

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2021

- I. Roll Call and Introductory Remarks – Welcome new members: Doug Tono and Bill Gugino  
Present – Russ Scherer (Co-Chair, Domestic Activities)  
    Michael Eldred (Member/Athlete)  
    Hector Estevez (Member)  
    Bill Gugino (Member)  
    David Smith (Member)  
    Doug Tono (Member/Coach)  
    David Malek (RC Assistant)  
    Ralph Palmer (RC Assistant)  
Absent - Gary Takemoto (Co-Chair, International Activities)  
    Gary Berliner (Member)
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (1/23/21) Minutes – *approved by email*
- III. Status Reports of RC Activities
  - A. Policies/Procedures updates
    1. *Tournament Staff Roles & Responsibilities – Review from Referee Corps due 2/25/21*
    2. *2021-24 Referee Commission Workplan – Review from Referee Corps due 2/25/21*
    3. *Ranking System for Potential Candidates for International and Continental Exams – Moved to approve by David Smith; Seconded by Michael Eldred; Passed unanimously – Document to be sent to all referees and then posted on the referee page*
  - B. Website Updates
    1. List all international activities (as they become known) that U.S. referees can attend – *The PJC events have been posted on the USA Judo Events Calendar*
    2. Publish all international trip reports when they are received – *start with recent past reports – post list on Referee Information Site? – provide to referees who are approved to participate in that event in the future?*
    3. Publish “Lessons Learned” list for international travel (including financial and time requirements for various level events) – *A Travel Log is being developed by Gary Takemoto with input from the International Advisors which will be posted on the Referee Information Site.*
    4. Congratulations to Greg Moore who has been selected to referee at the Tokyo Paralympics this summer. He also refereed at the 2016 Paralympics in Rio.
- IV. Career Planning
  - A. Questionnaire – *The next step will be to survey interest in a Zoom discussion about approaches to mentoring and personal development plans. This will be followed by individual contact with those who have indicated an interest in assistance from the RC.*
  - B. RC keeps database (part of USA Judo Referee Info System) – *An initial database will be generated to track activity in the career planning area and will be incorporated into the Referee Information System, if feasible.*
- V. Task Force Updates
  - A. On-line National Referee Written Test (TF #1) – *nothing to report*

- B. CARE System Upgrades (TF #2) – *first Zoom meeting held and approach defined – RC discussion centered on who is responsible for the systems and the need to pinpoint current failure mechanisms – recommendation for Zoom meeting with Task Force #2 members and National Office staff (Vaughn Anderson) to discuss current status.*
  - C. Referee Education and Training (TF #3) – *initial scoping of activities - mode of operation will primarily be by email.*
  - D. Referee Ranking System (TF #4) – *International (IJF-A) Test Candidates and Continental (IJF-B) Test Candidates Ranking Process passed earlier in this meeting*
  - E. Referee Activity in AJDM (TF #5) – *Chima discussed 3 goals of TF#5 and confirmed they will work in conjunction with the Education Task Force*
  - F. Referee Evaluation System Modifications (TF #6) – *2 meetings – 2 surveys – working on list of specific positive actions and error list to be used for 0.1 points in N4 and B4 evaluations – will work on evaluation standards and subsequent education of evaluators.*
- VI. Event Status Reports
- A. Domestic Events – (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) - *proceeding as scheduled*
    - 1. U.S. Open – Orlando, FL – 7/20-21/2021 - Evaluation Site – *proceeding as scheduled*
    - 2. Referee and staff assignments for 4 national events – *current referee signup status reviewed – reminded all referees to check currency of membership, background check, Safe Sport and Heads Up certifications – Chief Referee and Evaluators will be listed on event sign-up page of Referee Information Site when event is opened for requests.*
    - 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 – no current U.S. assignments – if anyone becomes aware of events that are scheduled where U.S. referees can self-nominate for participation please let the RC know.*
    - 2. *Update Travelling Referees data on website – no action*
- VII. Other Old Business
- A. 2021 referee levels notification – *affected referees have been notified*
  - B. Town Hall Topics – 2/27/21 – topics solicited – some possible topics include “selection by level”, Task Force Operations and status, email notification of website updates, “Ranking Policy” review, “Topics the Referee Corps would like to see the RC act upon” and Q & A session.
- VIII. New Business
- A. Budget basics – 2021 Referee Budget = \$30K – full budget to be used for referee stipends at the 4 national championships (Youth, Senior, Junior Olympics and President’s Cup) – CARE systems are tournament equipment so maintenance and upgrades are the responsibility of the USA Judo National Office

- B. *Emails/etc. to Referee Corps to notify them of website updates, etc. – Moved by David Smith (seconded by Bill Gugino): Emails are to be sent to Referee Corps to notify them of all website updates on the referee pages. – passed unanimously*
  - C. *Arranging for weigh-in staffing and CARE system setup and teardown as well as arranging compensation (from the event budget) for those individuals will remain the responsibility of the Chief Referee for each of the 4 national championships. These arrangements should be made far enough in advance to allow proper travel arrangements (target minimum of 6 weeks prior to the event). A check box will be added to the signup page for each event so those interested can volunteer for these assignments (weigh-ins or CARE system setup).*
- IX. Executive Session
- A. Katie Sell is being considered by the USA Judo Board of Directors to serve as a Member/Athlete of the Referee Commission for 2021.
  - B. Athlete representation on all sport committees will be increased starting in 2022 from 20% of the membership to 33 and 1/3 % of the membership. This is a result of Congressional action and updates to the 1978 Sports Act.
- X. Next Meeting – set for Saturday, March 6, 2021 starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time
- XI. Adjournment – 10:05PM