

# **UNITED STATES JU-JITSU FEDERATION (USJJF)**



## **USJJF National Referee Program**

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# USJJF National Referee Program

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**UNITED STATES JU-JITSU FEDERATION  
(USJJF)®**

***“Committed To Excellence”***

## **FORWARD**

### **Authorization -**

USJJF State, Regional and National Referee Certification is authorized by the USJJF Board of Directors. The training and examination are conducted in accordance with the standards established by the USJJF 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 USJJF 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 USJJF 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 USJJF 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 or championship. They cannot also compete in the tournament on the day of examination.
3. Candidates must wear the required proper referee uniform as specified in the USJJF Referee Program.
4. Candidates must have the current required SafeSport on-line training.

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5. Candidates must have the current Concussion Awareness (Heads-Up) on-line training.
6. Candidates 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 takes approximately one hour to complete.
2. On the Mat - Practical Examination which includes the observation of refereeing and judges matches during the tournament or 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 striking, throwing, holding, locking or 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 decision.
  - k. Team Cooperation - demonstrates good communication and cooperative efforts with the judges and mat table team.
  - l. Demonstrate proper mat protocol and behavior representing USJJF as an appointed referee or official.

### **Section 1 Area of Application**

- a. These rules apply to all referees officiating in the state or regional organizations and in national championships, in the education and further education of USJJF referees and for use at competitions as well as for organizational purposes.

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- b. The State and Regional Ju-Jitsu / Jiu-Jitsu / Jujutsu (JJ) Organizations should follow these USJJF standards for the regulation and evaluation of their referees.

### **Section 2 USJJF National Technical Committee (NTC)**

- a. The education and work of the State, Regional & National Referees is coordinated and supervised by the USJJF National Technical Commission. The NTC supervises all levels of referees and the different JJ competition venue (Ju-Jitsu Fighting, Ju-Jitsu DUO, Ju-Jitsu Self-Defense & Jiu-Jitsu Grappling) committees.
- b. The USJJF Committees of each JJ venue are responsible for the education for specific content and the evaluation of the referees in the specific JJ venue. Each JJ venue committee must include at least one highly qualified referee for that discipline. The USJJF Board shall appoint a Chief Referee for each JJ competition venue.
- c. The National Referee Committee consists of all Chief Referee for each of the respective USJJF JJ venues. Further technical representatives of State or Regional JJ Organizations can be appointed for inclusion by the USJJF 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 USJJF Executive Board.

### **Section 3 Regional Referee Committees & Regional Referee Organizations**

- a. The Executive Board of a Regional JJ Organization with the agreement of the USJJF Board, can establish a Regional Technical Committee including a Regional Committee of JJ venues.
- b. The JJ Regional Organizations (JJRO) can create Regional Referee Committee to work directly with the Regional TC and the USJJF NTC.

### **Section 4 Committee Tasks**

- a. The USJJF 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 JJROs.
- b. All referees with valid USJJF National Referee Licenses are qualified to officiate in all National and Regional Championships. The Chief Referee of each of the respective USJJF JJ venues shall have the authority to grade and appoint regional referees for the competitions.
- c. The National Technical Committee shall designate (with the approval of USJJF Executive Board), several Judges; for each USJJF 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 USJJF database.

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- d. The National Technical Committee and the Referee Committees at their respective levels (USJJF National or Regional Organization), are responsible for the performance and conduct of all referees, for the correct rotation of referees during all USJJF championships and shall govern and control the application and interpretation of USJJF Referee Rules 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 Referee of each JJ 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 JJRO, 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 license in a JJRO is the "Regional Referee".
- c. At the National level there are four levels of Referee Certification for each USJJF JJ competition venue. (in decreasing order)
  1. **State Class D License:** By examination. The candidate must be a minimum 18 years of age and experienced in the respective discipline. 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 JJ competition venue.
  2. **State Class C License:** By examination. The candidate must be a minimum 21 years of age and have good knowledge (Competition experience as athlete or coach, 1<sup>st</sup> Dan for Ju-Jitsu Fighting, Ju-Jitsu DUO, Ju-Jitsu Kata and Ju-Jitsu Self-Defense or Brown Belt for BJJ / Grappling Jiu-Jitsu). 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 discipline.
  3. **Regional Class B License** The candidate must be a minimum 23 years of age and have good knowledge (Competition experience as athlete or coach, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dan for Ju-Jitsu Fighting, Ju-Jitsu DUO, Ju-Jitsu Kata and Ju-Jitsu Self-Defense or Black Belt for BJJ / Grappling Jiu-Jitsu). 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.

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4. **National Class A License:** By examination. The candidate referee must have extensive knowledge (International Competition experience as athlete or coach, 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan for Ju-Jitsu Fighting, Ju-Jitsu DUO, Ju-Jitsu Kata and Ju-Jitsu Self-Defense or Black Belt for BJJ / Grappling Jiu-Jitsu). 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.
5. **USJJF Referee Expert:** Any National Referee with good experience and expertise can be promoted to the Referee Expert category, 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 USJJF National Technical Committee.

### Section 6 Education of Referees

- a. Referee courses will be held at clinics, camps, tournaments, and special courses sanctioned by USJJF.
- b. A JJRO may request for a referee course in their nation, organized under the coordination of a USJJF certified instructor, designated by the NTC, subject the JJRO undertaking to cover the costs.
- c. Participants for a referee course may register for the same through their JJRO or the USJJF 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 on USJJF competition rules and 6 hours of practical lessons, for each discipline.
- 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 Ju-Jitsu classes.
- g. USJJF has two national competition programs –
  - a. **USA JU-JITSU** ®, <https://www.usjif.org/usa-ju-jitsu-reg-ji-kumite-ji-self-defense--kobudo.html>
  - b. **USA JIU-JITSU** ®, <https://www.usjif.org/usa-jiu-jitsu-reg-bjj-comp-rules.html>

### Section 7 Examinations

- a. The Referee examinations will be conducted by the experts appointed by the National Technical Committee.

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- b. Successful candidates must secure a minimum of 85% marks in each of the following tests:
  - Competition Rules Test
  - Practical Test
- c. The practical test may be a “mock competition” during the course, or a tournament or championship sanctioned by USJJF or the Regional JJ Organization.
- d. The examiners are required to make a formal report to the NTC on the referee course and the examinations.
- e. JJRO might ask for report respective their candidates.

### **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 in this period, with positive 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 their license and it 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 period.
- b. A referee license may be recalled in the following cases:
  - 1) The referee has repeatedly made major mistakes (see Sec. 8f.)



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- 2) The referee behaves in an unacceptable and/or unsportsmanlike manner.
- 3) The JJRO has no longer confidence in its referee.

### **Section 10 Referee Refreshment Courses**

- a. Referee Refreshment courses should be organized regularly in conjunction with USJJF / JJRO events.
- b. A JJRO can also organize a referee refreshment 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 refreshment. But he/she does not need to take any examination at this course, but he/she would still need a positive evaluation report to fulfil the refreshment criteria.

### **Section 11 Coming into Effect**

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



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## Section 12 Referee Attire

- a. Referees shall wear grey trousers and dark socks, mat shoes, white shirt, USJJF designated tie and navy-blue jacket with a USJJF 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. Exceptions are made by the Chief Referee.
- d. The referee must be an example of sportsmanship and positive behavior in sports.

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