

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – January 23, 2021

I. Roll Call and Introductory Remarks

Present – *Russ Scherer (Co-Chair – Domestic Activities)*

Gary Takemoto (Co-Chair – International Activities)

Gary Berliner (Member)

Michael Eldred (Member)

David Smith (Member)

David Malek (Assistant to the RC)

Ralph Palmer (Assistant to the RC)

Keith Bryant (USA Judo Executive Director)

Absent – *Hector Estevez (Member)*

Raymond Saito (Member)

In the future the RC meetings will be streamlined with most background discussion accomplished prior to the meeting and eliminating “dead time” caused by waiting for possible input by immediately proceeding with the agenda unless asked to stop for additional comments.

II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (1/9/21) Minutes – *approved by email*

III. Scope of RC Activities

A. Domestic

1. *Oversee/conduct referee evaluation process – covered below*
2. *Develop and publish all USA Judo domestic referee programs, policies, and procedures – Published Groups 1 and 2 Policies on the USA Judo website – another policy (Roles and Responsibilities) is being sent to the referee corps for comments*

B. International

1. *List all international activities (as they become known) that U.S. referees can attend – List on Referee Information Site*
2. *Publish all international trip reports when they are received – start with recent past reports – provide to referees who are approved to participate in that event in the future – hold off on signing up for international events*
3. *Publish “Lessons Learned” list for international travel (including financial and time requirements for various level events) – solicit from recent international travelling referees. – “Do’s and Don’ts for Travel” will be reviewed by the International Advisors and then given to those who travel internationally*

IV. Career Planning

A. *Questionnaire – The next step will be to conduct a survey to determine interest in a Zoom discussion of mentorship approaches and responsibilities – Following this we will make individual contact with those referees interested in obtaining help from the RC with their development plan*

B. *RC keeps database (part of USA Judo Referee Info System) – being looked at*

V. Education and Training

A. *Establish a Task Force for Referee Education and Training*

1. Develop program – curriculum, class outlines, presentation methods, etc. for each certification level (local, regional, national) to supplement other established education and training programs in the U.S. – *in process of collecting material*
2. Provide on-line consolidated access to classes and reference material – *Put links on USA Judo Referee Page – Links to the PJC “Roundtable” discussions from last year have been posted on the Referee Education page of the USA Judo website*

VI. Evaluation

- A. Review current system used at Evaluation Sites, including any written criteria currently used. Update as necessary. *Established Task Force #6 - Solicited and will discuss input received from those who have served as evaluators in the past. – the first task force meeting was held covering many basics of process improvement and a second survey for the referee corps is being developed*
- B. Ranking list procedures
 1. Candidates for International (IJF-A) and Continental (IJF-B) Tests – *the proposed modifications will be discussed during the Executive Session (see below)*
 2. All N4 and above (in separate categories) – used as starting point when considering recommendations for event participation and career development [not published] – *this activity will be put on hold until the “Evaluation Process” modifications are completed [Moved by Gary Berliner; Seconded by Michael Eldred; passed unanimously]*

VII. Status Reports

- A. Domestic Events – Startup and Assignments (Youth Nationals – 4/24-25 - 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) –
 1. U.S. Open – Orlando, FL – 7/20-21/2021 - Evaluation Site – *documentation still needed*
 2. Referee and staff assignments for 4 national events – *a letter to the referees is being generated which will explain the new procedures to sign up for the four national championships – it was noted that only current members of USA Judo (with up-to-date certifications) will be selected for event participation*
 3. Other N1 Events – *none currently scheduled*
- B. International Events –
 1. ****Startup and Assignments - Published IJF and other international events – assigned, requested and/or suggested recommendations – on hold due to the Pandemic*
 2. *Update Travelling Referees data on website – Gary Takemoto will provide update to Vaughn Anderson this coming week*

VIII. Other Old Business

- A. American Judo Development Model (AJDM) Interaction and Referee Focus (Task Force) – *status – no updates since last meeting*
- B. 2021 referee levels notification – *status – notifications not sent yet but will be sent soon*

IX. New Business

- A. Budget basics – *not discussed*
 - B. The date for next Town Hall Meeting will be February 27, 2021 – *we will solicit topics by email to the Referee Corps in addition to RC generated topics*
- X. Executive Session
- A. Final review and vote on Ranking System for International and Continental Referee Examination Candidates
 1. *An initial assignment of international events attended by U.S. referees since 2018 into 3 levels was used in the proposed model for the Ranking System but it was noted that these assignments may change upon receiving additional input from the International Advisors. It was noted that due to a variety of reasons the level assigned for each event may change from year to year.*
 2. *DRAFT ranking spreadsheets for both A and B test candidates were reviewed to help assess the quality of the proposed modifications to the ranking process.*
 3. *The modifications were accepted and will be incorporated into the documentation of the “Ranking Process for Candidates for International and Continental Referee Testing”. This document will then be voted upon by the RC and if approved will be posted on the Referee Information Site. [Moved by Russ Scherer; Seconded by Gary Berliner; Passed unanimously]*
 4. *As part of the transition to the new Ranking Process, the selections made prior to implementing the new system will be listed in separate categories and will remain our next candidates until they have taken the exam. These selections were Marcos Batan and Scott Morifuji for the B test and Brian Toth and Saro Balagezyan for the A test. If additional spots are available, the new ranking lists will be used to determine the additional candidates.*
 5. *The Ranking list (to include the referee’s name, total domestic points, total international points and total overall points) will be posted on the Referee Information Site*
 6. *Gary Takemoto will work with USA Judo and the PJC to try to get a Continental Referee Examination in the U.S., hopefully in 2021 and if not then 2022.*
 - B. Referee Selection for Youth Nationals
 1. *6 mat areas (5 referees {1-A, 1-B, 1-N4, 1-N3, 1-N2} per mat {or more if fewer mat areas are used})*
 2. *Signup will be by referee level with a “wait list” for each level*
 - C. Selection of CR and Evaluators for J.O.’s and President’s Cup
 1. Junior Olympics
 - a. Chief Referee – *Gary Takemoto*
 - b. Evaluator – *Russ Scherer*
 - c. Evaluator – *Gary Berliner*
 2. President’s Cup
 - a. Chief Referee – *David Smith*
 - b. Evaluator – *Russ Scherer*
 - c. Evaluator – *Gary Takemoto*

d. Backups – Hector Estevez, Gary Berliner

XI. Next Meeting – *(Zoom) Saturday, February 13, 2021 starting at 7:00PM Eastern*

XII. Adjournment – 9:50PM