

Commentators

Commentary plays a crucial role in engaging audiences, explaining technical aspects and enhancing the viewing experience. These guidelines ensure professional, informative and impartial commentary across all EJU events.

01

Core Principles

Professionalism:

- Clear, articulate delivery
- Appropriate tone and energy level
- Respectful language at all times
- No profanity or inappropriate remarks

Impartiality:

- Fair coverage of all competitors
- Balanced enthusiasm regardless of nationality
- Objective analysis of performances
- Avoid favouritism or bias

Technical Accuracy:

- Correct judo terminology
- Accurate technique identification
- Proper explanation of rules and scoring
- Clear distinction between waza-ari, ippon, penalties

02

Essential Requirements

Knowledge and Preparation

Before the Event:

- Study athlete profiles and recent performances

- Review draw and potential match-ups
- Familiarise yourself with pronunciation of athlete names
- Understand current IJF rules and recent changes
- Research any qualification scenarios or rankings implications

Technical Expertise:

- Comprehensive knowledge of judo techniques
- Understanding of tactical approaches
- Ability to explain technical elements to casual viewers
- Awareness of ne-waza transitions and groundwork strategies

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During Commentary

During Commentary

Essential Information to Provide:

- Athlete names, nations and world rankings
- Current score and time elapsed
- Technique names when executed
- Penalties and their implications
- Context (championship significance, qualification impact)

Commentary Style:

- Clear pronunciation of all athlete names
- Engage both knowledgeable fans and newcomers
- Build excitement without excessive hyperbole
- Allow natural pauses, silence can be powerful
- React authentically to dramatic moments

04

Working with Co-Commentators

Roles:

- Play-by-Play Commentator: Describes action as it happens, maintains narrative flow
- Colour/Expert Commentator: Provides analysis, technical insight, historical context

Collaboration:

- Respect speaking turns and avoid talking over each other
- Complement each other's strengths
- Communicate non-verbally during live commentary

- Prepare transitions and handoffs in advance

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Language and Terminology

Correct Usage

Individual Competitions:

- Use "bout" or "contest" (not "match")
- "The athletes" or "the judoka" (not "the players")

Team Competitions:

- Use "match" when teams face each other
- Individual contests within team matches are still "bouts"

Technique Names:

- Use correct Japanese terminology
- Provide brief English translations for accessibility, if possible
- Pronunciation accuracy is essential

Avoid:

- Referring to judo as "fighting" (use "competing" or "contest")
- Using terms from other martial arts incorrectly
- Slang or casual language inappropriate for professional broadcast

05

Sponsor Integration

Appropriate Mentions:

- Acknowledge major sponsors during natural breaks
- Reference sponsor-related elements (e.g., "competing on Fuji mats")
- Follow any specific sponsor mention requirements provided by EJU

Guidelines:

- Keep sponsor mentions brief and organic
- Don't interrupt action for sponsor mentions
- Coordinate with production team on timing

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Athlete Sensitivity

Respectful Coverage:

- Handle injuries with appropriate concern and discretion
- Avoid excessive focus on emotional distress
- Be mindful when discussing controversial decisions
- Respect athletes' dignity in victory and defeat

Privacy:

- Don't speculate about personal matters
- Avoid commentary on physical appearance
- Focus on performance and achievement

07

Common Mistakes to Avoid

✗ Mispronouncing Names

- Prepare pronunciation guide beforehand
- Ask for help if uncertain
- Apologise and correct immediately if you make an error

✗ Bias or Favouritism

- Equal enthusiasm for all competitors
- Balanced analysis regardless of nationality
- Professional objectivity maintained throughout

✗ Over-Talking

- Allow moments to breathe
- Let crowd reactions be heard
- Silence during national anthems (unless specifically required to provide information)

✗ Technical Errors

- Incorrect technique identification damages credibility
- Misunderstanding rules confuses viewers
- Ensure accuracy before making definitive statements

✗ Inappropriate Content

- No political commentary. Professional conduct at all times.
- Avoid controversial topics unrelated to sport

Before Going Live:

- Athlete pronunciation guide reviewed
- Draw and seeding information available
- Recent results and world rankings checked
- Rules clarifications understood
- Sponsor mention requirements confirmed
- Communication with co-commentator established
- Technical equipment tested (microphones, monitors)
- Emergency contact information available

**Your commentary enhances the viewing experience and helps grow judo's global audience.
Thank you for your professionalism and dedication.**

For questions about commentary requirements, technical specifications, or event-specific guidelines:

EJU Media Department

Email: media@eju.net