cadet loses consciousness during Shime-Waza they are no longer able to continue in the competition.
- The Sport Commission is looking at the system of competition for Cadets. **Double Repechage or another system will be applied to have the possibility of more contests for athletes in this age category.**

**The Bow:**

- When entering the tatami area, fighters should walk to the entrance of the contest area at the same time and bow to each other into the contest area.
- The contestants must not shake hands BEFORE the start of the contest. **When the athletes are leaving the mat they must be wearing their judogi in the proper way and must not remove any part of the judogi or the belt before leaving the FOP (Field Of Play).**

**Duration of Contests:**

- No time limit for Golden Score (Hantei is cancelled).
- Contest times will be:
  - Seniors men: five (5) minutes
  - Seniors women: **four (4) minutes**
  - Juniors and Cadets: no change

**Time Wait for Competitors:**

- **Due to a variety of issues related to waiting for one or both competitors to a match, the new procedure will be to:**
  - (a) wave the ready competitor into the contest area
  - (b) request 30 seconds to be placed on the clock and start the clock
  - (c) if the other competitor does not arrive at the end of 30 seconds, award the match
- **Note: This protocol is designed for high-level events and may be adjusted appropriately for developmental events**

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**Weigh-in:**

- The official weigh-in for seniors and juniors will be organized the day before the competition.
- Random weight checks with the same rules as the official weigh-in can be organized before the first fights in the morning of the competition. The weight of the athlete cannot be more than 5% higher (without judogi) than the official maximum weight limit of the category.
  - Example (a) 100kg competitor can weigh a maximum of 105kg without judogi. (This may be revised before the start of the Olympic qualification period – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014).
- The weigh-in for Cadets will take place in the morning on the same day of the competition. For team competitions the weigh-in is organized one day before the competition.
- For those competitors that have NOT competed in the individual competitions, weight must be within the weight limit of the category. Those competitors that have competed in the individual competition will be permitted a 2kg tolerance.

**Doping infringement:**

- In the case of a disqualification for a doping infringement the athlete will lose their classification and medal. Wherever possible a new classification will be decided by the IJF.

**Judogi:**

- A system for more accurate measurement of judogi is in progress.

**(Note: The judogi length for the sleeves must cover up the full arm including wrist in the control position of the judogi jacket. The distance between the sternum top and the lapel crossing point of the jacket vertically must be less than 10 cm. New Judogi requirements will be implemented at the following USA Judo National Championship events in 2014: Junior Olympic Championships on June 27, 2014, and the President's Cup for all categories for Cadet aged athletes and older. Athletes participating in age categories younger than Cadets will be required to comply with the new judogi requirements starting on January 1, 2015.**

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**World Ranking List for Referees:**

- There will be three different classification levels of referees (approximately 20 per group) that will be regularly updated. The WRL for referees will start after the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2013 and will be published on the IJF website.
- The refereeing official language is English. However, French and Spanish (official IJF languages) could be used in certain circumstance to be defined by IJF.

**World Ranking List for Cadets and Juniors:**

- The WRL for Cadets and Juniors categories will start on 1st January 2014 and will be used for seeding in IJF Cadets and Juniors World Tour.
- In the next Cadet World Championships 2015 there will be also Team World Championships

**Information:**

- *The IJF is organizing three international Refereeing and Coaching Seminars – Europe (Malaga, 10-11 January 2014), Asia (Abu Dhabi, 24-25 January 2014) and Pan America (Miami 17-18 January 2014) in order to explain and clarify the new rules. The IJF will invite 1 referee and 1 national coach from each nation (accommodation and meals cover). Travel fees are to be covered by the delegates. Additional delegates can attend at own costs.*