

**INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION  
REFEREE RULES  
2017- 2020**

**w/notes from the 2017 IJF Referee and Coach Seminar  
Baku, Azerbaijan – 6-7 January 2017**

**Final Approved Version for Distribution 1/26/17**

**Preface:**

The content of this document is a product of the IJF and the cooperative efforts of individual attendees from the USA Judo Coach & Referee cadre of USA Judo:

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All of the attendees express our collective gratitude and appreciation to USA Judo's: Board of Directors, CEO, High Performance Committee, Coach Education Committee, and Referee Committee for the opportunity to attend, participate, and represent USA Judo at this tremendous educational opportunity.

The content of this document has been reviewed, approved, and accepted by the USA Judo High Performance Committee, USA Judo Coach Education Committee, the USA Judo Board of Directors and the USA Judo Referee Committee.

The goal of this document is to guide referees, coaches, athletes, and spectators in understanding, adjusting, and adopting these additional rule changes and interpretations so that they may coach, compete, & referee correctly & effectively, thereby finding more Judo enjoyment and fun during this new 2017-2020 Olympic Quadrennial.

**Please REMEMBER that:**

- **Most of the negative Judo penalties have NOT changed:** non-combativity, defensive attitude/posture, false attack, grip breaking/cutting with two (2) hands, bear hug, abnormal gripping with no intent to attack, and etc.
- **The emphasis increases the focus on positive Judo/technical scores.**
- **Our Olympic, World, Continental, and National Champions are important role models for our children and youth.** Modeling is the most powerful and effective means of teaching. Thus, it is important for our rules to promote safe, respectful, honorable, and correct Judo behaviors with a positive attitude. This provides good role models and examples for young people to emulate and model their own

behavior, conduct, and Judo after. This thinking and emphasis is evidenced by some of the rule changes for the new quadrennial.

**Please note the following additional important points:**

- These new rules are in effect immediately and will be utilized at all IJF event through the 2017 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. They have already been used at the AJU Open Tunis this past weekend. This period is considered to be a test and evaluation phase.
- Data will be captured for statistical analysis and study to determine the effect of the rule changes on athletes and competitions. There may be some minor adjustments/fine-tuning of the rules and interpretations during this test and evaluation phase.
- At the conclusion of the World Championships in Budapest, the IJF will evaluate the effectiveness and success of these rule changes and make decisions with regard to these rule changes. Adjustments and changes will be made accordingly.
- Technical Officials: Scoreboard & timing systems will require modifications.
  - Yuko must be eliminated from the display.
  - The Wazaari display must now be able to record/display more than 2 Wazaaris.
  - The Wazaari Awasete Ippon functionality must be disabled as it is no longer possible to score an Ippon by Awasewaza.
  - Displayed Shidos must be able to indicate whether a Shido has been assessed for a leg grab vs other Shidos. This will indicate to the referee that on the 2nd leg grab incident, she/he must assess Hansoku Make instead of Shido.
  - The Osaekomi timer function must be changed to 10 seconds = Wazaari and 20 seconds = Ippon.
  - The Osaekomi timer's Wazaari Awasete Ippon function must be disabled as Awasewaza is no longer permitted.
  - The Osaekomi timing function must now allow all Osaekomi to run to Ippon as there is no longer a Wazaari Awasete Ippon combination to conclude the match.

- Wakigatame was reviewed: We were reminded that there are NO changes to the rules regarding Wakigatame. Wakigatame may be legally applied in a standing position if it is completely executed in a standing position. It may also be legally applied from a standing position with the Uke being taken to the tatami in a safe & controlled manner. Wakigatame may also legally be applied in Newaza situations. In ALL of these situations, care must be taken to prevent injury to the Uke and give the Uke a fair opportunity to indicate/show Maitta. Applying Wakigatame while standing and then falling directly to the tatami while applying is a Hansoku Make violation. It is extremely dangerous, does not give the Uke a fair opportunity to indicate/show Maitta, and most often results in grave injury to the Uke. Reminder: all Kansetsuwaza applications must give the Uke a fair opportunity to the Uke to indicate/show Maitta to protect themselves and prevent injury. This idea/concept is exemplary of the philosophy and goals of Judo.

#### **Timetable for Adoption & Implementation By USA Judo:**

- This document was formally reviewed, accepted, and approved by the USA Judo Board of Directors, High Performance Committee, Coach Education Committee, & Referee Committee on **January 26, 2017**.
- We encourage all events throughout the USA to adopt and utilize these new rules as soon as possible.
- We encourage all interested parties to utilize these educational materials to learn and understand the new rule changes and interpretations.
- These new rule changes ***WILL NOT BE UTILIZED*** at the USA Judo Scholastic National Championships in Reno, Nevada in March 2017. The tournament software package that USA Judo purchased is undergoing update/modification to accommodate the new rule changes. Target date for completion is April 2017.
- These new rule changes ***WILL BE UTILIZED*** at all subsequent USA Judo National Championship events ***STARTING with the USA Judo Senior National Championships in Salt Lake City, Utah in April 2017***.
- Seminars on these new rule changes will be held at the USA Judo Scholastic National Championships and the USA Judo Senior National Championships.
- Look for seminars in your region. If you are interested in hosting a seminar in your region and need help finding qualified clinicians, please contact one of the following individuals:

Chris Skelley, High Performance Chairperson - [CSkelley@greenapplecleaners.com](mailto:CSkelley@greenapplecleaners.com)

Patrick Burris, Coach Education Chairperson - [Burris7276@cox.net](mailto:Burris7276@cox.net)

Robert Fukuda, Referee Chairperson - [robert.fukuda@usajudo.us](mailto:robert.fukuda@usajudo.us)

**Please note that:**

- In « **black & underlined** » new IJF rules language
- In « **red** » **additional clarification, rule precision, or information**

**Duration of contest:**

- Men and women four (4) minutes. Respect for parity as wished by the IOC and fight time unity for the Olympic mixed team event. **Mixed team competition will be a demonstration event at the Tokyo 2020 Games for Judo.**

**Evaluation of the points:**

**Summary: Only Ippon and Waza-ari will be used for scoring purposes. The evaluation criteria for Ippon will remain the same, while Waza-ari will incorporate and include the evaluation criteria previously awarded under Yuko (side landing).**

- There will now only be Ippon and Waza-ari - Ippon evaluation will remain the same (speed, force, control, emphasis on the back exposure, and impact).
- The value of Waza-ari includes those given for Yuko in the past.
- Two Waza-ari are no longer the equivalent of one Ippon. **A competitor can earn/accumulate multiple Waza-aris. Regardless of the amount of Waza-ari scores earned, they will not add up to an Ippon). For example: 2 Waza-aris ≠ Ippon, 5 Waza-aris ≠ Ippon. Waza-ari awasete Ippon no longer exists.**

**Immobilizations (Osaekomi Time):**

- Waza-ari 10 seconds, Ippon 20 seconds. **Reminder, Waza-ari Awasete Ippon no longer exists.**

**Technical score:**

**The main goal is to have contests won by a technique and NOT by penalty.**

- In regular time, a contest can only be won by a technical score or scores (Waza-ari or Ippon). **The main goal is to have contests won by a technique and NOT by penalty.**
- A penalty or penalties will not decide the winner, except for Hansokumake (direct or accumulative). **This is referring to during regulation time.**
- **In case of team matches, Ippon will be 10 points and Waza-ari will be 1 point. (No one asked about points for a win by Shido in Golden Score overtime).**

## Golden Score:


**Summary:** While penalties awarded during the regular contest period will be tracked on the scoreboard, the penalties will be used to determine the contest winner only during Golden Score, except in the case of direct or cumulative Hansokumake.







- In the case where there is no score(s), or scores are equal, the contest will continue in Golden Score. Technical scores are what count at the end of regulation time. Regardless of what the Shido counts are, if the technical scores for both athletes are tied, the match will be extended into the Golden Score overtime period. Thus, during regulation time, Shidos may essentially be ignored unless they accumulate up to Hansoku Make. In regards to time concerns, the average duration of Golden Score overtime period over the last 4 years was 1 minute and 40 seconds to complete the match.
- Any score and/or penalties from regular time will remain on the scoreboard.
- The decision in the Golden Score is made by the difference of scores or Shido. Unlike regulation time, Shidos are important during the Golden Score period and can determine the outcome of the match. If an athlete receives a Shido during




Golden Score that makes his/her total of Shidos greater than that of the opponent, that will conclude the contest by that Shido. If it makes her/his total














equal to or less than the opponent's Shido total, the contest will continue in Golden Score.

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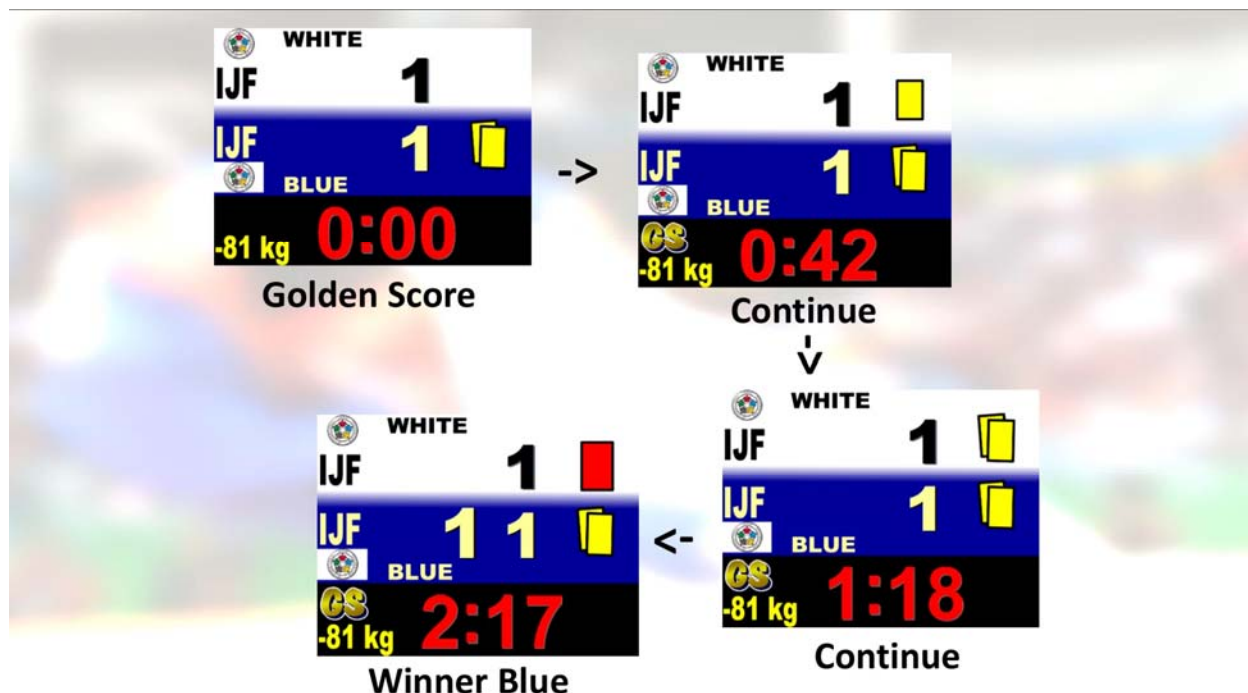
 <b>WHITE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>0</b>	 <b>WHITE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>0</b>
 <b>BLUE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>0</b>	 <b>BLUE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>0</b> 
<b>-81 kg</b> <b>0:00</b>	 <b>-81 kg</b> <b>1:24</b>

**Golden Score -> Winner White**

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 <b>WHITE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>1</b> 	 <b>WHITE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>1</b> 	 <b>WHITE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>1</b> 
 <b>BLUE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>1</b>	 <b>BLUE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>1</b> 	 <b>BLUE</b> <b>IJF</b> <b>1</b> 
<b>-81 kg</b> <b>0:00</b>	 <b>-81 kg</b> <b>1:24</b>	 <b>-81 kg</b> <b>1:52</b>

**Golden Score -> Continue -> Winner White**



#### Penalties:

**Summary:** Total Shido penalties are being reduced from four to three with the third Shido becoming Hansokumake. Five non-standard grips (pistol, pocket, cross guard, one-sided, and belt, are now being allowed for use, provided that the grips are used to prepare or setup a throwing action. The athlete has some time ( $\approx 3$  seconds) to setup/prepare for attack, the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous. Any use of the five grips for defensive purposes will be immediately awarded a Shido, as per the current IJF rules. Fingers inside of the sleeve or pant leg will continue to be immediately assessed a Shido.

Competitors will also be allowed more time to prepare or setup throwing actions with standard grips as long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is preparing to execute a technique. This is after the athletes have obtained normal/standard Kumikata. The athletes should be given more time and opportunity to prepare/setup for an attack. This may be as much as 45 seconds. But, if there is a situation where normal/standard grips are maintained for 45 seconds with no real attack, we should ask ourselves, "What's going on here? Are they really sincerely working, looking for, and preparing for a real attack?" 45 seconds is a long time. Reminder: the language and duration of non-combativity has NOT changed.

All leg grab actions (grabbing or blocking) will now be penalized Shido for the first offense and Hansoku Make for the second offense.

- 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...) As long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is trying to attack. The athlete has some time (≈3 seconds) to setup/prepare for attack, the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous.
- Fingers inside the sleeve will still be penalized. No change - penalization is immediate.
- Unconventional Kumikata such as cross gripping, one side gripping (2 hands on the same side) and belt gripping will not be penalized as long as Tori is preparing an attack. If any of these five grips (cross, one-side/same side, belt, pocket/cat's paw, & pistol) are used to be defensive, then Shido is given immediately. The athlete has some time to setup/prepare for attack, the penalty is no longer immediate/simultaneous.
- Negative positions will be penalized by Shido, because they are against the spirit of judo (not searching for an attack, a defensive attitude, etc....). No change.
- Recognizing the difficulty of preparing a throwing action, the time between Kumikata and making an attack is extended to 45 seconds (as long as the attitude is positive and the competitor is preparing to execute a technique). This is after the athletes have obtained normal/standard Kumikata. The athletes should be given more time and opportunity to prepare/setup for an attack. This may be as much as 45 seconds. But, if there is a situation where normal/standard grips are maintained for 45 seconds with no real attack, we should ask ourselves, "What's going on here? Are they really sincerely working, looking for, and preparing for a real attack?" 45 seconds is a long time. Reminder: the language and duration of non-combativity has NOT changed.
- Leg grabbing or grabbing the trousers, shall be penalized first by Shido and secondly by Hansoku Make. First leg grab Shido must have a special sign on the scoreboard to distinguish this Shido because second offense is Hansoku Make.



## Safety:

- Summary: Bridging to avoid a back landing will be now penalized with Hansoku Make to Uke versus being awarded Ippon to tori. While bridging will be a direct Hansoku Make, the competitor will only lose the match (similar to head diving). Landing on both elbows to avoid a back landing will now be awarded a Waza-ari in order to prevent injuries. Landing on one elbow will not be scored. Any action to avoid competing or purposefully attempting to avoid competing to utilize time on the clock will be considered acting against the spirit of judo and will be penalized with Hansoku Make.
- 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 Hansokumake (Part bridge in Article 20). Bridging is when the chin is extended away from the chest. Reaching with the head, stretching the neck out, not protecting the head and/or neck can/should is considered as bridging.
- The competitor loses this contest, but can continue in the competition in applicable. The competitor loses this contest, but may continue in the competition if the situation in the tournament system allows it.
- In order not to give a bad example for young judokas, the landing on both elbows is considered valid and evaluated as Waza-ari.
- Landing on only one elbow is invalid and can not be used for assessment. Uke's elbow must be posted and torso must not touch tatami.
- Anti judo will be immediately penalized as an act against the spirit of Judo. No change. If an athlete is running to avoid competing in a judo contest or to escape from the opponent, that competitor will be considered as acting against the spirit of judo and will be penalized with Hansoku Make.

## Throw and counter-attack:

**Summary: In the case of a Kaeshiwaza situation (attack and counter-attack), the first competitor landing will be considered as thrown. If an appropriate score can be given, the referee will award a score. If the landing is unclear or a simultaneous landing, no Score will be awarded. Any actions taking place after landing will not be considered a Score, but will be considered as newaza.**

- In a case of attack and counter-attack the first competitor landing will be considered as thrown. If a score can be given, it will be assigned. This assumes that the initial attack results in throwing the opponent first as you are NOT able to successfully counter-attack and score if you are already being thrown. You cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.
- In case if the two athletes land together, no score will be given. Assuming that there is no clear control by either athlete.
- If an action is led by a competitor after the landing (Kaeshi-Waza), this action will not be counted. You cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.
- Any action after landing will be considered as a Ne-Waza action. Again, you cannot throw and score after you've been thrown first.

#### **Judo gi:**

**Summary: Competitors will fix their judo gis between the time when Matte is called. The referee will not signal to fix judo gis, rather all competitors are expected to simply fix their judo gis when the referee indicates Matte.**

- 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 Judo gi and belt quickly between Matte and Hajime announced by the referee. Apply strictly to make sure that the competitor shall automatically fix their judo gi between Mate and Hajime. If an athlete does not comply with this requirement, they should be penalized with Shido.

#### **World Ranking Points:**

- The points will be modified. The document will be sent shortly.
- Juniors: the medalist of the Junior World Championships will get points in the Senior World Ranking List for this event only.

#### **Bernd Achilles, Referee Director, IJF, reminded the referees that:**

- No mouth pieces will be used in competition. Important to note that USA Judo allows athletes to use mouthpieces in domestic competition ONLY. IJF & PJC events hosted in the USA do NOT allow the use of mouthpieces as they are conducted using the full IJF rules. For example: the 3rd (international) day of the Junior Olympics (PJC & IJF point event).