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FIAS Executive Committee
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International SAMBO Federation (FIAS)



FIAS REGULATIONS ON SAMBO REFEREES

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GLOSSARY

Basic terms used in the Regulations:

- **certification** – the process of determining if a certification candidate's qualification complies with the certification requirements;
- **certification activities** – a set of measures related to the certification procedure;
- **certification commission** – a collegial body made up of specialists and experts and aimed at providing the certification activities;
- **certification requirements** – the established rules, regulations and standards that are mandatory to meet in order to be assigned a certain qualifying rank and certification document (certificate);
- **qualifying rank** – the level of compliance with the certification criteria;
- **certification criteria** – a set of principles and attributes used to define the qualification level;
- **CSF** – continental SAMBO federation;
- **NSF** – national SAMBO federation;
- **register of qualifying ranks** – the list of categories and ranks distributed in accordance with the stages of training activities;
- **certificate** – an official document that confirms a certain qualification and status;
- **certification candidate** – a person undergoing the certification procedure;
- **FIAS** – International SAMBO Federation;
- **chevron** – an insignia confirming the presence of a coach qualifying rank;
- **expert** – a person that has a certain level of theoretical knowledge and practical skills of SAMBO, and is entitled to conduct the certification procedure.

PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This Regulation establishes a certification procedure for SAMBO officials.
2. The purpose of the certification activities is creation and improvement of legal and organizational conditions for further integration of SAMBO into the global sports community.
3. The main tasks of the certification activities in SAMBO are:
 - to introduce the international system of referee certification;
 - to introduce the international SAMBO terminology;
 - to increase the professional competence of SAMBO referees.
4. The main principles of the certification activities in SAMBO are:
 - collegiality, openness and fairness of the certification procedure;
 - equality in applying the requirements to all certification participants;
 - common access to information for all certification participants;
 - voluntary basis of the certification procedure.
5. The certification commission shall have the right to conduct the certification procedure.
6. The contents of this Regulation shall be publicly available for all stakeholders.

PART II. SAMBO REFEREES CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE

Article 1. Qualifying ranks

1. There are three qualifying ranks (levels) of referees in SAMBO:
 - a. Nationally certified referee – NSF level;
 - b. Internationally certified referee, 'category B' – CSF level;
 - c. Internationally certified referee, 'category A' – FIAS level.
2. Breast chevrons (**Annex 1**) are used for designation of ranks and put on referee's uniform in accordance with **Annex 1**.
3. The referee's qualifying rank is confirmed by the corresponding certificate.

Article 2. Certification participants

1. Certification participants are:
 - a. certification commission (FIAS level) – hereinafter referred to as MCC;
 - b. certification candidates.
2. MCC has the right to assign the title of internationally certified referees.
3. MCC exercises the following functions:
 - a. organize and conduct the certification procedure;
 - b. monitor the level of referees' professional qualification;
 - c. notify certification candidates of any changes made to the certification procedure;
 - d. keep record of the certification results;
 - e. be responsible for maintaining the FIAS certification register;
 - f. observe reporting practices by regular provision of certification data.
4. MCC is created for the duration of certification procedure (referees' seminar).
5. MCC composition is to be approved by the Chairperson of FIAS Technical Commission.

6. MCC is composed of internationally certified experts (at least three); one of them is elected as the Chairman, and one as the secretary.
7. MCC experts' qualification must be at least of Internationally Certified Referee, category A.
8. Experts' responsibilities:
 - a. increase the level of professional qualification;
 - b. maintain intense refereeing and academic/methodological activities;
 - c. take part in the certification procedure.
9. All MCC members perform their duties in accordance with orders and directives of the Chairperson.
10. Certification candidates are SAMBO referees.

Article 3. Conditions for assignment of 'Internationally certified Referee' status

1. The main form of compliance assessment is an examination.
2. The examination consists of the following parts:
 - a. Practice – the analysis of video records and evaluation of various situations during competitive bouts;
 - b. Theory – testing the knowledge of international SAMBO rules and terminology.
5. Each qualification stage corresponds with a minimum set of requirements for each area of preparation.
6. Knowledge is assessed by testing with automatic grading software.
7. Each examination paper contains 20 questions: 10 for the practice part and for the theory part.
8. Maximum exam score is 20.
9. As the certification procedure is complete, the average score must be at least 17.
10. In certain cases, the candidate may be asked a leading or additional question from any area in order to check up their knowledge level.

Article 4. Procedure for assignment of the 'Internationally certified Referee' status

1. Certification for assignment of the 'Internationally certified Referee' status is conducted by the Main Certification Commission (FIAS level).
2. In order to carry out the certification procedure for assignment of the 'Internationally certified Referee' status, FIAS organizes an international referees' seminar (hereinafter referred to as Seminar).
3. The date of the Seminar is to be approved by the Chairperson of FIAS Technical Commission, and is included into the calendar plan of FIAS sports events.
4. The Regulation on the Seminar shall be added to the FIAS database and posted on the FIAS official website.
5. The seeker of the 'Internationally certified Referee' status must meet all the conditions according to the Regulation on the Seminar.
6. Participants' registration at the Seminar shall be carried out on the basis of NSF's online applications filled out in the FIAS database.
7. At the end of the Seminar, the certification procedure is carried out.
8. The referees' Seminar is held in English.
9. The MCC Secretary adds the certification results into FIAS database as a Certification Protocol.
10. With reference to the Certification Protocol form confirmed in the FIAS database, the referee who has successfully passed the examination is granted a corresponding qualifying rank.

11. At the end of the Seminar, the Chairperson of the Certification Commission, following the final protocol, hands over certificates and chevrons to the referees who have successfully passed the exams, assigning them with a corresponding qualifying rank.
12. The referees who failed the examination are granted participation certificates.
13. The certificates and chevrons are manufactured at the expense of FIAS.
14. The certification results shall be added to the FIAS database and posted on the FIAS official website.
15. Participation in the Seminar shall cost 50 USD and be paid by the candidate via the FIAS database or during the accreditation procedure at the Seminar.
16. The funds collected during the certification shall be spent on the organization and staging of the Seminar.
17. A candidate may not be assigned with any subsequent rank if they do not have the previous one.

Article 5. The FIAS ‘Internationally certified Referee’ status

1. The FIAS Internationally certified Referee is a status that gives the referee exclusive privileges, the most important of which is the right to officiate international SAMBO events.
2. Officiating at SAMBO events is the exclusive right of a FIAS Internationally certified Referee, their main mission and honorary duty.
3. All members of the international SAMBO community (heads of federations, coaches, athletes etc.) recognize the FIAS Internationally certified Referee’s status as a symbol of impartiality and competence.
4. In their professional activity, Internationally certified Referees are guided by FIAS Officiating Rules and FIAS Referees Code of Conduct.

Article 6. Rights and responsibilities of a FIAS Internationally certified Referee

1. FIAS Internationally certified Referees shall:
 - know and strictly observe the FIAS International Rules;
 - objectively and impartially resolve any issues arising during SAMBO events;
 - improve their refereeing skills and increase their fitness level;
 - improve their English and knowledge of English SAMBO terminology;
 - according to their position at FIAS events, prepare a report on work performed by each member of the referees’ board, as outlined in the FIAS Officiating Rules;
 - regularly (once every 2 years) prove their competence by passing a comprehensive examination and taking part in officiating international SAMBO events;
 - participate in organization and staging of referees’ international seminars;
 - have the FIAS referee uniform, keep it in good condition (perfectly fit, clean and ironed);
 - actively promote staging of top-level SAMBO events;
 - represent an example for their colleagues and be respected by athletes and coaches;
 - respect other people’s views and develop the ability to self-reflect;
 - retain their dignity and keep temper while performing their official duties and in everyday life;
 - represent an example of referees’ ethical principles and defend them.
2. FIAS Internationally certified Referee shall have the right to:

- participate in officiating SAMBO events;
- participate in referees' seminars;
- acquire referees' uniform and chevrons in accordance with the assigned qualifying rank;
- receive payments and rewards for officiating, depending on the title and referee's rank;
- deal with the problem of absence from the primary place of employment (for a valid reason) in order to take part in officiating SAMBO events when summoned by FIAS;
- apply to FIAS as the period of disqualification or referee status revocation is over, in order to request FIAS to lift the penalty or restore them to their rank.

Article 7. Disciplinary penalties

1. In case of non-fulfilment or improper fulfilment of referees' duties, the following sanctions may be applied to the referee:
 - warning –getting three warnings within a period covered may be a reason to revoke the referee's Internationally certified referee status or reduce it to a lower rank;
 - suspension from officiating SAMBO events for misconduct or violating referees' code of ethics may be a reason to revoke the referee's Internationally certified referee status;
 - disqualification – suspension from performing professional duties for a term set by the FIAS disciplinary commission;
 - reducing to a lower referee rank – for making gross referee mistakes at SAMBO events or referees' Seminar due to lack of competence;
 - revocation of the referee status for misconduct or actions contradicting the Referee Code of Ethics and discrediting the status of FIAS Internationally certified Referee.
2. Referees' misconduct is reviewed by the disciplinary commission within a month after the violation occurred.
3. The disciplinary commission formalizes the decisions taken in accordance with the established procedure.

Article 8. Referees' awards

1. For an active and flawless performance of the referee duties a referee may be awarded.
2. Best FIAS referees are decided at the end of the season.
3. The FIAS referee leaderboard (rating) is formed during the season, according to the reports made by Chief Referee of the event and their deputies.
4. FIAS referee rating is a classified document and only the final leaderboard of the current season may be made publicly available.
5. The following kinds of awards are provided, according to the leaderboard scores:
 - diplomas;
 - commemorative and valuable awards launched by the FIAS as well as the organizations that organize the events;
 - prize money provided by FIAS;
 - inclusion into the list of best FIAS referees at the end of the year.
6. The referee award ceremony takes place at the World Championships.

PART III. FIAS REFEREE CODE OF ETHICS

Article 9. General provisions.

1. The FIAS Referee Code of Ethics establishes the rules of conduct mandatory for every FIAS Internationally certified Referee (hereinafter referred to as Referee) when performing their professional work and outside it, and based on high ethical and moral principles and international standards in the field of sports officiating and sports referee conduct.
2. The provisions of the FIAS Referee Code of Ethics that establish strict moral and ethical requirements for Referees, are conditioned by their status, the fact that Referees have the right of assessment, and their exclusive rights to make a final decision on a controversial issue during the competition.
3. The FIAS Referee Code of Ethics applies to every FIAS Referee.
4. Heads of referees' commissions shall bring the content of the FIAS Referee Code of Ethics to the attention of all referees, secretaries, heads of national referees' commissions, as well as representatives of national SAMBO federations.

Article 10. General referee conduct rules

1. While performing their professional duties, a referee must hold that an impartial resolution of a controversial issue during the competition determines the meaning and content of a sports referee's profession.
2. While performing their official duties and in everyday life a Referee must follow the principles and rules of conduct set by the FIAS Referee Code of Conduct and generally accepted moral and ethical standards, as well as strictly adhere to the Oath of Referee.
3. Adherence to the FIAS Referee Code of Conduct must be a Referee's inner conviction, the rule of their life, must contribute to strengthening the trust of sport community to the referees' board, and to the fact that the competition is officiated competently, independently, impartially and fairly.
4. A Referee must comply with high ethical and moral standards, be honest, retain their dignity under any circumstances, value their honor, and avoid anything that could smirch the authority of the referees' board and damage the Referee's reputation.
5. A Referee must not do anything nor give others a reason to do anything that would raise doubts as to the Referee's independence and impartiality.

Article 11. FIAS referee ethical principles

The Referee Code of Ethics is underpinned by the following principles that determine the rules of professional conduct of a Referee:

The principle of independence is a prerequisite to the provision of supremacy of International SAMBO Rules when officiating, and the main guarantee of fair refereeing.

1. A Referee must perform their professional duties in strict accordance with the Rules, proceeding from their inner conviction and not falling under any influence.
2. When officiating a bout, a Referee must be independent and impartial towards both athletes, regardless of any external influence, pressure, threats or other kinds of direct or indirect interference into the officiating.

3. A Referee must notify the head of the referees' board of any circumstances that may put the Referee in a situation of conflict of interest.

4. A Referee must notify the head of the referees' board of any attempts to influence them, to directly or indirectly press on them in order to affect their opinion or decision.

5. It is Referee's responsibility to follow the principle of independence.

The principle of objectivity and impartiality is a prerequisite to proper officiating.

1. When performing their professional duties, a Referee must be free from any preferences, prejudice or partiality, and seek to preclude any doubts as to their neutrality.

2. A Referee must promote the maintenance of the sports community's confidence in the objectivity and impartiality of the Referee and the referees' board.

The principle of equality (ensuring equal and uniform treatment of all athletes, coaches etc., participating in the event) is a prerequisite to objective and impartial officiating.

1. When performing their duties, a Referee must be guided by the principle of equality; maintain balance between the parties, providing equal opportunity to each; pay equal attention to all participants of the event, without distinction as to their sex, race, nationality, language, origin, place of residence, religion, beliefs, and other circumstances.

2. A Referee must treat their colleagues and participants of the event with courtesy; have respect for ethical habits and traditions of various peoples; be sensitive to cultural and other perceptions of various ethnic and social groups and religions; prevent any conflicts that may damage the Referee's reputation or the authority of the referees' board.

3. A Referee must perform their duties without any preference and without any real or visible partiality and discrimination.

4. When performing their professional duties, a Referee must not actively manifest their religious beliefs and demonstrate their religious affiliation.

The principle of competence and good faith. It is a prerequisite to the proper performance of a Referee's duties.

1. A Referee must perform their duties in good faith and with high professionalism.

2. A Referee must maintain their qualification at a high level, expand their professional knowledge, improve their practical and soft skills, required to properly perform their duties.

3. A Referee must be aware of all the changes to the FIAS Officiating Rules and take the lead in making the changes.

4. A Referee must abide by professional culture of conduct at sports events; maintain order in the referees' board's work at sports events; treat the participants of the event decently, patiently and politely.

5. In order to improve their competence, a Referee must use self-study opportunities and repeatedly take advanced training courses.

6. If, during a competition, a Referee receives organizational/management authority (Chief Referee, Deputy Chief Referee), they must:

a) perform the administrative duties in good faith;

b) ensure an even distribution of workload between Referees;

c) be tactful and even-tempered in relation to their colleagues and all participants of the event;

d) tolerate criticism addressed to Referee's actions; prevent direct or indirect persecution for such criticism;

- e) be fair and impartial when assessing their colleagues' actions;
- f) eliminate any opportunity of illegal favor, undeserved reward, and connivance (not taking measures in case of a faulty action or a foul);
- g) be an example for their colleagues and strictly adhere to the regulation of the FIAS Referee Code of Ethics.

Principle of proactivity is a prerequisite to a referee's professional growth.

1. A Referee must seek to improve their refereeing skills and expand their professional knowledge.
2. In their pursuance of self-improvement, a Referee must represent an example for their colleagues.
3. As part of the community of sports referees, a Referee must strive to make a model image of Referee and refereeing culture.
4. A Referee must pursue an active lifestyle, take care of their health, keep fit and look perfect (haircut, neat uniform, trim figure, movements and poses).
5. A Referee must speak clearly, use common and professional terms, instill the culture of zero tolerance to offensive language.
6. The Referee's look, behavior and conduct must inspire respect from participants of the event, inspire trust to the referees' board and the officiating process itself.
7. A Referee must take part in the events aimed at improving the FIAS Officiating Rules, FIAS Sport Rules, as well as at organizing competitions and seminars.
8. A Referee must actively partake in seminars for coaches and referees, as well as in organization and staging of such events.
9. A Referee has the right to express their opinion, deliver reports and give lectures, take part in discussions, hearings, academic forums and conferences, write articles, study guides and books, as well as to work as a scientist and teacher.
10. A Referee must not violate the Oath of Referee, and must perform their professional duties in strict accordance with the Rules.

PART IV. OATH OF REFEREE

1. When being assigned the 'Internationally certified Referee' status, a Referee shall swear the Oath of Referee.
2. A Referee must know the words of the Oath of Referee by heart, and swear it at a solemn ceremony in presence of their colleagues.
3. The Oath of Referee goes as follows:

"I, Full Name, joining the ranks of FIAS Referees, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully discharge my duties, following the principles of the FIAS Referee Code of Ethics and FIAS Officiating Rules, be worthy of a FIAS Referee title, and respect the fundamental truth, People's trust in my competence, fairness and conscience».

4. As the Oath of Referee has been spoken, the Referee assumes their status.
5. A Referee who violates the Oath of Referee, betrays the trust of people and their colleagues.
6. For breaking the Oath of Referee, the Referee is deprived of the Internationally certified Referee status and is to be blamed by their colleagues and the whole SAMBO community.

Breast chevrons used to indicate degrees



Chevron
International category referee
class "A"



Chevron
International category referee
class «B»

The application of chevrons on the referee uniform

