



BJC Referee Seminar
9th April 2009
Rawlett Leisure Centre



Report/Notes on the meeting.

1). Introduction to the day. The Vice President and Referee Director of the B.J.C. G.R.Mealing. Wellcomed all to the meeting, introduced the appointed speakers and advised as to how the meeting would be conducted, i.e. fairly informal with questions etc restricted to to the close of each speakers subject. Paper and clip boards were available for those who wished to take notes during speakers sessions. He advised as to comfort breaks and of course a 45 minute lunch opportunity.

2). An overview of recent changes to BJC contest rules. Steve Merredew gave an interesting talk on changes in the BJC Contest Rule, the whys and wherefores with emphasis on why the BJC has not taken on board all the alterations made by the IJF and the BJA namely the Golden Score. . One of the major changes to the BJC Contest rules was the alteration of the penalty system from 4 penal groupings to 2, this in line with the IJF changes. This was not done overnight and on a whim no, it was after careful study and consideration. Some members did not think it a good thing and others thought that it was. The pro argument won the day by a simple application of mathematics so to speak. Whereas with the four groupings, referees needed to remember which offence related to an appropriate slot, whereas with the two group system a referee could apply the thought, “well contestant red has just done a naughty and it is an offence but not Hansoku-Make therefore it’s a Shido”. Now obviously the thought process is much faster than the written word but I think that all will get the general drift. It was also pointed out that the changes that have been made are in line with the type of Judo advocated by the BJC’s National Technical Committee, and that more changes may well be on the way!

A short discussion followed dealing mainly with the Drop-Knee Seoi-Nage and its restricted use, one of the main points being two unsuccessful attempts incurring a penalty. J. Anderson (Northumberland) queried that if balance was disturbed would that not construe an honest attempt and therefore should not be classed as a false attack. Mr. Mealing pointed out that the object of the rule was to discourage use of this particular technique. L. Witts (Notts Area) added that constant use of Drop-Knee Seoi-Nage in the junior section could/would lead to to damage to the knees. G. Temperton (Cleaveland) Was of the firm opinion that the technique rather than being restricted should be banned completely.

3.) Abuse of Officials at events. Turning to this subject Steve laid the blame of the current shortage of referees at our National Championships and Tournaments squarely at the door of spectators and coaches who indulge in verbal dissent and abuse. However referees themselves must share a little of the blame! For although there is in place a complaints procedure which if followed would do a great deal towards to solving the problem. A number of times refs have complained of crowd barracking and when asked to fill in a complaint form decline to do so. The form goes to head office and the procedure begins to grind into operation; sometimes somewhat slowly but it does grind away with offenders being advised as to their unacceptable behavior. More important records are kept and persistent offenders are warned of the possibility of being excluded from events. This exclusion can be extended to the club in general.

There then followed short discussion during which sample complaints forms were distributed and a full discription of the complaints procedure given; it was requested that the form be made available on the Webb Site.

4). Duties and responsibilities of a Mat Marshall. This subject was delt with by Mr. Mealing who refered directly to an article he had submitted to the Judoka (published) Which was as follows;

Quote “In Area and National events the services of a Mat Marshall may be used, denoted by their senior position and experience within the BRITISH JUDO COUNCIL; they shall be responsible to give: -
 General Guidance in all instances not covered by these Rules & Regulations.

To deal with any disputes or complaints raised by Coaches, Manager or Contestants. See Section 13.8.

Complaint by competition officials, Technical or Administrative, shall be recorded on the applicable form, lodged with the Mat Marshall who will forward it to the appropriate body”.

This is a direct quote from the BJC Contest Rules and you will see line 4 begins with the words ‘General Guidance’. Nowhere does it say ‘Instruction’, therefore the Mat Marshall should give no **instruction** in any instance.

The key words in line 5 are 'raised by Coaches, Manager or Contestants'. Nowhere does it say that the Mat Marshall can raise an issue of dispute etc." **Unquote.**

In short he is there for consultation and the defining of the contest rules. Having defined a query on the contest rules, if the mat official/s is/are in error he/they will be so advised. The mat official/s if they so wish, may alter or persist with their original judgement.

G.R.Mealing

5). Referee Liaison with Corner Judges & Table Officials. The importance of interchange and communication between these officials cannot be stressed too highly. In the case of Referee and Corner Judge, the Corner Judge is an extra pair of eyes in the event of a technique going away from the Referee who could be partially unsighted as to the completion of a scoring technique thus contributing to the possibility of an (honest) erroneous score by the Referee. Table Officials make contest operations flow smoothly, keep the mat officials informed and their efforts and hard work should be noted and appreciated.

G.R. Mealing

6. The "Referee Qualification Trail". Paul Laskey described the the different levels of qualification, how to attain the various levels, and importantly the ways and means to keep qualifications up to date and valid. Leaflets were distributed to ensure that references were available for home perusal.

7. Referee Examiners/Assessors. (Providing training, courses, exams and qualifications at Area Level). Referee Assessor/Trainer Course. Mr. Laskey continued with a detailed explanation of this particular subject aided by the use of an overhead projector thus giving attendees the opportunity to absorb the written word rather than memorise words spoken. Again leaflets were available and a question and answer session followed.

8. Refereeing at Gradings. Tony Grigg before dealing with this subject played a short video recording of a final match fought some years ago at a World Championship between Russian and Japanese contenders. It was quite exciting and surprisingly both contestants displayed upright posture throughout. About halfway into the video the Russian seemingly scored Ippon. All present agreed it was Ippon but surprisingly it was not credited as valid by the mat officials; we could only assume that some sort of infringement had occurred which we the viewers could not discern because of the close-up lens viewing of the action by the camera operator. The contest was however later won decisively by the Russian executing a superb Uchi-Mata.

Dealing with the subject of refereeing at gradings Tony Grigg made reference to discussions at meetings held by the National Technical Centre attended by Mr. Hosaka and the President, Mr. R. Otani. This session was conducted in an interactive mode with comments and queries dealt with as they arose. This resulted in an exchange of views etc some of which are recorded as follows.

The aim of the BJC is to deliver a return to good Technical Judo rather than continue with displays of 'win at all cost' without due regard to the safety aspect of one's opponent/partner. A grading is an arena in which upright posture should be displayed and techniques executed without Tori losing balance on the execution/ completion of a throw thereby displaying lack of control of one's balance. Penalties or verbal admonition rather than rewarding with a score for techniques badly executed without regard for the safety of either contestant. These fall into the category of techniques 'perceived' to have been performed in a dangerous manner. Points were made concerning excessive, grip-fighting, defence (one of which was Uke dropping down on knee/s constantly thus frustrating a throw attempt, spoiling tactics, interlocking of finger etc etc.

At the end of this session there was a short final comfort break and then a general review of the day. Views expressed were (1) that the title of 'Corner Judge' be replaced with 'Corner Referee' (**P. Laskey**); (2) Dan Grades seeking promotion should be required to qualify as a referee and officiate as such (**I. Sui**) Both these views found general support from those present.

Mr. Mealing thanked all for attending in particular the speakers, gave notice of an intended workshop later in the year. He expressed the hope that all would be motivated by the day and the subjects to carrying the plea back to their Areas for a re-investing of the BJC's and Mr.Otani's referee programme for the betterment of all members.

G.R. Mealing Vice President BJC. Director of Referees.