Adaptation of the judo refereeing rules for the next 2017-2020 Olympic Cycle

Rules presentation
The International Judo Federation has worked on the new regulations. They will apply for the next Olympic cycle. The goal is to promote the rules of judo and make them easier to understand, as well as to simplify them. The purpose of these rules is to give priority to the attack and to the realization of IPPON. The new refereeing rules with these modifications will be sent to you as soon as possible.

For your information, a proposal to include a team event during the Olympic Games will also be sent to the IOC. This event will be a mixed team event including 3 women (-57, -70, +70) and three men (-73, -90, +90).

The teams will be composed of athletes who have qualified for the individual competition.

Regarding the refereeing rules, a test period at the international level will start at the beginning of January 2017 during the first Continental Open of the year in Africa and will end after the World Championships in Budapest from 28 August to 3 September 2017.

The Tokyo Grand Slam 2016 marked the end of the Olympic cycle, during which the refereeing rules valid during Olympic Games 2016 were used. This which saw the crowning of 14 Olympic champions in Rio last August. A whole new cycle now opens (starting with the Paris Grand Slam in February 2017). It will end during the next Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

As was the case in 2012, following the London Games, the International Judo Federation has carefully analysed the last four years, both from an organisational perspective and from a technical point of view.

Within four years, judo has evolved very positively. The success of the Rio 2016 Games is a tangible proof of this. Within a few years the technical abilities of the athletes have improved a lot, for example, the number of technical scores in competition has increased sharply, reaching more than 80% in certain weight categories on the occasion of the last World Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan, in August 2015.

This analysis, conducted under the supervision of the IJF Executive Committee, an expanded group of experts and media representatives around the judo movement, revealed several changes and improvements to the rules that will provide greater clarity and a greater dynamism to judo. The new rules were elaborated based on the proposals from National Federations and the 20 Directors of the IJF Coordination Committee, which were later analysed by the group of experts of the IJF and the Executive Committee technical departments. The choices that have been made are the result of a widely shared and democratic consensus. They consider the fundamental values of judo, and its moral code, while ensuring that our sport, which is a ‘living body’, can adapt to the modern world and reach an increasingly large audience.

The rules that have been adopted will be presented at the refereeing and coaching seminar to be held in January in Baku, Azerbaijan. Judoka, coaches, fans and the media will be able to watch the Baku seminar live from 6-7 January 2017 on the IJF YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/judo

Each point of the new regulations will then be explained and detailed in a practical way to referees, coaches and representatives of National Federations and Continental Unions. A test period will then be opened. During this time, the new regulations can be corrected, if necessary. This process will allow our judo community to start the next Olympic qualification cycle with perfectly integrated rules. Following the World Championships in Budapest, a meeting will take place that will validate the set of rules that will be used for the next Olympic qualification period.
TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

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SUMMARY OF THE NEW REVISED RULES

Duration of contest

- Men and women four (4) minutes. Respect for parity as wished by the IOC and contest time unity for the Olympic mixed team event.

Evaluation of the points

- There will now only be Ippon and Waza-ari.
- The value of Waza-ari includes those given for Yuko in the past.
- The Waza-ari do not add up. Two Waza-ari are no longer the equivalent of one Ippon.

Immobilisations (Osae Komi)

- Waza-ari: 10 seconds
- Ippon: 20 seconds

Technical score

- In regular time (4 minutes), a contest can only be won by a technical score or scores (Waza-Ari or Ippon).
- A penalty or penalties will not decide the winner, except for Hansoku-make (direct or accumulative).
- A penalty is never a score.
Golden score

- When both players have no technical score or the technical scores are equal at the end of the regular contest time, the contest shall continue in Golden Score regardless of shidos given.
- Any existing score(s) and/or shido(s) from regular time are carried into the Golden Score period and will remain on the score board.
- Any technical score given will immediately end the Golden Score period.
- If a player receives a Shido in Golden Score he/she will lose the contest ONLY if he/she then has more Shidos than the opponent.
Penalties

- There are now three Shido, instead of previously four.
- The third Shido becomes Hansoku-make.

To simplify the refereeing and its understanding some of the actions on how to grab the judogi, which were punished in the past, will no longer be penalized: pistol grip, pocket grip ...

Kumi Kata

- Unconventional Kumikata will be penalized, if there is no immediate attack.
- Fingers inside the sleeve will still be penalized by shido.
- Negative positions will be penalized by Shido, because they are against the spirit of judo (not searching for an attack, a defensive attitude etc...).
- Recognizing the difficulty of preparing a throwing action, the time between Kumi-kata and making an attack is extended to 45 seconds.
- Leg grabbing or grabbing the trousers, shall be penalized first by Shido and secondly by Hansoku-make.
- Precision : Who wants to attack with bear hug must have a minimum one grip. It is not valid to make a second grip simultaneously. Only touching the judogi is not considered as kumikata, gripping is necessary.
Safety

- The committee examined the rules with regard to safety to ensure that judo has as little trauma as possible. If Uke attempts to avoid landing on their back by any movement which is dangerous for the head, neck or spine, they shall be penalized with Hansoku-make.

When a competitor intentionally falls into the bridge position to escape Ippon, the referee will not announce Ippon as in the past, but Hansoku Make for the competitor who intentionally fell.

The competitor loses this contest, but can continue in the competition in applicable.

- Anti judo will be immediately penalized as an act against the spirit of Judo.
- In order not to give a bad example for young judokas, the landing on both elbows is considered valid and evaluated by Waza Ari. Landing on only one elbow is invalid and can not be used for assessment.
Throw and counter-attack

• In a case of attack and counter-attack the first competitor landing on their own body will be considered the loser.
• If a score can be given, it will be assigned.
• If the two athletes land together, no score will be given.
• If an action is led by a competitor after the landing (Kaeshi-Waza), this action will not be counted.
• Any action after landing will be considered as a Ne-Waza action.
For a better efficiency and to have a good grip it is necessary for the jacket to be well fitted in the belt, with the belt tied tightly. To reinforce that, the competitor shall arrange their Judogi and belt quickly between Mate and Hajime announced by the referee.

If an athlete intentionally loses time arranging his judogi and belt, he will receive Shido.

Judogi

• For a better efficiency and to have a good grip it is necessary for the jacket to be well fitted in the belt, with the belt tied tightly. To reinforce that, the competitor shall arrange their Judogi and belt quickly between Mate and Hajime announced by the referee.
• If an athlete intentionally loses time arranging his judogi and belt, he will receive Shido.
Teams World Ranking List

The Teams World Ranking List will consist of points from Continental Championships and World Championships.

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<th>Placing</th>
<th>Continental Championship points</th>
<th>World Championship points</th>
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