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USA Judo Referee Committee Policy for Approving - Emeritus Referee

Over the years, the designation of an *Emeritus Referee* has received interpretations that were viewed negatively and/or was considered to be demeaning. In order to correct this and to have a consistent and clear definition and process, the USA Judo Referee Committee has recommended the following to replace all other references to an Emeritus Referee.

Emeritus Referee is an honor to be awarded which allows retention of a judo referee's current level at the time of transitioning to Emeritus status if the referee meets one or more of the following conditions:

1. The referee no longer desires to receive evaluations for performance because they have a minimum of ten (10) years or more years of refereeing contribution to USA Judo;
2. The referee is no longer willing and/or able to travel to evaluation events to maintain current active status;
3. The referee no longer desires to maintain active status with USA Judo referee requirements;
4. The referee would prefer to stop active evaluation level refereeing before the designation of level drops below his/her current level.

Emeritus status may also be offered when the referee is no longer able to referee safely and/or skillfully at evaluation level events (possibly due to age, permanent medical condition, etc.)

Emeritus Referee is a status that may be discussed with a referee, by a member of the USA Judo Referee Committee, or the Committee's designee, who has three consecutive evaluations of unsatisfactory performance for their level of certification.

Emeritus Referee status still allows a referee to actively officiate within the United States at events where National Referees are not being evaluated and, in rare cases, when invited to officiate by the Chief Referee at a National Referee Test event. An Emeritus Referee may NOT referee outside of the United States. The level of certification at the time of the Emeritus Referee request is left intact on the USA Judo Referee Information System.

A formal letter requesting to become an Emeritus Referee should be submitted to the Assistants to the USA Judo Referee Committee or the Co-Chair (Domestic Activities) of the USA

Judo Referee Committee. Once the request is reviewed, the USA Judo Referee Committee will vote on the request and the referee will be notified of the vote result.

Should a referee make the decision that the Emeritus Referee status request was submitted in error, the referee will be required to participate in a National Referee Examination event in order to be reinstated. The Emeritus Referee must officiate at the event at a certification level that is at or above the certification level at the time of the submission. The referee must officiate the event in its entirety, and score at least at a “good” level for their level of certification in order to be reinstated to active status. Should the individual not succeed in receiving an appropriate level rating to be reinstated, the individual will remain as an Emeritus Referee. A referee may only make one request and attempt to return back to active status.

Should evaluation teams determine that a referee is struggling to maintain skills and the safety of the competitors becomes a concern, the evaluation team should alert one of the Assistants to the USA Judo Referee Committee (Ralph Palmer, David Malek or Dana Rucker) who will alert the Co-Chair (Domestic Activities) of the USA Judo Referee Committee. A note will be added to the referee’s profile on the USA Judo Referee Information System. When three consecutive evaluations of unsatisfactory performance are entered into the USA Judo Referee Information System, Ralph, David or Dana will alert the Co-Chair (Domestic Activities) of the USA Judo Referee Committee. The Co-Chair will then hold a discussion with the USA Judo Referee Committee members to determine the course of action. This process may be streamlined if a dangerous situation that has been clearly recorded and is immediately shared with the Co-Chair (Domestic Activities) of the USA Judo Referee Committee. ***No single evaluator or evaluation team may require or recommend a referee to request Emeritus Referee status. They may discuss performance concerns provided that they can do so in a sensitive and respectful manner.***