

ATJA REFEREE PROGRAM

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1. REFERENCES

[ATJ-2011] American Traditional Jujutsu Association (2011). ATJA Certified Judo Referee Application Form. Downloaded from URL: <https://atja.org/download/9022>

[CEL-2018] Celotto, R.J. (2018), Referee Education and Training Program: *An Introduction to the Art and Science of Judo Refereeing*, Downloaded from URL: <http://atja.org/membership/download/685>

[IJF-2019] International Judo Federation. Document: “SOR (Sport and Organisation Rules), version: 8 October 2019. Downloaded from <http://ijf.org/documents>

[USJ-2010] United States Judo Association: *Referee Certification Program*. Downloaded from URL: <https://media.usja.net/committee/USJRefereeManualFinal.pdf>

[USR-und] USRC-RES 2004/6: USA Judo Referee Evaluation Criteria.pdf. Downloaded from URL: <http://www.ohiojudo.org/files/D9%20Group2/USA%20Judo%20Referee%20Eval%20Criteria.pdf>

2. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

The following terms and definitions apply to both tracks (i.e., the ATJA Junior Referee track and the ATJA Senior Referee track) of the ATJA Referee Program.

- a. Certificate – the act (i.e., certification) of providing an ATJA Junior and Senior Members with an official document (i.e., the certificate) issued by a National or higher level referee that attests to the fact that the Referee has met ATJA certification requirements.
- b. Errors – for the purposes of the ATJA Referee Practical Test, there are three categories of errors: (1) minor errors, (2) procedural errors, and (3) **gross** errors. An excellent source for a simple explanation of the various errors in [USJ-2010].
- c. General category – page 2 of the ATJA Certified Judo Referee Application Form list the 12 general categories that a referee is evaluation under. The definitions of each of the general categories can be found in *An Introduction to the Art and Science of Judo Refereeing* [CEL-2018], Chapter 6, Categories of Examination. The importance of each of the categories to the overall evaluation of a referee candidate are discussed in [CEL-2018] and [USR-und].

Possible Points

| General Category | Radio/Headset System AVAILABLE | Radio/Headset System NOT AVAILABLE |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Appreciation | 30 | 30 |
| Authority | 7 | 7 |
| Determination | 7 | 7 |
| Mobility | 5 | 5 |
| Observation | 3 | 3 |
| Penalties | 15 | 15 |
| Presence | 8 | 8 |
| Procedures | 5 | 5 |
| Protocol | 5 | 5 |
| Signals (as a judge) | 5 | 2.5 |
| Signals (as a referee) | | 2.5 |
| Team work | 5 | 5 |
| Voice | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL POINTS | 100 | 100 |

NOTE: The candidate does not need to be tested under both situations. The without radio/headset column is meant to show that when the judges sit in chairs on the corners of the mat, that the total of 5 points for signals is divided.

- d. Intra-club – Sanctioned competition within a club that has as its purpose competitive and referee development. Routine *randori* (free-style practice) within a club does not satisfy this requirement.
- e. License – the official ATJA document issued by the ATJA through the ATJA Judo Referee Committee as proof that the member is authorized to work in the judo referee profession without mandatory supervision. The purpose of the ATJA Junior Referee track is to allow junior members to develop knowledge and officiating skills that will prepare them to eventually become a recognized National or higher level referee.

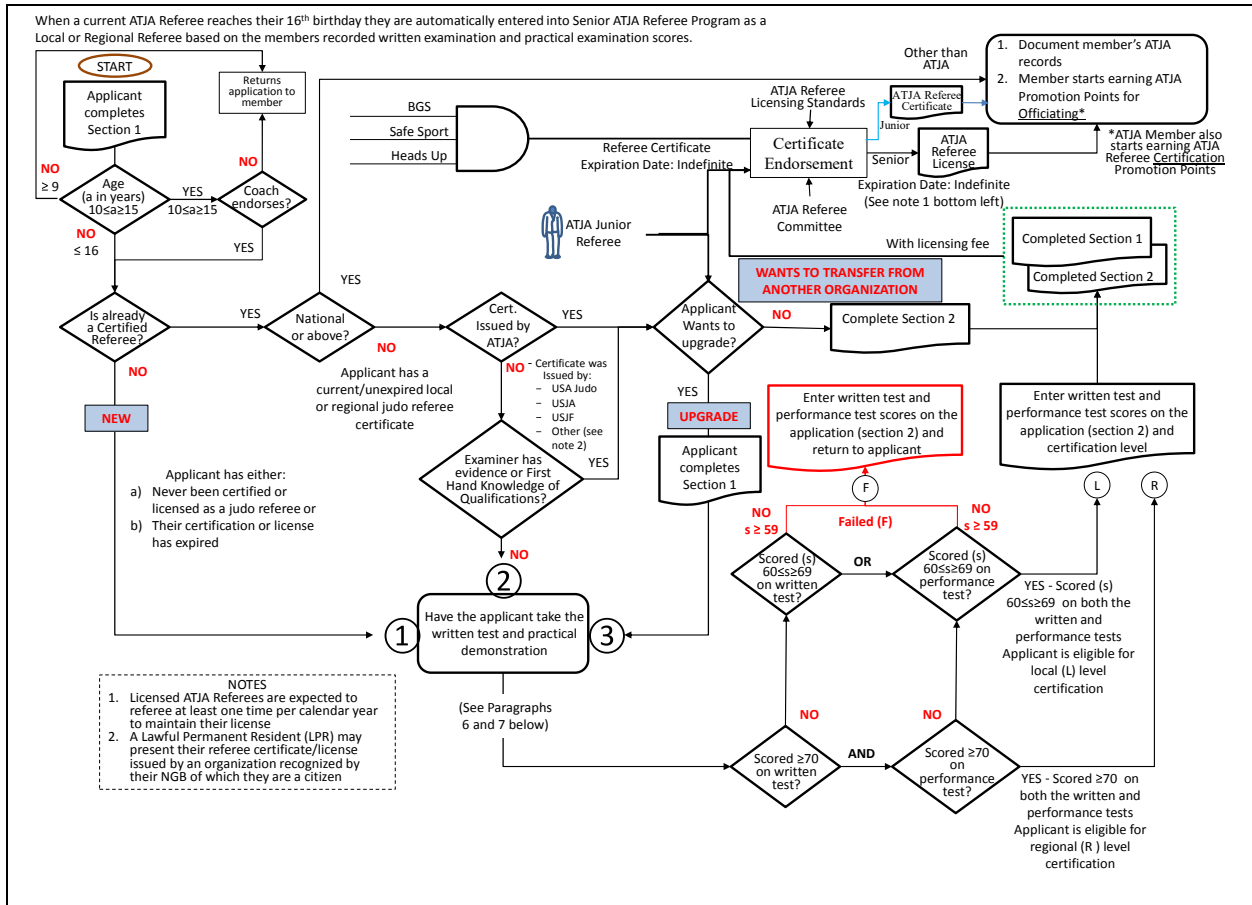
3. ATJA REFEREE PROGRAM:

The ATJA Referee Program is sub-divided into two separate tracks.

The first track is for those ATJA Junior members between the ages of 10 and 15. Under the junior track a Junior Referee Certificate can be earned; however, with the exception of those ATJA junior members who hold Senior Rank, no ATJA Referee License shall be issued.

The second track is for ATJA Senior members who enter directly into the Senior Referee track and ATJA Junior members who have transitioned earlier than 16 years of age into the ATJA Senior track. Those ATJA members may earn an ATJA Referee Certificate and be awarded an ATJA Referee License from the ATJA Judo Referee Committee.

4. ATJA REFEREE CERTIFICATION/LICENSING FLOW CHART:



The applicant is invited to request a Background Screening and/or send copies of their additional training (i.e., Safe Sport and CDC Heads Up Concussion Training) certificates to membership@atja.org. However, if any of these items become mandatory for referee licensing, an email or letter will be sent to the applicant for the senior track or to the applicant with a cc to their parents and club coach for the junior track requesting the additional items.

5. RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING

- a. British Judo, *British Judo Refereeing Handbook*, version 2.3, May 2018

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Appendix D - Referee Practical Assessment or Examination

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Appendix H - Referee Marking Guidelines

Criteria for scoring of each component:

URL: <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/6-Referee-Handbook-Version-2.3-May-2018.pdf>

- b. Irish Judo Association, *National Referee Policy & Procedures* – Irish Judo Association 2019, (p.14)

Appendix B. Referee Marking Guidelines

URL: <https://irishjudoassociation.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/IJA-Referees-Policy-2019.pdf>

- c. Judo Federation of Australia, Inc.; “*Referee Committee Policy*”, V4.0 (2019), (pp.18-21)

APPENDIX 4 – JA Referee Evaluation Criteria & Reporting

URL: <https://www.ausjudo.com.au/refereeing>

ATJA REFEREE PROGRAM – JUNIOR REFEREE TRACK

Although no minimum judo rank is required to enter the junior referee track, the head club instructor must recommend, by endorsing the ATJA Referee Application form, the junior for entry into the ATJA Referee Program.

A.1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS UNIQUE TO THE JUNIOR REFEREE TRACK

- a. Basics of the International Judo Federation (IJF) Judo Refereeing Rules – For the purpose of the American Traditional Jujutsu Association (ATJA) Junior Referee track the basics of the judo refereeing rules are considered to be the most important areas of judo refereeing knowledge, skills, and gestures (signs) that a beginner must be familiar with before the junior referee actually becomes a member of a [referee team](#). See the Basics of Judo Refereeing Rules Section at the end of this attachment for details.
- b. Referee Team - Depending on the level of the competition, the referee team is defined as consisting of three members as follows:
 - a. For intra-club and local competition, one junior referee under the supervision of the other two team members where one of the two should be a licensed local or higher level referee and the other shall be a licensed Regional or higher level referees.
 - b. For state and regional competition, one junior referee under the supervision of the other two team members, where one should be a licensed regional level or higher referee and the other shall be a licensed National or higher level referee. However, for matches that will result in the award of 1st or 2nd place, the junior referee shall NOT be a member of the mat referee team. The team for the 1st and 2nd place match shall consist of licensed regional and higher level referees—preferably licensed National level or higher if available.

A.2. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Minimum judo rank – none
- b. Minimum age – 10 years old
- c. Maximum age – 15 years old; upon the junior’s 16th birthday, the junior is automatically entered into the senior referee program as a local or regional referee

based on the members recorded written and practical examination scores.

- d. ATJA membership – required for liability insurance purposes
- e. Club Coach Endorsement – When the club coach endorses the applicant for ATJA Referee Program’s junior referee track entry, the club coach is stating that the candidate has sufficient basic knowledge of *tachi-waza* and *ne-waza* to effectively referee judo competition and that the coach will actively work to develop that junior’s knowledge.
- f. Written Test:
 - (1.) Is NOT required between the ages of 10 and 13; however, the applicant must be orally examined on the Basics of the Judo Refereeing Rules. [The Basics of the Judo Refereeing Rules](#) are outlined at the end of this document.
 - (2.) Required for juniors between the ages of 14 and 15. To prepare the junior for transition into the senior referee track, the junior will be expected to score at least 50 points on the written examination. If the junior is able to score between 60 and 69, or score 70 or above on both the written and practical examination, on the junior’s 16th birthday the junior will be eligible for a local or regional referee certification with the level based on the lowest of the two scores—the written or the practical examination scores.
- g. Practical Test:
 - (1.) Is NOT required between the ages of 10 and 13. The practical test is not required since the junior may only officiate as a part of the referee team assigned to the mat.
 - (2.) Is required for juniors between the ages of 14 and 15. To prepare the junior for transition into the senior referee track, the junior will be expected to score at least 50 points on the practical test. If the junior is able to score between 60 and 69, or score 70 or above on both the written and the practical examinations, on the junior’s 16th birthday the junior will be eligible for a local or regional referee certification with the level based on the lowest of the two scores—the written or the practical examination scores..

A.3. **LICENSING REQUIREMENTS:**

With the exception of ATJA junior members who have been transitioned from the junior rank promotion system into the senior rank promotion system by the ATJA Promotion Committee and hold Senior Judo Rank, ATJA Certified Junior Referees shall not be licensed.

Junior members who have transitioned early to senior rank may be licensed by the ATJA Referee Committee once they have satisfied the same written and practical test requirements that a Senior Local or Regional Referee must meet.

A.4. OFFICIATING AT A SHIAI or TOURNAMENT: An ATJA Certified Junior Referee

- a. Between the ages of 10 and 13 years of age may referee and judge matches that are competing juniors of the same or lesser age of the junior referee. If the division consists of juniors who are one year older than the junior referee, the head referee and tournament director may allow the younger junior referee to act as a judge while one of the two licensed senior referees shall act as the on-mat referee.
- b. Between the ages of 14 and 15 years of age may referee and judge any junior age group competing at the event. At the advice of the head referee, the tournament director may allow a junior referee between the ages of 14 and 15 years of age to be a member of a mat referee team for senior kyu competition under the supervision of a National level or higher licensed referee. If a National level or higher licensed referee is not able to provide the proper supervision, the junior referee shall not participate in refereeing or judging senior kyu level matches.

A.5. UNIFORM:

To ensure that the coaches are aware that a junior referee is officiating, rather than wearing the traditional judo referee uniform (i.e., black sports jacket, gray pants, white short-sleeve shirt, black tie, and black socks), the junior referee should wear a distinctive polo shirt, gray pants, and black socks.

A.6. BASIC AREAS JUDO REFEREE EDUCATION:

Efforts to educate and develop ATJA junior members as ATJA Junior Referees must focus on two areas:

- a. The first area is SAFETY which includes, but not inclusive:
 - (1.) Ensuring the mat area are firm of foot and do not have torn surfaces, gaps in the mat, blood stains, etc.
 - (2.) Ensuring that there are NO obstructions over the competition area that are lower than 12 meters *above the surface of the mat*.
 - (3.) Checking to ensure that the contestants judogi are dry, not torn, and especially NOT showing blood.
 - (4.) Verifying the length of hand and toenails to reduce the chances of cuts
 - (5.) Ensuring personal hygiene is not offensive
 - (6.) If hair ties are used, that the hair tie is NONMETALIC
 - (7.) All safety areas discussed in the IJF SOR Appendix D, Articles 2, 11, 14, 18, 20 (not all inclusive); and Appendix E, Medical Requirements E1.2 and E.1.3.

(8.) Knowing who to, when, where, and how to report ANY safety concern

b. The second area is on the following articles in the International Judo Federation (IJF) Sports and Organization Rules, Appendix D, IJF Refereeing Rules.

| Article | Title |
|---------|--|
| 4 | Gestures |
| 7 | <i>Osaekomi</i> Time |
| 8 | Techniques Coinciding with the Time Signal |
| 10 | Transition from <i>Tachi-waza</i> into <i>Ne-waza</i> (A) and from <i>Ne-waza</i> into <i>Tachi-waza</i> (B) |
| 11 | Application of <i>Mate</i> |
| 12 | <i>Sono-mama</i> |
| 14 | <i>Ippon</i> |
| 15 | <i>Waza-ari</i> |
| 16 | <i>Waza-ari-awasete-ippou</i> |
| 17 | <i>Osaekomi-waza</i> |
| 18 | Prohibited Acts and Penalties |

A.7 ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (OPTIONAL)

a. Depending on the age of the junior member, encourage the member to take any one of the following free SafeSport online courses:

- (1.) SafeSport for Grades 3-5
- (2.) SafeSport for Middle School Athletes
- (3.) SafeSport for High School Athletes

b. Depending on the age of the junior member, encourage the member to read the CDC HeadsUp Concussion Fact Sheet that is appropriate for their age. The Fact Sheets can be found at [cdc.gov/headsup/resources](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/resources)

- (1.) Fact Sheets for Athletes Ages 11-13
- (2.) Fact Sheets for Athletes Ages 14-18
- (3.) Concussion Fact Sheets for Middle School Athletes
- (4.) Concussion Fact Sheets for High School Athletes

ATJA REFEREE PROGRAM – SENIOR REFEREE TRACK

B.1. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS UNIQUE TO THE SENIOR REFEREE TRACK

Referee Team (Also known as the Officiating Crew) – For an ATJA member on the Senior Referee track who has been licensed to referee, there are no restrictions on how the referee team is selected. However, depending on the level of the competition for an ATJA member on the Senior Referee track who has not been formally licensed to referee, the referee team is defined as consisting of three members as follows:

- a. For intra-club and local competition, supervision will be provided by two team members where one of the two should be a licensed local or higher level referee and the other shall be a licensed Regional or higher level referees.
- b. For state and regional competition, supervision will be provided by two team members, where one should be a licensed regional level or higher referee and the other shall be a licensed National or higher level referee. .

B.2. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Minimum judo rank – Sankyū; however, in rare situations, exceptions may be approved by the ATJA Board of Directors.
- b. Minimum age – 16 years old; however, in rare situations, exceptions may be approved by the ATJA Board of Directors.
- c. Maximum age – none.
- d. ATJA membership – required for liability insurance purposes
- e. Club Coach Endorsement – Not required, but welcome.
- f. Written Test- the applicant must score a minimum of 60 for the ATJA Local Referee Certificate and a minimum of 70 for the ATJA Regional Referee Certificate.
- g. Practical Test - the applicant must score a minimum of 60 for the ATJA Local Referee Certificate and a minimum of 70 for the ATJA Regional Referee Certificate.

B.3. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS:

The ATJA Referee Committee will review the application for licensing, and based on the recorded written and practical test scores, may issue the appropriate ATJA Referee License. The decision to license is not based solely on the test scores since, depending on the age of the member, that member may also require a **completed** Background Screening (BGS), completion of Safe Sport Training, and completion of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Heads Up Concussion Training.

Junior members who have transitioned early to senior rank may be licensed by the ATJA Referee Committee once they have satisfied the same written and practical test requirements that a Senior Local or Regional Referee must meet.

B.4. OFFICIATING AT A SHIAI or TOURNAMENT: This paragraph is not used for the senior referee track.

B.5 UNIFORM:

The tournament director in conjunction with the Chief Referee will determine if the Officiating Crew will be wearing the Traditional Referee Uniform (i.e., black sports jacket, gray pants, white short-sleeve shirt, black tie, and black socks) or the alternate distinctive polo shirt (normally black), gray pants, and black socks.

B.6 BASIC AREAS JUDO REFEREE EDUCATION:

All ATJA members in the Senior Referee Track are expected to know all of the IJF Refereeing Rules contained within the current edition of the IJF SOR and as modified by USA Judo.

B.7 ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (OPTIONAL)

All ATJA members in the Senior Referee Track are encouraged to complete the on-line Safe Sport Trained 90-minutes core course and the CDC Heads Up Concussion Training course.