



EFFECTIVE AS OF  
01/04/2018

# REGULATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL REFEREEING



**WORLD CAPOEIRA FEDERATION**  
**REGULATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL REFEREEING**

<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>GENERAL PROVISIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1. REFEREE COMMISSION RULES</b>	
Rule 1 – task of the referee commission	4
Rule 2 – composition of the referee commission	4
Rule 3 – responsibilities and powers of referee commission	4-5
<b>CHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATION RULES</b>	
Rule 4 – organization of international referee course and examinations	6
Rule 5 – time and place of international referee course and examinations	6
Rule 6 – payments for international referee course and examinations	6
Rule 7 – host organization requirements & responsibilities	6-7
Rule 8 – requirements for candidates	7
Rule 9 – content of international referee course and examinations	7
Rule 10 – result of IRCE, issuance of licenses	8
Rule 11 – license validity	8
Rule 12 – classification	9
Rule 13 – validity and suspension of qualification	9
Rule 14 – condition of referee in competition	9-10
Rule 15 – honorary international referee	10
Rule 16 – uniform of international referee	10
<b>CHAPTER 3. REFEREEING RULES</b>	
Rule 17 – judges panel	11
Rule 18 – chief judge	12
Rule 19 – judge	13
Rule 20 – referee	13-14
Rule 21 – timekeeper	14
<b>MAIN TERMINOLOGY AND GESTURES OF REFEREE</b>	
	<b>15-16</b>

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Regulations on international refereeing (hereafter Regulations) of World Capoeira Federation (hereafter WCF) define the refereeing procedures, norms and system.

These Regulations are the bedrock of all activities in WCF related with International Referee and refereeing. It is aimed at determining conditions of ascription of the title of international referee; rights, duties and positions as well as categories and zone of competence of the international referee.

Management of the International Refereeing Issues is part of the WCF authorities. WCF is the only qualified body which can give the title of International Referee for the sport capoeira and can issue referees' licences and cards.

The WCF shall grant the qualification of "International Referee" to those who have successfully completed the International Referee Seminar and who have passed all the prerequisite examinations and criteria deemed necessary by the WCF.

WCF will regularly publish a list of authorized Referees, from which the organizers of international events will draw their Judges Panel.

### **Consideration of the Regulations for Male and Female**

If there is no otherwise, these regulations are the same for both male and female.

References to the male gender in these Regulations in respect of referees, officials and athletes are for simplification and apply to both male and female.

### **Official languages**

Due to official languages of the WCF these Rules published in English and Portuguese. If there is any divergence in the wording, the English text is authoritative.

### **Modifications**

In order to standardize the worldwide level of Refereeing, the Referee Commission and the Executive Board of WCF will update these regulations periodically.

### **Effectiveness**

All the existing Referees before the effective date of these regulations shall be considered to be recognized by these regulations.

These Regulations shall be effective as of **April 1st, 2018**.

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## CHAPTER 1. REFEREE COMMISSION RULES

### **RULE 1. TASK OF THE REFEREE COMMISSION**

1. The Referee Commission (hereinafter RC) is established for the training and examination of qualified international referees for sport capoeira.
2. The RC organizes courses for the training of referees and examinations in accordance with the procedure agreed with the WCF Executive Board.

### **RULE 2. COMPOSITION OF THE REFEREE COMMISSION**

1. RC consists of 8 members and the chairperson of commission. They are chosen on a permanent basis by the Executive Board of WCF and their activities can be suspended by the Executive Board or the President of the WCF.
2. The Chairperson organizes daily work of the RC office and directs the activities of the commission.
3. In addition to permanent members, the President of WCF appoints secretary of RC (if necessary, several secretaries), with no right to vote.
4. Requirements for candidates to be nominated for the Referee Commission are:
  - a) the experience in Capoeira should be at least 18 years;
  - b) members must be from different continents (at least 4 continents must be represented in the RC);
  - c) candidate shall have good background;
  - d) at least intermediate level of English speaking and writing skills.

### **RULE 3. RESPONSIBILITY AND POWER OF REFEREE COMMISSION**

1. RC will be responsible for organizing of courses, examinations and certification of International Referees.
2. RC elect the Chief Judge of international competition sanctioned or promoted by the WCF (hereafter Competition) from the list of International Referees with valid license. Before election of Chief Judge, RC coordinates the list of candidates with President of WCF and local organizing committee. The elected Chief Judge compiles a list of Judges Panel of the competition, submits for approval to RC.
3. During Competition, the RC controls the protection of refereeing rules and standards, as well as the correct wearing of uniforms.
4. The RC has a power to investigate and if required to take measurements against those Referees who were removed from Judges Panel by the Chief Judge of the competition.

5. The RC may suspend the license of the Referee for up to three years depending on the seriousness of the fault. Subsequently RC may demand a new Referee course and examination for the sanctioned Referee.
6. The RC shall convene meetings of its members in order to discuss Refereeing matters such as organizing of courses, examinations or implications of new rule.
7. All activities of the RC shall thoroughly reported to the President of WCF.

## CHAPTER 2. ADMINISTRATION RULES

### **RULE 4. ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL REFEREE COURSE AND EXAMINATIONS**

1. Decision on organization of International Referee course and examinations (called IRCE, if organized together as a single event) is accepted by RC with the consent of WCF President. The decision shall be accepted at least 6 months before the event. In particularly necessary cases, this period can be changed by the Executive Board of WCF.
2. The program and content of IRCE shall be announced at least 3 months in advance. The RC Secretariat will send "IRCE application form" to National Capoeira Federations.
3. IRCE is usually organized during great international Capoeira events. Sometimes it can be organized as a separate event.

### **RULE 5. TIME AND PLACE OF INTERNATIONAL REFEREE COURSE AND EXAMINATIONS**

1. "International Referee Course" and "International Referee Examinations" are usually held together, as a single event, however, if necessary, they can be organized separately based on RC's decision.
2. If IRCE is organized during a Competition, it shall be organized several days in advance and a place shall not be far from the headquarters of the Competition.
3. Chairperson of the RC or an authorized person designated by him shall visit the venue specified for the event and inspect its readiness level. If IRCE is organized during an international competition, then venue of IRCE is visited at the same time with the Competition venue. If IRCE is organized as a separate event, then the venue shall be visited at least two months in advance.

### **RULE 6. IRCE PAYMENTS**

1. IRCE participants shall pay the participation fees set by RC no later than the last day of registration.
2. Round trip airfare, accommodation charges of room and nutrition shall be borne by IRCE participant.

### **RULE 7. HOST ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The host organization will ensure that it is able to provide adequate facilities for IRCE.
2. Host organization of IRCE shall provide the followings on its own expense:
  - a) a hall (in good condition) with at least 50 seats and other necessary conditions;
  - b) Roda place and lines with diameter of 4 meters in the hall;
  - c) a projector and a appropriate screen for presentations in the hall; in case of a big hall and large audience a microphone system as well;
  - d) well-trained 20 athletes with at least 10 years of experience during the event;

- e) services of first aid and transfer to hospital;
  - f) stop watches, identification badges for participants and other equipments necessary for the event;
  - g) lunch and coffee break for participants.
3. Provision of "International Referee Course" and "International Referee Examinations" with stationary need (questionnaire and examination papers, certificates, stationery, and such other items as may be required for the event) is the responsibility of RC secretariat.

#### **RULE 8. REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES**

1. Every National Federation that is a member of WCF can nominate candidates (a citizen of their country) for an International Referee with national Referee qualification before the designated time.
2. The requirements for Candidates on International Referee are the followings:
  - a) the applicant must be at least 26 years old with no physical defect and chronic disease;
  - b) at least 12 years of experience in Capoeira;
  - c) at least 2 years of experience in national competitions as a Referee;
  - d) at least intermediate level of English or Portuguese (speaking and writing skills.)
3. RC reserves the right to limit the number of applicants for IRCE and waive attendance fee of participants from least developed countries in order to balance number of Referees between regions.
4. The required application documents for IRCE are the followings:
  - a) IRCE Application Form;
  - b) recommendation from the national federation to which the applicant belongs;
  - c) copy of citizenship passport;
  - d) one photo: size for passport;
  - e) international Capoeira passport (to be delivered upon arrival.)

#### **RULE 9. CONTENT OF IRCE**

1. The lessons of the International Referee courses are held in the form of lecture. A wide place during the courses is given to presentations and practical trainings.
2. If the courses and examinations are held together, the exams must be held after the courses.
3. Curriculum of the IRCE will be the Status of the WCF, Competition Rules for Sport Capoeira, these Regulations and other Rules and Regulations of WCF.
4. The RC will devise the questions for use in the examinations. Examination materials will be in English and Portuguese and such other languages as may be required from time to time.
5. During the examinations, the theoretical and practical knowledge is tested. Theoretical knowledge is tested in writing and in the question and answer form, and practical knowledge is tested on the basis of timeliness and correctness of actions and decisions during the conditionally provided Roda, the scoring is tested as well.

6. Candidates will be assessed by means of an evaluation form with scores allotted to the various sections of the examination. The RC Chair will decide the pass mark for each examination after consultation with the WCF President.
7. A candidate's performance will be summarized by means of a pass/fail form and the result of the examination will be given to the candidate by the RC and a copy forwarded to the candidate's nominating National Federation.
8. All qualifications at the IRCE are provisional: they are confirmed as a result of a satisfactory performance at a subsequent scheduled Competition (confirmation event).
9. RC will organize the Refresher Course when the Competition rules are revised.
10. The participants who completed the International Referee Course and the Referee Refresher Course get the appropriate diploma, and the corresponding notes are made in their International Capoeira Passport.

#### **RULE 10. RESULT OF IRCE, ISSUANCE OF LICENSES**

1. The candidate who attended the International Referee Course but failed the examination will be given second chance to participate in other IRCE without payment of attendance fee.
2. Candidate passing examinations successfully is given a conditional Referee title, but he must confirm his title as a result of practical activity in the Competition no later than 6 month, otherwise, the title is not confirmed. The decision about satisfactory activity or fail is accepted by Chief Judge of the competition. If he fails the test of practical activity in the Competition, then the candidate, starting from this moment, within 1 year, can one more time confirm his title in other WCF's sanctioned competition.
3. Candidate who successfully passed examinations and confirmed his skills practically in Competition officially receives an international Referee title. He must be given a license and a referee card no later than 1 month. The name of this person must be reflected in the International Referee List on the WCF website and the corresponding notes must be made in his international Capoeira Passport by WCF.
4. Referee shall inform RC of any change of his contact information.

#### **RULE 11. LICENSE VALIDITY**

1. If the licensed Referee regularly take part in Judges Panel of Competitions, there is no need for him to pass the practical examination again for the new licence, but if the rules have changed, or RC finds it necessary, the theoretical knowledge can be tested again.
2. The license duly signed and validated will allow the Referee to attend all international competitions sanctioned by WCF.
3. The affirmed licenses are issued for 3 (three) years and for their validity:
  - a) the license fee must be paid in time (by the end of December every year);
  - b) Referee must participate in Referee Refresher Course at least every 2 years;
  - c) Referee must take part in the Judges Panel of international competition at least every 2 years;
4. Qualification of Referee who has not paid the annual license fee for 3 consecutive years will be automatically suspended.



## **RULE 12. QUALIFICATION CATEGORIES**

1. International Referee qualifications are classified into four categories "A","B","C" and "D".
2. Referee with "A" category can be appointed to any position in the Judges Panel during an international competition, including Chief Judge. Referee with "B" category, may be appointed as other member of the Judges Panel except Chief Judge. Referee with "C" category can be any member of the Judges Panel, except Chief Judge and Roda Manager. Referee with "D" category can be any member of the Judges Panel except Chief Judge, Roda Manager and Judge.
3. Candidates start the first Referee exam from "D" category and every 3 years, step by step, they can go up to "A" category. In unusual circumstances WCF President may decide that an outstanding candidate be immediately awarded a higher category. In this case a special commission to be set up by the Executive Board of WCF. This special commission, in addition to the RC members, must include the WCF President or one of WCF vice-presidents and members of the Executive Board.
4. Referee who wants to upgrade his qualification category must regularly take part in the Referee Refresher Courses.
5. Any Referee against whom a disciplinary measure was taken shall be excluded from the list of International Referee to be nominated for a promotion to a higher category until the sanction against him is lifted.

## **RULE 13. VALIDITY AND SUSPENSION OF QUALIFICATION**

1. Referee shall decently fulfill his duty and be unbiased, objective and moderate in his decision and activity.
2. In case whereby Referee violates his duties or does not fairly judge intentionally, commits any kind of unfair or any adverse reports on him are received, he will be subjected to disciplinary sanctions.
3. Disciplinary sanctions can be suspension of Referee license, disqualification, downgrading, re-examination, deprivation of Referee title and other sanctions deemed necessary by the RC. Penalty and sanctions may be combined.
4. If after the proceeding it becomes clear that the misjudgement has been committed not by intent, the Referee may still be subject to disciplinary measures.
5. Restoration of qualification is granted one time only.
6. The WCF shall notify the concerned Referee and his national federation regarding the taken measures and imposed sanction(s) on concerned Referee(s).
7. Depending on seriousness of infraction done and disciplinary sanctions imposed to the Referee, the RC may decide to allow the concerned Referee to attend an International Referee Refresher Course after payment of annual fees in arrears.

## **RULE 14. CONDITION OF REFEREE IN COMPETITION**

1. Referee may receive from WCF or through the WCF from event organisers, the reimbursement of accommodation (or free accommodation condition), travelling expenses and to receive an allowance for representation expenses.

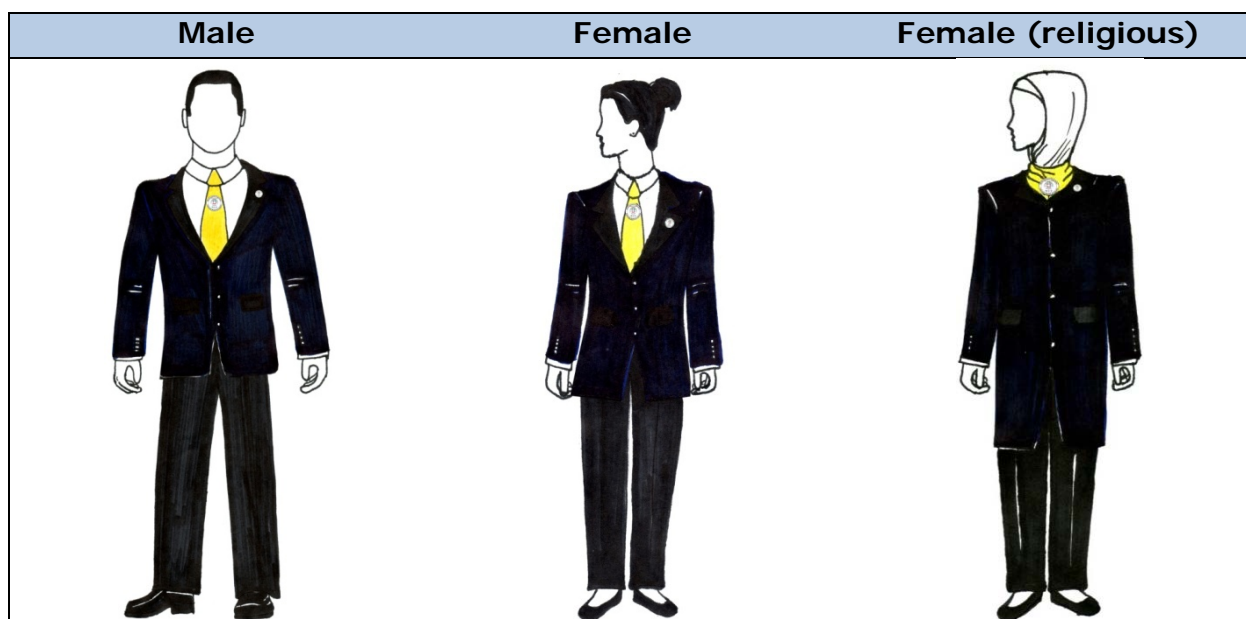
2. Except official conditions from WCF, Referee shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer remuneration or commission, nor any concealed benefit, hospitality or service of any nature, connected with the organization of the competition or matches. If such a fact or any behavior that degrading the reputation of WCF was revealed, the Referee shall be subjected to disciplinary sanctions.

**RULE 15. HONORARY INTERNATIONAL REFEREE**

1. A Referee may receive a title of "Honorary International Referee" by means of voting by RC.
2. Requirements for the Honorary International Referee are:
  - a) Suggestion shall be given by National Federation or by Referee Commission.
  - b) At least 10 (years) experience as International Referee;
3. In case of granting a title of "Honorary International Referee", the Referee qualification categories shall be maintained, but the Referee will not be allowed to officiate at international Capoeira events as active Referee.

**RULE 16. UNIFORM OF INTERNATIONAL REFEREE**

1. Members of Judges Panel must wear the official uniform designated by the WCF at all IRCE, competitions and briefings.
2. Uniform of Judges Panel must wear a single breasted dark blazer, white shirt and official tie, plain dark trousers, black slip-on shoes (shoes with heels are not allowed.)
3. Central Referee and Time keepers may wear their uniform without blazer.
4. Referees with long hair shall firmly assemble them. Female Referees may wear long dark blazer and religious headwear approved by these rules.
5. Uniforms of Judges Panel in the international competitions shall look as follows:



## CHAPTER 3. REFEREEING RULES

### **RULE 17. JUDGES PANEL**

1. Judges Panel of the competition is set up for refereeing matters at the competitions.
2. Referee is required to be knowledgeable of these Regulations, guiding principles of refereeing, Competition Rules and other regulatory documents of WCF. He shall comply with these rules, decently fulfill his duty, be unbiased and impartial, objective and moderate in his activities.
3. WCF shall update the list of licensed International Referees in the website residing in the pertinent continents by the beginning of each year.
4. The Chief Judge of the competition is appointed by the RC and he is considered the Head of the Judges Panel. The Chief Judge, in turn, prepares the list of Judges Panel based on the list of Referees with a valid license and submits it to RC for approval. If there is not a prior notice of a justifiable reason for absence selected Referee is responsible to officiate in the official event of WCF.
5. For the Continental Championships and other international events sanctioned by WCF, related continental federation and hosting national federation are entitled to select the required number of Referees licenced by WCF. In this case, concerned continental federation and hosting national federation shall inform RC of the selected referees for prior approval no later than one month before the event.
6. At least 5 judges, 1 referee and 1 time keeper from the judges Panel shall be appointed for each competition area. When there are a number of Rodas, "Roda Manager" could be appointed in addition, and in this case Chief Judge delegates his some duties and responsibilities to them.
7. The authority of the Judges Panel members is not confined solely to the competition area but also to its entire immediate perimeter including controlling the conduct of coaches, other competitors, or any part of the competitors' entourage, present on the competition floor.
8. In case of any protests and disputes the judge shall be able to adduce an argument in full accordance with the mentioned rules and the regulations of the competition.
9. Settlement of disputes is carried out by voting between the judges appointed for the current Roda. Where necessary, Referee together with the Chief Judge by his instruction take part in the voting process. When the votes are equal, Chief Judge's vote is deemed to be decisive.
10. Judges Panel members shall wear neat uniform, carry Referee card, whistle and manual of competition rules with himself.
11. If any member of the Judges Panel fails to execute his obligations or is unable to execute his duties for any objective reason, another person is appointed to the vacancy as per vacancy category by the Chief Judge's decision.
12. Members of Judges Panel cannot act as a coach, delegate or team member in the competition.
13. Except in cases of consultation between members of the Judges Panel, the discussion of the results (matches) and evaluation of competitors with other persons is prohibited.

14. Referee is required to attend the referees meetings before the start of the competition.

#### **RULE 18. CHIEF JUDGE**

1. Chief Judge leads the Judges Panel and bear the responsibility for the organization of the competition in accordance with the rules and regulations.

2. Chief Judge is obliged to:

- a) Identify the Judges Panel of the competition in advance and bring in list of candidates for approval;
- b) To check the preparation level of the competition areas and equipments together with the organizing committee, bring petition to eliminate the shortcomings, and compile an delivery-acceptance act over competition area;
- c) Participate in the Accreditation Committee by himself or through his representatives and designate responsible persons for scales;
- d) Personally lead the organization of the drawing of competitors;
- e) Predetermine the Judges Panel members to be replaced and ensure their timely replacement;
- f) On the previous days before the competition, organize the meeting of Judges Panel (if necessary, it should be held again within the competition progress) and ensure that all required persons are convened in time;
- g) During the competition, ensure that the matches are conducted in an objective manner and supervise the judges' affairs;
- h) Supervise the documentation procedures, as well as the accurate recording of winners and losers;
- i) Evaluate each member of the Judges Panel at the end;
- j) To submit report to the organization sanctioned the competition about the results within 3 days in electronic and hard copy.

3. Chief Judge is entitled to:

- a) Stop the match if there is any obstacle to conduct the competition, and announce pause or suspend the match in case of Force Majeure;
- b) Where necessary, make amendments and changes to the competition progress and the sequence of matches (in this case, this issue must be justified on the report in written);
- c) Change the functions of Referees in the course of the match (if it is urgent);
- d) Remove the Referee from Judges Panel who make gross mistakes or fail to execute his obligations after the current match finished (this issue shall be recorded in the report and the relevant bodies of WCF shall be informed);
- e) Warn or remove the delegates, coaches and team leaders disrespecting and insulting any Referee or any participant;
- f) To pass the final judgment on matters of a technical nature which may arise during a match and for which there are no stipulations in the rules.

4. It is binding for the competitors, judges, representatives and team members to fulfill Chief Judge's requirements.

5. If the Chief Judge is of the opinion that a competitor should be disqualified, he may call the other Judges Panel's members in order to reach a verdict.

6. By Chief Judge's instruction, other Referee may implement his duties.

## **RULE 19. JUDGE**

1. Judge shall observe the competitors' movements and match attentively and not be distracted during the match.
2. A Judge may based solely on his own judgment.
3. By raising a flag a Judge signals to the Referee to stop the match if there is some case Referee overlooked during the competition and reports the issue to him.
4. Judges shall rise a relevant flag to score a competitor's movement. 1st and 2nd Judges shall synchronously rise final scoreboard for each competitor. If electronic scoreboards are being used the relevant condition shall be established between the 1st and 2nd Judges, to ensure that they are not aware of scoring points on the screen of another Judge.
5. Judge shall not have any kinship ties or group (school) relations with the competitors whose performance are estimated by him in the current match. In such a case or in another case nearly demonstrating the suspicion, on the objectivity of the Judge, he shall inform the Chief Judge of this and submit petition for his replacement. In case any relations are detected between the competitor and the Judge after the competition, that competitor's results shall be cancelled and those who deliberately conceal the fact shall be brought to justice before the WCF relevant bodies.

## **RULE 20. REFEREE**

1. Referee is the person who directly manages over the proper conduct of the match course in the competition area.
2. Referee uses special gestures to conduct the match (see [referee gestures below](#));
3. Referee gives the signal to begin, stop and close the game, call attention for lack of activeness, penalize if the competitor commits an infraction, and bring the competitors forward for the score.
4. Referee starts the game upon he ensures the readiness of the competitors, Bateria, Judges and Time Keeper in advance of each round.
5. Where required or in case of any contradiction between judges, Referee stops the match to discuss it.
6. In case any one of the competitors or team member act in a prohibited way or intervening outwardly, Referee stops the match and demands the relevant person not to act in such a way, or shows a yellow card by warning them. If the infraction is severe, Referee may directly issue a "yellow" card without verbal warning, or stop the match and disqualify the person by issuing a "red" card.
7. In case any person received "yellow" card two times commits an infraction again within a course of the same competition, Referee stops the match and by issuing him the third "yellow" card disqualifies that person from the current competition.
8. Referee stops the match in the following cases:
  - a) when a competitor or team member has violated the Rules;
  - b) when any of the competitors needs medical aid (in this case, he summons the team of doctors and records the length of the period);
  - c) in case any competitor needs to arrange his uniform (after the round ends);
  - d) by the request of either Chief Judge or any Judge;

- e) at the request of the competitor (in case Referee considers it reasonable to stop the match at this time);
- f) in case Referee needs to consult;
- g) in other emergency cases.

9. Referee may cancel the match prematurely in the following cases:

- a) In case any one of the competitors expresses his intention of not continuing the match;
- b) In case any competitor is ejected from the match, or the decision over disqualification is given;
- c) In case three yellow cards or a red card is issued to the competitor(s);
- d) For security and safety reasons.

10. While declaring the match result, Referee stands at the center of the field, holds the hands of both competitors and raise the winner's hand according to the result.

11. Referee shall consult with other members of the Judges Panel regarding the issues Referee overlooked.

#### **RULE 21. TIMEKEEPER**

1. Time keeper refers to a person who controls over the conduct of the competition within the specified time. He stands outside the Roda circle, which he considers suitable place for himself.

2. Time keeper:

- a) While Referee gives a signal to start a match, he records the start time and gives a signal with whistle and gesture about the end of the match;
- b) Keeps track of the length of breaks between rounds and informs Referee of the completion of the breaks;
- c) Stops the time when the match is cancelled and rerecords the remaining time while the match starts again;
- d) Provides Referee with advice at the Referee's request regarding the issues Referee overlooked;
- e) Measures the delay time over the competitors' arrival to the competition area with stopwatch and signals to Referee while such delay is recorded;
- f) In case the match is cancelled due to the competitor's injury, he stops the normal match time, starts an additional stopwatch, and records the length of period of "physician's examination" over the medical aid.

3. Moreover, Time-keeper shall check the uniforms of the competitors before them coming to the Roda, shall not allow those athletes, who do not meet the procedures, entering the Roda and shall inform Chief Judge of this.

## MAIN TERMINOLOGY AND GESTURES OF REFEREE

**Posição de pé** (pay attention to the instruction)



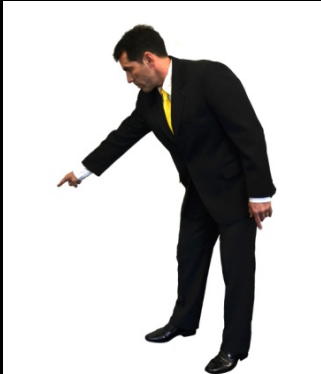
**Salve!** (respect action)  
Greeting of Judges, opponents and Bateria



**Inicial!** (competitors come to initial position)



**Pé do berimbau!**  
(calling to the foot of berimbau)



**Comece!** (start a Jogo)



**Ação!** (engage/  
resume the game)



**Ofensa!** (prohibited movement)



**Direção para!** (Point someone or show direction)



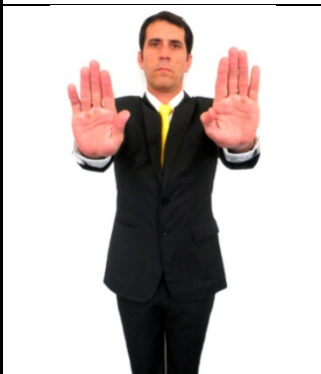
**Pare!** (at any point of time when the referee wants to stop a Jogo)



**Desclassificado!** (get out of the roda!)



**Empurao!** (don't push)



**Soco!** (punch is not allowed)



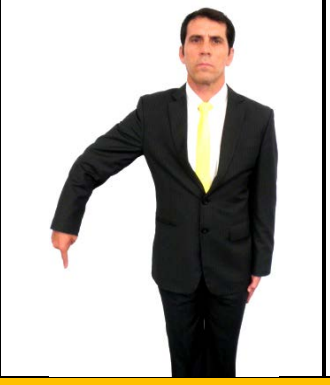

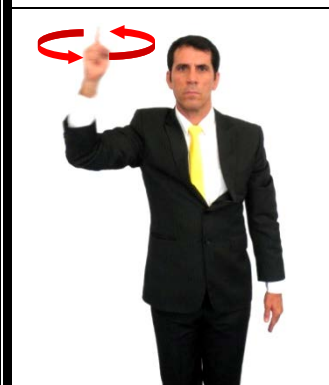
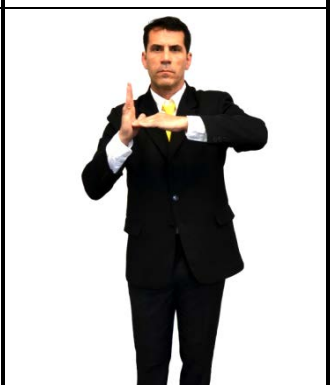





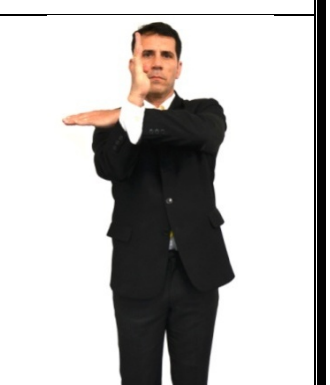


**Galopante!** (strike with palms are not allowed)



**Cotovelada!** (elbow strike is not allowed)



<p><b>Joelhada!</b> (knee strike is not allowed)</p>	<p><b>Cabecada!</b> (head strike to the face is not allowed)</p>	<p><b>Golpe baixo!</b> (lower kicks under the hip or high rasteira on shin)</p>	<p><b>Quieto!</b> (dont talk, respect and listen)</p>
			
<p><b>Volta Mundo!</b> (walk on the the roda lines)</p>	<p><b>Pausa!</b> (time out / stop time)</p>	<p><b>Ginga!</b> (signal to do Ginga, not only strike)</p>	<p><b>Não sai da Roda!</b> (Dont get out the Roda line)</p>
			
<p><b>Espera!</b> (waiting to announce)</p>	<p><b>Advertência!</b> (showing yellow/red card because of infraction)</p>	<p><b>Advertência verbal!</b> (verbal warning)</p>	<p><b>Pronto-socorro!</b> (first medical aid)</p>
			
<p><b>Ajuste o uniforme!!</b> (adjust uniform)</p>	<p><b>Fim!</b> (the current Jogo is closed)</p>		
