

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2023

- I. Roll Call
 - A. RC Members Present – Russ Scherer, Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Torie Oishi, Katie Sell, Barb Shimizu and David Smith
 - B. Associates and RC Assistants Present – Bobby Donaldson, Keith Bryant, David Malek, Ralph Palmer and Dana Rucker
 - C. RC Members Excused – Steve Cohen
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (6/10/23) Minutes – moved to approve by Bill Gugino (seconded by David Smith) – passed with 1 abstention
- III. Discussed “Referee Evaluation Process” – reduced verbiage referencing “PJC-C – moved by Bill Gugino (seconded by David Smith – passed unanimously.
- IV. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events
 1. N1 Events – *none completed since last meeting*
 2. N2 and N3 Events - *National Junior Olympics (Shreveport, LA – 6/16-18 – great competitor turnout, low referee turnout); U.S. Open (Ft. Lauderdale, FL – 7/27-30 – great turnout of both competitors and referees);*
 3. Upcoming Approved N1 Events – *Morris Cup (Burnt Hills, NY – 10/8); San Jose Open (San Jose, CA -10/8-9); Dallas Open (Irving, TX – 11/18)*
 4. Upcoming N2 and N3 Events - *President’s Cup (Irving, TX – 11/17-19)*
 - B. International Events – *Gary Berliner*
 1. Recent trips – Madrid European Open (6/10 – Slovenia – Oren Knopfmacher, Saro Balagezyan); Qazaqstan Barysy Grand Slam (6/16-18 – Kazakhstan – Brian Toth); EJU Cup Birmingham (6/25 & 26 – England – Diba Mani); Pan Am Open Seniors and Cup Cadets, Juniors (6/28 – Ecuador – Boris Munoz, Diba Mani); Pan Am Open Seniors and Cup Cadets, Juniors Bahia (7/5-9 – Brasil – Devin Cohen, Nicole Ward); Paks Junior European Cup (7/8 – Hungary – Lisa Capriotti, JT Davis); World Police & Fire Games (8/2-3 – Winnipeg, Canada – Bill Gugino, Bob Gugino);
 2. Upcoming events – PanAm Cadets & Jr Cup (8/19 – Santo Domingo – Nicole Ward); IJF International Referee Exam (9/15 – Canada – Diba Mani, Jake Freedman); Baku Grand Slam (9/22-24 – Azerbaijan – Brian Toth); European Open Prague (9/30 – Czech Republic – Alex Murray); Berlin Cadet European Cup (10/14 – Germany – JT Davis, Josh Cypert); Riga Cadet European Cup (10/21 – Latvia – Nicole Ward, Tracy Crawford); Adler Cup (10/28 – Germany – Mike Hiatt, Leah Hiatt, Lisa Capriotti, Viviane Caixeta); Abu Dhabi World Veterans (10/31 – UAB – Oren Knopfmacher, Saro Balagezyan, Sam Suyehira as alternate); Quebec Open (11/11 – Canada - IJF Continental & Internat Ref Exam (11/18 – Australia – Alan Lo, Scott Morifuji, Tracy Crawford [requested as alternate])
 3. It was noted again that the IJF Academy is required for selection to Tour Events (IJF & PJC) starting January 1, 2024
- V. Other Old Business

- A. Related to the application of the IJF rule of scoring waza-ari at 10 seconds and ending the match when osae-komi is being held in Golden Score, it was decided to apply the rule as issued.
- VI. New Business
- VII. The date for the next RC Meeting will be October 21, 2023 – 7:00PM Eastern – on Zoom
- VIII. Executive Session
 - A. Standardization of approach used by Mat Chiefs at national events – it was decided that due to numerous factors, flexibility will be allowed as long as the functions of that position are effectively handled in a timely manner. Moved by Gary Berliner (seconded by Bill Gugino “That judges may be used in an advisory capacity but all communication to the center referee shall be from the Mat Chief” (passed unanimously). The Roles & Responsibilities Policy” will be updated to mention possible use of judges under the Mat Chief section.
 - B. The status of 2 applications for National Referee Test Sites (N1 events) was reviewed:
 - i. North American Championships (Wayne, NJ – 9/10/23) – Bill Gugino (Chief Referee) and Evaluators (Mike Takata and Bob Gugino) were approved, as well as the event.
 - ii. Winter Nationals (Azusa, CA – 12/8-10/23) – Russ Scherer moved (Gary Berliner seconded) “To approve the 2023 Winter Nationals as a National Referee Test/Evaluation event with Gary Takemoto as Chief Referee and Evaluators Greg Moore, Dan Israel and Bill Gugino. If Bill is not available, Barb Shimizu or Russ Scherer would be alternates.” – passed unanimously.
 - C. The annual referee survey for anticipated participation in 2024 N1, N2 and N3 events will take place early this Fall to get an idea of of who may be available to fill the various referee functions at next year’s events. It is our goal to identify the Chief Referee, Evaluators, Mat Chiefs, CARE Setup teams, and possibly weigh-in staff for each event by the end of 2023 (as much as possible).
 - D. Discussion on possible subdivision of National and N1 events into sections with different referee levels, contest size requirements, rules, etc. resulted in allowing the use of 6 x 6 meter contest areas at the 2023 Dallas Open and 2023 President’s Cup for the Bantam divisions. We will also endeavor to utilize our stronger referee teams for the more advanced competition (i.e. Advanced Seniors, IJF Junior, and IJF Cadets) assuming such divisions are consolidated on a specific subset of the contest areas.
 - E. Status of planning for the Dallas Open and President’s Cup was reviewed. Gary Berliner (formerly selected as Chief Referee but subsequently selected for IJF duties in Australia during that time) was replaced by Bobby Donaldson. The Evaluators will be Russ Scherer, David Smith and Bill Gugino.
 - F. A review of the videos from the CARE system of the match/throw discussed at the last RC meeting supported the decision previously arrived at. The conclusion is that the throwing action, as applied, was within the scope of throwing actions allowed by the IJF rules.

- G. A “Quick Reference Guide” is being developed by the “Referee Education Committee”
 - H. A proctored National Referee on-line test is being developed to allow testing prior to the demonstration portion of our National Referee Exam. It is currently in the process of being evaluated.
 - I. An incident that occurred at the U.S. Open weigh-in was discussed with resulting need for reemphasis and additional training on the current SOP for weigh-ins. This is to be accomplished prior to the President’s Cup and will be an ongoing effort.
- IX. Adjournment