

WKC Referee & Judge Qualification System 2010

General

1. General Regulations for Refereeing officials

- 1.1 Kata and Kumite Judge Candidates must be at least 25 years old and be a minimum of WKC 2nd Dan Grade.
- 1.2 Candidates must wear the WKC Referee uniform as described in the Rule Book.
- 1.3 All Refereeing officials who do not need to attend the course and examinations and wish to officiate at the Championships must attend the lecture and briefing on the afternoon or evening before the Championships commence.
- 1.4 WKC officials must behave themselves at all times in a manner befitting a WKC official.
- 1.5 All officials must also be present at the competition venue for final briefing and area allocation, 30 minutes before the scheduled start. Failure to arrive on time will jeopardize placement & qualification.
- 1.6 Referees and Judges officiating in a WKC event must in principle have residence in the country they represent, however, it is recognized that some associations and federations have members residing overseas.
- 1.7 Referees officiating in a WKC event cannot perform another function in that event.
- 1.8 In principal, only Executive Referee, Senior Referee and Referee will officiate in Finals.
- 1.9 There shall be a record kept by the Chief of Tatami to ensure that all proficient officials are used in the event and that no official is overlooked or overworked.
- 1.10 Referee and Judges of a kumite or kata bout must not have the nationality of either or any of the participants or have any interest in them (club member, relative etc). It is the responsibility of all Referee's and Judges to declare to the Chief of Tatami and/or Referee of an interest that he/she has in the competitor prior to the competitor competing. A replacement official **MUST** be found, if this is impossible the matter must pass to the Referee Commission.
- 1.11 Members of the Refereeing panel are expressly forbidden to discuss the outcome or decision of a match or bout with anyone other than the complete Referee panel itself, Chief of the Tatami or members of the Referee Commission.

1.12 The Chief of Tatami is the only person who is empowered to host a discussion on a decision made on that Tatami. The only other people empowered to do so are members of the Referee Commission or members of the WKC Ex.com.

1.13 A Referee or Judge who later discusses decisions made by the panel with coaches or team members of any team will be liable to suspension, demotion or disqualification.

1.14 In the event that a Judge or Referee incurs serious criticism and the criticism is warranted and proven, the Referee Commission will decide (by a minimum of 70% majority) whether to recommend suspend or impose any other sanction (including retraining, revoking licence and disqualification) of that official. No individual member of the Referee Commission has the power to sanction, suspend or disqualify an official.

1.15 Only WKC qualified and licensed Referees and Judges may officiate at official WKC contests.

1.16 All Referees and Judges must hand in Licence Record Books to the Referee Commission at the beginning of all WKC events they attend so that they can be checked and updated. None will be accepted on the final day of the event.

1.17 Provided that an official keeps his Licence up to date, attends and officiates at a WKC Championship at least once in every two years, attends the pre-championship briefing and lecture, and *officiates satisfactorily and remains competent* then they will not be expected to undergo the fitness test or the Stage 1 practical examination, however, they must be tested on any Changes to the Rule Book once every two years.

1.18 Reports on poor performance in the above Changes to the Rule Book test may well result in non-confirmation of qualifications or in severe cases, actual downgrading or suspension, pending satisfactory re-examination. Please note there may not be time to carry out a re-sit before the championships begin.

1.19 Candidates will be assessed using the WKC Referee/Judges. Performance Report with scores allotted to the various sections of the examination. As each candidate is examined the examiners will submit their score sheets to the Chairman of the Referee Examining Board (REB) who will be elected or nominated by Referee Commission. The Referee Examining Board will submit its recommendation to the Referee Commission for consideration.

1.20 The REB will give a copy of the summarized evaluation form to each candidate and to their federation president. This may be done electronically.

1.21 Referees and Judges will be liable to a random breath test at the beginning of each day of the championships. The limit is set at 0.8 per mg, which equals the lowest European Drink/Drive limit. Failure to pass the test will render the official unable to officiate at the championships for that day and he may be subject to suspension, fine, demotion or disqualification

1.22 Executive Referees – once officially approved will be entitled to execute the duties of Executive referees for 4 (four) years – without obligation to pass the written and fitness tests.

2. Requirements for Entry to the Referee & Judges Examination

General

2.1 All candidates must be entered for the WKC Referee & Judges *course* by their federation on the approved WKC application form. The WKC Executive Committee will set the fee for this course.

2.2 The candidate must also be entered for a WKC *qualification* by his federation on the approved WKC application form. He cannot make an application directly himself. The federation/association must be in membership of the WKC and must have all fees paid up to date.

2.3 The member federation must confirm that the candidate is currently of national referee standard with them (no novice officials are permitted) and his federation must pay for the candidate's application fee.

2.4 Age Requirements for Entry

Qualification	Age	WKC Grade
P. Judge/ T. Official / Judge	25	2nd Dan
Referee	25	2nd Dan
Senior Referee	30	3rd Dan
Executive Referee	30	3rd Dan

All candidates must possess and wear the WKC Referee uniform during all referee courses and tournaments – no variation of any sort is permitted. If a successful candidate later decides to relinquish membership of the WKC federation and/or leaves the WKC in favour of membership of another World body (or none), the qualification and WKC grade becomes null and void and the person must re-apply at entry level (Judge).

2.5 Examination costs: License & Certification:

Qualification	Cost
P. Judge / T. Official / Judge	Euro 40
Judge	Euro 50
Referee	Euro 60
Senior Referee	Euro 70
Executive Referee	Euro 100

2.6 Qualification:

All candidates will qualify in a predetermined order (excepting those stated above) starting with:

1. P. Judge/T. Official/Judge*
2. Referee**
3. Senior Referee***

4. Executive Referee****

- * 1 year qualification term (with 1 event)
- ** 2 year qualification term (with 2 events)
- *** 3 year qualification term (with 3 events)
- **** 4 year qualification term (with 3 events)

Qualifications granted must run the full term before an application will be accepted for re-examination to a higher qualification. A Tournament Official can apply for examination at any time through his/her federation.

Different levels of qualification ask for an increasing level of skill and experience.

2.7 Recommendations:

It is recommended that all officials have proper professional indemnity cover and repatriation insurance cover.

It is recommended that all officials attend a child protection course.

3. The Referee Course Content:

The Referee Course will have 2 divisions:

3.1 Examination Course

3.1.1 Candidates must wear the Referee uniform exactly as laid down in the Rule Book to gain access to the course.

3.1.2 The course will deal with those candidates who are specifically seeking qualification and it will be conducted by the Referee Examining Board. Candidates will be invited to put themselves forward for the examination 3 months prior to the due date and their federation will enter them at least 2 months before the due date. There will be a maximum agreed number allowed to enter the course and the Referee Commission will determine this.

3.1.3 Notice will be provided by the Referee Commission of acceptance at least 6 weeks prior to the date of the examination.

3.1.4 This course will involve; Referee Uniform check, a Fitness Test, a Practical Test and a Written Examination all under examination conditions. The Referee Commission will devise the questions for use in the examinations.

3.1.5 The written test will be translated into English, Spanish, Serbian & Russian and such other languages as may be required from time to time.

Only from this course can new qualifications be gained and renewed.

3.2 General Course

3.2.1 This course will deal with candidates who are, in general, seeking to prepare to officiate at the championships.

The course will involve a practical workshop and a general Written Examination.

No new qualifications can be provided at this course.

4. The Referee Examination

The qualifying of officials will have 2 sections:

Section 1

This will examine the basic criteria required to be a WKC official and is divided into 4 stages:

- Stage 1: Referee Uniform
- Stage 2: Physical Fitness Test
- Stage 3: Practical Test
- Stage 4: Written Examination

4.1 Stage 1

Referee Uniform:

The Referee Uniform worn must be exactly as laid down in the Rule Book - no deviation will be allowed. Candidates must achieve 100% in this section to gain access to the remainder of the course.

4.2 Stage 2

Physical Fitness Test:

The physical fitness test will test the physical fitness of the candidate to ensure that he is fit enough to do the job of Referee/Judge. The fitness test will cover a number of physical tests that must be passed satisfactorily. The tests used are industry standard and relevant with parts of it taken from some of the biggest sporting organizations in the world including FIFA.

1. Gymnasium tests & Reaction speed test
2. Bleep test or 2km run to be completed in 15 minutes or similar test
3. Sight test
4. Hearing test

Tests 1 & 2 above must be completed inside 40 minutes.

4.3 Stage 3

Practical Test:

The Practical Test will test the candidate's ability to referee and control a set number of bouts in a realistic environment. The candidate will be examined on, amongst other things, the following:

1. Knowledge of hand signals
2. Knowledge of flag signals
3. Strength and clarity of commands
4. Judgment
5. Clarity of signals
6. Protocol
7. Examination of contestants
8. Command & presence
9. Starting & stopping of fights
10. Inclusion of others and ability to work with others
11. Teamwork & ability to lead
12. Clear & evident knowledge of the Rules
13. Speed of reaction, decision and actions as a result of decision
14. Application of the criteria for Ippon
15. Safety of contestants
16. Organization & control of the area and its immediate surroundings

The REB will observe each of the candidates and record their finding separately on the WKC Referee/Judge Observer's Record Sheet.
The ratings the REB will use will be as follows:

- 9.0-10. Excellent (outstanding)
- 8.5-8.9 Very Good (highly commendable)
- 8.0-8.4 Good (efficient performance)**
- 7.5-7.9 Satisfactory (significant points to improve)
- 7.0-7.4 Disappointing (below expectation)
- 6.0-6.9 Poor (quite unsatisfactory)
- 5.0-5.9 Very Poor (unacceptable)

4.4 Stage 4

Written Examination:

The result in the Written Examination is vital. The Written Examination will test if the candidate knows the rules. This test will be carried out under examination conditions. Different qualifications will require different levels of Pass Mark.

Qualification	Pass Mark
WKC Provisional Judge/Tournament Official	80%
WKC Judge	85%
WKC Referee	90%+
WKC Senior Referee	90%+
WKC Executive Referee	90%+

4.4.1 Admission to the Section 2 (Championship Practical Test)

All candidates must complete all 4 Stages of Section 1.

4.4.2 Stage 1: Candidates must achieve 100%.

4.4.3 Stage 2: Candidates must achieve a minimum of 90% for it to be included in the results. A candidate who scores less than 90% in Stage 2 will be deemed not to have taken part in it.

4.4.4 Stage 3: Candidates must achieve Satisfactory grade or above.

4.4.5 Stage 4: Candidates must achieve the relevant Pass Mark (above) for the qualification being sought.

No candidate will be admitted to Section 2 if the written examination result falls below 80%.

4.4.6 Candidates' results in Stages 3 & 4 will have a significant bearing on which qualification they will be entered for in Section 2. If a candidate attains disappointing, poor or very poor results in any of the Stages, it is possible that the candidate will be invited to apply for a lower qualification or withdrawal from the examination process.

- A candidate who already holds the Judge (or any other) qualification can apply to renew the same qualification.
- A candidate who holds a Referee qualification can apply for a Judge qualification.

4.4.7 Results:

A candidate who passes all 4 stages in Section 1 for the qualification he seeks will be admitted to Section 2.

Notwithstanding the above, for a candidate who passes 3 stages (including Stage 1) in Section 1, there are 3 courses of action open to the Referee Examining Board:

1. Invite the candidate to re-sit the relevant stage (time permitting)
2. Make an exceptional recommendation, purely on the results of Stages 2+3+4, by majority of the REB to the Referee Commission, to provisionally admit the candidate to Section 2 or otherwise.
3. Re-stream the candidate to a lower qualification or withdrawal from the examination process.

Candidates who pass 2 stages in Section 1 will not be admitted to the Section 2.

Section 2

4.5 Stage 5

4.5.1 Championship Practical Test:

The Championship Practical Test will examine the ability of the candidate to perform as an official under full competition conditions, applying the rules and performing to the standard of a WKC official at all times. The REB will observe all actions of each of the candidates and record their findings separately on the WKC Referee/Judge Observer's Record Sheet.

The ratings the REB will use will be as follows:

9.0-10. Excellent (outstanding)
8.5-8.9 Very Good (highly commendable)
8.0-8.4 Good (efficient performance)
7.5-7.9 Satisfactory (significant points to improve)
7.0-7.4 Disappointing (below expectation)
6.0-6.9 Poor (quite unsatisfactory)
5.0-5.9 Very Poor (unacceptable)

The Referee Examining Board will assess the performance of the candidate over the term of the championships and each member of it will separately assess the performance of the candidate. The REM will collate these records each day and the candidate shall pass/fail on these reports.

The REB may seek the opinions of the Chief of Tatami where it deems it necessary. The criteria used will be the same as that for the Practical in Section 1.

In addition, for Senior and Executive Referee's the REB will wish candidates to demonstrate leadership, the ability to coach and motivate others as well as have the ability to deal with Protest.

The quality of decisions and the number of injuries sustained by contestants on a particular tatami will also be taken into account in the assessment of the candidate's performance, as will the number of successful (and unsuccessful) protests and any other points of satisfaction and dissatisfaction.

A Referee Commission Member will not be permitted to file a report on a candidate from the same country or federation nor if the Ex.com or the Referee Commission deem the member to have an interest or influence in or be influenced by the candidate in question.

5. Procedure:

At the Championship Practical Test:

5.1 Judge/Tournament Official

A candidate who is seeking a judge qualification and has been admitted to the Championship Practical Test must be permitted to act as a **Judge** under the supervision of the Chief of Tatami and the REB/Referee Commission.

The Chief of Tatami will be asked to make a recommendation each day on the suitability of the candidate to the REB.

5.2 Referee

A candidate who is seeking a Referee qualification and has been admitted to the Championship Practical Test must be permitted to act as a **Referee, a Judge and an Arbitrator** under the supervision of the Chief of Tatami and the REB/Referee Commission.

The Referee Examining Board will make a recommendation to the Referee Commission each day on the suitability of the candidate.

5.3 Senior Referee

A candidate who is seeking a Senior Referee qualification and has been admitted to the Championship Practical Test must be permitted to act as a **Senior Referee, a Referee, a Judge and an Arbitrator** under the supervision of the Chief of Tatami and the REB/ Referee Commission.

The Referee Examining Board will make a recommendation to the Referee Commission each day on the suitability of the candidate.

A candidate who feels he is not being given the correct opportunity to demonstrate his ability and gain qualification must inform his federation president who must bring this to the attention of the Referee Commission in writing.

6. Qualification Conferred:

The Referee Commission will recommend all qualifications to the WKC Ex.com who will ratify them at its discretion.

At the end of the championships and after completion of both Sections 1 & 2 candidates will be advised of the result. Any qualification conferred will be confirmed and entered into the records of the WKC and the official will be permitted to officiate in that capacity for the specified tenure of the qualification gained.

The Referee Commission:

A Referee Commission is appointed for the period of 2 years.

1. General:

1.1 The Referee Commission (RC) is appointed by the WKC Ex. Com.

1.2 The Referee Commission will consist of; the Chair and 4 (four) full members for European events and the Chair and 6 (six) full members for World events, two of whom shall be from different non-European countries. All members will be appointed by the Executive Committee. The full members will be of Executive Referee level, qualified in both Kata and Kumite and represent as far as possible, all five continents. Where this is not possible the WKC Ex. Com will adopt alternatives as it sees fit. One of the full members will be nominated as Secretary of The Referee Commission.

1.3 The Referee Commission may nominate other senior referee's to assist with Referee Courses and/or examinations or for any other purposes.

1.4 The Referee Commission shall also have the power, with the agreement of the Executive Committee, to convene meetings of its membership before, during and after championships to discuss refereeing matters such as the implications of rule changes and overall performances.

1.5 Meetings and activities of the Referee Commission will be internally coordinated, minuted and circulated by the Referee Commission secretary as well as to the appointed members of the Executive Committee.

1.6 The Secretary of the Referee Commission shall work to ensure certificates; badges, stationery, examination papers, license books etc. are available for the championships and are updated.

2 Powers and Authorities:

2.1 The Referee Commission will be responsible for the examination and certification of Referee and Judge Officials and their deployment at all Championships.

2.2 It shall be the responsibility of the Referee Commission to maintain the standards of Refereeing and a uniform interpretation and application of the competition rules during the championships.

2.3 The Referee Commission will monitor the performance of the Referees and Judges for performance standards during the scheduled World & European Championships and to also enable it assess candidates for qualification.

2.4 All Protests & Complaints regarding the *behaviour* of Referee's, Judges, Team Managers, Coaches, Competitors and anyone connected with any competing team or individual must be submitted immediately in writing using the Protest Form to the Referee Commission.

All Protests & Complaints regarding the *performance* of Referees and Judges or any other matter of refereeing must be made to the Chief Referee of the Tatami in the first instance in writing, using the Protest Form and any received, must be acted upon at the earliest possible opportunity (please see procedures for Protest & Appeal).

2.5 If the matter cannot be resolved or the complaint and protest is about the Chief Referee of the Tatami, the matter must be escalated to The Referee Commission who (agreed by the majority of its members) will call for evidence, interview and carry out an investigation as it sees fit.

Any investigation may result in previous and subsequent performances of the official(s) in question being reviewed and closely scrutinized and reported on by the Chief Referee for that area and or by the delegated members of the Referee Commission.

2.6 In the event that a Judge or Referee incurs serious criticism and the criticism is warranted and proven, the Referee Commission will decide (by a minimum of 70% majority) whether to recommend suspension of that official or impose another sanction.

2.7 No individual member of the Referee Commission has the power to sanction, suspend or disqualify an official. An indication of the types of actions and the Sanction's they will attract are listed below.

Example of Official's Action Type	Example of Referee Commission Sanction
Innocent Incompetence/ Poor Uniform /Disregard for Regulations	Verbal Warning/Retraining/ Coaching
Incompetence/Bad Behavior /Discussion with others of Results	Written Warning/Retraining/ Coaching
Misconduct/Favouritism/Enquiry	Suspension/Retraining
Gross Misconduct/Cheating/Discussion	Suspension & Fine/Retraining/ Dismissal

Dishonesty/Assault/Disobedience	Constructive Dismissal
Dishonesty/Violence/Cheating	Summary Dismissal

2.8 An entry will be kept in the WKC records for a period of 3 years of Sanctions imposed on an official after which the entry will be removed from the records. If any non-acceptable behavior re-occurs the period will double automatically.

2.9 The term of the Sanction must be specified by the Referee Commission at the time of the decision and the person making the protest, the Official and his sponsoring federation must be notified.

2.10 Sanctions will be imposed on an increasing basis only for the same misdemeanor.

2.11 The Referee Commission may choose to escalate any particular issue to the WKC Excom at any time. In the event that a Team Manager, Coach, Competitors or anyone connected with any team incurs serious criticism and the criticism is warranted and proven, the Referee Commission will refer the matter to the Ex. COM.

2.12 The WKC Ex.com must ratify the Promotion, Sanction, Suspension, Fine and Dismissal of all officials.

- All decisions and recommendations made by the Referee Commission will require a majority of 70% and not less than 3 members at European Events and 4 at World Events (excluding an RC member for the same country/federation) of the Referee Commission to agree to it.
- The Referee Commission will publish the list of qualified officials within 2 weeks of graduation.

3. The Referee Examining Board:

- The WKC Referee Examining Board (REB) is a sub-committee of the Referee Commission tasked with carrying out examination and testing of candidates seeking WKC qualifications.
- The WKC REB is appointed by the WKC Excom and all decisions and recommendations made by it must be advised to the Referee Commission and ratified by the WKC Excom.

The WKC REB is made up of 3 members of the Referee Commission and all are of Referee rank and above. All of its decisions and recommendations will be by majority vote.

4. Maintaining Competence:

4.1 Competence means having the skills, knowledge and expertise needed to discharge the responsibilities of an official's role. This includes achieving a good standard of ethical behaviour.

Expertise is a subset of competence. It refers to the necessary combination of knowledge and skills that individuals need to fulfill the responsibilities of their particular role.

WKC officials will demonstrate a good standard of ethical behaviour at all times. This is an essential part of competence and ensures due regard to treating the contestants, team managers etc. fairly. When an official has achieved competent status, it is essential that their competence be maintained.

To ensure this happens they are supported with a number of informal measures:

1. Observation
2. Assessment

4.2 Qualified officials will undergo informal observation & assessment at least once every 2 years. This will take the form of REB observers providing support and back-up to the officials.

REB observers can recommend to the Referee Commission whether an assessment is required more regularly.

The purpose of the informal observation & assessment is to provide Referee Commission & Ex. Com of ongoing evidence of the official's competence and to also identify training and development needs he may have.

4.3 Identification of Development & Training Needs:

Referees & Judges will be assisted by the REB in identifying training & development needs by using any or all of the following:

1. Training course feedback
2. Performance review
3. Observation & feedback
4. Number of Protests
5. Reports from the Chief of Tatami

The outcome of any of the above will be graded as:

- **Competent with no development needs** (all areas of performance were demonstrated to the standard required)
- **Competent with development needs** (standards have not been fully satisfied but there is no disadvantage to the competitor or subject person)
- **Not Competent** (competitor(s) has been deemed to be disadvantaged and the performance and or behaviours are not of an acceptable standard.

5 Assessment Policy

WKC assessment policy requires Referee's & Judges to demonstrate knowledge & skills so that they remain competent in their roles. This includes Referee Uniform check, Physical Fitness Test, Practical Test, Written Examination, Championship Practical Test and Competence Management observations and assessments.

In respect of Trainee Referee's & Judges, 3 attempts to pass the appropriate assessments will be permitted before they are deemed to be unsuitable.

In the event of a 1st and 2nd test/assessment failure:

The candidate will attend a meeting with the REB to discuss the result of the test/assessment, and the reasons for failure. Any mitigating circumstances for the failure may be raised at this time. The candidate may bring his federation president with him to this meeting.

A further attempt can take place once appropriate remedial training has taken place. Sufficient time must be provided to the candidate to complete the remedial training in order to achieve a pass mark.

In the event of a 3rd test/assessment failure:

The candidate will attend a meeting with the REB to discuss the result of the test/assessment, and the reasons for failure. Any mitigating circumstances for the failure may be raised at this time. The candidate may bring his federation president with him to this meeting.

If the required improvement has not occurred consideration must be given to their withdrawal from the qualification process for failing to meet the standards required by WKC.

The candidate will be given an opportunity to state his case before a decision is taken.

The individual may appeal in writing stating the nature of the appeal. The appeal hearing will be heard by the Referee Commission as soon as is possible and he will be informed of the date set for the hearing. The candidate may bring his federation president with him to this meeting.

The Ex.com must ratify the decision of the Referee Commission and this decision is final; there is no further right of appeal.

A letter will be issued to the individual and his federation president confirming the decision.

WKC Referee's and Judges Protocol:

- A WKC Referee/Judge is a member of the WKC Team of Official's from the start of the Referee/Coaches seminar until the end of the Tournament. He is a member of no other team.
- The Referee Commission can recommend to the Ex.com that it adopt other systems to ensure the fair and impartial governance of the WKC rules and the management of its officials and to ensure the smooth running of the tournament.
- WKC Referees and Judges, should in principal, stay in a hotel during the championships set aside for the use of officials only, they are not to stay in a hotel with their member federation – if enough hotels available.

1) A **Referee/Judge/Arbitrator** is not permitted to referee or judge a competitor or team from the same country/federation that he himself comes from.

a) The Referee must notify the Chief Referee of the Tatami of the **impending** situation and wait to be replaced. *The Referee shall move to the edge of the Tatami, beside the position of the Arbitrator, raise his hand and blow his whistle (using a series of short blasts), to summon the Chief Referee. He shall advise the Chief Referee of the situation and wait to be replaced. When the replacement Referee*

arrives both shall bow respectfully to each other and change positions. It is the responsibility of the Referee concerned to bring this matter to the attention of the Chief Referee **prior** to the incident. It is the responsibility of the Chief Referee to replace the Referee.

b) The **Judge/Arbitrator** must notify the Referee of the Tatami of the **impending** situation and wait to be replaced. *The Judge shall stand up from his seat and raise his hand and blow his whistle (using a series of short blasts), to summon the Referee. He shall advise the Referee of the situation and wait to be replaced. He shall continue to hold on to the Judges flags/Record Sheets until he hands them over to the replacement Judge/Arbitrator. It is the responsibility of the Judge/Arbitrator concerned to bring this matter to the attention of the Referee **prior** to the incident. It is the responsibility of the Referee and the Chief Referee of the Tatami to replace the Judge/Arbitrator.*

c) A Chief Referee does not have the authority to override the above regulation – an independent replacement Official **must** be found. If a suitable Official cannot be found, the issue must be passed immediately to the Referee Commission.

2) An Arbitrator must not attempt to indicate the outcome of a bout to the Referee. *To determine the outcome of a bout, the Referee must approach the Arbitrator. The Arbitrator must stand up, both shall bow respectfully to each other and the Arbitrator shall show the Referee the official score sheet. The Referee must not rely on the score as shown on a scoreboard; neither shall he rely on a signal from the Arbitrator or Desk Official. The Referee shall determine the position from the official score sheet only and proceed as per the Rule Book.* The Rules clearly state that the **Referee** shall “announce the decision of the panel of judges”.

3) A WKC Referee/Judge must not at any time during the Tournament engage in conversation with a competitor or team member from the country/federation from which he comes, or any other. Whilst on duty, the only time a Referee can speak with a competitor is on the Tatami as per the Rule Book.

- A Referee/Judge may converse with other members of the WKC Referee Panel. A Referee/Judge must not photograph or video anyone whilst on duty and/or when waiting placement.
- A Referee/Judge is not permitted to leave the Tatami they have been assigned to, without firstly seeking the permission of the Chief Referee of that Tatami. The Chief Referee of the Tatami shall determine the purpose of leave and shall stipulate the duration of the break and expected time of return. Smoke breaks are not an acceptable reason for leaving the Tatami.
- A Referee/Judge must present himself in uniform according to the Rule Book (no tie pins, no phones, no watches, no rings, no jewellery – no exceptions). Additionally, a female official must not wear her hair below shoulder length.
- She is permitted to have a number of plain hairpins in it to keep it orderly. She is also permitted discrete make-up but no earrings.
- A Referee/Judge must arrive at the tournament venue early and in good time to be assigned to his respective Tatami.
- All Referee's and Judges must attend the complete Championships.
- All Referee's and Judges must complete the required seminars as laid down by WKC to qualify as an Official or retain their qualification. Failure to do so may result in the Official concerned being disqualified and/or refused participation.

- All Referees' must collect and check the pass cards of all competitors and coaches prior to events for medical and conduct records.

Failure to comply with the above Protocols may be viewed as misconduct and liable to sanction and/or disciplinary action by the Referee Commission and or the Executive Committee.

A Referee/Judge should bring items such as water and toiletries etc. in a small flight bag in case the venue does not have these items when required (this is good practice).

In the case of dual or split nationality the Executive Committee can interpret the nationality of teams and individuals.
