

## USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Agenda – March 22, 2025

- I. Roll Call
  - A. Members Present –
  - B. Members Excused –
  - C. Members Absent –
  - D. RC Assistants Present –
  - E. Special Guests –
- II. Review/acceptance of minutes from last RC Meeting
- III. Event Status Reports
  - A. Domestic Events
    - 1. Upcoming Events – Which ones need approval?
      - a. N1 Events
        - i. April 6, 2025 NCJA College and High School National Championships, Durham, NH
        - ii. April 13, 2025 Garden State Judo Classic, Wayne, NJ
        - iii. May 2-4, 2025 Golden State Open, Los Angeles, CA
          - 1. CR – Richie Endow
          - 2. Evaluators – Greg Moore, Sheldon Konno, Mike Takata
        - iv. May 3, 2025 Indiana Open Championships, Portland, IN
        - v. June 14-15, 2025 Tohkon Classic 27/GKJN Cup, Bedford Park (Chicago), IL
        - vi. July 4-6, 2025 America's Cup, Honolulu, HI
      - b. N2 Events
        - i. April 29, 2025 Youth Nationals, Salt Lake City, NV
        - ii. June 20, 2025, USA Judo Junior Olympics, Bedford Park (Chicago), IL
        - iii. June 22, 2025, USA Judo Junior Olympics International Divisions, Bedford Park (Chicago), IL
      - c. N3 Events
        - i. May 24, 2025, USA Judo Senior National Championships, Birmingham, AL  
(Priority given to referees who have worked at least one of the four major USA Judo events in the past year)
    - B. International Events
      - 1. Recent trips –
        - a. Matsumae Cup – DEN – Landstreet
        - b. Algiers African Open – ALG – Landstreet
        - c. Tashkent Grand Slam – UZB – Toth
        - d. Malaga Junior Cup – ESP – Crawford, Graham
        - e. Portimao Junior European Cup – POR – Murray, Sternick
        - f. Rio Junior Panamerican Open & Panamerican Open – BRA – Capriotti
      - 2. Upcoming events –
        - a. Dominican Republic National Military and Police Sports Games – DOM – Balagezyan, Caixeta
        - b. Panama Cadet/Junior Cups – PAN – Balagezyan, Capriotti (Alt)

- c. IJF Rules Seminar – PER – Balagezyan, Berliner, Caixeta, Capriotti, Cohen, Chi, Crawford, Davis, Han, Knopfmacher, Mani, Murray, Karmacharya
- d. Panamerican & Oceania Championships – PER – Caxieta, Davis, Murray, Balagezyan (Alt)
- e. Panamerican & Oceania Championships Senior Individuals & Mixed Teams – CHI – Balagezyan, Suyehira, Batan (Alt)

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Actions taken by email since last meeting
  - i. Submitted 2024-2025 RC Goals and Accomplishments Document to USA Judo
  - ii. Approved False Attack White Paper for inclusion in resources available to USA Judo referees, coaches and athletes
  - iii. Approval of evaluation events as noted above.
- B. Status of 2024 reimbursements for Presidents Cup and International Travel Reimbursements
  - i. Status of President's Cup Referee Reimbursements – All requests have been processed and submitted to USA Judo National Office for payment. Follow up emails sent Feb 25, 2025 and March 18, 2025.
  - ii. 2024 International Support Status – As noted above the list has been submitted to USA Judo for payment. Follow up emails sent Feb 25, 2025 and March 18, 2025.
  - iii. Request made to allow referees to opt out of direct deposit reimbursement, Mike Takata will forward to Corinne Shigemoto for consideration.
- C. Referee Committee membership/roles approved by USA Judo Board
  - i. Gary Berliner, co-chair - international
  - ii. Mike Takata, co-chair - domestic
  - iii. Hector Estevez, referee
  - iv. David Smith, referee
  - v. Barbars Shimizu, referee
  - vi. William Gugino, referee
  - vii. Steve Cohen, coach
  - viii. Torie Oishi, athlete
  - ix. Katie Sell, athlete
  - x. Conor Uyekawa, athlete
  - xi. TBD, athlete
- D. Annual Policy Reviews Status
  - i. Soliciting feedback (positive and negative) on current policy for distribution of international Travel reimbursement funds – please send suggestions/feedback to Mike Takata [miketakata@gmail.com](mailto:miketakata@gmail.com). Current policy will remain until the first half of 2025.
  - ii. RIS Content Review/Archive – Mike Takata will be responsible for assembling a group to review the Referee Information System to archive documentation that is no longer correct or relevant.

- E. Reporting forms - USA Judo responded that they will not accept Coach Incident Reporting forms from the RC and recommended that issues be raised to Tournament Director(s) who may at their discretion include as part of their report to USA Judo. For consistency referee and player incident reports may be used at the discretion of the event Chief Referee to document for the Tournament Director(s). Reasoning given was that enforcement of coach behavior should not be a referee function but a tournament director function.

V. New Business

VI. Set date for the next RC Meeting –

VII. Executive Session

- A. New IJF Rules – USA Judo RC has submitted recommendations, Corinne confirmed adoption by USA Judo, not needing USA Judo Approval. Recommend we distribute to active USA judo referees (email?)
- B. USA Judo 2025 SOP Document, working with USA Judo to address the following clause:
  - i. “Qualified mat officials should be used. USA Judo certified referees must be used on every mat. If a sufficient number of certified referees is not available, then one certified referee should be assigned to each mat area. Local and regional referees must be certified by the USA Judo Referee Commission or an IJF-A certified USA Judo Referee. The regional and local certifications will include a current USA Judo membership with completed SafeSport training, background screen and concussion training. Exceptions are made regarding SafeSport and Background screening for any referee under the age of 18”
- C. Forwarded proposal for Rules Education Clinic to USA Judo CEO, Coach Committee, Athletes Council to explore possibility of Rules Seminar for Referees, Coaches and Athletes, potentially in conjunction with US Open event. Waiting on USA Judo response on budget for follow up meeting. This is an evolution of the proposal from February RC meeting from Saro Balagezyan.
- D. 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. Junior Olympics --
  - iv. President’s Cup --
- E. Potential A & B testing in Lima – A: Alex Murray, JT Davis B: Vivienne Caixeta
- F. Requests for Emeritus Status – None
- G. Initial 2025 RC Budget Update – Final budget not yet available. USA Judo Events will be budgeted for 1 Chief Referee, 3 evaluators, and 7 referees per mat, including mat chiefs. USA judo lodging allocation will cut off at this point. Referees signing up after the limit is reached may participate, but are not guaranteed a lodging allocation.

VIII. New Business

- A. Proposed by Ian Gerrard – Revised International Travel Report -- Report Template shared with RC via email earlier this week. Edits made per recommendation of David Smith. Reports will be shared with RC co-chairs as gatekeepers. Inquiries about specific events can be directed to Mike Takata or Gary Berliner.
- B. Proposed by Mike Takata: No changes will be made to the current evaluation system for individual events at this time. Proposing removal of weighted ranking annual summary calculation for N4 and B4 referees. Alternatively, we will provide raw data of event attendance and ranking upon RC request so that RC Members may consider their own interpretations of relative value of quantity of events, quality of ratings, international participation, USA Judo participation, “head to head” rankings when referees participate in the same event, or any other factors reflected in the data. Current summarization process in my opinion is an overly-complex system applying unclearly defined fixed weightings to various events.

IX. Adjournment