

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2024

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Members Present – Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Russ Scherer, Barb Shimizu, David Smith and Katie Sell
 - B. Members Excused – Steve Cohen and Torie Oishi
 - C. RC Assistants Present – David Malek, Ralph Palmer and Dana Rucker
 - D. Ref Education Chair Present – Bobby Donaldson
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (12/16/23) Minutes – approved by email
- III. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 - 1. Upcoming N1 Events – *Lone Star Classic CR= Bobby Donaldson, Evaluators = Gary Berliner and Mike Takata; Wahadachi Championships CR = Russ Scherer, Evaluators = David Smith and Kei Narimatsu; NCJA Championships CR = Gary Berliner, Evaluators = Mike Takata and Jake Freedman; Tohkon Classic CR = Gary Takemoto & Ben Mashbat, Evaluators = David Smith and Hector Estevez*
 - 2. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *Youth Nationals CR = Gary Berliner, Evaluators = Mark Hirota, Saro Balagezyan and Russ Scherer; Senior Nationals; National Junior Olympics; President's Cup*
 - B. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
 - 1. Recent trips – Joan Miller (Matsuru Dutch Open) and Brian Toth (Portugal Grand Prix)
 - 2. Upcoming events – currently, 20 referees are already scheduled to attend 13 different international events during 2024 and more are anticipated
 - 3. Please notify the RC early and follow travel procedures for all international events
 - 4. When new/modified interpretations are given at international events, please promptly report them to the RC for discussion and evaluation. No new/modified interpretation shall be implemented at U.S. events prior to a clear decision being made and action taken by the RC.
- IV. Other Old Business
 - A. Reviewed actions taken by email since last meeting
 - i. Elimination of requirement to be evaluated once every 2 years at an event of the referee's level
 - ii. All National Referee Test and Evaluation Events shall not have a quota on the number of qualified referees allowed to register and participate. However, there may be other limitations (such as a minimum certification level required to participate) and limits may be set on the numbers of referees eligible for compensation (and/or amounts of that compensation)
 - B. Status of international travel reports, costs and receipts – completed for 2023 events and a total of \$11,000 was distributed to 24 referees

- C. Annual updates to RC Policies and documentation – several of the below policies were partially discussed and it was decided to address each individually by email discussion and vote
 - i. Emeritus Policy
 - ii. Leave of Absence Policy
 - iii. Process to Identify Refs for International Travel and “B” or “A” Exams
 - iv. Chief Referee and Evaluators at Nat Ref Test & Eval Events
 - v. Candidate Prerequisites and Document Requirements
 - vi. Foreign Referee Policy
 - vii. Ref Eval Process & Standards Policy
 - viii. LOC Requirements for Hosting National Test/Evaluation Events
 - ix. Staff Roles & Responsibilities
 - x. Ref Requesting International Events Policy
 - xi. Refs Requesting Financial Support
- D. Each referee has been provided their Referee Level as of 1/1/2024 – a reminder to those listed as “inactive” (had not been evaluated during 2023) that they simply need to be successfully evaluated at an evaluation event to become “active” again. It was also noted that National referees would be decertified after 4 years on inactive status, unless a Leave of Absence had occurred.
- E. Both N4 and B4 Performance Evaluation and History Lists (as of 1/1/24) have been calculated and are posted under the “Downloadables” on the Referee Information Site
- F. Tabled from last meeting – Motion (Gugino – 2nd Berliner) “To follow all IJF coaching rules for IJF Cadets, IJF Juniors and IJF Senior divisions.” – this was not removed from the table since the coach representative and CEO were not in attendance to discuss this topic
- G. On line National Referee Exam Schedule – the first on-line theoretical portion of the exam was held on 1/27/24 and two individuals passed. Tentative additional dates were given as 2/24, 5/18, 8/17, 9/28 and 10/26. An additional offering will be added in April.
- V. New Business
 - A. A guideline was set that the National Referee candidate’s practical exam should be taken generally within 6 months after completing their on-line test.
- VI. The date for the next RC Meeting (and Referee Town Hall Meeting) is scheduled to be Sunday, March 21, 2024, with the Town Hall starting at 7:00PM (Eastern Time) and the RC meeting immediately following.
- VII. Executive Session
 - A. Review and adoption of 2024 Referee Budget – heavily discussed but no final action taken – general support for the proposed ratios of support – additional discussion (Russ & Keith) needed to determine sources of funding for referee room expenses at 4 national championships – no desire to reduce stipends.
 - B. Limitations of release of referee information – information that all referees can see on the RIS is already obtainable by any National (or higher) referee and the RC Assistants should not be spending their time doing this work.

- C. Rashguard/t-shirt policy at USA Judo sanctioned events – there was no status report on BoD action since Keith was not in attendance
- D. Survey Status – forecasted 2024 N1 events; requests for CR/Evaluators/Mat Chiefs/weigh-in refs/CARE setup; Referee requests for N1, N2 and N3 events – responses to this survey are being used for overall planning and assignment distribution
- E. The following events/Chief Referees/Evaluators have been received and approved:
 - i. Youth Nationals – CR Berliner; Evaluators Hirota, Balagezyan, Scherer
 - ii. Senior Nationals – CR Berliner; Evaluators Gugino, Hirota and Mike Takata
 - iii. National JO's – CR Donaldson; Evaluators Berliner, Gerrard, Bill Gugino
 - iv. US Open – CR Estevez; Evaluators Berliner, Bill Gugino, Scherer
 - v. Pres Cup – CR Donaldson; Evaluators Berliner, Smith, Shimizu
 - vi. Lone Star – CR Donaldson; Evaluators Berliner, Mike Takata
 - vii. Wahadachi – CR Scherer; Evaluators Smith, Narimatsu
 - viii. Nat Collegiates – CR Berliner; Evaluators Mike Takata, Jake Freedman
 - ix. Garden State – CR Balagezyan; Evaluators Bill Gugino, Bob Gugino
 - x. Pedro Challenge – CR Balagezyan; Evaluators Bill Gugino, Jake Freedman
 - xi. Indiana – CR Devin Cohen; Evaluators Smith, Scherer
 - xii. Golden State – CR Takemoto; Berliner, Hirota, Mike Takata
 - xiii. Tohkon – CR Takemoto/Mashbat; Evaluators Smith, Mike Takata, Estevez
 - xiv. Morris Cup – CR Berliner; Evaluators Donaldson, Scherer
 - xv. Dallas Invit. – CR Donaldson; Evaluators Berliner, Smith, Shimizu
 - xvi. N1 event applications – Pedro Challenge, Indiana Championships
 - xvii. Applications expected – North American Champs, Liberty Bell, San Jose Open, Palo Alto, and Winter Nationals.
- F. 2024 John Osako Award – Several nominees were discussed and narrowed to two finalists – an email vote by the RC will be taken.

VIII. Adjournment