

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – July 20, 2024

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Members Present – Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Torie Oishi, Russ Scherer, David Smith
 - B. Members Excused – Steve Cohen
 - C. Members Absent – Katie Sell, Barb Shimizu
 - D. RC Assistants Present – Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - E. Special Guests – Keith Bryant, Bobby Donaldson, Mike Takata
- II. Moment of Silence for National & Above Referees who have recently passed away – including Rick Celotto, George Pasiuk, Walter Van Helder, Mr. Shina, and Larry Labrador, as well as Judo pioneer Yosh Uchida.
- III. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (4/21/24) Minutes – approved by email
- IV. Referee Advancements –
 - A. to IJF International - Marcos Batan and Rajesh Kamacharya
 - B. to IJF Continental – Tracy Crawford, Lisa Capriotti, Alan Lo and Jim Sternick
 - C. to National – Dale Brown (Tohkon), Aleksander Khchirian and Jacob Shon (Golden State)
- V. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 1. Recently Completed N1 Events – *Indiana State Champs, Golden State Champs and Tohkon Champs*
 2. Recently Completed N2 and N3 Events – *National Junior Olympics*
 3. Upcoming N1 Events – *North American, Liberty Bell, San Jose Open, Morris Cup and Dallas Invitational*
 4. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *US Open and Presidents Cup*
 - B. Motion by Berliner (seconded by Smith) “To require tournaments that draw 400 or more competitors be required to provide rooms for all referees” – tabled – a working group will be selected from referees and tournament organizers to develop a proposal to be submitted back to the RC for further consideration.
 - C. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
 1. Recent trips - many U.S. referees attended (32 referees traveling – mostly in Pan America and Europe – desire to get more to Asia, Oceania and Africa to further develop foreign relations
 2. Upcoming events – World Veterans and many other international events
 3. Numerous additional referees have completed or are scheduled for the IJF Academy – upcoming sessions at the Kodokan and in Great Britain
 - D. Educational Committee Report – working on Mat Supervisor training – more clinics are being requested
- VI. Other Old Business
 - A. Actions taken by email since last meeting – changed some evaluation teams due to other activities

- 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) – Please review the posted RC policy on referee reimbursement and send your requests to Russ Scherer as soon after the event as possible.
 - D. Clarification and Notification Procedure – previous motion (Gugino – 2nd Berliner) “To follow all IJF coaching rules for IJF Cadets, IJF Juniors and IJF Senior divisions.” We should try to have event directors to run those divisions first. This applies to all events utilizing the terminology “IJF categories”, whether or not it is a point event. Should be incorporated in the event policies and sanctioning form. This is effective September 1, 2024. Discussion of procedures to be posted in coaches boxes at U.S. Open and documentation of deviations of coach behavior
 - E. On line National Referee Exam Schedule and status – Ian will schedule for late September
- VII. New Business
- A. Posting of Coaching Instructions in “Coaches Box” at the 2024 U.S. Open – see above
 - B. Updating Referee Pages on USA Judo website – in process
 - C. Open discussion of hearing impaired competition, liability insurance for referees at events not sanctioned by USA Judo and potential rule set for newaza only events
- VIII. Date for the next RC Meeting – September 28, 2024 – 7:00PM (Eastern)
- IX. Executive Session
- A. Recommended Continuity Transfer – Mike Takata is being included in RC operations in preparation for transfer
 - B. Requests for Emeritus Status – Michael Mooney, John Jacobson and Harold Yamada (pending his written request) – Moved by David Smith (seconded by Bill Gugino) - passed
 - C. Procedure to make sure all up and coming referees and their “home organization” are acutely aware of all requirements (rank, etc.) in addition to refereeing activity and performance early in the planning stages for their referee advancement. Post pathway requirements (IJF) on the USA Judo referee page.
- X. Adjournment