

TECHNICAL NOTICE

Robin Otani – President

28th September 2009.

Changing the name of the BJC Veteran Competition to Masters

In response to the HQC request to change the name of the BJC Veteran event to BJC Masters, I advise as follows:

Whilst Master events may be in keeping with all other sports and other Judo bodies throughout the world, the modern usage of the term 'Masters' as applied in the Judo fraternity is not in keeping with traditional Judo.

To me, the word 'Masters' means people like, Jigoro Kano, Kenshiro Abbe, Masutaro Otani, indeed all Kodokan 10th dan and those others judo people of esteemed high repute.

Whilst I have great admiration and pride in the BJC members who have won at 'Master' competition, I feel the name over-inflates the status of those who are actually Veteran winners. Often these members are competing in the limited scope of those relatively few older people who still can or want to compete, and in most cases are able to afford the personal cost to do so.

In addition the term gives great credence to the winners of each category to be called 'Masters'.

It is my opinion that the term 'Master' is applied to, and associated with, such venerated judo people I have mentioned, and other such outstanding teachers and World Champions.

Conversely it devalues the status of those (above) who I consider to be real Judo Masters.

Again, in my opinion, the name of 'Masters' has been adopted by International organisations on a primarily administration or commercial basis.

The term 'Master' in fact does make a technical assessment of the ability and status of those who win, and I would not be happy at terming a promotion grade of BJC Veterans to the status of BJC 'Master' grade.

The term Veteran conveys an instant true message of a person who is of a certain age beyond that of a normally regarded practitioner. I believe it implies, and indeed conveys a respect to those who are still involved in the contest arena but who are naturally constrained by their age when competing with younger persons.

Therefore, the BJC will continue to use the name 'Veteran'.