

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2024

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Members Present – Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Torie Oishi, Russ Scherer, Katie Sell, Barb Shimizu, David Smith
 - B. Members Excused – Steve Cohen
 - C. Members Absent – N/A
 - D. RC Assistants Present – Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - E. Special Guests – Bobby Donaldson (Referee Education Committee Chair, Keith Bryant – USA Judo CEO
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (2/3/23) Minutes – approved by email
- III. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 1. Upcoming N1 Events – *Indiana State Championships; Golden State; Tohkon Classic; Morris Cup have currently been approved and are progressing well*
 2. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events – *Senior Nationals; National Junior Olympics (Barb Shimizu will replace Gary Berliner as an official evaluator and David Smith will be an “unofficial” evaluator; President’s Cup*
 - B. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
 1. Recent trips
 2. Upcoming events – A Exam in Almaty (proposing Ward) and B Exam in Prague (Crawford and Capriotti) – proposed 2 candidates for A in Lima and 2 for B in Lima)
 3. Numerous referees have completed the IJF Academy and others are scheduled
 4. U.S. Referees continue to perform well at many events
- IV. Other Old Business
 - A. Actions taken by email since last meeting
 - i. 2024 Referee Budget Approved by email
 - B. Status of international travel reports, costs and receipts – please continue sending in the reports
 - C. Annual updates to RC Policies and documentation – status – updated “Leave of Absence” Policy was updated and attached to this meeting’s agenda
 - i. Emeritus Policy – moved by Berliner (seconded Estevez) passed unanimously
 - ii. Leave of Absence Policy - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
 - iii. Process to Identify Refs for International Travel and “B” or “A” Exams - moved by Berliner (seconded Oishi) passed unanimously
 - iv. Chief Referee and Evaluators at Nat Ref Test & Eval Events - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
 - v. Candidate Prerequisites and Document Requirements - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
 - vi. Foreign Referee Policy - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously

- vii. Ref Eval Process & Standards Policy - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
- viii. LOC Requirements for Hosting National Test/Evaluation Events - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
- ix. Staff Roles & Responsibilities – added the verbiage to allow the RC to utilize the services of others not on the RC if deemed necessary - moved as amended by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
- x. Ref Requesting International Events Policy - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
- xi. Refs Requesting Financial Support - moved by Berliner (seconded Shimizu) passed unanimously
- D. Removed from the Table from previous meeting – Motion (Gugino – 2nd Berliner) “To follow all IJF coaching rules for IJF Cadets, IJF Juniors and IJF Senior divisions.” We should try to have event directors to run those divisions first. This applies to any event utilizing IJF categories.
- E. On line National Referee Exam Schedule and status reviewed
- V. New Business – Compensation package for weigh-in referees was reviewed and verified to be as documented in the Reimbursement Policy and the 2024 Referee Budget.
- VI. Set date for the next RC Meeting – Special “Skull Session” at the Senior Nationals Friday, May 24, 2024 at 4:00PM - Next Regular RC Meeting – Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 7:00PM Eastern Time.
- VII. Executive Session
 - A. Recommended Continuity Transfer – Domestic Leadership Role (2025) – Russ will send an email to the USA Judo President, with a copies to the CEO and RC outlining a continuity plan to be used as new RC members and leadership are selected. The goal is to have smooth transfers with continued historical awareness.
 - B. Rashguard/t-shirt policy at USA Judo sanctioned events – USA Judo BoD action (2/15/24): Motion by Mr. Hondl, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to update the rules to: **A short-sleeved white t-shirt that is round-necked (no mock turtleneck or v-neck) may be worn under a gi for all genders and categories except in trials events or categories that qualify points which may result in competing internationally. IJF rules will be applied in these categories only allowing white, round-necked t-shirts to be worn by female competitors under their judogi as referenced in the IJF Sport Organizational Rules.** Motion passed.
 - C. Survey Status – forecasted 2024 N1 events; requests for CR/Evaluators/Mat Chiefs/weigh-in refs/CARE setup being reviewed with goal of making assignments at least 6 months in advance and preferably in January for the entire year; Referee requests for N1, N2 and N3 events
 - D. Reminder – Policy for Approving International Invitations – Invitations are required in written form (letter or email) from the event organizer to USA Judo (RC Co-Chair for International Activities) requesting participation of U.S. referees in foreign events.

This is covered in the “RC Requesting International Events” posted on the USA Judo website.

- E. Discussion of making sure all up and coming referees and their “home organization” are acutely aware of all requirements (rank, etc.) in addition to refereeing activity and performance early in the planning stages for their referee advancement.
- F. Moment of Silence – for Larry Labrador who recently passed.
- G. Discussion of room compensation for referees who might perform a needed function but are not necessarily officially designated within the budget.

VIII. Adjournment