

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Present – Members: Russ Scherer, Gary Berliner, Michael Eldred, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Katie Sell and David Smith; RC Assistants: David Malek and Ralph Palmer
 - B. Absent – Gary Takemoto and Doug Tono
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (6/12/21) Minutes – accomplished by email and posted
- III. Status Reports of RC Activities
 - A. Policies/Procedures updates
 1. *Evaluation Process Review – 2021 Beta Test only applied to those who receive a “4” rating at that specific event. Referees are only put on the Ranking Lists if they meet eligibility requirements established by the IJF. However, partial points will be maintained for 2021 and the future, until we are sure age requirements are not to be suspended due to pandemic restrictions. Moved by Gary Berliner that “The tournament at which a referee passes their “B Examination” will count for international participation points.” [Passed unanimously]*
 2. *Initial Rough Draft of Financial Reimbursement Policy – several modifications were discussed and will be incorporated into the next draft which will be reviewed by email. The document will then be sent to the Referee Corps for their comments, followed by a final draft version which will be voted upon by the Referee Commission.*
- IV. Task Force Updates
 - A. *CARE System Operations – current use and maintenance – A status report of experiences at the first three National events of 2021 had been distributed to the RC and was discussed at this meeting. We will try to add experiences and solutions from other regional users of the CARE system. Hector will try to obtain information relating to the equipment and experiences of CARE use by the PJC. We will attempt to expand the task force to include expertise in the audio-visual field.*
 - B. *Education Task Force Plans – additional website postings – Clinics/Seminars will be listed as we become aware of them. Handouts are being developed and will be added to the Referee Education page of the USA Judo website to assist in self-study and in giving referee clinics.*
- V. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events – President’s Cup – 11/21 – Irving, TX)
 1. *Referee and staff assignments for the President’s Cup – will be put up on the Referee Information Site once the tournament flyer is published with details on the Events page of the USA Judo website.*
 2. *N1 Events – The Garden State Judo Classic and the Tohkon Classic have been approved and will be National Referee Test Sites for 2021. Currently, no other applications have been received, although the Dallas Invitational lists the event as a test site in their flyer. Russ Scherer will follow up to determine the status for 2021.*

Preliminary responses to a recent survey of tournament directors who have held test events in 2018 and 2019 indicate there may not be many additional test/evaluation opportunities in 2021, but there are some “probable’s” for 2022.

B. International Events –

1. *General Status Update – Bobby Donaldson has been selected by NBC to provide analysis for the Judo competition they air during the Tokyo Olympics. Congratulation on this selection.*

VI. Other Old Business - none

VII. New Business

- A. Should the 2 year requirement at N4 for the National “Gold Patch” require active participation as a referee during each year? Yes. Motion by Gary Berliner (seconded by David Smith) – “If the requirements are met during 2020, the Gold Patch will have been earned as of the end of 2020. If the requirements are not met during the Covid Pandemic, that time will not count and the achievements prior to 2020 will be carried forward, making the time of the pandemic a “wash” - passed with 2 abstentions.
- B. Set the date and topics for the Summer Referee Town Hall Meeting – *August 21, 2021 was selected for the next USA Judo RC “Town Hall”. Topics will be solicited from the Referee Corps – one suggestion was to have a panel discuss selected matches from the Tokyo Olympics.*

VIII. Executive Session

- A. Selection of Remaining Staff for 2021 National Events – *when the sign-up on the USA Judo Sport 80 site is posted there will be an option to volunteer to serve as a weigh-in official or CARE setup staff. Selections will be made considering these volunteers and each volunteer will be notified whether or not they have been selected.*
- B. IJF-A and IJF-B test opportunities – U.S. participation – *Brian Toth has been selected to take the IJF-A examination in Malaga, Spain in October. Congratulations on your selection and Good Luck.*
- C. The Draft Ranking Lists as of July 1, 2021 (previously emailed to RC members) were discussed. These draft lists, along with the individual referee’s backup data, will be sent to each referee on the list to give them an opportunity to submit any corrections prior finalizing the information and publishing the lists. If there are no changes proposed by the referees, the lists will be published as a downloadable file on the Referee Information Site. The importance of being evaluated at one or more domestic event(s) each year was discussed – if there are any questions regarding this issue contact R. Scherer.
- D. Reimbursement policies and procedures – *documentation needed to submit a request form (located on the USA Judo Referee Forms Page and copies of the itemized receipts. Submit to R. Scherer at rschererjudo@gmail.com and upon receipt of your reimbursement notify me at the same email address. All reimbursement requests for the Chief Referee and Evaluators for any given event are to be submitted at the same time so please be prompt and complete with your submittals so others don’t have a long wait for payment. Requests and receipts are also required from designated weigh-in and*

CARE setup personnel. Stipends do not require request forms nor receipts but if any individual referee receives \$600 or more in any calendar year, they will be required to fill out a W9 form and USA Judo will issue a 1099 (IRS taxable Income).

- E. Proposal to eliminate the long-standing, unwritten policy of not allowing any partial reimbursement of expenses when a referee travels to take an examination – Moved by Gary Berliner (seconded by Russ Scherer) “Anyone taking an international referee examination (eg. A or B) is eligible for partial reimbursement at the discretion of the Referee Commission” – passed unanimously.
 - F. Potential RC Budget Reallocations – several possibilities were discussed – it was reaffirmed that as long as they don’t become excessive, miscellaneous expenses (awards, flowers, etc.) will be handled by USA Judo and not be charged against the RC Budget. Unexpended budget balances cannot be carried forward to future years, however donations can be accumulated and carried forward. It was decided to forego any special clinics, etc. until next year.
 - G. Discussed the possibility of subdividing the U.S. Open into 2 events (for evaluation purposes – similar to the Junior Olympics) but decided to keep it as one evaluation event.
- IX. Next Meeting – August 7, 2021 – 7:00PM Eastern Time
 - X. Adjournment – Moved by Gary Berliner (seconded by Bill Gugino) – Passed unanimously