

# IJF Refereeing and Coaching Technical Update

Malaga, Spain 12/13 January 2013

The EJU seminar was attended by 165 referees and coaches from 50 nations. The objective of this event was to explain and share the new rules. I attended as OJU referee director on invitation of the IJF. This was the first of the continental seminars.

Reasons for the implementation of the new rules were discussed at the beginning of the seminar, some of which included making the sport more dynamic, IOC pressure, prevention of injuries, cutting down on negativity etc. The general feeling was that the rule changes are for the betterment of the sport.

The test period will officially kick off at the Grand Slam in Paris in a few weeks' time and end with the World Championships in Brazil later this year after which a review will take place.

For a comprehensive breakdown of the different situations discussed at the seminar please go to the following internet link:

<http://refereeusb.judobase.org/live/hidden/app/index.html#>

Hopefully this will explain the thinking behind most of the issues.

In addition:

## **Leg grab**

This has been removed in all situations. Put in another way, you may not grab the leg in Tachi-waza under any circumstances. Not in transition, combination or counter. Once the technique has broken down and entered the Ne-waza stage then grabbing the legs is permissible.

It is very important for coaches to teach their players NOT to grab the legs. Some new variations on techniques that are within the ambit of the new rules are very interesting and the next few months should be intriguing.

In the case where uki grabs the leg during an action from tori resulting in ippon, it is important to rather award ippon than Hansokumake. If a Yuko or waza-ari is scored then of course the Hansokumake is called.

## **Kumi kata (gripping)**

Please refer to the internet video where this issue is dealt with in depth.

The main changes are:

- Breaking a grip with two hands is now forbidden and punishable by shido.

- Players must take a grip on both sides of the body. An immediate attack must follow if one has a same side grip, cross guard grip or belt grip.

Bear hug. Penalty: immediate shido.

### **Single referees**

Judo is the only sport where there are more judges on the playing field than there are players, hence the reason behind the single referee on the mat. The referee will be supported by another referee and a commission member with a CARE system. Using two way technologies they will be in continuous contact with the referee. In addition there will also be another overseeing commission consisting of the IJF head commission (for all major competitions).

The referee will from now on have more autonomy on the mat. The jury will only interfere in exceptional circumstances. Not in the case where there is a close difference in score like yuko/wazari or yuki/ no score. The referee will make penalty calls by himself. This rule applies only to competitions from Continental championships and up. Continental Opens and national competitions may still use the three referee system if they so wish.

### **Ippon**

The awarding of ippon needs to be very clear. No 'rolling' ippons anymore. The value of ippon needs to increase. Although some techniques do not adhere to the criteria of ippon, they may still be awarded if falling within the so called ' super ippon' category. If there is more than one impact it can not be ippon.

### **Negativity**

Referees are going to be stricter on negative judo, thus rewarding the positive judo player. This is embodied in the new scoreboard.

### **Scoreboard**

The new scoreboard reflecting the latest changes can be downloaded for free at:

<http://www.ippon.org/draw/>

### **Other rules**

Please refer to the attached documents for explanations of the other rules on trial. These are self explanatory thus no need for me to regurgitate.

Interview with Jan Snijders, IJF Referee Director:

<http://www.eju.net/news/?mode=showNewsItem&id=2091>

Although these rules are to be applied at the major competitions, countries are approach differently. Some are embracing the changes in its entirety while others are more cautious and selective (i.e. penalising a leg grab with shido instead of hansokumake). However elite players competing in Grand Slams, Grand Prix's and Worlds need to be aware of the hansokumake penalty.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. I will try and answer as far as possible.

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