

## Judo BC 2014 AGM Round Table Discussions

### 1. Increasing Tournament Participation

- costs – decrease costs especially associated with travel costs
  - o cost versus value
  - o registration costs
  - o reward for participants outside the top three
  - o demos with guaranteed three times on mat (novice level)
  - o 2/3 tournament 1/3 clinic format (all ages)
  - o Provincial level athletes are scheduling in Province selection tournaments as well as out of Province tournaments
- teens – tailored to teens/females
- kata and masters kata at all tournaments; keeps kata participants training all year
- healthy and fit messaging on top of competition
- selection tournaments in province to cut down costs → move them to multiple regions
- encourage the non-competitive
- increasing white belt competition/participation
  - o helps the hosts as well
  - o increases numbers
  - o interclub shiai that is regional with clinic after and certificate of participation (ages 6 +, adults participated because shy to go all the way to Vancouver to try a Masters tournament, easy stepping stone) – friendly and social
  - o award presentation not at the very end (have to wait around)
  - o everyone get trophies
- tournament participation decrease may actually be a result of increased participation in clubs who are non-competitive
- harness the networking of kids when they go to tournaments – the social experience needs to be promoting
- more tournaments throughout the Province – they need to be easier to run for the hosts
  - o if all had new mats that roll out
  - o hauling mats is a lot of man power and cost
  - o organizational barriers are deterring clubs from running tournaments
  - o help each other
- make tournaments more parent and children friendly
  - o run by time (age divisions go for set time) can do up to U12 age group
  - o use a mat manager to organize the divisions/mats
  - o give more value
  - o weigh ins need to be more efficient
  - o SURVEY parents about what they want – how do we access those parents – through the clubs – email mandatory field
- every tournament should be point-able

- depending on level just make it less points
  - encourages people to run them and to attend them
  - if not deemed selection tournament then participants aren't coming
- more fun camps because they will make friends and then look forward to seeing them at the tournament
- Vancouver Island series that is very low cost and fun focused and the participants get lots of fights – growing the grass roots
- Have to sell the value of what the weekend offers – the costs associated with traveling is relatively fixed
  - Sell the package – experience the region – to the parent of what their kids can get to experience
  - The Judo Family – for kids to get connected and see each other on the weekends
- Judo KIDS tournaments/circuit and points for kids that they can collect or accumulate
  - Introduce a Judo BC Kids passport
- More participation in local tournaments
- Media – everyone needs an idol
  - Profile our athletes
- standardize tournaments
- have the more senior people fight earlier in the day so the kids can see what the big fights look like – see what judo looks like

## **2. Increasing Referee Participation**

- junior referee program – tournaments for little kids that the clubs can provide younger referees to get experience
  - teenagers supported by other referees
  - Prince George has blue and brown belts who do it
  - The coaches don't know how to teach their students to referee so there needs to be more access for younger referees to gain experience/basics
- Big barrier is criticism from athletes and coaches, referee committee/senior referees
  - Role of the referee in the novice position would be basic calls with safety in mind
- Providing packages for referees to give them feelings of value
- Nothing in syllabus to promote refereeing
  - Clubs implements the refereeing experience to get ikkyu
  - Relax on dress code
- Get age/belt restrictions adapted relaxed
- Athlete development – referees need to be promoted as part of judo
- Deterred from returning because of the IJF coaches rule – coaches can only coach
- Young referees deterred by getting yelled at by athletes, coaches, parents, senior referees
- Okanagan interclub shiai was a great avenue to get inexperienced referees experience and add in a mini clinic (informal and non threatening) to get people involved

- Recognition and appreciation – a little goes a long way
  - Stipend for teen refs
- Workload for refs – with few there the refs feel very overloaded
- Grass roots needs to be better promoted and used
- Pauper sport mentality – humble – we have chosen to develop athlete development and there isn't the same support referees
- Financial obligation for the referees to keep improving is very high – at the local level there has to be some sort of offset for cost to be there
- Perceived value – the money might not be the issue
- Let the referee officiate at the level they are comfortable
- Allow to work for the time they are available – can coordinate with the time specific divisions
  - Three streams – coach, athlete, referee
  - There needs to be a development pathway with a plan and recognizing the cost
    - Get to have travelling experiences
- Mentoring
- Incentives
- There is no safety net because there is only one ref on the mat now
- Clear objectives, unwritten rules? Make the pathway more transparent
  - Grading restricts participation
  - Rules need to stay somewhat consistent
- Master and kata athletes can be recruited
- Head piece/radio system deters older referees
- Younger refs can ref kids as long as they are supervised
- The two minute continuous matches are not explained and are not working
  - Older referees are not being asked to mentor
- Last few years have been focused on NCCP
  - Can referees be added into curriculum
- Judo Canada – we need to push through to Judo Canada to make sure our referees get support