

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Agenda – December 14, 2024

- I. Roll Call
  - A. Members Present – R. Scherer, G. Berliner, H. Estevez, W. Gugino, T. Oishi, B. Shimizu, D. Smith
  - B. Members Excused – S. Cohen, A. Kchirian
  - C. Members Absent – K. Sell
  - D. RC Assistants Present – D. Malek, R. Palmer, D. Rucker
  - E. Special Guests – B. Donaldson, K. Bryant, M. Takata, J. Chi, Christopher Round (leader of USA Judo strategic plan task force)
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting – Approved by email 10/7/2024
- III. Referee Advancements –
  - A. To National – Catherine Arias, Mikala Yamatake, Veronica Gonzalez, Sun Ho Kim, K.Y. Kim
  - B. To Continental – Babak Esmaili
  - C. To International – Nicole Ward
- IV. Event Status Reports
  - A. Domestic Events
    1. Recently Completed N1 Events – San Jose Open, Morris Cup, Dallas Open, Winter Nationals, Northeastern Championships
    2. Recently Completed N2 and N3 Events – President’s Cup
    3. Upcoming N1 Events – *Lone Star (CR=Bobby Donaldson; Evaluators=Gary Berliner, Mike Takata) – Wahadachi (CR=Brian Toth; Evaluators=Mike Takata, David Smith); America’s Cup Hawaii 7/5-8/2025 (CR=Nicole Ward; Evaluators=Gary Berliner, Ryan Shimokawa) – Approval moved by G. Berliner, 2<sup>nd</sup> W. Gugino – passed unanimously*
    4. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *Room Request Form will be used*
      - a. *Youth Nationals – Salt Lake City – 3/29-30/2025*
      - b. *Senior Nationals – 5/25-26/2025*
      - c. *Junior Olympics – Bedford Park, IL – 6/19-22/2025*
      - d. *U.S. Open –*
      - e. *President’s Cup –*
  - B. International Events –
    1. Recent trips - Senegal – Sharon ref; Babak B exam; Nicole A exam
    2. Upcoming young referees being encouraged to travel internationally
    3. Several referees in pipeline to be prepared for upcoming test opportunities
    4. Additional referees who have completed or scheduled the IJF Academy – none since last meeting
- V. Old Business
  - A. Actions taken by email since last meeting – minutes approved and an international trip approved

- B. Status of international travel reports, costs and receipts – Referees who have officiated internationally during 2024 will be sent an email with current data and need to respond by 12/27/2024 to be eligible for partial reimbursement of their international transportation expenditures (receipts are required). The funding support depends on their international travel expenses and the number of National Championships (Youth, Senior, Junior Olympics and President’s Cup) they attended in 2024.
  - C. Status of National Championships Referee Reimbursements (Pres Cup) – all requests (with receipts) must be received by 12/27/2024
  - D. A survey will be sent to all active referees to determine which 2025 events they plan to attend and what their desired position is for each event
- VI. New Business
- A. Initial Input - Annual Policy Reviews – working on Strategic Plan – final update to all policy documents will be accomplished following the official designation of the 2025/2026 RC by the USA BoD.
  - B. Discussed various current methods of bringing more referees into the evaluation process and providing relevant training
- VII. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Saturday, January 4, 2025 (7:00PM Eastern)
- VIII. Executive Session
- A. Reporting forms – status – modified forms will be provided to the RC prior to the next meeting for action at that meeting
  - B. Establish Task Force to develop standardized USA Judo Referee Education/Certification Program below “National Referee” level – A strong majority of the RC feels we should not pursue such a course of action and that the current approach of utilizing our National and higher certified referees to train and certify referees at the regional level and below should be maintained, whether it is through their efforts incorporated in other programs or strictly through their own activities. Discussion also covered “How do we capture lower level referees (below National) to determine compliance with SafeSport, Background Check, Concussion Training, etc.” One suggestion was to capture this information through the sanction reporting process.
  - C. Recommended Continuity Transfer – status – an official email was sent to the president of the USA Judo BoD (as of Oct. 7, 2024). We will have to wait until the BoD selects the 2025 RC and its leadership, but at least they have our input.
  - D. Requests for Emeritus Status – Requests were received from Andy Cudahy and Ed Thibdeau – motion to accept by Gary Berliner (2<sup>nd</sup> by David Smith) - passed unanimously.
  - E. 2025 RC Interest – if 2024 RC members do not wish to serve in 2025 they were requested to provide that input to Russ and he will forward to Keith for information when providing suggestions to the BoD as they designate 2025 Committees.
  - F. 2025 Program Emphasis and Budget Implications – further detailed work will be accomplished on the RC Strategic Work Plan and related budget considerations for

2025. This will be presented prior to the January 4, 2025 RC meeting for action and subsequent presentation to USA Judo for their consideration.

G. Initial starting level for successful candidates – N and B – it was decided to maintain the current starting levels for those who pass their respective examinations (N1 for National level and B2 for Continental level)

H. Review and assignment of Referee Levels for January 1, 2025 – letters will be sent according to agreed upon final list

IX. Selection of CR and Evaluators for upcoming N2 Events –

A. *Youth Nationals – Salt Lake City – 3/29-30/2025 (Approved CR=G. Berliner; Evaluators=M. Takata, W. Gugino,B. Donaldson)*

B. *Senior Nationals – 5/25-26/2025 (Approved CR=G.Berliner; Evaluators=H.Estevez, M. Takata, W. Gugino)*

X. Adjournment