

## **USFMAF & South Bay FMA Club Judging & Referee Workshop**

By Marc Lawrence

On July 19, 2009 the South Bay Filipino Martial Arts Club, Gardena, CA, sponsored a USFMAF judging and referee workshop for the upcoming Open World Tournament. It is being held at Long Beach International on August 7, 8, & 9, 2009. The clinic was well attended by folks, we had 26 people come and participate. We were planning for maximum of 25! We could not fit any more people in the place. We had all chairs filled and folk in the back and sitting on the floor. It was the biggest event that our little school has ever had there.

This event was supported by other FMA schools beside ours, and they were Professor Jesse Dancel's Dalan Ilokano FMA - Banning, Master Mario Gajo's Gajo Martial Arts - San Diego, Khalid Khan's Filipino Eskrima-Hollywood, and Punong Guro Darren Tibon's Angels Disciples - Stockton came and supported the event. We showed all of the divisions that USFMAF has to offer with the exception of Double stick. We performed padded stick point padded continuous stick, live stick point, live stick continuous, Chambara/Cultural challenge - AKA mixed weapons sparring, and knife fighting-with kick and punch.

My younger son Matthew and my nephew Gilbert were real troopers and supported by fighting in four different divisions just to show people how each was done. All of my club's fighters worked really hard and show each of different divisions. It was great watching Milo Cudanes and Eric Fodran in the mixed weapon sparring with Eric using a shield and short sword and Milo with Katana. I have to thank all of my students and family who came and worked so hard in the setup, running the event and the cleaning up of the event afterward.

