

Umpire/Referee Book Overview

For those who are familiar with the ITF rules for tournaments and for referees, I have highlighted the major changes so you don't have to wade through the entire book. A number of discrepancies, omissions, and general lack of explanations were most evident in the ITF book.

- Dress is a dark blue golf shirt with embroidery of the ICTF logo on the left front chest area, which will be supplied when people take the course. Black slacks and white runners finish the ensemble.
- There will be a written test consisting of 50 questions. Applicants must achieve 80, 90, or 100 percent for levels C, B, and A respectively.
- Official safety gear will include the foam-dipped helmet for all ages. This is to ensure an athlete's safety in case of a fall to the floor.
- In the ITF many infractions were both warnings or minus points depending on the referee's judgment. In the ICTF we only have two calls that can either be a warning or a minus point and the first infraction is the only time it is a warning. All other calls are only warnings OR minus points, not both. Fewer judgments are left up to the referee.
- There are 3 new calls under the warning category. They are interference from outside the ring, like coaches and parents, failing to listen to the referee, and charging. There are 2 new calls under the minus point category. They are illegal technique, and failing to listen to the referee (2nd time). There is 1 new call for a disqualification category. It is unsportsmanlike conduct, which would include disrespect to the referee, the opponent, and the art.
- Excessive punching will be a corner judge call. Here if more than four punches are thrown the judge should not award any points. This will reduce the slug fests that are currently overtaking the competitions. This will also hopefully lessen the excessive hits and blood being drawn due to fewer punches to the face.
- Charging is all too common where an athlete rushes forward with no regard to their own safety. The opponent often controls their own defense so as not to hurt the rushing in aggressor, but then usually gets a number of points against them due to the original athletes' aggressive attack. The control displayed by the defender is not rewarded but the aggressive attacker is, with many points. A different result in this situation is the attacker being jammed hard and injured or winded. The defender then is warned for contact. Either way the wrong party is being chastised. The aggressive attacker must be controlled.
- Drawing of blood is the biggest issue in today's tournaments. The above noted changes will help in reducing the number of occurrences but they will still happen. At the colour belt level any blood drawn from a punch or kick should result in a disqualification. Accidental bumps, being hit with your own arm, previous nose bleeds, and other grey areas must be determined by the referee on a case by case basis.
- Black belt divisions should be more lenient but still watched carefully. If blood is drawn the offending person's attack must be determined. Was it while moving forward, stationary or retreating?

The call would generally follow as a disqualification if they were moving forward, a minus point if they were standing still, and warning if they were moving backward. This allows some leeway for blood drawn but still sanctions the athlete and cautions them to have better control. Discussion with corners and even video play back should be allowed for these types of calls.

- Team breaking will not have special technique breaking. The time consumed and the audience disinterest for this type of breaking shows it is not needed or required.
- An additional weight category has been added and the weight categories have been updated. Please review them and send me your comments.

Once this booklet has been reviewed please send in your questions and comments. We need to start training our referees and umpires NOW.

The course expenses would include:

Instructor	\$500 professional fee
Book	\$5 each
Golf shirt	\$15 each
Certificate	\$10 each
Travel for instructor	\$???
Hotel/food	\$???

One referee/umpire hard costs would be \$30.

A suggested fee would be to range it from \$75 to \$100 depending on expenses for travel and hotel/food. The golf shirt, certificate and book should be included in the course fee.

Craig Stanley
Chair, Tournament/Umpire committee
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