



Southern Area Referee's Report

April 2025 – March 2026

Introduction

I am pleased to present my annual report as Southern Area Referee Representative, summarising the activity, development and progress of the refereeing section over the past year. The focus has remained on supporting the development of referees across the Southern Area, increasing communication, delivering education, and providing opportunities domestically, with representation abroad too. With Lisa Rivers lead tutor at the National Refereeing seminar at British Judo's Performance Centre in Walsall. We also saw Martin Rivers retiring from International refereeing.

The Area Refereeing Subcommittee would like to publicise the achievements of our International referees.

Lisa Rivers – International:

- Referee Supervisor - Istanbul Junior European Cup, May 2026
- IJF Grand Prix Upper Austria, March 2026
- Sarajevo Junior European Cup, February 2026
- IBSA European Championships, Georgia, September 2025
- Prague European Open, September 2025
- Tallinn European Open 2025, July 2025

SA International Referees have been active across Europe at various European Cups and Opens throughout the year. We had Steve Dunn refereeing at Venray and Graham Holmes refereeing at the US Open in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he was selected to referee two finals and a bronze contest, with one final being the last one for the event and three days. As well as our other Referees in the Area who have been active either in their county, area or nationally. Martin and Lisa also continue to work on the National Refereeing Commission, Lisa looking after the Complaints and Martin looking after the examinations.

Referee Numbers

- Total registered referees: **74**
- New referees: **8**
- Referees no longer active: **1**
- Promotions achieved: **6**
- New qualifications obtained: **14**
- Net increase/decrease: **-3**
- Candidates: 9

Overall, the Area has a strong group of senior referees who regularly support the Area and represent the Area at competitions around the country or abroad, with a new



younger group coming through. Unfortunately, there will be huge drop on referees who haven't meet the criteria for revalidation and have been contacted to advise this. We are aware some will be due to school exams or University etc. we have given everyone every opportunity to referee or take their practical exam.

Referee Courses

During the year we delivered the following educational opportunities Club/Area and National C Courses at Medway Park – Jan 26. With course being planned in the Channel Islands later in 2026 to help develop referees in the Islands.

Communication and Spond

Spond continues to be our primary communication platform in terms of inviting referees to the events, this was communicated with all the referees, including those that passed their theory exam in the Area via email.

The platform has significantly improved communication across the Southern Area and will continue to develop over the coming year.

Equipment and Technology

Since the change to the Fair Replay system as the CARE says at events in the Southern Area it has been a valuable asset for the referees and athletes, providing two angles for the referees.

Thanks

I would like to thank all our referees for their continued support at local, county, area and national and international events representing Southern Area and Country.

Graham Holmes

Southern Area Referee Representative