



Meeting Minutes from November 18, 2024 Referee Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Central Time

Attendees: Fariba Madani, Cedric Barksdale, Jay Farrell, Will Gatch, Chris Hodgins, Diane Martin, Chuck Sweigart, Shelby Velazquez

Call to Order: Jay Farrell called the Referee Committee (RC) meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

Jay Farrell stated the last meeting minutes were approved via email. Diane Martin validated the last two minutes were approved via email and will be posted on the website.

Reports/updates

Fariba Madani stated that 18 referees approved by the RC were invited to officiate at the 2025 Senior Team Trials. Two referees were removed prior to the final list during the process. One individual is pending completion of their background check. Invitations were sent to referees on Friday, November 15, 2024.

Operations

Cedric Barksdale stated that he had received the report on injuries from the National Championships and will send it out to the RC.

Education

Jay Farrell stated that he had updated six documents for the Regional Referee Program and is making edits. One item that will need to be voted on is the fee for attendees since there is no longer a sanction fee. He will send out a proposal to the RC once documents are complete.

Jay Farrell updated the slide decks for kata and kumite, which are now available on the USA Karate website.

Certification

Chris Hodgins provided positive recognition for Jay Farrell for all his hard work. Fariba Madani concurred.

AAC

Will Gatch stated the Selection Committee audited and approved that the process for the Team Trials was followed. He said this was the earliest the invites had gone out. Will Gatch mentioned that there is another AAC meeting in a few weeks; RC members can send him items to discuss with the AAC.

New Business

2025 Kata list

Fariba Madani asked if there were any objections to the 2025 Kata list that she distributed. The list was provided by the Technical Committee for review. Chris Hodgins will format and include the advanced list. The formatted list will then be sent to Brody Burns and Michael Cain for final approval and posting on the website. Jay Farrell made a motion to approve; Will Gatch seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Absence at Signature Events

Fariba Madani explained that we have had several referees sign up for signature events and then do not officiate. Some show up and coach, others as spectators, and others do not show up. Many do not notify the RC that they will not attend. This causes issues with inaccurate counts as well as tatami assignments. Fariba Madani suggested looking at potential filters and ways to flag through tournament-in-a-box. In addition, some cancel last minute. Fariba Madani stated that there should be consequences and

explained that the WKF requires proof of attendance for last-minute cancellations, including airline tickets and hotel reservations demonstrating intent to attend. Fariba Madani said the RC should think about consequences and send in their ideas to come up with standards. Jay Farrell said he will document his thoughts and draft a document for review.

Attendance at AAU/Open Competition

Fariba Madani discussed international referee attendance at other competitions not recognized by USA Karate/PKF/WKF by international referees. She said this is an issue that needs to be built into policy.

PKF Kata Judge A and/or PKF Kumite Judge A participation in WKF first license exams

Fariba Madani discussed that current USA PKF Kata Judge A and/or PKF Kumite Judge A have at least 5 years of experience and continue to attend PKF events annually to test for their referee license. She proposed allowing PKF referees current with either Kata Judge A and/or current Kumite Judge A be on the list to take their first WKF license test. This will provide additional referees with potential to achieve WKF licenses in the same way that other countries allow their referees to attend without having continental referee licenses. Charles Sweigart asked about other countries procedures; Fariba Madani confirmed they do not require continental ref A, and some countries allow national referees to take their first license WKF exam.

Jay motioned to approve USA PKF Kata Judge A and/or USA PKF Kumite Judge A the opportunity to participate in WKF first license. Cedric Barksdale seconded. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Other Business

Jay Farrell asked about certificates for regional seminars. Fariba Madani stated that Diane Martin sent email pdf certificates for the US Open, and certificates were printed at Nationals. Diane Martin stated that at the request of instructors, she sends the template that instructors fill out and can print or send out in email.

Cedric Barksdale raised concern about video review issues for the Team Trials. Fariba Madani reported that the Team Trials, US Open, and National Championships will use the Sport Data equipment, including joysticks, for elite competition and video review. She reported there have not been issues with the Sport Data system used by WKF.

Jay Farrell said the rulebook will be updated with 2025 WKF changes. Jay Farrell asked if there was any other business to discuss, and none was stated.

Cedric Barksdale motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:35. Vote: Unanimous.