

KARATE NOVA SCOTIA

Officials Report

Annual General Meeting - 2022

Officials Report

Good day everyone,

Obviously, these last few years, with covid, have had a negative impact on our official's committee. This is mostly because there have not been any competitions in that time. Besides that, as you are all aware, we have had a major shift in the leadership / operation of the committee.

I would like to, at this time, formally thank Mr. David Griffin for his efforts over the years to build up the KNS pool of officials and set a high standard for officiating in this province. I would also like to offer my congratulations for having achieved the highest licenses this province has ever seen; WKF kata judge "A" and WKF kumite judge "B". This is a phenomenal achievement. Mr. Griffin stepped down from the committee in the spring of last year and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

Since that time there have been many changes in the functioning of the committee. Milton Bourque was selected as Chief Referee and the committee has been very active since that time. The following is a list of items the committee has addressed:

- The creation of an entry level training video for kumite officials
- The creation of a training video for kata officials
- The adoption of a rule set for judging kobudo in KNS competitions
- Update of KNS Official's Handbook including entry level judging for kata and kumite starting at 14 years old
- Develop Ippon kumite for 6/7-year old's for use in KNS competitions
- Drafted a set of protocols for officiating kumite matches using 2/3 corner judges
- Drafted a procedure for an official to notify members of an officiating panel when an error (addition or omission of technique(s)) has been observed
- Adopted the "standing bow" as the official congratulatory gesture replacing all other methods
- Completed 2 virtual tournaments including the 2021 Yarmouth Cup
- Completed 2 provincial official certification clinics (4 new officials were certified)
- Organized the officials for the KNS provincial competition in Fall River NS (very successful)

As you can see, the officials committee has been busy. We still have several projects we are currently working on including a training video for kobudo judges and a move towards allowing judges to indicate contact penalties on their own initiative. It is interesting to note that Karate Canada has just released procedures for officiating kumite matches with 2 corner judges (almost identical to ours) and as well has made amendments to allow corner judges to signal for contact on their own initiative, in the junior divisions. It is good to see that we are on the same page.

Moving forward, the officials committee is working on several initiatives aimed at making officiating more appealing in the hopes of increasing the number of qualified officials in the province. At the end of the day, however, there are very few venues that can accommodate more than 3 competition surfaces and we will have to look at other options to keep our tournaments manageable timewise.

Respectfully,

Milton Bourque
KNS Chief Referee