



TAEKWON-DO

NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION

Umpire Training Program

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INTRODUCTION

1. Overview

- a. The TNSA Umpire Training Program (UTP) is the ideal solution to building a larger and more knowledgeable pool of umpires in Nova Scotia. The UTP will provide the TNSA members opportunity throughout the year to learn and practice their umpiring skills. The UTP will introduce umpiring and complement the CTFI's Umpire Course but does not replace the official umpire course. It will provide high quality in person training.
- b. The perception of the umpire training is often only relevant to umpires, coaches, and competitors. However, umpire training can change the mindset of how a student trains through the development of an analytical perspective that will be beneficial to all aspects of their Taekwon-Do training.

2. Rationale & Benefits

- a. Nova Scotia needs an Umpire Training Program. The TNSA and its members will benefit from the implementation of the UTP by:
 - a. Having a larger umpire roster. In the past, umpire shortages have resulted in a lower than ideal number of rings operated at local tournaments. Tournaments often proceed with incomplete ring councils and if one exists, regularly lack a Jury President and a Jury Member/Equipment Verifier. There are instances where ring councils operated with three or less umpires.
 - b. Introducing the UTP will grow the pool of trained umpires. By delivering the training in person, at a reduced cost, and shorter duration, this training program has the potential to reach more entry-level or casual umpires who do not yet have an interest for the national level training. With the addition of an Introduction to Officiating Course, it will attract lower rank students who are ineligible to participate in national umpire training. While in local tournaments, there is no requirement for a complete ring council; however, the use of the UTP can keep umpires in the rings and operating efficiently. The availability of the UTP will improve the efficiency of a tournament, therefore improving the overall impression of local tournaments.
 - c. In 2022, the CTFI announced a host of requirements for Black Belts who wish to grade to their next degree. This includes umpire training and experience at tournaments. The provincial umpire training will function as a direct solution for 1st Dan Black Belts in Nova Scotia who are seeking to grade for 2nd Dan. However, the proposed UTP intends to appeal to a much broader group of members.

COURSES

3. Course Overview

- a. All courses will deliver a combination of theory, interactive demonstrations, and practical experience. Courses will emphasize the Do and Ethical principles. Annex A contains the schedule of the courses.
- b. TNSA Introduction to Officiating (ITO)
 - a. This course is for students who have little to no umpire experience. Its basic structure also makes it compatible as an outreach course to lower belt ranks. This course teaches the basics of officiating and brings participants up to a knowledge level that would allow them to work as a spare Corner Umpire at a local competition. Participants will understand divisions, draws, point panels, scoring systems, concussion awareness, ring procedures, and protocol. This course will only focus on individual pattern, individual sparring, and high kick events. Participants who successfully complete the course and pass the exam with a score of 50% or greater will receive the certification. Active TNSA members and non-TNSA members will receive a Certificate of Completion. Completion of this course will not satisfy the CTFI's umpire course requirement for a 2nd Dan test. There is a requirement for non-TNSA members to assist with the head table duties.
- c. TNSA Umpire Training Course (UTC)
 - a. This course starts with basic concepts, and brings participants to an in-depth level of knowledge, suitable for duties as a Corner Umpire or Centre Referee at local tournaments and as a Corner Umpire and spare Centre Referee at CTFI events. Participants will gain an understanding on divisions, draws, scoring systems, concussion awareness, ring procedures, and protocol. The major points of focus for this course are individual patterns and sparring. Minor focuses will include special technique and power breaking. This course is more technical than the ITO course and includes a more thorough exam. Participants who successfully complete the course and pass the exam with a score of 60% or greater will receive a Certificate of Completion. Completion of this course will satisfy the CTFI's umpire course requirement for 2nd Dan test. When taught as a full course, this course will have breakout sessions where at times, Corner Umpires and Centre Referees will separate and receive training specific to their respective roles.
 - a. TNSA UTC-Corner Umpire (CU)
 - (1) Participants of the TNSA UTC-CU will learn skills and methods to score appropriately, and to combat fatigue over the duration of the event. The breakout sessions for

CUs will include interactive activities which include scoring multiple matches.

- b. TNSA UTC-Centre Referee (CR)
 - (1) Participants of the CR will learn skills and procedures required to work as a CR. CRs will also learn ring control policies and limited Jury President duties. There will be interactive activities where CRs will practice their duties over multiple matches. A review of the CU material will also take place.
- c. TNSA UTC-Combined
 - (1) Participants of the combined training will learn skills and procedures required to work as a CU and CR. Rank and age requirements would be the same as the UTC-CR. Course content would be less specialized than the CU and CR.
- d. TNSA Umpire Practice
 - a. This course is a review and practice session. The course will open with a brief review of core theory, followed by a tournament style-umpire briefing. The session then progresses into practical experience for umpires. Whenever possible, this course will run in parallel with the TNSA's Athlete Development Training, where umpires will operate rings while athletes can train and perform in. The course will utilize volunteer competitors to enhance the training when it runs independently from the TNSA's Athlete Development Training. The session will end with a debrief and no exam; however, a record of attendance will be kept. There will be no certification awarded upon participation in this course. Completion of this course will not satisfy the CTFI's umpire course requirement for 2nd Dan.

PARTICIPATION

4. In keeping with TNSA Bylaws, UTP activities will only be available to active students and instructors who are affiliated with one of the TNSA's Registered Dojangs for most courses. Non-TNSA members assisting a TNSA tournament will be eligible to participate in the TNSA Introduction to Officiating. Non-TNSA members shall be affiliated with one of the TNSA's Registered Dojangs via an active student. Additional age and rank restrictions shall apply and vary from course to course.

5. To provide a high-quality learning environment, the courses will have a maximum of twenty participants per session. If interest routinely exceeds twenty participants, the Umpire Director will assess required adjustments to the delivery methods, onboarding of additional assistant instructors, and implementing venue change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The proposed registration fees will provide an additional revenue stream for the TNSA.
7. Should there be a requirement for funding of the UTP activities, the revenue stream will cover the request, provided the nature of the request is financially responsible.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

8. The training plan is as follows:
 - a. Due to the CTFI black belt requirements, the first training will be the TNSA UTC-CU and CR variants. This will provide the opportunity to 1st Dan black belts to achieve the appropriate level of umpire training in a timely manner and prevent them from having to wait for the next CTFI Umpire Course.
 - b. The TNSA Umpire Practice course will follow the TNSA UTC session.
 - c. The TNSA Introduction to Officiating course can vary in times depending on tournament events.

SUB-COMMITTEE

Under the direction of the TNSA Umpire Director (Chair), a Sub-Committee comprising of qualified TNSA Umpires will be responsible for developing and delivering the TNSA UTP and be present at all TNSA-sanctioned tournaments. All UTP events should have a minimum of two Sub-Committee members present. The duties and responsibilities for the Umpire Committee are in the TNSA By-Laws, *DUTIES OF SUB-COMMITTEE, 5-Umpire Committee*. REVIEW AND APPROVAL

9. This policy will be reviewed annually on the date of first approval.
10. This Policy is **Version 1** and approved by the TNSA on **26th January, 2024**.

Darren MacLeod
TNSA President