



## October 21, 2022 USA Judo Board Meeting Call Minutes

### Attendees:

#### USA Judo Board of Directors:

Mark Hill, President  
Ari Berliner  
Dave Johnson  
Joe Marchal  
Joe Ragan  
Barbara Shimizu  
Nicole Stout

### Absent:

Marti Malloy  
Ari Miller  
Gerry Navarro  
Christal Ransom  
James Webb

### USA Judo Staff:

Keith Bryant, Executive Director/CEO  
Nicole Jomantas, Director of Communications, Marketing & Development  
Melissa Jones, Director of Finance, Compliance & Office Operations  
Ed Liddie, Director of High Performance

### Guests:

Tim Jordan, Nominating & Governance Committee Chair

#### I. Welcome/Roll Call – Mark

Board Chair Mr. Hill conducted roll call. Quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 12:50 am ET.

#### II. Election

Mr. Jordan was introduced and provided some background about his time and role on the Nominating & Governance Committee. Mr. Jordan outlined two election items:

- Referee Election:

- The national office discovered that fifteen referees had been certified as referees by the Referee Committee, but the certification was not reported to and/or recorded in the USA Judo Membership system. After review of the Bylaws the Nominating & Governance Committee determined that those individuals are NOT eligible to vote based on the following USA Judo Bylaw 5.1.3 which states:

*Referee members. Referee members are those individuals who register and meet the required certifications to serve as active referees as determined by USA Judo. Certifications include, but are not limited to, National level certification or higher, IJF and/or PJC Referee Certification, Background Screen, SafeSport Certification and Concussion Training.*

- Athlete Election:
  - Per USOPC Bylaws, USA Judo must have one Paralympic Representative elected to the Board. There are two Paralympic Candidates on the ballot.
  - Yesterday, we were made aware that the athlete ballot has two issues:
    - Ben Goodrich, one of the two Paralympic Athlete Candidates, is listed on the electronic ballot in both the able-bodied and Paralympic categories.
    - The instructions are incorrect in that the ballot instructs voters to vote for two able bodied athletes and one Paralympic athlete – it should only be two total - 1 able/1 Para.
  - To maintain the integrity of the election, it is the recommendation of the nominating committee and office staff to re-run the athlete election next week.

Mr. Berliner and Ms. Shimizu announced potential conflicts of interest with these two topics as they are both candidates and will abstain from voting on any motions regarding the election of the positions which they are candidates for.

#### Referee Election

Ms. Shimizu commented that it was publicized on multiple occasions that members should confirm their membership and contact information prior to the election. Members have the responsibility to ensure that their member profiles are accurate.

Motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Ms. Stout, to accept the Nominating & Governance Committee ruling that the fifteen affected referees are not eligible to vote.

Motion passed. Ms. Shimizu abstained.

#### Athlete Election Board Comments:

Ms. Stout – It has been so hard to get athletes to vote and is concerned that if the election is redone that the turnout will be very low. We have already extended deadline and think it is not necessary to re-run the athlete election. Ben Goodrich’s votes only count for the Paralympic position so you can remove any able-bodied votes for him.

Mr. Johnson – What are the concerns with letting the election continue as is?

Mr. Jordan – There is concern that if a voter did not realize that Mr. Goodrich was only eligible for the Paralympic position and voted for him in the able bodied position, they may contest the results of the election because they would have voted differently.

Mr. Bryant – We want this matter to be addressed before the election closes and the results are tabulated. Mr. Berliner provided us some names of athletes who had not received ballots and there were quite a few athletes from 2013 and 2017 that were not on the voting list thereby causing us to extend the election and err on the side of being more inclusive than not. These discussions with Mr. Jordan all took place just before the original election deadline.

Motion by Ms. Stout, seconded by Mr. Ragan, to close athlete election today as scheduled.

Mr. Berliner was asked, as a candidate in the athlete election, if he is concerned about continuing the election as scheduled. He stated that he is not concerned with revoting.

Motion passed. Mr. Berliner abstained.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.