

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2023

- I. Roll Call
  - A. RC Members Present – Gary Berliner, Steve Cohen, Hector Estevez, Russ Scherer, Katie Sell, Barb Shimizu, and David Smith
  - B. RC Members Excused – Bill Gugino and Torie Oishi
  - C. RC Assistants Present – David Malek, Ralph Palmer and Dana Rucker
  - D. Referee Education Chair Present – Bobby Donaldson
  - E. USA Judo Executive Director Present – Keith Bryant
  - F. USA Judo Board Members Present – Joe Ragan (BoD Chair), Joon Chi (Referee Rep)
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (8/12/23) Minutes – previously approved by email
- III. Event Status Reports
  - A. Domestic Events
    1. N1 Events – *Results: North American Championships (Wayne, NJ – 9/10); San Jose Open (San Jose, CA – 10/7-8); Morris Cup (Burnt Hills, NY – 10/8) – all events ran well – **Michael Manning** passed his National Referee Exam at the San Jose Open*
    2. N2 and N3 Events - none
    3. Upcoming N1 Events – *Palo Alto (Atherton, CA – 11/12 – Dan Israel Chief Ref, David Williams and Mark Hirota Evaluators); Dallas Open (Irving, TX – 11/18); Winter Nationals (Azusa, CA – 12/8-10)*
    4. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events *President's Cup (Irving, TX – 11/17-19)*
  - B. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
    1. Three new U.S. International Referees – Congratulations to **Jake Freedman, Jiwhan Han and Diba Mani** for passing their IJF-A exam in Calgary, Canada 9/15/23
    2. Other recent trips –*Baku Grand Slam (9/22-24 – Azerbaijan – Brian Toth); Prague Cup (9/29-10/2 – Prague, - Alex Murray); EJU Cup Berlin Cadets (10/14-15 – Berlin, Germany – JT Davis and Josh Cypert)*
    3. Upcoming events – *Adler Cup (10/28 Germany – Mike Hiatt, Leah Hiatt, Lisa Capriotti, Viviane Caixeta); Peak Judo Tournament (10/28 – Burnaby, BC – Gary Idleburg); Quebec Open (11/11-12 – Montreal, Canada – Rajesh Karmacharya, Boris Munoz, Boruch Paltielov, Stephen Friedman, Theodore Schwalm, Devin Cohen, Manmohan Chima, Joaquin Gonzoles, Ramin Khaksar, Diba Mani, Bill Gugino, Bob Gugino, Gerardo Tello and Mike Hiatt); PanAm Open, Cadet & Junior Cup (11/16-19 – Montreal, Canada – Devin Cohen, Saro Balagezyan and Nicole Ward)*
- IV. Other Old Business
  - A. Review of proper procedures for requesting international events – invitations should come through the USA Judo RC
  - B. Status - Unification of sanctioning and National Referee Test/Evaluation Sites criteria the national office will notify the RC Assistants as soon as applications for point events are received
- V. New Business

- A. Annual updates to RC Policies and documentation – input was requested from RC Members – registration of local and regional referees in Sport 80 was discussed in detail to limit Safe Sport potential violation exposure – Keith will obtain additional info from Safe Sport and a sub group of the RC and national office will develop a policy covering referees below national level.
- B. Everyone was reminded that trip reports including individual expense reports are required for all international refereeing trips
- VI. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Dec. 16, 2023 at 7:00PM (Eastern) on Zoom
- VII. Executive Session
  - A. Review of on-line national referee test (written portion) – Ian Gerrard gave a detailed review of the proctored on-line test being developed which will be offered several times per year – the first offering was approved and the exam will be enhanced over time. The practical portion will continue to be given at our N1 events.
  - B. Pre-event referee meeting attendance – reaffirmed the standard requirement for referees to attend such meetings which are to have a minimum of 1-1 ½ hours of technical content in addition to administrative information
  - C. Rating referees who miss significant portions of an event – moved by Gary Berliner (seconded by David Smith) the referee will still be rated but may not receive a rating higher than their current level – passed unanimously.
  - D. Status of response to IJF Information request – not totally completed but great progress
  - E. Survey Status – forecasted 2024 N1 events; requests for CR/Evaluators/Mat Chiefs/weigh-in refs/CARE setup; Referee requests for N1, N2 and N3 events – So far, the following events have expressed an interest in being designated as a National Referee Test Site: Morris Cup (submitted & approved), Garden State, North American Championships, Wahadachi, Tohkon, Indiana State Championships, Winter Nationals, Lone Star, Collegiate Nationals
  - F. Geographical distribution and requirements for N1 events – target distribution is 6 areas of the country (north-east, south-east, north-middle, south-middle, north-west and south-west) with up to 3 events/area, annually.
  - G. Selection, funding and content of novice and intermediate referee development clinics – pilot program to start in 2024 – level 1 (clinic w/mini-shiai including potential match interruption); seed money for clinician travel and other costs (minimized); low (~\$10) entry fee for mini-shiai; split “profit” (50/50) host/RC ref dev fund – level 2 (clinic w/normal local shiai) – level 3 (clinic w/state or regional shiai) – arrangements for level 2 and level 3 events similar to level 1 but more formalized operation and entry fee is expected to be higher due to increased event costs.
  - H. 2024 International funding distribution – specific refs/events vs. averaging – same approach as 2023 for refereeing international events but if additional funds are available a separate fund will be set up with different distribution policy for other activities, such as required clinic participation.
  - I. Tom Gustin’s request for “Emeritus Status” – moved by Gary Berliner (seconded by Dave Smith) to approve the request – passed unanimously.

- J. Several requests have recently been received to review videos of specific actions recorded at various events. These are not formal complaints (which would go to the ethics & grievance committee) but rather requests for educational purposes. It was decided that individual members of the RC could give their opinion rather than replying with a “no comment”, but this would not necessarily be an official “RC response”.

VIII. Adjournment