

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Agenda – September 20, 2025

- I. Roll Call – Meeting called to order 7:32pm
  - A. Members Present – Berliner, Takata, Sell, Shimizu, Gugino, Estevez, Smith
  - B. Members Excused –
  - C. Members Absent –
  - D. RC Assistants Present – Malek, Rucker
  - E. Special Guests – Russ Scherer, former RC Chair
- II. Review/acceptance of minutes from last RC Meeting – Previously approved via email – July was not an official RC meeting as quorum was not achieved
- III. Event Status Reports
  - A. Domestic Events
    - a. Re-emphasize that Test/Evaluation events require USA Judo tournament sanctioning per Corinne and USA Judo.
      - i. Updating test/evaluation event request form to explicitly state that the USA Judo Sanction number field is required
      - ii. Do we want to continue to allow early posting of test events for referee planning? If so, more proactive communication with USA Judo and Tournament Directors will be necessary
      - iii. Online validation of national referee compliance with membership, background and training qualification is now available online for national referees. Does the validation process need to be modified? – Will follow up with Corinne, we will continue to send the referee list to USA judo for evaluation, because we do not have access to gaps so we still would have to look up referees individually and ask USA Judo to manage compliance anyway. Also need to validate compliance on day of event.
    - b. For President’s Cup, due to budgetary restrictions, referee event budget modified to support lodging/tournament meals for 6 referees per mat, which includes mat supervisors + 4 officials (CR, 3 evaluators). Additional considerations need be discussed for 2026 as budget is defined for next year.
    - c. Upcoming Events – Approved
      - a. N1 Events
        - i. September 21, 2025 Liberty Bell Judo Classic, Philadelphia, PA
        - ii. October 12, 2025 Morris Cup, Burnt Hills, NY
          1. USA Judo Sanction? Need to verify USA Judo Sanction. RC will reach out to USA Judo for confirmation.
        - iii. November 22, 2025 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Dallas Open Judo Championships, Dallas, TX
      - b. N2 Events
        - i. November 23, 2025 USA Judo President’s Cup, Dallas, TX
      - c. N3 Events

B. International Events –

a. USA Judo requests that international travel requests now be sent directly to national office, prior to RC approval.

i. Process changes/discussion

1. Delays jeopardize USA acceptance of international assignments
2. Verbal invitations – this can interfere with relationship building and acceptance of invitations
3. Selection from IJF needs to be streamlined to eliminate acceptance delays, for example, participation at IJF Grand Slam should be automatic acceptance from IJF+ IJF Referee.
4. Mike will also reach out to discuss this policy and impacts on current process.
  - a. Need 24 hour response, or can jeopardize participation
  - b. Is USA Judo Committee – appropriate representation for USA Judo? We have the expertise and the relationships to facilitate this – this policy is negatively affecting existing process.
  - c. Inscription process?
  - d. Help RC understand need for what is perceived as an additional administrative burden.
  - e. Official invitations not always received. EJU cup attendance for example requires inscription but built through us taking advantage of availability and inscription.

ii. Communication/updates to referee corps - TBD

iii. Follow up with USA Judo on any open issues? – YES – Mike will discuss with Corinne.

Recent trips –

Gutierrez, David	7/26/25	Birmingham Jr. European Cup
Sternick, Jim	7/26/25	Birmingham Jr. European Cup
Sternick, Jim	8/2/25	Skopje Junior European Cup
Davis, JT	8/2/25	Skopje Junior European Cup
Landstreet, Sharon	8/21/25	Amman Jr. & Cadet Asian Corps
Landstreet, Sharon	8/30/25	Cracow Judo Open
Vellejos, Maximilion	9/1/25	<b>IJF Academy - Walsall, UK</b>
Capriotti, Lisa	9/4/25	San Salvador, Panamerican Cups 2025
Freedman, Jake	9/4/25	San Salvador, Panamerican Cups 2026
Murray, Alex	9/13/25	Mex Cancun-Veterans Championships
Caixeta, Vivian	9/13/25	Mex Cancun-Veterans Championships
Crawford, Tracy	9/20/25	Skopje Senior European Cupd



**but let's please try to submit them as soon as possible to ease the administrative burden and expedite payment for all.**

C. Annual Policy Reviews Status

1. International travel reimbursements for 2025 1H for received reports and receipts will be submitted to USA Judo accounting by 30-SEP-2025
2. Proposed distribution of international travel funds for 2026.
  - a. Referees traveling internationally interested in receiving a travel expense reimbursement grant will submit an application form (still to be defined) that will require basic information about the event, opportunity for personal development and benefit to the USA referee community.
  - b. International reimbursement grant requests will be limited to referees working the four national events.
    - i. Referees working the Youth Nationals may submit travel reimbursement grant requests for international travel in Q1 or Q2 2026 (up to \$1000 to be distributed)
    - ii. Referees working the Senior Nationals may submit travel reimbursement grant requests for international travel in Q1, Q2 or Q3 2026 (up to \$1500 to be distributed)
    - iii. Referees working the Junior Olympics may submit travel reimbursement grant requests for international travel in Q2, Q3 or Q4 2026 (up to \$1500 to be distributed)
    - iv. Referees working the Presidents Cup may submit travel reimbursement grant requests for international travel in Q3 or Q4 2026 (up to \$1000 to be distributed)
  - c. Grant requests will be evaluated and a grant proposal for each of the four windows will be approved by the RC prior to distribution.
  - d. Consider applications from candidates who miss USA Judo events for assigned international events
- ii. RIS Content Review/Archive – Mike Takata still to take action. Apologies for delay.
- iii. Revision of USA Judo referee documentation provided from Corinne/USA Judo. Mike will distribute to RC for additional review and feedback.

V. New Business

- A. USA Judo Referee Items – Exploring production of USA Judo Referee items for purchase: Polos, ties, briefcases, redesigned national badges. Will collaborate with USA Judo as necessary. Received communication from two referees who are

interested in participating. Mike will organize group to develop proposal for graphic design and plan for production/distribution.

- VI. Request for RC members to consider succession plan and think about training plan.
  - A. Updates from any RC members?
- VII. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Saturday December 13
- VIII. New Business
  - A. Neil Adams Clinics – Florida and Texas
- IX. Adjournment 9:02