



Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2024 Referee Committee Meeting
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Central Time

Attendees: Fariba Madani, Cleve Baxter, Jay Farrell, Will Gatch, Christopher Hodgkin, Diane Martin, Chuck Sweigart, Shelby Velazquez.

The USA-NKF RC meeting was held on Monday, January 22, 2024, starting at 12:00 p.m. Central Time.

Fariba Madani welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Team Trials.

- Fariba Madani said the Team Trials will not follow the newest WKF rules on coaching based on discussions and feedback from Brody Burns and Will Gatch.
- RC members discussed the format for the Team Trials and selection of officials. Fariba Madani stated that the Selection Committee developed the process and that number of officials was limited. Will Gatch said selection was based on current licensed official data according to the selection process.

Rules and documentation update.

- Jay Farrell said that feedback received from the RC was included in the final version of the Officials policy manual. The RC discussed that it should be posted on the website. Concerns were raised that the old policies and documents on the website may be causing confusion. The RC requested that Diane Martin request outdated documents for officials be removed from the website. Current versions will be provided to update the website when they become available.
- Jay Farrell, Will Gatch, and Chris Hodgkin have been working on updates to USA NKF rules as a supplement to WKF rules. Jay is going through citations and doing comparisons and should have the review completed by the end of January.
- Jay Farrell said they are targeting having a rough draft of updated USA Karate rules for non-elite by mid to late February.

US Open Schedule.

- Fariba Madani distributed the US Open referee course schedule and asked the RC for feedback. Chris Hodgkin said it provided adequate time for certification needs. RC members discussed that the breakout for international officials was a good idea for training and less burdensome for previous night arrivals. The final version of the course schedule will be sent to post on the website.

Rules for the US Open.

Patches: Discussion on patches being required or optional for the US Open.

- Jay Farrell motioned to approve patches as optional. The motion was seconded by Cleve Baxter. Votes in favor = 6; Votes opposed = 0.

Headgear: Discussion on headgear requirements at the US Open.

- Jay Farrell motioned to enforce USA and WKF rules on headgear. The motion was seconded by Cleve Baxter. Votes in favor = 6; Votes opposed = 0

Head Kicks: Discussion on kicks to the head by 11-year-old and under at the US Open.

- Jay Farrell motioned to enforce USA and WKF rules on kicks to the head not allowed for 11-year-old and under. The motion was seconded by Cleve Baxter. Votes in favor = 5; Votes opposed = 1

Leg Sweeps: Discussion on leg sweeps by 11-year-old and under at the US Open.

- Jay Farrell motioned that Divisions 11-year-old and under are permitted to attempt leg sweeps in accordance with USA rules. The motion was seconded by Cleve Baxter. Votes in favor = 6; Votes opposed = 0

Uniforms: Discussion on allowing blue and red colors on uniform shoulders at the US Open for non-elite divisions.

- Jay Farrell motioned to have blue and red colors on shoulders optional for non-elite divisions and team kata must have the same color or no color. The motion was seconded by Cleve Baxter. Votes in favor = 6; Votes opposed = 0

Ask Elisa Au to add clarification on rules in communication on US Open.

Kata – Discussion on kata format for the US Open

- Follow the WKF kata rule changes related to 5 maximum kata for elite and 4 for Juniors; can repeat kata.

Other RC WKF 2024 rule changes to implement immediately.

- Kansa can assist Referee with Jogai; it is still the Referee's decision.

Additional RC Discussion Items for future meetings.

- Task force discussion on Certification and Operations for US Open; further discussion will come back to next meeting.
- Chris Hodgins and Jay Farrell will work on online test and regional program and incorporate into official policy manual.
- Chuck Sweigart suggested using Robert's Rules of Order for RC meetings.
- Chuck Sweigart requested allowing membership to attend RC meetings.
- Jay Farrell will review and present abridged version of Robert's Rules of Order for smaller committees for consideration by the RC.

The RC discussed open meeting for officials. Fariba Madani will schedule the first quarterly RC meeting open to the public for after the US Open.

The RC will plan to review documents via email and continue to meet monthly. Monday was suggested as a good option for most RC members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. Central Time.