

**USA
TRADITIONAL
KODOKAN JUDO
(USA-TKJ)**



**USA-TKJ
National
Referee Program**

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USA-TKJ National Referee Program

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“All of Judo With Proper Balance”

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FORWARD

Authorization -

USA-TKJ State, Regional and National Referee Certification is authorized by the USA-TKJ Board of Directors. The training and examination are conducted in accordance with the standards established by the USA-TKJ Referee Committee. State level referee training and examination may be conducted at sanctioned clinics, while regional and national level examinations are to be conducted at sanctioned tournaments or championships and conducted by a National Referee as directed by the USA-TKJ Referee Committee.

Eligibility -

1. Must be a current Annual or Life Member when submitting the Application for Referee Certification.
2. Must meet the age and rank qualifications for each level as required by the USA-TKJ National Referee Program.
3. Must have the State Class "D" level Referee Certification for at least one year to be eligible for State Class "C" level examination / certification.
4. Must have the State "C" level certification for at least one year to be eligible for Regional Class "B" level examination / certification.
5. Must have Regional Class "B" level certification for at least two years to be eligible for National Class "A" examination / certification.

Referee Certification Requirements -

1. Referee Candidates must present their USA-TKJ current Annual or Life membership card and a copy of their previous referee certificate.
2. Candidates must participate as a referee throughout the entire tournament / championship. They cannot also compete in the tournament one the day of examination.
3. Candidates must wear the required proper referee uniform as specified in the USA-TKJ Referee Program.
4. Candidate must have the current required SafeSport on-line training.
5. Candidate must have the current Concussion Awareness (Heads-Up) on-line training.
6. Candidate must have the current CPR on-line training.

7. Candidates must have a current Background Check

Referee Examination -

1. Candidates must successfully complete the written exam which requires approximately one hour to complete.
2. On the Mat - practical examination which includes the observation of refereeing and judges matches during the tournament / championship.
3. Evaluation Factors include the following –
 - a. Voice - clear, concise, loud, and well pronounced commands.
 - b. Presence - demonstrate authority, confidence, control, and calmness when under stress.
 - c. Referee Signals - demonstrate correct, clear and sharp gestures.
 - d. Mobility on the mat including proper position and posture.
 - e. Match Procedures - correct procedures without hesitation or mistake.
 - f. Observant - Identifies gi problems or hazards or injuries.
 - g. Authority - demonstrates proper command and control while not losing control of the match.
 - h. Judgement - calling scores for throwing, holding or locking / choking.
 - i. Declaring Penalties – demonstrating knowledge of penalties and when to issue penalties during the match.
 - j. Focus and timely determination displaying solid judgement of referee calls or opinion.
 - k. Team Cooperation – demonstrates good communication and cooperative efforts with the judges and mat table team.
 - l. Demonstrate proper mat protocol and behavior representing USA-TKJ as an appointed referee / official.

Section 1 Area of Application

- a. This referee program applies to all referees officiating in the state or regional organizations and in national championships, in the education and further education of USA-TKJ referees and for use at competitions and tournaments as well as for organizational purposes.
- b. The State and Regional TKJ Organizations should follow these USA-TKJ standards for the regulation and evaluation of their referees.

Section 2 USA-TKJ National Technical Committee (NTC)

- a. The education and work of the State, Regional & National Referees is coordinated and supervised by the USA-TKJ National Technical Commission. The NTC supervises all levels of referees and the different TKJ competition venues (Shiai, Self-Defense & Kata) Committees.
- b. The USA-TKJ Committees of each TKJ venue, are responsible for the education for specific content and the evaluation of the referees in the specific TKJ

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competition venue. Each TKJ venue committee must include at least one highly qualified referee for that venue. The USA-TKJ Board shall appoint a Chief Referee for each TKJ competition venue.

- c. The National Referee Committee consists of all Chief Referees for all TKJ venues. Further technical representatives of State or Regional TKJ Organizations can be appointed for inclusion by the USA-TKJ Executive Board. They are responsible to coordinate the work of all referees during competitions.
- d. The National Technical Committee shall be authorized administrative support from USA-TKJ Executive Board.

Section 3 Regional Referee Committees & Regional Referee Organizations

- a. The Executive Board of a Regional TKJ Organization with the agreement of the USA-TKJ Board, can establish a Regional Technical Committee including a Regional Committee of TKJ categories.
- b. The TKJ Regional Organizations (TKJRO) can create a Regional Referee Committee to work directly with the Regional TC and the USA-TKJ NTC.

Section 4 Committee Tasks

- a. The USA-TKJ National Technical Committee is responsible for the education of referees. This includes the preparation of all teaching, tutorial and promotional material needed for a proper dissemination, evolution and development of referee duties and activities to all new and existing TKJROs.
- b. All referees with valid USA-TKJ National Referee Licenses are qualified to officiate in all state, regional and national championships. The Chief National Referee of each of the respective TKJ competition venue shall have the authority to certify and appoint regional referees for the competitions.
- c. The National Technical Committee shall designate (with the approval of USA-TKJ Executive Board), several "Judges"; for each USA-TKJ championship, whose responsibility would be to fill out an "Evaluation Form" in real time during the matches. This data be evaluated by the NTC, after the championship to feed the USA-TKJ database.
- d. The National Technical Committee and the Referee Committees at their respective levels (USA-TKJ State or Regional Organization), are responsible for the performance and conduct of all referees, for the correct rotation of referees during all USA-TKJ championships and shall govern and control the application and interpretation of USA-TKJ Referee Program and Competition Rules during all competitions. The National Technical Committee, in due consultation with the Referee Committee shall report to the Executive Board the results of referee management and plans. The Chief National Referee of each TKJ competition venue shall represent the Referee Committee in the resolution of any controversial matter.

Section 5 Referee Categories and Levels

- a. A referee's certification level determines the type and level of competition that a referee may officiate.
- b. Within each TKJRO, each state organizations shall determine their referee levels and respective criteria for evaluation and shall regulate certification through evaluations and examinations. The highest level of referee authority in a TKJRO is the "Regional Referee Expert".
- c. At the National level there are four levels of Referee License Certification for each TKJ venue. (in decreasing order as under):
 1. **State Class D License:** By examination. The candidate must be of minimum of 18 years of age and experienced in the respective category. He or she must have been a referee, in his own state, for at least 1 year and must have refereed at least three (3) competitions in the respective TKJ category.
 2. **State Class C License:** By examination. The candidate must be of minimum of 21 years of age and have good knowledge (Competition experience as athlete or coach, 1st Dan for Shiai, Kata & Self-Defense). He or she must have been a referee on regional level for at least 1 year and must have referee experience in at least three (3) competitions in the respective Category.
 3. **Regional Class B License:** The candidate must be of minimum of 23 years of age and have good knowledge (Competition experience as athlete or coach, 2nd Dan for Shiai, Kata & Self-Defense). This Regional License may be issued to an eligible referee already holding a State Class C License for a minimum period of two years and after officiating as a referee in at least three state or regional championships and have attained positive evaluation reports within a maximum of two years' time.
 4. **National Class A License:** By examination. The candidate referee must have extensive knowledge (Competition experience as athlete or coach, 3rd Dan for Shiai, Kata & Self-Defense) of the Category. He or she must have been a Regional Class B Referee for at least 1 year and must have refereed as such in at least 3 Regional or National Competitions and 5 other events. Positive evaluation reports are required and a recommendation of his Regional Technical Commission or Referee Committee shall also be required.

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5. **USA-TKJ Referee Expert:** Any National Referee with excellent experience and expertise can be appointed as a Referee Expert, by the National Technical Committee. Referee Experts shall be involved in the education, evaluation and mentoring of Referees of lower levels.
6. The control of the referee licenses is under the jurisdiction of the USA-TKJ National Technical Committee.

Section 6 Education of Referees

- a. Referee courses will be held at clinics, camps, tournaments, and special courses sanctioned by USA-TKJ.
- b. A TKJRO may request for a referee course in their nation, organized under the coordination of a USA-TKJ certified instructor, designated by the NTC, subject the TKJRO undertaking to cover the costs.
- c. Participants for a referee course may register for the same through their TKJRO or the USA-TKJ National Office. They are expected to be well prepared, with adequate prior knowledge of the rules and regulations and must be physically fit enough to fully participate.
- d. The referee courses will consist of at least 3 hours of theory and 6 hours of practical lessons, for each Category.
- e. The theory of the referee course shall be conducted (when possible) thru E-Learning or Self-Study.
- f. Practical lessons may consist of refereeing, sports, and various Judo classes.
- g. USJJF has a national competition program –
USA-TKJ®, <https://www.usatkj.org/competition-rules.html>

Section 7 Examinations

- a. The Referee examinations will be conducted by the experts appointed by National Technical Commission.
- b. Successful candidates must secure a minimum of 85% marks in each of the following tests:
 - Competition Rules Test
 - Practical Test

The practical test may be a “mock competition” during the course, or a tournament or championship sanctioned by USA-TKJ or the Regional TKJ Organization.

- c. The examiners are required to make a formal report to the NTC on the referee course and the examinations.
- d. TKJRO might ask for report respective their candidates.

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Section 8 Validity of License and Compatibility

- a. The state licenses are valid for 3 years and can be renewed only if the referee has participated in a new referee course and/or a refreshment course and has refereed in at least 2 state or regional competitions during in this period, with positive evaluation reports.
- b. The regional licenses are valid for 3 years and can be renewed only if the referee has participated in a new referee course and/or a refreshment course and has refereed in at least 2 regional or national competitions during in this period, with positive evaluation reports.
- c. The national license is valid for 3 years and can be renewed only if the referee has participated in a new referee course and/or a refreshment course and has refereed in at least 2 national or continental competitions during this period, with positive evaluation reports.
- d. If the referees have complied with the requirements and pass the physical fitness test, their licenses will be renewed upon request an additional 3 more years.
- e. If the test results and/or evaluation for attaining the level of a license for any candidate is below the norms, then his present license may be suspended or cancelled according to the results.
- f. A referee whose test results are below the norms, cannot renew his/her license will be reduced to a lower level by the Decision of the N a t i o n a l Technical Committee / Referee Committee.
- g. A licensed referee cannot hold the position of team coach, national delegate, or competitor on the same tournament.

Section 9 Recalling of Referee Licenses

- a. The NTC may recall any referee license at any time. The recall can be total recall or only a reduction to a lower license level. The recall can also be for a given a specific period.
- b. A referee license may be recalled in the following cases:
 - 1) The referee has repeatedly made major mistakes (see Sec. 8f.)
 - 2) The referee behaves in an unacceptable and/or unsportsmanlike manner.
 - 3) The TKJRO has no longer confidence in its referee.

Section 10 Referee Refresher Courses

- a. Referee Refresher courses should be organized regularly in conjunction with USA-TKJ / TKJRO events.
- b. A TKJRO can also organize a referee refresher course in conjunction with a national tournament or other events if approved by NTC.
- c. A licensed referee may participate a new referee's course for attaining refresher. But he/she does not need to take any examination at this course, but they would still need a positive evaluation report to fulfil the refresher criteria.

Section 11 Coming into Effect

The USA-TKJ Referee Program were authorized by the USA-TKJ Board of Directors on January 5, 2024, and goes into effect on January 5, 2024.

Section 12 Referee Attire

- a. Referees shall wear grey trousers and dark socks, mat shoes, white shirt, USA-TKJ designated tie and navy-blue jacket with a USA-TKJ Patch or Badge attached to the left side.
- b. Depending on the temperature, Referees shall wear the same as above but without jacket.



Section 13 Code of Conduct for Referees

- a. Referees must behave correctly towards all functionaries, athletes, and the public.
- b. During Competitions referees must not express negative opinions (criticisms) regarding other Referee's conduct in public.
- c. Referees must not release to the press or the television any interview or opinion concerning the Competition in which they officially participate. Except of the head of referees or authorized by him/her.
- d. The referee must be an example of sportsmanship and positive behavior in sports.

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