

USA Judo Referee Commission Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Present – Members: Russ Scherer (Co-Chair Domestic), Gary Takemoto (Co-Chair International), Gary Berliner, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, David Smith – RC Assistants: David Malek, Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - B. Absent – Members: Michael Eldred, Katie Sell, Doug Tono
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (7/17/21) Minutes – Relating to the Gold Patch program, it was clarified that if requirements were met during 2020 the Gold Patch will be awarded and if a referee was not able to participate due to pandemic restrictions that time will be considered a “wash” and status carried forward. The minutes were approved as amended.
- 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. - Additional discussion moved to Executive Session.*
- IV. Task Force Updates
 - A. CARE System Operations – future upgrades – *status report from Task Force #2 not available (R. Scherer will follow up) – query by Hector Estevez to PJC has not yet been answered – contact with USA Judo live stream contractor (Sherman) not yet made but followup will be accomplished by Keith Bryant.*
 - B. Education Task Force Plans – verification of scope includes material below national – moved by Bill Gugino (seconded by Gary Berliner) “Materials for training all levels of referees should be posted on the USA Judo website (Referee Education Pages)”. Use of this material is not mandated but should be available to all who wish to use it. Passed unanimously. - additional website postings – *Clinics/Seminars list has been updated*
- V. Event Status Reports
 - A. Domestic Events – President’s Cup – 11/21 – Irving, TX)
 1. Referee and staff assignments for 1 remaining national event – *the President’s Cup has been posted on the Referee Info Site and will be posted soon on the USA Judo site so referees can complete their registration*
 2. N1 Events – *Garden State Judo Classic, Tohkon Classic has been postponed until an undesignated time in 2022, Dallas Invitational request to be designated a National Referee Test/Evaluation Site for 2021 has been received, motion by Gary Berliner to Approve (seconded by Bill Gugino), passed unanimously – 2022 AM/CAN anticipates being a test site in 2022 – most others are uncertain and 2+ not planning Ref Test/Cert even if they do host their event (uncertain income)*
 - B. International Events – presented by Gary Takemoto

1. Paralympics – Dr. Greg Moore (as a referee) and Dr. Gary Berliner (as a Jury member) will be headed to Tokyo on August 22nd.
2. IJF-A Test – Malagna – Brian Toth has been selected by the IJF to take his “A Level” examination. Gary Takemoto will be travelling as a spectator to provide moral support for Brian.
3. *No IJF-B Test in 2021*
4. *Gary Takemoto will check with the PJC about the Junior Pan Ams in Cali, Colombia*

VI. Other Old Business

- A. The 2021 John Osako Award was presented to Dr. Greg Moore during the Opening Ceremonies of the U.S. Open in Orlando. Congratulations to Greg on the recognition of outstanding accomplishments.
- B. Review definition of the 2 year requirement at N4 for the National “Gold Patch” – the program was established during the May 2019 RC Meeting – program documentation will be reviewed – further discussion moved to Executive Session.
- C. Topics for the Summer Referee Town Hall Meeting – a solicitation email was recently sent to the Referee Corps for suggested topics
- D. IJF vs. EJU International and Continental Test Requirements (different) – Gary Takemoto reminded everyone that the IJF is the Governing Body for world judo and the EJU is a member organization, similar to the PJC. Although several of the members of the IJF Referee Commission are from the EJU, the EJU does not set policy for the IJF to follow – it is the reverse.
- E. Status of 2021 National Events reimbursements – When reimbursements are received by Chief Referees, Evaluators, and others for referee related expenses, the date, activity and amount are to be reported to Russ Scherer (Co-Chair for Domestic Activity) for budget tracking. These reports are not being received. Some preliminary data is being received from the USA Judo National Office.

VII. New Business - none

VIII. Executive Session

- A. Dana Rucker was designated as a third RC Assistant to join the team of Ralph Palmer and David Malek
- B. Review of incident at U.S. Open – course of action agreed upon.
- C. Review of request for Medical Leave of Absence - approved
- D. Selection of Remaining Staff for 2021 National Events – *the Chief Referee for both the Dallas Invitational and President’s Cup will be David Smith and the Evaluators for both events will be Russ Scherer, Gary Berliner and Bill Gugino with Hector Estevez as an alternate.*
- E. *Compensation/names for weigh-in personnel at JO’s – after verification of accomplishing their duties, those weigh-in referees who traveled a day early to accomplish this task will be submitted for some financial support from the event budget.*
- F. IJF-A and IJF-B test opportunities – U.S. participation – *other than Malaga, as noted above, U.S. referees are not invited to any other test opportunities.*

- G. Special recognition for a specific recently deceased National Referee – a “Celebration of Life” remembrance will be held August 14, 2021 for Mark Frankel. A Certificate of Appreciation will be given at the event to Mark’s family, recognizing his lifetime achievements as a referee and judoka.
- H. Posting Updated Ranking Lists – the updates were reviewed vs. former draft and the corrected document will be posted as a downloadable file on the Referee Information Site. It was decided to keep all referees on the ranking list that were on the Jan. 1, 2021 list.
- I. Suggestion from a member of the Referee Corps – expanded use of ranking lists was considered but no action will be taken at this time.
- J. Reimbursement policies and procedures – *documentation status – initial feedback has been received from RC members and the document needs to be updated. Upon approval of the draft by the RC, it will be sent to the Referee Corps for comment and then the RC will vote on the final version.*
- K. Potential Clinic at President’s Cup – It was decided not to pursue a clinic at President’s Cup but rather to wait for the new rule changes typically made following each Olympic Games. Initial contact and plans will be initiated shortly. Gary Takemoto agreed to make initial contact.
- L. Potential RC Budget Reallocations will not be pursued at this time.
- M. The need to develop more young referees was acknowledged and discussed – current efforts in the Midwest and the Los Angeles area were listed. It is desired to include IBSA training in many referee developmental clinics. The discussion extended to acknowledgement that special efforts need to be made to get referees qualified for future Paralympic and Olympic Competitions.
- IX. The next RC Meeting will be held by Zoom on Sept. 18, 2021 starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time.
- X. Adjournment – 10:32PM – moved by Bill Gugino (seconded by Gary Berliner) passed unanimously.