



Most difficult aspect about refereeing?

At the higher levels, athletes are more evenly matched, and the fights are more contentious. The slightest tactical error could mean a shido and the difference between a gold medal and open doors, or not. The most difficult part of refereeing is not every match ends in a beautiful ippon victory.

The most memorable match you have refereed?

I was fortunate to be selected to referee the first ne-waza championships at Nationals. There was a fighter from Saskatchewan who could overcome and apply a choke in less than 15 seconds into the match, so quick the opponent was unconscious before he even realized he was in danger. In submission moves, the referee needs to calmly observe the action play out, but respond quickly to keep the athletes safe.

What are the top three things a judo player should know if they are interested in getting involved in refereeing?

1. The rules are designed to keep athletes safe and encourage action-packed judo. The details are logical if you follow that spirit.
2. Forget the athletes' names & faces during the match: it is simply White Vs. Blue. One of them is trying to win; the other is trying not to lose.
3. Katsuta Kup (Raymond) has the best volunteer lounge.

What are your future goals in refereeing?

I love traveling and meeting new people through judo - I hope to referee overseas and experience tournaments on other continents.



What do you enjoy the most about refereeing?

In matches with inexperienced fighters, there are many teachable moments. In matches with experienced fighters, the referee gets a great view of the action and beautiful techniques. My own judo has evolved by seeing techniques and strategies, and by getting a better understanding of the “bigger picture” of judo rules.