

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Present – Members: Russ Scherer, Gary Takemoto, Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Katie Sell, David Smith – RC Assistants: David Malek, Ralph Palmer
 - B. Absent – Michael Eldred, Doug Tono
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (5/14/21) Minutes – approved by email vote and published on USA Judo website Referee Page
- III. Status Reports of RC Activities
 - A. Policies/Procedures updates
 1. *Evaluation Process Review – Gary Berliner moved “2021 Beta Test is to be applied to all referees who receive a “4” rating at that specific event” – Seconded by Gary Takemoto – Passed unanimously.*
- IV. Career Planning
 - A. Personal Conferences – *Interest has been expressed but no official requests have been received yet. If you desire a personal conference send an email to Russ Scherer at rschererjudo@gmail.com*
- V. Task Force Updates
 - A. CARE System Operations – current use and maintenance – *The importance of documenting issues has been stressed and the CARE setup team will submit a report following the Junior Olympics.*
 - B. Education Task Force Plans – additional website postings – *A “Referee/Rules Clinics/Seminars List” has been established on the OJI website and a link from the USA Judo website has been implemented. The intent is to list all known events and be linked from as many other referee training sites as possible.*
- VI. Budget Review – The current general USA Judo reimbursement policies are located on the USA Judo website and should be reviewed by anyone seeking reimbursement. These policies are being reviewed to integrate general requirements and specifics related to referees. Current policy requires the request form and receipts be submitted within 30 days of the event. We are working on a Referee Reimbursement Policy with relevant details.
- 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 - *Everything is set for Junior Olympics. The President’s Cup has not been posted yet on the Referee Information Site but will be posted as soon as the event flyer is published. The U.S. Open staffing is being finalized.*
 2. N1 Events – *Possible N1 test events include the Garden State Classic, Summer Nationals, Tohkon Championships and Winter Nationals, however no requests have been received yet.*
 - B. International Events –

1. *Update Travelling Referees data on website – Richie Endow will be in discussion with Vaughn Anderson about the compatibility of an approach to recognize and document referee international travel with the current USA Judo website.*
2. *General Status Update – Congratulations were reiterated for Greg Moore and Gary Berliner participation in the Paralympics being held this August in Tokyo.*

VIII. Other Old Business - none

IX. New Business

- A. Utilization of Emeritus Referees and Referees rated below the level of the event (N1's at N2 and N3 events, etc.) for some assignments (weigh-ins, scorers, CARE system operators, etc.) - The RC discussed the potential for utilizing Emeritus Referees and those active referees whose rating is below the rating needed to be selected to referee at N2 and higher level events for functions such as weigh-ins, CARE operations, etc. Such support is deemed beneficial to the operation of events but it should be under the purview of the Tournament Director, not the Referee Commission. It is suggested that tournament flyer contain procedures for these referees to request such assignments and that any authorized expenses be charged against the event, not the referee budget.
- B. There was discussion on incentivizing referees who are not qualified to referee at higher level events to perform support roles. It was noted that credit is given for participation when reviewing activity needed to maintain active status.
- C. IJF Supervisor and Assessor Mashbat is now living in Maryland and will be attending the National Junior Olympics in Winston-Salem. We anticipate he will be of great benefit to our program with his expertise and knowledge of the desires of the IJF. Thanks go out to Bobby Donaldson for his efforts to coordinate Mr. Mashbat's participation in the JO's and to Gary Berliner for his coordination and financial support of this activity.
- D. An issue concerning taking pictures of referee groups at events surfaced at the Senior Nationals. As long as there is still competition occurring on any mat area, there should not be any activity on any of the other mat areas (other than competition) including the photographing of referee or staff teams. Such photos should be taken prior to the start of competition or after the very last match of the day is concluded. The focus should be on the remaining competitors.

X. Executive Session

- A. IJF-B test opportunities in Europe – U.S. participation – *Current information is that test opportunities in Europe are limited to referees from the EJU. Referees from the U.S. or any other non-EJU country are not being offered the opportunity to test in Europe at this time.*
- B. Guidance for referee interaction with injury reports – *Referees should only provide their name on the Injury Report Form, not a signature. Any documentation or description of medical attention should be provided by the medical personnel. The referees function is to summon the medical personnel quickly and if asked may briefly describe the action immediately prior to requesting medical assistance, but shall not provide any medical statements.*

- C. Reimbursement policies and procedures – *Anyone requesting reimbursement from USA Judo should review the general guidelines currently listed on the website.
Documentation of RC policy is being developed that will provide details related to the procedures, requirements and reimbursable items specific to refereeing activities.
Currently, all referee related expense reimbursement requests should be submitted to Russ Scherer at rschererjudo@gmail.com along with copies of the receipts.*
- XI. Next Meeting – the next RC meeting will be held on July 17, 2021 at 7:00PM Eastern Time
- XII. Adjournment – Moved by Bill Gugino – Seconded by Gary Takemoto – Passed unanimously.