



**USA Judo Board of Directors Board Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2025, via Teleconference**

Attendees: Ari Berliner
Jeffrey Brentley
Joon Chi
Jerry Cypert
Ari Miller
Gerry Navarro
Joe Ragan
Nicole Stout

Counsel: Dawes Cooke
Laura Peeters

USA Judo Staff: Corinne Shigemoto, CEO
Bill Kellick, Board Secretary/Communications and Marketing Manager
Ed Liddie, Director of High Performance

- I. At 10:01 am MST, a quorum was established.
- II. Mr. Ragan called for any conflict of interest disclosures. Mr. Berliner noted a familial relationship with the chairman of the referee committee. Ms. Stout noted a potential conflict pertaining to ethics and grievance cases depending on what is discussed.
- III. Motion to approve February 2, 2025, meeting minutes by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Navarro. Approval of minutes passed unanimously.
- IV. Mr. Ragan addressed litigation issues. Mr. Cooke commented on a recall email that was sent and how Texas non-profit incorporation law does not provide for removal or recall by vote of the membership. Mr. Ragan brought up the issue of legal representation on any federal court action against members of the board. Mr. Cooke addressed that the board has insurance coverage. Ms. Peeters suggested notifying the insurance carrier right away which Ms. Shigemoto will follow up on. Discussion was also held regarding the definition of retaliation as it relates to recent investigation notification emails received from the USOPC.
- V. Ms. Stout made a motion to move to executive session, seconded by Mr. Miller. Meeting entered executive session at 11:14 am MST.
- VI. Joon Chi joined the call at 11:20 am MST.
- VII. Mr. Cooke left the meeting at 12:01 pm
- VIII. Ed Liddie left the meeting at 12:51 pm MST.

- IX. Meeting came out of executive session at 1:51 pm MST with a motion by Mr. Berliner, seconded by Ms. Stout, to approve the following committee decisions. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.
- X. Ms. Stout made a motion that all athletes currently appointed to committees and task forces be marked with an asterisk indicating an interim position until the new Athlete Advisory Committee is seated and can confirm the appointments. Seconded by Mr. Berliner. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.
- XI. Ms. Stout made a motion to reconstitute the Nominating and Governance Committee by removing all current members except for Chair Richie Endow, given the bylaw requirement to keep a previous member. Seconded by Mr. Chi. Motion passed 6-1, with Mr. Brentley voting in the negative and Mr. Cypert abstaining. Ms. Stout made a motion to appoint the interim Nominating and Governance Committee comprised of Richie Endow (chair), Bill Connelly (independent), Bob Harvey, Leo White and Lydia Coleman, with confirmed members of the committee to be approved at an upcoming Board of Directors meeting. Richie Endow would not be interim. Seconded by Mr. Navarro. Motion passed 6-0 with Mr. Cypert and Mr. Brentley abstaining.
- XII. Ms. Stout made a motion to approve the Audit & Finance Committee comprised of Joe Ragan (Board rep), Nicole Stout (Athlete Rep) and Jeffrey Brentley (Independent rep), second by Mr. Berliner. Motion passed unanimously. Joe Ragan accepted board-appointed role of chair of the Audit & Finance Committee.
- XIII. Discussion was held on the Ethics and Grievance Committee (Derrick Glenn, Ricky Torres, James Keener, Dan Winsor, Leilani Akiyama, Jen Williams and Daniel Collins). Mr. Berliner moved to table approval of the committee until resumes are provided by Richie Endow. Ms. Stout disclosed a previous ethics grievance filed against her. An email vote will be held once resumes are received from the Nominating and Governance Committee.
- XIV. Discussion was held on the Background Screen Task Force (Rebekah Taylor (chair), Tony Zimkowski and Ryan Reser). Mr. Cypert made a motion to accept the task force, seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion passed unanimously.
- XV. Discussion was held on the Referee Committee (Dr. Gary Berliner (co-chair), Mike Takata (co-chair), Steve Cohen (coach rep), Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Torie Oishi (athlete rep), Katie Sell (athlete rep), David Smith and Conor Uyekawa (athlete rep)). Mr. Berliner declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the discussion. Mr. Cypert made a motion to accept the Referee Committee as is and request committee chair Dr. Berliner to add Bobby Donaldson and Saro Balagezyan as committee members for the purpose of having a Referee Education Task Force, and with the subsequent addition of Aleksandr Kchiarin as athlete rep, to be voted on by the Board via email by the end of the week. Second by Ms. Stout. Motion passed 6-0 with Mr. Brentley abstaining and Mr. Berliner recusing himself from the vote.
- XVI. Discussion was held on the Veterans Task Force (Brad Daniels (chair), Tracy Crawford (athlete rep), Joe Ragan, Hector Negron and Shandra Stevenson (athlete rep)). Ms. Stout made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Ragan. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.
- XVII. Discussion was held on the Rank and Certification Committee (Patrick Burris (chair), Yasmin Alamin (athlete rep), Katie Sell (athlete rep), Humberto Becerra, Adam Blackburn (athlete rep), Devin Cohen, Vickie Daniels, Ronald Hansen, Lynn Roethke, Randy Russel and Leo White). Discussion was held on retaining as a committee instead of a task force. Mr. Cypert made a motion to retain the task force as a committee, seconded by Ms. Stout. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0. Ms. Stout made a motion for the AAC to consider Grace ??? as an additional athlete rep for committee compliance, seconded by Mr. Navarro. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.
- XVIII. Discussion was held on the Kata Task Force (Diane Jackson (chair-athlete rep), Eiko Shepard (vice chair), Lisa Capriotti (secretary-athlete rep), Frances Glaze (athlete rep), Carla Martin, Claudia Smith, Theo Schwalm and

Kuniko Takeuchi). Mr. Cypert made a motion to approve the task force, seconded by Ms. Stout. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.

- XIX. Discussion was held on the Coaching Committee (Ramon Hernandez (chair), Ari Miller, Alaa El Idrissi (athlete rep), Leilani Akiyama (athlete rep), Liane Harada, Chima Manmohan, Eric Sanchez and Marc Vink). Ms. Stout made a motion to approve and ask AAC to provide another athlete in place of Leilani Akiyama given that she also serves on the Ethics and Grievance Committee, seconded by Mr. Cypert. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.
- XX. Discussion was held on the Athlete Performance Committee (Ed Liddie (chair), Danny Rodriguez, Marti Malloy (athlete rep), Angie Delgado (athlete rep), Ari Miller, Gerry Navarro, Jim Hrbek and Marc Vink). Mr. Miller made a motion to approve as listed, seconded by Mr. Navarro. Discussion was held. Topic tabled.
- XXI. Ms. Shigemoto presented the USA Judo Strategic Plan. Ms. Stout made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Brentley. Discussion was held. Motion passed unanimously, 8-0.
- XXII. Discussion was held on the Coaching Certification Program. Patrick Burris is serving as a temporary contractor on a 1-year agreement with a 10-day termination notice until another program is finalized.
- XXIII. Discussion was held on the USOPC Demand Requirement #2:
- *Should the USA Judo Board adopt the EGC's decision to void all findings, determinations, and decisions issued by the prior EGC, the current EGC must conduct its own review of the conflicts identified in the June 13 Letter of Concern consistent with USA Judo's Conflicts of Interest Policy and provide evidence that the EGC provided direction to individuals with actual, perceived, or potential conflicts of interest.*
- Mr. Berliner motioned to send the demand to EGC for review of all previous decisions and for Ms. Peeters to assist with the decision-making. Seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion passed 6-0 with Ms. Stout and Mr. Ragan recusing themselves from the vote.
- XXIV. Discussion was held on the USOPC Demand Requirement #10:
- *If USA Judo intends to maintain the Executive Committee, the USA Judo Board must vote to amend the USA Judo Bylaws to formally create the Executive Committee, including expressly stating the election and selection procedures for Executive Committee members, terms and term limits, the process for removal, and the roles and responsibilities granted to the Executive Committee. USA Judo must also ensure that any modifications to the USA Judo Bylaws formally creating an Executive Committee do not otherwise impact the USA Judo Board's ability to comply with the NGB Compliance Standards or contradict any other provision of the USA Judo Bylaws regarding Board authority and responsibilities.*
- Mr. Cypert made a motion to not maintain the Executive Committee at this time, seconded by Mr. Brentley. Discussion was held about the appointment of a president. Ms. Stout made a motion to make Mr. Ragan president. Second by Mr. Brentley. Motion passed 7-0, with Mr. Ragan abstaining.
- XXV. Discussion was held on approval to support the Pan American Judo Confederation nomination of Gary Takemoto as PJC Director of Refereeing. Ms. Stout made a motion to approve nomination, seconded by Mr. Berliner. Motion passed 7-0 with Mr. Brentley abstaining.
- XXVI. Next meeting to be determined by email poll
- XXVII. Ms. Stout motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Navarro. Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm MST.