

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Present
 - Russ Scherer – Co-Chair (Domestic Activities)
 - Gary Takemoto – Co-Chair (International Activities)
 - Gary Berliner – Member
 - Bill Gugino – Member
 - David Smith – Member
 - David Malek – RC Assistant
 - Ralph Palmer – RC Assistant
 - B. Absent
 - Michael Eldred – Member (Athlete Rep)
 - Hector Estevez – Member
 - Katie Sell – Member (Athlete Rep)
 - Doug Tono (Coach Rep)
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (4/10/21) Minutes
- III. Status Reports of RC Activities
 - A. Policies/Procedures updates
 - 1. *Evaluation Process Review – 2021 Beta Test went well at the Youth Nationals. Clarifications included partial points are only applied to those who receive a “4” rating at that specific event and are age eligible to take the next examination and the end of year assessment calculation does not include partial points. Also, separate evaluations for mat chief duties are not given – instead their evaluations include both Mat Chief and on the mat performance.*
- IV. Career Planning
 - A. Zoom Presentation – “Personal Referee Development and Mentoring” was given by Bobby Donaldson, Gary Berliner and Russ Scherer. It seemed to have been well received.
 - B. Follow on personal conferences – Those who desire to take part in this program should contact Russ or their desired mentor.
- V. Task Force Updates
 - A. CARE System Operations – current use and maintenance – after sitting idle for more than a year all the laptop batteries needed replacement – the task force is still looking at CARE 2.0.
 - B. Education Task Force Plans – additional website postings were listed – the RC decided to initiate a beta test trial of listing all known referee clinics and seminars (in person and on-line) using the OJI website initially. We will try to get all organizations and individuals with referee training programs in the U.S. to link from their websites to the listing.
- VI. Budget Review and Potential Exchange (Comp Rooms vs. Cash Support from Event Budgets) – Stipends are paid from the referee budget and the remaining funds (if fewer referees

attend an event than allocated in the budget) are returned to the referee commission budget for reallocation by the RC. Other expenses, including support for the weigh-in crew, CARE setup, Evaluators and Chief Referee, come from the event budgets. Food expenses are not reimbursable. A standard cash reimbursement will be pursued, starting with the J.O. Nationals, to replace the room sharing utilized during the first 2 national events this year. Reimbursement policies were reviewed and will be documented in a Policy.

VII. Event Status Reports

- A. Domestic Events – (J.O.s - 6/18-20 - Winston-Salem, NC); President’s Cup – 11/21 – Irving, TX)
 - 1. Referee and staff assignments for 2 remaining national events and US Open – USA Judo has added capability so referees signing up for national events can indicate interest to serve as weigh-in officials and CARE setup personnel.
 - 2. N1 Events – *South Carolina State Championships* – Dana Rucker will co-ordinate with the CR and Evaluators – *Summer Nationals* – Gary Berliner is Chief Referee and will follow up to see if this event will be a test/evaluation site – a request has not yet been received.
- B. International Events –
 - 1. The EJU has 10 events posted on its schedule – Portugal will have an IJF Continental exam in July and another has been scheduled for Italy in August. Gary Takemoto will find out if the U.S. can participate.
 - 2. Gary T. will also check to see if we are invited to various PJC events and provide pertinent information.
 - 3. The new PJC Referee Commission will be selected soon.
 - 4. Greg Moore will be attending the upcoming Baku IBSA Grand Prix and Gary Berliner will serve as Commissioner.
 - 5. *Update Travelling Referees data on website* – Updated info has been submitted to Vaughn by Gary T. We will follow up to make sure it gets posted.

VIII. Other Old Business - None

IX. New Business – Clarified the changes in policy for referee support at Evaluation Events only applies to those run by USA Judo (our 4 national championships). The other events will continue with current requirements. The application for those events will be reviewed and an expanded Policy document will be developed if needed.

X. Executive Session

- A. Selection of Remaining Staff for 2021 National Events – assignments will be pursued by David Malek, Ralph Palmer and Russ Scherer – If a referee is selected to do weigh-ins, etc, that becomes part of their responsibilities for that event and is for the duration of the scheduled times.
- B. IJF-B test opportunities in Europe – If U.S. participation is allowed, Marcus will be submitted for Portugal and Scott Morifuji will be submitted for Italy – if either cannot make the trip, we will go down the ranking list (current at that time) to determine a replacement and the individual not being able to attend the test will be put back at the top of the list for future consideration.

- C. Guidance for referee interaction with injury reports – Gary Berliner and David Smith will develop a policy to cover the referee’s interaction with injury reporting. For now, the Chief Referee should be called and he/she will address the issue.
 - D. Reimbursement policies and procedures – Any reimbursement request from a referee should be sent to USA Judo Co-Chair for Domestic Activities (Russ Scherer) whether the reimbursement is coming from the Referee Budget or otherwise. A written policy will be developed by R. Scherer for RC approval.
 - E. Pushback from evaluations – Referees should understand they should work on the comments listed in their evaluation, not challenge the evaluation. It was noted that the discussion during evaluation sessions is to be treated the same as Executive Session discussion. Each position, including Evaluators and Mat Chiefs, has specific responsibilities and everyone should respect those functions.
 - F. We will investigate extending coverage of the referee meetings at the 4 National Events to the referee corps not in attendance through Zoom meetings.
- XI. Next Meeting – Saturday, June 12, 2021 – starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time
- XII. Adjournment