

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2025

- I. Roll Call – Meeting called to order 4:00 Central, Birmingham, AL
 - A. Members Present – Berliner, Takata, Gugino, Estevez, Shimizu, Smith
 - B. Members Excused –
 - C. Members Absent – Cohen, Sell, Uyekawa, Oishi, Khchirian
 - D. RC Assistants Present – Malek, Palmer, Rucker
 - E. Special Guests –
- II. Review/acceptance of minutes from last RC Meeting – Previously approved via email
- III. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 1. Upcoming Events – Approved
 - a. N1 Events
 - i. June 14-15, 2025 Tohkon Classic 27/GKJN Cup, Bedford Park (Chicago), IL
 - ii. July 4-6, 2025 America’s Cup, Honolulu, HI
 - iii. September 21, 2025 Liberty Bell Judo Classic, Philadelphia, PA
 - iv. November 22, 2029 59th Annual Dallas Open Judo Championships, Dallas, TX
 - b. N2 Events
 - i. June 20, 2025, USA Judo Junior Olympics, Bedford Park (Chicago), IL
 - ii. June 22, 2025, USA Judo Junior Olympics International Divisions, Bedford Park (Chicago), IL
 - iii. November 23, 2025 USA Judo President’s Cup, Dallas, TX
 - c. N3 Events
 - i. May 24, 2025, USA Judo Senior National Championships, Birmingham, AL (Priority given to referees who have worked at least one of the four major USA Judo events in the past year)
 - ii. July 25-27, 2025 US Open, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 - B. International Events – Reminder for international travelers to try to arrive 1-2 days early to avoid problems with flights.
 1. Recent trips –
 - a. Dominican Republic National Military and Police Sports Games – DOM – Balagezyan, Caixeta
 - b. Panama Cadet/Junior Cups – PAN – Balagezyan, Capriotti (Alt)
 - c. IJF Rules Seminar – PER – Balagezyan, Berliner, Caixeta, Capriotti, Cohen, Chi, Crawford, Davis, Gonzales, Han, Knopfmacher, Mani, Murray, Karmacharya, Takemoto(PJC)
 - d. Panamerican & Oceania Championships – PER – Caxieta, Davis, Murray, Balagezyan (Alt)
 - e. Panamerican & Oceania Championships Senior Individuals & Mixed Teams – CHI – Balagezyan, Suyehira, Batan (Alt)

- f. University Championship – PUR – Caixeta, Gonzales
- g. Istanbul European Cup – TUR – Esmaeli
- h. IJF Academy – JPN – Hirota, Freedman
- i. South American Judo Tour – PAR – Landstreet
- j. Tashkent Cadet Asian Cup, Continental Exam – UZB – Graham, Cypert

2. Upcoming events –

- a. Guayaquil Cadet, Junior Panamerican Cup – ECU – Ward, Munoz (alt), Freedman (alt)
- b. Judo Mexico – MEX – Suyehira
- c. Berlin Junior European Cup – GER – Mani, Esmaeli, Nguyen
- d. Pretoria Junior African Cup, Continental Exam – RSA – Vallejos
- e. Prague Junior European Cup – CZE – Esmaeli
- f. Birmingham Junior European Cup – GBR -- Sternick, Gutierrez
- g. Skopje Junior European Cup – MKD – Sternick
- h. IJF Academy – GBR – Vallejos
- i. IJF Academy – MEX – Graham, Ward

3. New International travel items for consideration

- a. Please submit to Referee Assistants for consideration.

IV. Old Business

A. Actions taken by email since last meeting

- i. Approval of March RC meeting minutes
- ii. Approval of evaluation events as noted above.
- iii. Approval of international travel as noted above.

B. Status of Reimbursements. USA Judo is aware and working on reimbursement payments.

- i. Status of President’s Cup Referee Reimbursements – Reimbursements are said to have been processed two weeks ago and referees are reporting receiving payments over the time period since then. If you have not yet received expected reimbursements for 2024 Presidents Cup, please notify me so that we can follow up with USA Judo.
- ii. Receipts and expense request forms for Youth Nationals were submitted to the national office on April 18, with follow ups on documentation provided on April 24. Reimbursements should be distributed shortly
- iii. Moving forward all receipts and expense reports should be submitted within 30 days of the event to be considered for reimbursement, but let’s please try to submit them as soon as possible to ease the administrative burden and expedite payment for all.

C. Referee Committee membership/roles approved by USA Judo Board

- i. Aleksandar Khchirian added to Referee Committee by AAC, notification from USA Judo on May 2, 2025.

D. Annual Policy Reviews Status

- i. International Travel limited reimbursements. As previously discussed, these will be administered semi-annually in 2025, referees requesting consideration for partial reimbursements for international travel taken between Jan 1 and June 30, 2025 should submit travel reports and receipts to RC by July 31 for consideration.
 - ii. RIS Content Review/Archive – Ian Gerrard has provided a detailed inventory of referee content on the RIS—Thank you, Ian! Mike Takata has responsibility for review and cleanup.
- E. Reporting forms – Reminder that reporting Coach or Player incidents is a sole function of the Tournament Director. Referees should NOT send incident forms for player/coach behavior issues directly to USA Judo.

V. New Business

A. USA Judo Hotel Policy/Process

- i. Rooms will be provided to shiai referees for the four major events for the Chief Referee, Evaluation Team and Working Referees up to 7 per mat area including Mat Chiefs.
- ii. Working Referees are expected to share rooms as double occupancy with another working referee, with no additional guests.
- iii. Rooms are provided for arrival the day of the referee clinic until the morning after the last day of competition. Any additional days must be paid for by the referee needing extra night(s) and coordinated with USA Judo Staff in advance.
- iv. Depending on timing of CARE setup and/or Weigh-ins, USA Judo may provide rooms the night before for those working in those capacities. This should be worked out with USA Judo IN ADVANCE.
- v. Referees when registering for an event should complete the Hotel Registration Form provided in the “Event Registration on RIS” indicating their arrival, departure and roommate preference by a designated date prior to each event. The roommate preference isn’t guaranteed but USA Judo attempts to match when possible. If the URL isn’t on the Event Registration, it’s because it hasn’t been provided yet and once it is provided by USA Judo it will be distributed.
- vi. Any exceptions have to be cleared in advance by the USA Judo staff, currently Eric Tschudy. Typical exceptions that have been allowed are the Chief Referee and Assistant(s) arriving the day prior the Referee Meeting to conduct duties coordinating with USA Judo Staff on the set up for the Venue and Referee Meetings.

B. USA Judo National Testing Policy

- i. All National Testing Candidates MUST Register with one of the RC Assistants (Dana Rucker, David Malek, Ralph Palmer) at least 30 days in advance of the testing event.
- ii. The online examination will be coordinated for the candidates between the RC Assistants and Ian Gerrard AFTER the candidate has fulfilled other administrative requirements (SafeSport, Concussion training, background check)

- iii. Ian Gerrard will be asked to administer the examination on the agreed upon dates and report test results directly to the RC Assistants and copy the RC Co-Chairs (Gary Berliner, Mike Takata) and Referee Education Director (Bobby Donaldson)
 - iv. The RC Assistants will manage communication of the test results to the CR and Evaluation Team of the practicals testing event. All candidates should be encouraged to attend the testing event regardless of performance to receive practical experience and feedback.
 - v. The decision for whether or not a candidate should receive their national license, and any conditions which must be met to finalize licensure, should be determined by the CR and evaluation team of the event. For example, the team may grant a candidate a pass of the practical examination, but license may be deferred until proof of shodan rank is provided.
- C. IJF/PJC Request for data/information – We are helping facilitate an email request from Gary Takemoto, PJC Referee Director, asking for passport information for ACTIVE referees for the IJF database. We understand there are privacy concerns, so each individual may choose whether or not to participate. This is not an ask of USA Judo or the RC, so we cannot comment on reasons, deadlines, etc... RC will officially not collect information or influence individual referee's decisions on whether or not to participate. Moved Berliner, Second Shimizu, motion passes.
- VI. Request for RC members to consider succession plan and think about training plan.
- VII. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Schedule in conjunction with the US Open.

IX. New Business

- A. Please direct potential candidates for A&B to Dr. Berliner to ensure that we are providing proper support for all candidates with potential for international advancement.

X. Adjournment Adjourned 4:50pm Central