

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2023

- I. Roll Call
  - A. RC Members in Attendance – Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Torie Oishi, Russ Scherer, Barb Shimizu and David Smith
  - B. RC Members Excused – Steve Cohen and Katie Sell
  - C. RC Assistants in Attendance – David Malek, Ralph Palmer and Dana Rucker
  - D. Special Guests – Keith Bryant (USA Judo CEO), Bobby Donaldson (Referee Education Committee Director) and Joon Chi (USA Judo BoD Member)
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (10/21/23) Minutes – minutes approval by email
- III. Event Status Reports
  - A. Domestic Events
    1. N1 Events – *Results: Palo Alto Championships (Palo Alto, CA – 11/12); Dallas Open (Irving, TX – 11/18); Winter Nationals (Azusa, CA – 12/9-10) - all very good events with great participation*
    2. N2 and N3 Events - *President’s Cup (Irving, TX – 11/17-19) – very good event with great participation*
    3. Upcoming N1 Events – *none in 2023*
    4. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *none in 2023*
  - B. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
    1. Currently attending the IJF Academy – 15 in process – Marcos Batan finished practical
    2. Recent trips – Pan American Games went well
    3. Upcoming events
- IV. Other Old Business
  - A. Revalidated procedure of selecting referees and/or funding by certification level at national events, if/when there are excessive referee requests
  - B. Stressed development goal of more female referees at all levels
  - C. Status of international travel reports, costs and receipts – many received but some have not been received
- V. New Business
  - A. Review/validate effect of not meeting “requirement to be evaluated at your current level event within the last 2 years” – There was a lot of discussion related to this current requirement, especially the effect of current rating of N1, N2 and N3 events. It was moved (Berliner) and 2<sup>nd</sup> (Bill Gugino) to evaluate all events at the end of the year to determine the level of competition and subsequent level for that year. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn and proposed levels for 2024 will be offered by the Domestic Chair and 3 Assistants at the next meeting. Motion from the Chair (2<sup>nd</sup> Berliner) On a trial basis evaluate each event on performance of the previous year to determine the level of the event for 2024 (passed unanimously).
  - B. Review prohibition of coaching during medical time – U.S. vs IJF practices – Berliner moved (2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Gugino) “To follow all IJF coaching rules” Suggested by Donaldson to

make this applied to IJF Cadet, IJF Junior and IJF Seniors (Moved by Gugino – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Berliner) Tabled to next meeting.

- C. Should current rank requirement (Shodan) be lowered to take national referee exam? – no support for this item
  - D. Should referees complete a questionnaire pertaining to the effective practices of their mat chiefs for educational purposes? – Feedback is very important for growth – Mat supervisors are managers and each has their own style – common traits should be identified for educational purposes and potential seminar to discuss approach. No action taken.
  - E. Annual updates to RC Policies and documentation – status – working on updates –
  - F. National on-line test schedule – start by scheduling the first couple for Spring practical tests and need to disseminate schedule and look at remainder of the year considering appropriate lead time – coordinate with Ian Gerrard
- VI. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Feb. 3, 2024.
- VII. Executive Session
- A. Proposal to change financial support for designated CARE setup referees – Agreed in principle to compensate 2 individuals according to the budget and eliminate the requirement of staying additional night(s) to set up the CARE systems.
  - B. Change referee function reimbursement amounts to be more in line with responsibilities and housing provisions – these will be reviewed and incorporated in the proposed 2024 line item budget for RC consideration – soliciting members to work on a subcommittee to scope and implement a concerted effort to raise funds for specific referee programs
  - C. Rash-guard/t-shirt policy at USA Judo sanctioned events – discussion tied to transgender policy and inclusion – the RC provided Keith with feedback to his request of referee input considering the use of a rashguard for a new transgender policy being finalized by the USA Judo Board of Directors.
  - D. Status – Referee Levels as of 1/1/2024 – initial cut done, after reviewing with the RC Assistants it will be submitted to the RC via email for their action.
  - E. Status – N4 and B4 Performance Evaluation and History Lists – will follow final determination of referee levels for 2024 and assignment of levels for a few international events
  - F. 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 – we have received some input and will determine by mid-January the CR & Evaluators for Youth Nationals and any other events that have sent in their application for N1 events.
  - G. Event to event divisions in which athletes are allowed to do shime waza should be standardized for USA Judo sanctioned events – unless Event Organizers specify in the sanction application and on the event information sheet that any of the information below is being modified, they must follow the standard listed below:

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Chokes</u>	<u>Arm Locks</u>
Junior Novice Divisions	No	No
Senior Novice Divisions	Yes	No
Intermediate (11-12)	No	No
Regular Juvenile (13-14)	Yes	No
Regular Cadet (15-17)	Yes	Yes
Regular IJF Junior (18-20)	Yes	Yes
Senior Elite (18-59)	Yes	Yes
Veteran (30-59)	Yes	Yes
Veteran (60+)	No	Yes

- H. Procedures for medical determination of allowing players to continue after being evaluated for possible concussion – suggested policy of written approval by Chief medical director for the event needed for athlete to be able to continue to compete

VIII. Adjournment