

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Agenda – January 4, 2025

- I. Roll Call
  - A. Members Present – Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Russ Scherer, Barb Shimizu, David Smith
  - B. Members Excused –
  - C. Members Absent – Steve Cohen, Alexander Kchirian, Torie Oishi, Katie Sell
  - D. RC Assistants Present – David Malek, Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
  - E. Special Guests – Keith Bryant, Joon Chi, Jerry Cypert, Bobby Donaldson, Mike Takata
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting – unanimously approved as distributed
- III. Event Status Reports
  - A. Domestic Events
    1. Upcoming N1 Events – *Garden State (CR Saro Balagezyan, EV1 Bill Gugino, EV2 TBD) – 4/13/2025 – moved by Gary Berliner – passed unanimously; Already approved – Lone Star, Wahadachi, NCJA, America’s Cup; Need paperwork for Indiana and Tohkon; Bill Gugino added as 3<sup>rd</sup> evaluator for Wahadachi (approved unanimously)*
    2. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *Room Request Form – Youth Nationals and Senior Nationals*
  - B. International Events –
    1. Recent trips - 9 U.S. referees attended the IJF Rules Seminar
    2. Upcoming events – Brian Toth will referee at the Paris GS; several other U.S. referees will be traveling internationally
- IV. Old Business
  - A. Actions taken by email since last meeting – none
  - B. Status of international travel reports, costs and receipts – everyone did not submit- reimbursement amounts were calculated and submitted to USA Judo National Office for payment – A letter acknowledging donations will be sent to each referee who did not submit for partial reimbursement, assuming they provide the needed information to USA Judo. Russ will send a list of these referees to Keith so he can solicit the information and issue the letters.
  - C. Status of National Championships Referee Reimbursements – All requests have been processed and submitted to USA Judo National Office for payment.
  - D. Referee Survey Status – Responses are still coming in.
  - E. 2025 Referee Levels – emails have been sent to notify each referee
  - F. Points List validated – Summary posted as a “Downloadable” on the Referee Information Site which reflects corrections received from individual referees and subsequent verification.
  - G. 2024 International Support Status – As noted above the list has been submitted to USA Judo for payment.
  - H. 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.

- I. Reporting forms – status – Keith will put together a broad base committee (referee, coach, staff, Ethics Committee rep, etc.) to develop a policy to track and utilize the data recorded on these forms.

V. New Business

- A. Inclusion of “Required” Referee Seminars, IJF Academy, etc. – Partial Reimbursement? – Motion by Bill Gugino (Gary Berliner 2<sup>nd</sup>): “To maintain our current policy of not using expenses to attend clinics/seminars when calculating partial reimbursements for international travel by referees who officiate in international events.” Passed – no negative votes, one abstention.
- B. Notification: Solicit candidates for the John Osako Award by e-mail – selection to be made at the next RC Meeting and award to be presented at the Senior Nationals.

VI. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Saturday, February 15, 2025 – 7:00PM Eastern Time

VII. Executive Session

- A. New IJF Rules – U.S. Adoption and Implementation Schedule – a presentation by Alex Murray of the combined report of those U.S. referees in attendance at the IJF Rules Seminar. This document was reviewed and the RC recommended modifications/additions of application at domestic USA Judo sanctioned events were added. The amended document is attached to these minutes and will be presented to the USA Judo BoD for their action/approval. Once approval is received the document will be discussed at a Town Hall meeting and posted.
- B. Draft of a “White Paper” on False Attack by Saro Balagezyan was reviewed and a finalized version will be distributed by email for vote at the next meeting
- C. Recommended Continuity Transfer (subject to the approval of the USA Judo BoD) – Russ and Mike Takata reviewed the end of year calculations (including historical development and reasons for utilizing these approaches. Data for events up to and including the Youth Nationals will be a joint effort of Mike and Russ. After that, Russ will act in an advisory role for the rest of the year.
- D. Additional Referee Staff Assignments for National Events – assignments will be made at the next RC Meeting, after receiving more responses to the 2025 Referee Participation Survey. It was verified that the requirement of officiating at a minimum of one National Championship (N2) event in the year prior to the Senior Nationals applies to all levels (A, B, N). Motion by Bill Gugino (Gary Berliner 2<sup>nd</sup>): “Exceptions are granted to those referees who are unable to attend an N2 event due to approved participation in conflicting international (IJF Tour or PJC) events.
- E. Capturing Required Documentation of Referees below National Level (Sanctioning Process?) – working the issue – additional meeting on Monday
- F. Potential A & B test in Lima in the Spring
- G. Requests for Emeritus Status – Request received from Edie Connelly – Motion to approve by Barb Shimizu (2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Gugino) – Passed unanimously
- H. 2025 RC Interest – status – there were no negative responses since the last meeting
- I. Initial 2025 RC Budget – a preliminary initial cut at a Draft 2025 and the corresponding initial Draft RC Strategic Work Plan were discussed briefly. The Draft

Strategic Work Plan will be sent to the RC and Russ and Mike will work with Keith to get more accurate numbers for the 2025 RC Budget (estimates from the 2024 budget were used as a starting point).

VIII. Adjournment