

USA Judo Referee Commission Executive Session Minutes – December 4, 2021

- I. Roll Call
 - A. Commission Members present: Russ Scherer (Co-Chair Domestic Activities), Gary Takemoto (Co-Chair International Activities), Gary Berliner, Michael Eldred, Hector Estevez, Bill Gugino, Katie Sell, and David Smith and Doug Tono
 - B. RC Assistants attending: David Malek, Ralph Palmer, Dana Rucker
 - C. Host: USA Judo CEO Keith Bryant
- II. Review /acceptance of last RC Meeting (10/16/21) Minutes – approved via email
- III. Executive Session
 - A. USA Judo proposal for using dedicated referees to handle Weigh-ins at the 4 National events. USA Judo proposed that the RC select/assign 6 male and 4 female referees as weigh-in officials for each of the 4 National events, with the weigh-in assignments being their first priority and primary duty. They would be reimbursed (from the event budget) for limited travel costs (flight up to \$450/person or mileage at IRS rate up to \$450 per vehicle), and room (double occupancy). Utilization of referees to be designated by the RC, and may include active and/or Emeritus referees not working the event, and, if needed, those refereeing at the event. Discussion held. Draft proposal will be updated and circulated before a final vote to be taken by email.
 - B. Review of 2021 issues related to behavior of Coaches, Referees and Tournament Staff at National events and possible refinement of policies and procedures related thereto. A collaboration call between coaching, refereeing and Tournament Staff leadership was held prior to this RC meeting. A proposal is being explored which utilizes assigned Coach Liaisons as the obligatory interface between coaches and Mat Chiefs. Other controls and procedures will be included with goals designed to control undesired behavior of some coaches, eliminating one-on-one interaction between a coach and referee, and providing a uniform method for the referee team to conduct a replay review, under the direction of the Mat Chief. Discussion held. An updated proposal will be distributed to the RC for review, suggested modifications, and comments.
 - C. Discussion of which names will be included on the Ranking List. We will publish (USA Judo) ranking lists which include all B4 and N4 referees, regardless of age. Lists will be in alphabetical order with their total points listed. It was reiterated that this is an internal list (based on USA Judo criteria and for USA Judo purposes). Ranking list data will be utilized as one of several factors considered when the RC is requested to supply recommendations to the PJC and/or IJF.
 - D. The revised process for requesting international travel has been posted on the USA Judo Referee Page in letter format and Gary Takemoto will integrate it into the current policy document.
 - E. Request from Indiana to make their State Championships a National Referee Test Site with David Smith as chief Referee and Russ Scherer as one of the evaluators. Proposal moved by Bill Gugino (seconded by Gary Berliner) – passed.

- F. We have been informed that the National Colligates, Liberty Bell and South Carolina State Championships are interested in being designated as National Referee Test Sites but have not submitted official applications yet. Currently no action is needed by the RC until the official paperwork is submitted by the organizers.
 - G. One of our referees, Bob Gugino, has requested that his Medical Leave of Absence be concluded and that he be returned to “active” status. David Smith moved (seconded by Gary Berliner) “That Bob Gugino be removed from Medical Leave status and returned to active referee status subject to the agreed upon terms of the disciplinary action related to actions at the 2021 US Open. Gugino will not be eligible to referee at any of the four National Championships in 2022”. Passed unanimously.
 - H. IJF is looking at implementing standardized tests for National, Continental, and International Examinations that will include four sections: 1) Written examination, 2) Demonstration of the Kodokan 100 Gokyo Waza, 3) Oral examination and 4) Practical performance examination. The passing score will increase with each level of certification.
 - I. Reimbursements for the 2021 National President’s Cup are still being finalized and final budget reconciliation will follow.
 - J. International travel support will be distributed upon submission of requests and receipts from the four identified recipients. Moved by Bill Gugino (seconded by Michael Eldred) – passed (2 abstentions)
 - K. 2022 RC Budget being worked and will be sent for vote by email. Send any input to Russ Scherer for inclusion. Several general considerations were discussed. The amount for stipends for each of the 4 National events will be determined as 2022 progresses and international activity is better defined.
- IV. Date for next RC Meeting is set for January 8, 2022 starting at 7:00PM Eastern Time.
- V. Adjournment