

## **Introduction**

The National Referee Commission is keen to identify a suitable pool of candidates who may be considered in the future to referee at the very highest levels. The proposal is to fast track ex-athletes into refereeing as this has clearly been successful in other countries. It is anticipated that high quality athletes will be fast tracked to level 4 (BJA-B grade) of the refereeing system at the earliest opportunity and then on to level 5 (National grade) for those that respond well to training within 2 years (national levels are 1 to 5). From then on, those that consistently demonstrate the required skills to progress would have a referee performance program to take them to the IJF level; this will include international competition experience and an assigned referee mentor of suitable IJF standing.

## **Selection Process**

It is proposed that the selection process for the programme may come from one of three main sources; Direct Application from the candidate, Nomination from a credible source or indeed approached by the NRC. The guide for applications are athletes with a track record of at least 10 funded selections for GBR and a return of at least 2 medals at senior European cup or above, other personnel profiles (highly experienced coaches for example) may also be accepted on to the program depending on their profile and motivation. This program is intended to produce IJF referees of good standing, therefore because of international rules and trends; we must put a limit on the age of entry to the programme. It is expected that candidates will be below 35 years old on entry to the programme unless exceptional circumstances apply. Whatever route a candidate comes through, a detailed interview will be necessary with the candidates in order to outline the requirements of the program, check candidates' suitability and agree the parameters of working before starting.

## **Mentoring**

The successful programme candidates will be assigned a specific mentor, the mentor will be the single point of contact for formal feedback on performance progression. It is crucial that the messages being fed back are consistent and accurate, therefore mentors will be carefully selected by the NRC and be referees of suitable standing in both refereeing and tutoring skills.

## **Applications**

Anyone wishing to consider this route of progression in their judo career should apply in writing to the NRC via Keith Merrick ([keith.merrick@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:keith.merrick@britishjudo.org.uk)). Applications should include:

- A full CV of their judo career to date specifically identifying national and above medals
- A covering letter stating why the candidate wants to enter this programme and why they are suitable
- Details of any current refereeing experience / qualified level

Should anyone wish to discuss this opportunity before applying, please contact Keith Merrick directly on: 07887 455587