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. Overseer/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 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/documentined)
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
   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)