

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – September 28, 2024

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Members Present – Gary Berliner, Steve Cohen (Coach Rep), Bill Gugino, Alexander Kchirian (Athlete Rep), Russ Scherer, David Smith
 - B. Members Excused – Hector Estevez, Torie Oishi (Athlete Rep)
 - C. Members Absent – Katie Sell (Athlete Rep), Barb Shimizu
 - D. RC Assistants Present – David Malek, Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - E. Special Guests – Bobby Donaldson (Ref Education Committee Chair), Keith Bryant (CEO), Brian Toth (Paralympics Experience Presenter)
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting – Approved by email 8/14/24
- III. Referee Advancement – Rustam Basriyev and Yan Krimer (passed National Ref exam 9/8/24)
- IV. Special Presentation by Brian Toth – The Journey to the 2024 Paralympics – a very enlightening review of Brian’s preparation leading to selection as a referee at the 2024 Paralympics in Paris and his experiences at this event
- V. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 1. Recently Completed N1 Events – *North American (9/8/24) and Liberty Bell (9/22/24)*
 2. Recently Completed N2 and N3 Events – *US Open (7/26-28/24)*
 3. Upcoming N1 Events – *San Jose Open (10/12-13 – CR = Gary Takemoto; Evaluators = David Williams, Dan Israel & Mark Hirota) – Morris Cup (10/13 – CR = Gary Berliner; Evaluators = Bobby Donaldson & Bill Gugino) – Dallas Invit (11/23 – CR = Bobby Donaldson; Evaluators = Gary Berliner, Barb Shimizu & David Smith) – Winter Nationals (12/7-8 – CR = Calvin Terada; Evaluators = Dan Israel, Mike Takata & Gary Berliner) – Northeast Championships [Approved during Executive Session] (12/8 – CR = Saro Balagezyan; Evaluators = Jake Freedman & Bill Gugino)*
 4. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *President’s Cup (11/24 – CR = Bobby Donaldson; Evaluators = Gary Berliner, Barb Shimizu & David Smith)*
 - B. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
 1. Recent trips - 36 travelling internationally – Oren Knopfmacher currently in Prague -
 2. Upcoming events – Africa: A-Test Candidate (Ward) and B-Test Candidate (Esmaeili) being forwarded from PJC to IJF for approval. World Veterans: two slots approved by PJC and are being forwarded to IJF for their approval. Reminder – Age limits and completion of IJF Academy requirements are being aggressively applied by IJF for assignments and testing.
 3. Additional referees who have completed or scheduled the IJF Academy – 6 passed the IJF Academy course recently held in Japan
- VI. Old Business
 - A. Actions taken by email since last meeting – approvals of international travels and candidates for A & B licenses
 - B. Status of international travel reports, costs and receipts – please continue sending in the reports

- C. Status of National Championships Referee Reimbursements (Youth, Senior, JO's) – All submitted requests should have been paid – Russ Scherer will follow up with an email to each recipient to verify receipt and amount
 - D. Reporting Forms (submitted by the Referee Education Committee) – each discussed in detail during the Executive Session
- VII. New Business
- A. Initial Input - Annual Policy Reviews – each RC member is to review each Policy (posted on the USA Judo website Referee Page) and submit any proposed changes or additions to R. Scherer within 3 weeks (ie 10/19/2024)
- VIII. Set date for the next RC Meeting – *Saturday, December 14, 2024 – 7:00PM (Eastern Time)*
- IX. Executive Session
- A. Reporting forms – detailed discussion and recommended changes to proposed documents – 1) tracking direct hansoku make, 2) coach incident tracking, 3) international trip report form standardization. Documents 1 & 2 will be further tweaked by Ian Gerrard and Keith Bryant to be presented back to the RC prior to the next meeting. Document 3 will be further modified by Gary Berliner, Bobby Donaldson and Ian Gerrard to be presented back to the RC prior to the next RC meeting. Potential utilization of “email me form” to track the info on these 3 forms.
 - B. Gary Berliner moved (Bill Gugino seconded) - Proposed change in eligibility to referee at the Senior Nationals – discussed and passed to add a requirement of officiating at one of the other 3 national championships (JO's, President's Cup, and Youth Nationals) that immediately precedes each Senior Nationals. This is to be effective immediately. This is proposed to help get more appropriate numbers of referees to our national events.
 - C. Recommended Continuity Transfer – status – significant progress was made during a zoom meeting between Russ Scherer and Mike Takata in reviewing current policies and procedures and the reasons for the development of these policies
 - D. Requests for Emeritus Status – Mike Mooney (N3), Jim Carmer (N3), Alyssa Gilkey Zawack (N2) and John Jacobson (N1) Moved by Bill Gugino (seconded by Gary Berliner) – passed unanimously
 - E. Incident at US Open was sent to the RC, reviewed and will be forwarded to the Ethics and Grievance Committee.
 - F. 2025 Program Emphasis and Budget Implications – discussion provided a “flavor” of the desires of the RC for activities during the upcoming quadrennial. Review/update of the Strategic Plan will be very important.
 - G. We need to verify documentation of the policy of removing a competitor from the entire event (not just the division) if given Hansoku Make for action against the spirit of Judo.
 - H. Ralph Palmer (RC Assistant) has been supplying regional patches to numerous National Referees who have been certifying referees below the national level. Russ Scherer will prepare a statement to accompany the patches to better capture these certified referees.

X. Adjournment