

USA Judo Referee Committee Meeting Agenda – August 15, 2026

- I. Roll Call –
 - A. Members Present – Hector Estevez, Sheldon Kono, Mary Wakabayashi, David Smith, Saro Balagezyan
 - B. Members Excused – Raylene Adorno
 - C. Members Absent – Raylene Adorno
 - D. RC Assistants Present – Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - E. Special Guests – none
- II. Reminder of conflict of interest policy from USA Judo:
 - A. *"Does anyone have a conflict of interest with any item or individual listed on today's agenda?"*
- III. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 - B. Events Completed
 - i. N1 - USJF Summer Nationals
 - ii. N2 - USA Judo Junior Olympics
 - iii. N3 - US Open
 - C. Upcoming approved evaluation/testing events
 - i. N1 - Nov 21, 2026. 60th Dallas Open Judo Championship, Irving, TX, CR-Donaldson, Evaluators-Berliner, Gugino, Sheldon Kano
 - ii. N2 - Nov 22nd, 2026 - USA Judo Presidents Cup with CR Konno, Evaluators-Estevez, Balagezyan, (Need one more evaluator)
 - iii. N1 - Shudokan Uemura Cup 8/29/26 CR Sheldon Konno, Evaluators-Hector Estevez, Ryan Shimokawa and Nicole Ward
 - iv. Suncoast Warriors Judo Championships 9/26/26 CR Ian Gerrard, Evaluators Bill Gugino and JT Davis.
 - v. Liberty Bell 9/27/26 CR Devin Cohen, Evaluators Roy Englert and Saro Balagezyan – SANCTION not issued yet so it's not posted or approved on RIS yet as of 8/12 10:15am.
 - vi. Tohkon Classic 10/17/26 CR Mike Takata, Evaluators David Smith and Russ Scherer.
- IV. International Events Attendance –
 - A. Request for travel reminder: *International travel requests now are to be sent directly to the national office, prior to RC approval. National office will send it to the RC for approval.*

RECENT TRAVEL			
Oldfather, Tracy	B	7/4/26	Prague Junior Cup
Hiatt, Leah	N4	7/4/26	Prague Junior Cup
Capriotti, Lisa	B	7/4/26	Prague Junior Cup
Capriotti, Lisa	B	7/11/26	Paks Jr. Cup
Oldfather, Tracy	B	7/11/26	Paks Jr. Cup
Sternick, Jim	A	7/11/26	Paks Jr. Cup
Paltielov, Boruch	N4	7/11/26	Medellin Invitational

Murray, Alex	A	7/11/26	Medellin Invitational
Capriotti, Lisa	B	7/18/26	Sarajevo European Open
UPCOMING TRAVEL			
Landstreet, Sharon	A	8/17/2026	IJF Panam Refereeing Seminar
Balagezyan, Saro	A	8/17/2026	IJF Panam Refereeing Seminar
Batan, Marcos	A	8/18/2026	PanAm Lima Open 2026
Oldfather, Tracy	A	8/18/2026	PanAm Lima Open 2026
Suyehira, Sam	A	8/18/2026	PanAm Lima Open 2026
Ward, Nicole	A	8/18/2026	PanAm Lima Open 2026
Capriotti, Lisa	B	9/20/2026	Sarajevo World Veterans
Oldfather, Tracy	B	10/3/2026	Podgonica Jr. European Open
Sternick, Jim	B	10/4/2026	Podgonica Jr. European Open
Nguyen, Hieuy	N4	10/5/2026	Podgonica Jr. European Open
Bill Gugino	A	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Bob Gugino	B	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
David Gutierrez	N4	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
David Ellis	B	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Marcus Breda	N4	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Boris Munoz	B	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Hieuy Nguyen	N4	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Alberto Agudelo	A	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Rustam Basriyev	N4	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Justin Winn	N4	10/16/2026	2026 Ontario Open
Bill Gugino	A	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Bob Gugino	B	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Theodore Schwalm	N4	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
David Ellis	B	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Boris Munoz	B	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Alberto Agudelo	A	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Marcos Batan	A	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Devin Cohen	A	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Rajesh Karmacharya	A	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Boruch Paltielov	N4	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Hieuy Nguyen	N4	11/14/2026	2026 Quebec Open
Esmaeili, Babak	B	11/28/2026	Rome European Cup

*Brian Toth is currently in the Lima Grand Prix.

V. Old Business

A. Status of Reimbursements.

i. Passed month:

1. JO's reimbursements were paid out during the event.
2. US Open reimbursements are being mailed out.

ii. 2026 International Travel Reimbursements Policy

1. Referees attending USA Judo Youth Nationals may submit travel report and expenses for one international trip taken in Q1 or Q2 of 2026 for partial reimbursement consideration.
2. Referees attending USA Judo Senior Nationals may submit travel report and expenses for one international trip taken in Q1 or Q2 or Q3 of 2026 for partial reimbursement consideration.
3. Referees attending USA Judo Junior Olympics may submit travel report and expenses for one international trip taken in Q2 or Q3 or Q4 of 2026 for partial reimbursement consideration.
4. Referees attending USA Judo Presidents Cup may submit travel report and expenses for one international trip taken in Q3 or Q4 of 2026 for partial reimbursement consideration.
5. Travel reports, expense request and receipts should be sent directly to RC for consideration. – Send to Hector Estevez and ref secretaries

B. USA Judo sponsored IJF Seminar in the United States. The clinic at the US Open took place on Thursday July 23 with IJF Supervisor - sensei Matthew Batai

C. Other old business

VI. New business

A. As was re-confirmed at 26'JOs and 26'US Open, and demonstrated as a matter of standardized practice, [each action \(or sequence of actions\) is generally observed several times by the officiating team, for purposes of evaluating, determining or making a decision with respect to such action. This sequence provides for multiple observations \(viewings\) of an action. The general sequence by the officiating team is:](#)

- i. Referee live view (1); and,
- ii. Mat chief (simultaneous) live view (2).

If there is any doubt or question (in officials' mind), or, if another observation or additional detail or is felt to be needed, then mat team uses:

- iii. Camera 1 delayed view (3). and,
- iv. Camera 2 delayed view (4).
- v. The Mat chief will review footage from all available CAREcameras, using different playback speeds and zoom as needed, when the supervisor determines that a dedicated review is necessary.

B. RC is working to approve updated selection criteria and active status.

C. Other new business

VII. Set date for the next RC Meeting – will be set later and communicated.