

British Judo Association Annual Report - Refereeing

In my report last year, I made the comment that 2022 had been a quiet year for many of our team. In 2022, our entire team was only able to attend two events. We managed to increase that this year to three events:-

- Development in January,
- Green Belt and Under in May and
- Area closed in October

I also made the comment that we needed **YOUR** help in order to keep our regional officials busy. With only three events per year, it is extremely difficult to maintain and build upon the skillset that our referees have and many have a desire to progress to the next level. Without more events, we are going to find it increasingly difficult to recruit and maintain referees.

In 2021, we had 21 registered and qualified referees. That dropped to 20 in 2022 but many of this list were inactive and were removed from the list kept with head office.

We now have just 10 active referees which is one down on last year. These are

- 1x IJF Continental
- 2x National B
- 3x National C
- 2x Area
- 2x Club

As the referee in charge for a large number of competitions, I receive lots of comments from various sources. Some coaches often say that they would never want to do this role and are thankful for those that will. Others are less supportive and are quick to criticise. Without the support of area clubs, those referees that only get one or two opportunities per year to practice are likely not going to progress.

In contrast, in 2023, even after spending more than 5 weeks in Sydney and Bangalore, I still attended more than 30 tournaments in 2023 and today's event is my 16th since the beginning of the year!

If you can help us to run more tournaments, I am hopeful that by the end of the decade, we can have more than 20 active referees across the various levels.

Mark Waterhouse
EA Director of Referees
May 2024