Referees report

Throughout 2019, we held 9 events at Thetford which included the English Junior & Senior Open and the English Minors. It is testament to the work done by our hard working team that national events are consistently awarded to the Eastern Area as evidenced by the 2020 calendar.

As you may already be aware, rule changes only occur outside of the Olympic Games qualifying periods so I do not expect anything to change before April 2021. This gives us plenty of time to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to understand and adapt their just to the current ruleset. I know from personal experience that some returning judoka (and even one coach – not our area though!) are still perplexed by the lack of the yuko score.

Within the area, we currently have 23 registered referees; some of these are as a result of the courses run throughout the year and I welcome them to the refereeing community.
We also have access to a number of referees from other areas who are only too happy to have an invitation extended to them for our larger events.

This year has seen the introduction and publication of the National Activity and Rankings list from the BJA. I am delighted to report that a number of our referees are represented on this document and as the assessments become more regular, I hope that our area referees begin to extend their own rating thereby allowing them access to larger tournaments.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate our referees who have attained a higher rank this year; Anthony Devoy (National C), Andrew Gadsby (Area), Maria Bang (Area) and Jasmine Anderson (Area).

Finally, I would like to thank every referee, competition official, first aid team, coaches, judoka and all of the parents for making 2019 such a success. I hope you enjoyed the special trophies which we provided for the Area Closed Championships; I know I'm happy to have the space in my garage back 😊

Happy New Year to you all
Hajimme

Mark Waterhouse. BJA National A Referee
BJA Eastern Area Refereeing Representative