

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – November 21, 2020

I. Start (7:03PM) - Roll Call

Attending: Russ Scherer – Domestic Co-chair
Gary Takemoto – International Co-chair
Gary Berliner – Member
Hector Estevez – Member
Dave Smith – Member
Michael Eldred – Member (Athlete Rep)
Sayaka Torra – Member (Athlete Rep)
David Malek – Assistant to the RC
Ralph Palmer – Assistant to the RC
Keith Bryant – USA Judo CEO

Absent: Raymond Saito – Member

Introductory Remarks – *Response to 1st Town Hall*

A. Quality vs. Quantity of Work

1. Evaluations 0-4 with 0.1 increments (or 0-10 with 1.0 increments)
2. Requested Definitions of Various Levels

B. Most Applauded Effort including weighting Events (Domestic & International)

1. Review Events – Perhaps Change Some to Different Categories
2. Need More than Two Categories for International Events

C. Time Period - Varied Suggestions – Consistency vs Relevancy

D. No Algorithm Modifications Offered

E. Final Step – Subjective but Fair Modifications to Objective Points Algorithm

II. Scope of RC Activities

A. Domestic (Russ Scherer)

1. Test Site Applications – *Don't solicit test site requests from 2019/2020 event organizers yet. Wait until events are scheduled. Revisit at next meeting.*
2. Oversee/conduct referee evaluation process – establishing a Task Force is not needed at this time.
3. Develop and publish all USA Judo domestic referee programs, policies, and procedures – *Update all forms (including those on the website)(dates, contacts, etc.). Action item for R. Scherer, R. Palmer and D. Malek.*
4. Expansion of the use of the Referee Information Site – *Possibilities discussed with Dan Israel, David Malek, Ralph Palmer and Russ Scherer. On-line National Test and Video Links discussed.*

B. International (Gary Takemoto)

1. Increase Activity in IBSA within the U.S.
2. List all international activities (as they become known) that U.S. referees can attend – *Work with "International Advisors" and List on Referee Information Site*
3. Publish all international trip reports when they are received – *start with recent past reports – post on Referee Information Site.*

4. Publish "Lessons Learned" list for international travel (including financial and time requirements for various level events) – *solicit from recent international travelling referees and publish on the Referee Information Site.*
- III. Career Planning
- A. Start with Document (Questionnaire) when they are certified to National level – *To start the program, Russ Scherer will develop the document (for RC review) and distribute to all referees (National and above)*
 - B. RC keeps database (*hosted on the USA Judo Referee Info System*)
- IV. Education and Training
- A. Establish a Task Force for Referee Education and Training
 1. *Rick Celotto affirmed and others being solicited*
 2. Provide on-line consolidated access to classes and reference material - *Put links on USA Judo Referee Page – Start with OJI Referee Training Index and PJC Weekly Refereeing Webinars – List postings with disclaimer.*
- V. Evaluation
- A. Review current system used at Evaluation Sites, including any written criteria currently used. Update as necessary. *Solicit and discuss input received from those who have served as evaluators in the past.*
 - B. Provide training to all evaluators for more consistent evaluations (*once the process has been updated/documented*)
 - C. Ranking list procedures
 1. *Look at impact of any proposed modifications to our evaluation process on the algorithms to be used in both ranking processes*
 2. Candidates for International (IJF-A) and Continental (IJF-B) Tests [published] – *Reviewed comments from all active U.S. IJF-A&B and N4 Referees. Modify process as necessary. Additional work needed.*
 3. All N4 and above (in separate categories) – used as starting point when considering recommendations for event participation and career development [not published] – *evaluate/incorporate recommendations received from Town Hall and Referee (active A, B, C and N4) survey. Several algorithms have been investigated. Further discussion is needed to address desired emphasis and unanticipated effects of various proposed processes.*
 - D. 2020/2021 (Covid-19) Special Considerations - *Referee Evaluation Levels as of 1/1/21 will be reviewed and validated at next RC meeting – Skip 2020 for Gold Patch calculations*
- VI. Status Reports
- A. Domestic Events – Startup and Assignments (Youth Nationals – 3/13-14 - Salt Lake City, UT); (Sr. Nationals – 5/15-16 - Reno, NV); (J.O.s - 6/18-20 - Winston-Salem, NC); President's Cup – 11/21 – Irving, TX) – *Wait until later meeting to see how Covid-19 develops before staffing (CR, Evaluators, Supervisors, # Referees, etc.) are selected. - Support for Collegiate Nationals (College Station, TX in March) – Keith Bryant to discuss*

with NCJA. For all events, selection by category instead of strictly “first come, first served” will help balance referee teams.

- B. International Events – ****Startup and Assignments - Gary Takemoto will update Travelling Referees data on website*
- VII. Other Old Business
 - A. American Judo Development Model (AJDM) Interaction and Referee Focus (Task Force – Manmahut Chima volunteered; we will solicit additional members)
 - B. Update referee forms on USA Judo website – R. Scherer, R. Palmer and D. Malek
- VIII. New Business
 - A. Potential expansion of RC in 2021 (coach, etc.) – *Further discussion at next meeting*
 - B. Suggested Honorary Referee (A, B, etc.) Procedures – Must be very high level International contributions to Judo in general and specifically refereeing. This is a rare, not casual, honor.
- IX. Action Items
 - A. *List and distribute to the RC all known “Policies and Procedures” for review/update/verification/publishing - [R. Scherer]*
 - B. *Anyone wanting to volunteer to work on a task force should send an email to Russ Scherer at rschererjudo@gmail.com to start discussions.*
- X. Next Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 at 7:00PM (Eastern) on Zoom.
- XI. Adjournment – 9:16PM, Saturday (11/21/20)