

2006
NSW Referees chairman's report

International events

Tom attended the Blind World Judo Championships in Brommat, France this year – largely at his own expense. However, he does appreciate the \$500 contribution from the JFA Inc. to the cost of the trip. Even such a small amount is appreciated, though most other countries fully fund the referees they send to such events. Not much else happened on the international scene. New rules are likely to come into effect after the Junior Worlds this month.

Oceania

Deepali attend her first Oceania tournament this year in Tahiti and was promoted straight to Oceania A. Congratulations to her on a very fine refereeing effort. No other NSW referee wished to spend their money to attend this event. Some criticism was received of this, but I do not think it fair to expect referees to continue to expend large amounts of their own money every year without greater financial support from either the National or State body. Australia needs to find ways to help with this funding - particularly now that Oceania is a yearly event.

Australian Nationals

The National Titles were held in Perth this year and were a great success. The organizers must be congratulated for all their efforts as the tournament ran very smoothly over three mat areas. NSW referees again made up one of the largest state contingents. I think we sent more referees to this event than to any previous nationals. All ten NSW referees (Tom Godkin, Peter Williams, Jack Halber, Young Chull Woo, John DaSilva, David Fuentes, Lubo Petr, Margrethe Karlsen, Deepali Mistry, Janusz Dobrowolski) performed very well. Their standard of refereeing was a very high one and I think contributed to the overall quality of decision making.

However, in my view there was a couple disappointing decisions (not by NSW referees) that affected who won the match. One involved failing to count the number of major attacks and as a result the wrong person won a gold medal. All referees must ensure they are capable of judging very close matches. It will be good when other states can match our referee development program.

NSW happenings

Rodney Moulder was promoted to NSW A class referee. John Eklund was promoted to NSW B class referee. Mathew Holmes passed his exam and became a NSW C class referee.

A great number of NSW referees attend various other tournaments (such as the ACT open, and other interstate events) all at their own expense. Such a commitment is greatly appreciated by most – even if under valued by some in the sport, who are not aware of the financial commitment referees provide to help judo. Keep up the good work, and the striving for excellence. Such efforts in developing judo are to be admired.

I also want to highlight that there are a number of club referees who we don't hear a lot about – but are so vital to the development of judo. In addition to club refereeing, there are also a number of 'under 10' tournaments where various local club referees help out. If anyone is aware of any of these referees who would like to step up to the next level of refereeing i.e. the NSW level – please encourage them to contact us. I

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am available at any tournament to help explain the process or if there are any questions about refereeing. We are always looking for new referees to help out. We really need to recruit replacement referees as some of us head towards retirement?

May I also take this opportunity to thank my fellow commission members (Lorraine – our secretary, Deepali – our computer expert and treasurer, Peter – our rosterer, Janusz, Young, Jack, and John) all for their own special contributions.

Further all referees would like to thank the NSW Board of Management for their support of referees – financially and administratively, and hope our continued partnership will benefit the sport of judo, particularly in ensuring the right decisions are made on the mat.

Finally, I personally would like to thank you for the support I have had from you all. I have really enjoyed refereeing with you in and making NSW one of the top states for developing outstanding referees. However, it is time for me to move on, to step aside from the chairman's position and let someone else take on this demanding role. I will continue to referee and be available if the new chairperson wishes to call on my experience or seek advice in ensuring NSW referees continue to maintain their form as the some of the best referees in Australia.

Tom Godkin
Chairman NSW referee's commission
September 2006