

USA Judo Referee Commission Minutes – October 16, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Commission Members present: Russ Scherer (Co-Chair Domestic Activities), Gary Berliner, Michael Eldred, Bill Gugino, Katie Sell, and David Smith
 - B. Commission Members absent: Gary Takemoto (Co-Chair International Activities), Hector Estevez, and Doug Tono
 - C. RC Assistants attending: David Malek, Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - D. Host: USA Judo CEO Keith Bryant
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (9/18/21) Minutes – approved 5-0 (4 abstained – missed last meeting)
- III. Task Force Updates
 - A. CARE System Operations – future upgrades – report given by Vaughn Anderson – looking at testing an integrated unit with live stream, scoreboard, etc with CARE isolation at Presidents Cup as a separate unit from our current CARE systems
 - B. Education Task Force Plans – will work on training materials for Evaluators and Mat Chiefs
- IV. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events – President’s Cup
 - 1. Covid Protocol – Texas requirements will be used – recommended use of masks, social distancing and hand sanitizers – no testing or vaccination requirements
 - 2. Referee and staff assignments – 46 referees currently registered (advance will be requested for 50 at \$100) – weigh-ins being handled by tournament staff (referees not required) – CARE setup (2 @ \$75 budgeted) Alan & Patrick Lo, Scott Morifuji
 - 3. N1 Events – *Dallas Invitational*
 - B. International Events – *Good Luck to all our travelling referees!!!*
 - 1. Mindy Buehman will be attending the 2021 Paris Grand Slam this weekend.
 - 2. Oren Knopfmacher will be attending the 2021 World Veterans Championships in Lisbon, Portugal on Oct. 21 to 24. Gary Berliner will attend as Supervisor.
 - 3. Brian Toth will be attending the 2021 EJU Open in Malaga, Spain next week. Brian will be taking his IJF International “A” examination.
 - 4. Gary Takemoto will be attending the 2021 EJU Open in Malaga, Spain as well, to support Brian and other PJC referees who will be taking their International “A” exams, as well.
 - 5. Sharon Landstreet will be attending the 2021 Pan American Junior Games in Cali, Colombia in November.
 - 6. The 2021 Quebec Open is closed to all foreign referees due to the Covid pandemic. Judo Canada has placed a strict restriction and has limited the number of local Canadian referees participating at the event.
- V. Other Old Business

- A. Status of 2021 National Events reimbursements – one request for Senior Nationals needs receipts – Youth Nationals and Junior Olympics have been paid – need verification of receipt for some J.O. evaluators.
 - B. Reimbursement Policy posted
 - C. Site visitations for potential future N1 events are not necessarily required. Information on the application in addition to other known facts will be used to determine the suitability of the event as a test/evaluation site.
 - D. Sanctioned Point Level Event SOP – as of 12/6/2020 – current referee requirements are much less stringent than our current test event requirements – input from the RC for potential modification to this SOP – discussion centered on the desire to have the higher referee level for athlete point events and how to balance this desire with the potential to use these events as referee development activities, as currently supported by the “Sanctioned Point Level Event SOP”.
- VI. New Business
- A. Liberty Bell Classic is scheduled for April 8-10, 2022. They are interested in hosting a test and evaluation event but have not yet submitted their application.
- VII. Executive Session
- A. 2021 RC Budget – filling in the data in our tracking file – we anticipate having excess left from our original budget – looking at providing partial reimbursement for some international travel.
 - B. 2022 Programs (Budget Requests – initial scoping) – activities and program that will require line items in next year’s budget – an initial scoping of a 2022 RC Budget will be presented to the RC for their consideration.
 - C. Impact of Covid on ability of referees is influenced by location and work requirements. Proposal was written, reviewed by RC and was discussed – moved by Gary Berliner (seconded by Bill Gugino) “That those who were not able to attend an evaluation event in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions levied by their employer, their 2021 points will be determined utilizing their evaluation at the first lowest level event in 2022 and that evaluation will not be used in the 2022 calculations.” Passed (5-1). “To clarify action to be taken if a referee (N, C or B) is not evaluated at any event during a given year or an event at their level (1, 2 or 3) within the past 2 years, the referee will be placed on inactive status until they are evaluated at an evaluation event.” Moved by Bill Gugino, seconded by Gary Berliner, passed unanimously.
 - D. Consideration of priorities for international travel support was discussed and needs to be implemented in future decisions and will be put in 2022 RC Budget.
 - E. Five “fast track” candidates approved – effective as of July 1, 2021 – the updated Ranking List was reviewed and will be posted - following the misunderstandings potentially caused by the use of the title “fast track” and subsequent confusion with the IJF Fast Track Program, the activity name was changed to “accelerated advancement program” and further proposed program definition will be addressed by the RC.
 - F. Selection of CRs and Evaluators for 2022 national events was discussed and will be followed by a proposed list for consideration of the RC by email.

- G. Proposed by Gary Takemoto to reduce the number of RC meetings and Town Halls to 2 or 4 and 1 or 2, respectively. Gary Berliner moved (seconded by Michael Eldred) “To reduce the number of regular RC meetings to 6 per year plus 2 Town Halls per year.” It was also agreed to make the RC meetings more efficient by utilizing specific proposals as much as possible rather than generalized topic discussions, tightening up procedures utilizing chat rather than hand raising and limiting most discussion to final discussions. (passed, 1 abstention)
- H. Requested Information by the PJC Referee Commission – Motion by Gary Berliner (David Smith seconded) “to send as a proposal to Gary Takemoto the list for his consideration to be submitted to the PJC.” (passed – 1 abstention)
- VIII. Date for Next Town Hall Meeting is set for December 4, 2021 – major topic will be special program for development of younger referees (target ages 25 and below) – this will hopefully be engaged by all organizations and groups involved in the development of Judo referees in the U.S. – we will email each national organization, all regional and state level organizations, as well as all National and above referees about the Dec. 4th Town Hall discussion requesting their participation.
- IX. Date for next RC Meeting is set for January 8, 2022 starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time. There will also be a limited topic (Executive Session only) meeting immediately following the Town Hall meeting on Dec. 4th.
- X. Adjournment