

The Center of the Ring
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Greetings and welcome to the first installment of the Referee Development Program e-newsletter for 2009. The new year promises to bring a lot of change in the country, and the sport of Taekwondo is following suit. As a result, we wanted to take this opportunity to inform our referees of the changes that are here or are on the horizon so that they can be prepared when they step into the competition arena.

New WTF competition rule changes have been approved and were first introduced at the 53rd WTF International Kyorugi Referee Seminar and 62nd International Kyorugi Referee Refresher Course hosted by USAT at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. These seminars were held on February 7-10, 2009, with over 80 referees participating in the Referee Seminar, and approximately 160 referees participating in the Refresher Course.



The 53rd WTF International Referee Seminar and 62nd International Referee Refresher Course

The main parts of the new rule changes deal with changes in the following areas:

- 1. Points (1, 2, or 3 depending upon the technique applied and scoring area)
- 2. Video Review
- 3. Ring dimensions (8 x 8 rings)
- 4. Rule violations
 - - Lifting the knee
 - - 10 second rule
 - - Turning the back

These rules will be enacted at international competitions by the WTF beginning later this year. In order for U.S. Referees to continue to be at the forefront of refereeing, it is important to learn about these new rule changes and for us to be prepared to apply them at domestic events that take place *after* the Junior Olympic Nationals this year.

There will be many opportunities to learn about these new rules in more detail through referee certification/refresher courses that are offered throughout the country. For details on the seminars nearest you, please make sure you look at the Referee Seminar page on the USAT website at,

<http://www.usa-taekwondo.us/content/index/2534>. By attending and participating in one of the referee seminar/refreshers, one can stay current in their skills, learn the latest, and be eligible for possible promotion within the Referee Corps.

Speaking of Las Vegas, this past February the U.S. Open was the largest U.S. Open in the history of this event with 1932 competitors from all over the world converging at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas. This year's event was also a WTF "ranking" event, meaning that competitors earned points toward world rankings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the U.S. referees who served at this event and extend congratulations to Elva Adams of Texas for earning one of the Outstanding Referee Awards. We are proud to have a U.S. referee earn the award among a group of world-class referees. Also, we would like to extend a special note of gratitude to the entire Marlow family for all of their time, effort and support throughout the entire week that the IR Seminar and U.S. Open were taking place.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming National Qualifiers and National Championship events, and thank you in advance for your support and hard work in 2009.