

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Agenda – February 15, 2025

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Members Present – Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Russ Scherer, Torie Oishi, David Smith (will join late), Steve Cohen, Bill Gugino, Barbara Shimizu
 - B. Members Excused –
 - C. Members Absent –
 - D. RC Assistants Present – David Malek, Dana Rucker, Ralph Palmer
 - E. Special Guests – Jerry Cypert (USA Judo Board Member)
- II. Review /acceptance of minutes from last RC Meeting Move to accept: Berliner, Second: Cohen pass unanimously
- III. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 - 1. Upcoming N1 Events – Already approved – Pedro’s Judo Challenge, Pacific Northwest Open, Garden State, Wahadachi, NCJA, America’s Cup;
 - 2. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – Room Request Form – Youth Nationals referees should already have received. Senior Nationals – forthcoming.
 - B. International Events
 - 1. Recent trips --
 - 2. Upcoming events – 3 submissions for testing in Lima: A: Alex Murray, JT Davis, Vivienne Caxieta – paperwork has been submitted and accepted. Nine USA attendees attending seminar. Saro Balagezyan-Brazil, Devin Cohen-Invitation to Brazil as PJC Supervisor. Referees to Berlin: Bobby Donaldson + 3 for exposure internationally – participation list to follow. Will coordinate with Josh Cypert on potential future B examination. Sending National referees to Europe for exposure. Brian Toth on tour.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Actions taken by email since last meeting – approved N2 events listed above
 - B. Status of travel reports, costs and receipts
 - i. Status of National Championships Referee Reimbursements – All requests have been processed and submitted to USA Judo National Office for payment.
 - 1. Russ, please re-send requests to Corinne and Vaughn
 - ii. 2024 International Support Status – As noted above the list has been submitted to USA Judo for payment.
 - 1. Russ, please re-send requests to Corinne and Vaughn
 - C. Annual Policy Reviews Status – The RC Policies will be updated following the appointment of the 2025/2026 RC by the USA Judo Board of Directors.
 - D. Referee survey – Survey results have been collected, referees should please also make preferences known to the referee team at any given event (Chief Referee, Evaluators or RC Assistants). We will try to accommodate as possible, but please understand that the primary responsibility of the CR is the proper execution of the

event. The CR should have the final say for an event's mat leaders, mat assignments, etc...

V. New Business

A. Referee National Testing Plan + Backup

- i. Current policy, continue to work through Ian Gerrard to schedule online testing.
- ii. As backup: Ian Gerrard will provide a written examination using questions from the online exam to be held by Ref Comm Asst team that may be used for written examinations if the online testing is not available.
- iii. Update of online testing to reflect the new rules. Targeting end of February for updates including 2025 rules.
- iv. There are cases where practical examination is being taken prior to written examination. We will allow this on a case by case basis, but national testing registration must continue to happen in advance of event in order to ensure proper paperwork with USA Judo around SafeSport and HeadsUp. We should note that policy should be clarified for consistency in application for future national testing.

B. Referee Education Committee not an official USA Judo Committee, but function of referee education and development will continue.

VI. Set date for the next RC Meeting – March 22, 2025 7pm

VII. Executive Session

- A. New IJF Rules – USA Judo RC has submitted recommendations, not yet approved by USA Judo Board. Tournaments may use this rule interpretation until official USA Judo Board Approval is granted. Corinne suggests a clarification of “junior” for broader USA Judo audience consumption. “IJF Junior”? “17-20”?
- B. Follow up with Saro on providing “White Paper” on False Attack for RC review. Saro will re-distribute to all RC members. RC will have email vote to approve and distribute this document. Feb 26 email vote. Ensure attribution to Saro for his contributions.
 - i. Saro/Bobby to discuss potential for future documentation (matte application, kaeshiwaza)
 - ii. Ideas for sharing/distributing/encouraging coach engagement in rule definitions.
- C. RC membership/role approval set for USA Judo Agenda on 2/16.
- D. IJF Referee Raul Camacho – August timeframe for kata seminar, can we also arrange for a referee seminar? Need to discuss financial support for travel – NYC to seminar location(s), Saro will provide estimate and decision deadline date.
- E. Additional Referee Staff Assignments for National Events –
 - i. Youth Nationals – CR: Berliner, Eval: Takata, Gugino, Donaldson, Asst: Palmer
 - ii. Senior Nationals – CR: Berliner, Eval: Estevez, Takata, Gugino, Asst: Rucker
 - iii. Jr Olympics --
 - iv. President's Cup --

- F. Requests for Emeritus Status – Michelle Gall Moved: Berliner Second: Gugino.
Approved unanimously.
- G. John Osako Award – Sharon Landstreet – Moved: Berliner Second: Estevez Approved
unanimously
- H. Who should be on the invitation list for RC meeting? All active national and above
referees? +emeritus
- I. Initial 2025 RC Budget –Finishing up 2024 budget resolution and will follow up with
2025 budget. Timelines: 2025 budget planning – realistically March. Corinne will
review budget proposals and identify areas where spending should be done with
consultation. Russ will send consolidated list of reimbursements for 2024 to Corinne
by February 28. Mike/Russ will get clarity on expenditures for Youth Nationals from
Vaughn.
- J. Reporting forms - Current USA Judo Position is that Coach or Player issues may be
documented by the referee teams, but any enforcement or policing of issues is a
tournament organizer function. USA Judo is open to discuss specific policy
recommendations. Vote to adopt without official USA Judo Process/Policy – Vote to
collect and utilize forms passed unanimously.
- K. Lower level referees for weigh ins/tournament assistance – Starting conversations as
to appropriate incentives. Send ideas/concerns to miketakata@gmail.com.

VIII. Adjournment