

WTF Association of Canada Referee Chair 2008 Action Plan

1. Introduction. Since the election on 2 July in Saint John NB, I have sought feedback from coaches, referees, athletes, and members of national and provincial associations. With their concerns in mind, your guidance and that of the members of the executive, and my own experience and observations, I have developed this action plan. The following areas will be the focus of my plan to improve overall referee performance to ensure that our athletes get the best and fairest officiating we can provide in an amateur sport with volunteer part-time officials.
2. Realistic and practical refresher training before major events. The Regina Olympic Trials will take place 8 months after the last national event and in an Olympic year, every point in every match will be important. Refresher training will include using actual practise matches with scoring equipment, video review of referee signals and movement, and calibration of scoring criteria between referees and rings. The extra first night at the venue hotel has been discussed with the SG and he approves. The venue preparations were done when I visited in August with the organizing committee.
3. Number of referees per mat: To keep balanced provincial representation, allow time for breaks while maintaining the flow of tournaments, and because of the weigh-in and inspection desk tasks, events require seven officials per ring to run each ring, with two extra for weigh-in, inspection desk, etc, plus two mentors and Referee Chairman. The formula for an event then is 9 officials per ring x number of rings plus three. For a four-ring tournament, 39 referees would be required. For a three ring tournament, 30.
4. Referee Mentor Program: No system exists now to develop and improve referees. With my referee mentor program, each referee will be observed and mentored individually during events. Two senior IR s are required and they will also be available for the Competition Supervisory Board (Arbitration Board).
5. Referee Policy: This was never distributed since it was written last year. It is now available on the referee tab on the web site.
6. Referee Code of Conduct. This will be based on the WTF C Code of conduct and will be reviewed and signed by all referees prior to events.
7. IR Development List. Following discussions with the SG and in line with the concerns expressed to PATU about Canadian IR selection, developing IR s who are 2nd or 3rd Class that want to officiate internationally will so indicate on the referee registration form. The letter can be sent to WTF and PATU outlining whom WTF C supports. This will allow the association to have more influence in the selection of officials for international events and bring more fairness and transparency to this area.
8. Communications Strategy: A tab has been placed on the WTF C website in order to provide regular updates and receive news and information from the referee community. The referee policy, upcoming international seminars and events, and Referee Chair notes are the kinds of information that will be placed there with executive approval.
9. Expenses: At the AGM discussion of referee expenses for 2006-2007 noted that this was partly due to an extraordinary number of national and international unforecast events. Referees are volunteers, and often pay out of their own pocket miscellaneous expenses, and we should not change the current policy for travel expenses. We can reduce expenses by:

- a. Canvassing early for event participation and confirm names as far in advance as possible in order to reduce flight costs (3-4 months in advance, i.e. 10 October for Regina); and
 - b. Have the national office use a single national travel agency in order to maintain oversight and gain the flexibility and advantages of a corporate account. Changes would also be more easily done with a single agent at less expense. I have made this recommendation to the SG.
10. National Seminars. I will run one-day seminars with a second day of practical testing during a black belt tournament. On the second day, IR instructors will assess the seminar participants on their practical skills. This provides referees for events, and allows a practical venue to confirm skills before a national event. The details are tbc, but I plan to conduct seminars Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and possibly Saskatchewan over the next year.
11. Referee Committee: The team that I wish to lead to move us forward into the Olympic year is the following:
- a. Vice Chair-East: Mr. Tim Bell;
 - b. Vice Chair-Quebec: Mr. Stephane Menard.
 - c. Vice Chair-Ontario: Mrs. Barbara Marion;
 - d. Vice Chair-West: Mr. Gilles Leclerc; and
 - e. Referee Secretary: Mrs. Karen Armour.
12. Conclusion: This concludes my plan for the year 2008 for which I will need the support of the executive and board to succeed. I will assume you concur unless I receive specific direction otherwise. In order to reduce expenses and get annual registration underway, I will move forward with this plan and use the attached amended referee registration form that will be posted on the site as soon as possible in order to get referee registration started by 24 September.

MM Kenneally

WTF C Referee Chairman