

REFEREE COMMITTEE REPORT
November 4th, 2018

Submitted by *Mrs. Sharon Landstreet, Mr. Karl K. Tamai, and Mr. Bobby Donaldson*

Co-Chair(s), Shufu Referee Committee

2018 held many challenges for the US Referee Corps as the state of Judo is at a crossroads with the end of PJC-C (Regional) examinations. This had a knock on affect leading to forced conversion from PJC-C to IJF-B (Continental) Referee accomplished through two (2) seminars held by the PJC Director *Ovidio Garnero* (one at the PJC Championships in Costa Rica, one at the Pan Am Veterans in Buenos Aires).

Congratulations to Shufu's newly minted Continental Referee *Mrs. Susan Oles* and *Mr. Charles Wall*, whom both attended conversion in Buenos Aires in August. Additionally, *Charlie* refereed at the Pan Am Veteran's Championships.

The unintended consequences that advancement opportunities for National Referee(s) aged fifty (50) or older has now terminated. The mean average age is close to forty-five (45), the loss of advancement, coupled with the lack of a funded training pipeline/regime, compensation, and ever increasing demand for services, has resulted in a critical shortage of willing participants in the Referee Corps.

We are seeing these results throughout; the recently held Morris Cup had twenty-two (22) US Referee(s) for a six tatami tournament, the Ocean States tournament had fifteen (15) US Referee(s) for a five tatami event, the Irwin Cohen Memorial was a five mat tournament with fifteen (15) Referees and the Dallas Open/President's Cup has thirty (30) Referee(s) registered for a five tatami event in two weeks.

This speaks to the urgency of the need for more people to enter the Referee Corps.

USA Judo's Referee Commission altered the advancement policies as candidates must receive two (2) years of the highest ratings (N4) prior to receiving a recommendation for advancement to IJF-B (Continental) Referee.

In 2018 Shufu certified Regional Referees; Miguel Caban, Charles Walberg, Aleksander Winiarski, Reza Biaszaran, and four Local Referees: Steve Savoie, Conner Rustemeyer, Owen Hauck, Grayson Zia.

Shufu Referee(s) continue to lead the pack with International Referee Assignments totaling over 96,444 International air-miles alone this year. These assignments coupled with domestic leadership performances as Chief Referee, Evaluators and Mentoring sets the standard for all others to emulate.

Mrs. Sharon Landstreet is one of only eight (8) IJF Rostered Referees in the PJC and the only member of USA Judo. Since the last report, we witnessed her refereeing in two more (2) major international events; Grand Prix Zagreb and EJU Cup Juniors Leibnitz. She also received an assignment to the Dominican Republic to assist in the Military Championships.

If that's not enough, *Sharon* attended the first IJF Referee Academy. This is a new requirement for all IJF World Tour (Circuit) Referee(s) in order to officiate at the Grand Prix(s) and above.

Mr. Bobby Donaldson added substantially to his air-miles by officiating at two (2) International events since the last report; Prague EJU Cup (Juniors), and Berlin EJU Cup (Juniors). Domestically *Bobby* has been assigned as an Evaluator for two more events; Am Cans (Evaluator), USJA/USJF Summer Nationals (Mat Chief), Morris Cup (Evaluator). He received an invitation from the IJF Referee Commission to attend the IJF Academy in January 2019.

Mr. Karl Tamai followed up his first Chief Referee assignment at an evaluation event by refereeing at Senior Nationals, and US Open (Juniors).

Ms. J. Miki Takemori has refereed in the most Domestic evaluation events for Shufu Referees in 2018 to include: Pedro's Challenge, SGTMAJ Judo Jones, Liberty Bell, Senior Nationals, Am Cans, USJF/USJA Summer Nationals, U.S Open (Juniors), Morris Cup.

President Englert functioned as a Referee Mentor at SGTMAJ Mayfield's Judo Jones, Evaluator at Liberty Bell, Referee Mentor at the Senior Nationals, Referee Mentor at the USJF/USJA Summer Nationals. *President Englert* has also visited several tournaments in the Shufu Area which encompasses all territories to the south.

Shufu's highest rated National Referee is *Mr. William Reardon*. *William* has attended SGTMAJ Mayfield's Judo Jones, Youth (Scholastics), Senior Nationals, US Open (Juniors).

Robert Hunt has refereed in three (3) evaluation events, SGTMAJ Mayfields, Youth (Scholastics) and Liberty Bell.

Shufu Referee Committee is drafting a procedure concerning coordination, mentoring, and attendance at National level events. All Referee(s) should coordinate evaluation events through the committee to insure mutual support, possible conservation of resources through both ride-sharing (rental car) and hotel stays, and to provide mentoring at tournaments.

The dates and location for the 2019 Shufu's Rules Clinic are being worked out to facilitate attendance at the IJF/PJC Rules Clinic. Our (tentative) guest clinician is *Mrs. Janet Johnson-Ashida*. *Mrs. Johnson* is a member of USA Judo's Referee Commission and a retired educator.

It is election season for USA Judo, the Referee Director(s) position occupied by *Noboru Saito Sensei* is being contested by *Mr. Joon Chi* (2000 Olympic Referee) and *Mrs. Barbara Shimizu-Houston*. Shufu's Referee Committee will not endorse either candidate, but encourages all registered Referees to vote in the coming elections.

Thanks to College Park Judo Club for hosting a Referee Certification in October.
Congratulations and welcome to the Referee Cadre