

2025 USA Judo Referee Committee – Goals and Accomplishments

COMMITTEE BYLAWS

- a. *The Referee Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the CEO (and to the Board of Directors when requested) as to the following matters and shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Board of Directors:*
 1. *Promulgation of standards and criteria for the selection and evaluation of referees;*
 2. *Development of a certification system for all national class referees;*
 3. *Recommendations with respect to all rules and procedures for the examination, evaluation, reevaluation and certification of national referees to the Board of Directors for approval; and*
 4. *Recommendation of referees to participate in national and international events.*

2025 Referee Committee Goals and 2024 Accomplishments

- 1) **Oversee and manage the referees approved to participate in the four USA Judo National Judo Championships (Youth Nationals, Senior Nationals, Junior Olympics, and Presidents Cup)**
 - a) **In 2024, the Referee Committee had oversight over refereeing for the four major USA Judo events last year, successfully coordinating the referee teams for the Youth Nationals, Senior Nationals, Junior Olympics and Presidents Cup. The RC is currently organizing referees for the 2025 Youth Nationals in Salt Lake City.**
 - b) **86 different referees participated in at least one of the four USA Judo events. 41 referees participated in two or more of the four USA Judo events.**
- 2) **Oversee, coordinate, and manage national judo referee examinations and referee evaluations held throughout the United States as requested by local organizing committees**
 - a) **In 2024, the Referee committee had oversight over sixteen national evaluation/examination sites across the United States.**
 - b) **The RC approved evaluation teams completed approximately 385 referee evaluations for approximately 146 working referees over the course of the sixteen evaluation/examination sites in 2024. These participation totals are in addition to the IJF-A referees who are supporting the events in the roles of Chief Referee, Evaluators, Mat Chiefs and/or working referees and do not receive evaluations.**
 - c) **The RC approved tournament officials have approved a total of 26 candidates for their national referee license since the beginning of 2024 up until this past weekend, March 16, 2025.**
- 3) **Oversee, coordinate, and manage national referee program, including overall referee status and leveling. Collaborate with USA Judo to ensure ongoing compliance to USA Judo requirements with regards to SafeSport, concussion training and background checks.**

- a) The referee committee assistants are working closely with USA Judo prior to all national events to ensure that all referee participants are in compliance with USA Judo guidelines as a prerequisite for participation. For regional events, the referee committee assistants are ensuring compliance for nationally and above licensed participants and candidates for national license. Regional tournament officials may approve participation of regional/local referees that are not verifiable through the RC.
- b) The RC assistants are compiling and posting evaluations from events on the online referee information system and notifying participating referees so that r can access tournament ratings and feedback digitally as soon as they are available.
- 4) Review and approve all self-funded referee requests to work international judo events
 - a) The RC approved international travel for 52 referees from levels N3 through A who have either traveled internationally or are scheduled to do so. There are 35 assignments for international travel so far in 2025 for seminar and/or tournament participation.
- 5) Review, educate and coordinate all selected referees to work events overseen or authorized by the International Judo Federation (IJF), Pan American Judo Confederation (PJC) and/or International Blind Sports Association (IBSA)
 - a) The RC continues to coordinate assignments with the above international bodies in addition to the other continental organizations to provide opportunities for participation of USA Judo Referees at various levels internationally.
- 6) Determine and nominate candidates for IJF-A (International) and IJF-B (Continental) examinations.
 - a) The RC is pleased to report that 28 USA Judo referees have been elevated to IJF-A and IJF-B Status in the past quadrennial. This is by far more referees than the USA has ever had elevated in the IJF ranks than in any previous comparable period. The USA has 2 IJF-A candidates and 1 IJF-B candidate scheduled for examination in Lima, Peru next month.
- 7) Provide referee travel assistance for USA Judo approved international events to selected active members in good standing
 - a) The RC distributed \$5000 in financial assistance to USA Judo Referees traveling internationally in 2024
- 8) Provide rule interpretations and rule recommendations to USA Judo based on changes implemented at the IJF level.
 - a) The RC provided USA Judo a document of notes from the 2024 IJF Rules Seminar in Istanbul, Turkiye, including recommendations for implementation in the United States in 2025 for non-IJF events.
- 9) Communicate and coordinate information regarding the national referee program to all active USA referees in good standing
 - a) All active USA judo referees will be notified of the RC meeting general session and invited to participate at their discretion.
 - b) RC is actively receiving input from referee community at National, Regional and Local events, where RC members are actively involved in the judo community as referees, coaches, parents and athletes.
- 10) Collaborate with USA Judo leadership on administrative items pertaining to referees
 - a) RC is collaborating with CEO on management of budget for USA Judo events

- b) RC has forwarded to USA Judo an exploratory proposal for an educational rules seminar in conjunction with Coach Education and Athlete Advisory Council

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