



JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

JJIF Registered Office: c/o Linus Bruhin, Leutschenstrasse 9, CH 8807 Freienbach, Switzerland

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

19 th January, 2025	05:00 PM – 06:00 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Abu Dhabi / Online
Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President	
Type of meeting	JJIF Board Member Meeting	
Notetaker	Kostiantyn Pavlenko	
Attendees with voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President 2. Fahad Al Shamsi –JJAU General Secretary <i>[representing JJIF Senior Vice President, JJAU President Abdelmunem Al Hashmi]</i> 3. Robert Perc – JJIF Vice President, JJEU President - online 4. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice President, JJPAU President - online 5. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission 6. Al Ketbi Faisal – Board member, Athletes Commission- online 	
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Director General 8. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director – online 9. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF Office Manager 	
Observers (invited)	10. Jose Dominguez - Member of the JJPAU board - online	
1. Welcome by the JJIF President		
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
JJIF President, Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, welcomed all the members present at the meeting.		
2. Roll call / Quorum / Minutes		
	Joachim Thumfart	
6 of 7 Members with voting rights were present, and the quorum was declared sufficient.		
3. Changes in the Board members 2024-2028		
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
Discussion	<p>President Theodoropoulos made the following recommendations regarding candidates for JJIF Board: re-appoint Abdelmunem Alsayed Al Hashmi as Senior Vice President, The president thank Maria Charitopoulou for her service and propose to relieve her from the Board. It would be appreciated if she continues her work as chairperson of the women’s commission. He proposed as a Board Member, Christian Horvath-Portele, Elcirley Luz Silva – as a new Board member – Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu; to propose Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa – as a new Board member, Volunteer Commission.</p> <p>The Board extends sincere gratitude to Maria Charitopoulou for her dedicated service and valuable contributions during her tenure, wishing her all the best in her future endeavours.</p>	
Conclusion	<p>The Board unanimously decided to approve the proposal of the president. The Board approved for the period of 2025-2028 the appointment of Abdelmunem Al Hashmi as Senior Vice President and Christian Horvath, Elcirley Luz Silva and Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa as appointed Board members,</p>	

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4. Athletes representation 2025	
Discussion	J. Thumfart proposed to retain Faisal Al Ketbi and include Denise Krahn as athletes' representatives on the Board until the next elections are conducted. Elections are to be organized by the end of 2025.
Conclusion	The Board has approved the proposal to retain candidacy of Faisal Al Ketbi and approve candidacy of Denise Krahn as athletes' representatives on the Board. The athlete's representatives are asked to review the rules and regulations of the athlete's commission to ensure future elections. Especially the possibility of remote elections shall be considered. K. Pavlenko is appointed to support this process and organize and conclude the voting for the athletes' representatives of the JJIF Board by the end of the 2025 online or offline during one of the JJIF major events. The decision was made with six votes in favour.
5. Directors' positions	
Discussion	Mr. Theodoropoulos suggested that, in order to develop JJIF's centralization and increase its functional effectiveness, the position of Sport Director should be made vacant. He proposed that the responsibilities and tasks previously handled by the Sport Director be managed and distributed by the headquarters moving forward. Mr. Theodoropoulos further proposed that Peter Schouten retain the position of Administration Director and that Joachim Thumfart continue as Director General. He emphasized the importance of these appointments in ensuring the smooth operation and effective management of JJIF's activities.
Decision	The Board has decided that the position of Sport Director is now vacant. The Board extends its heartfelt appreciation to Claudia Behnke for her exceptional dedication and invaluable contributions. The Board wishes Claudia continued success in her future endeavours. The responsibilities and tasks previously handled by the Sport Director now will be managed and distributed by the headquarters. Additionally, Peter Schouten will retain the position of Administration Director, and Joachim Thumfart will assume the role of Director General. Both decisions were approved with six votes in favour.
6. Determination of representation rights / Update registration Switzerland	
Discussion	Director General suggested and the Board discussed the delegation of powers as outlined in Rule 7.3 of the JJIF By-laws. It was noted that the Executive Board has the authority to delegate powers to its members, JJIF Commissions, members of the JJIF administration, other entities, or third persons. The Board considered granting single signature rights to the President, Director General, Senior Vice President and representing lawyer. This delegation of powers aims to streamline decision-making processes and ensure efficient management of responsibilities.

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Decision	With all six votes in favour, the JJIF Board has decided to grant single signature rights to the JJIF President – Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, JJIF Senior Vice President – Abdelmunem Al Hashmi, Director General – Joachim Thumfart, and Dr. Linus Bruhin.
7. Sponsorship / Equipment Concept and Contract	
Discussion	The Director General presented the draft of the sponsorship contract with Ju-Sports, a sportswear and equipment producer from Germany, which has been a supporter and official producer of JJIF sporting equipment. According to the draft contract, a new equipment branding strategy, with transfer to mandatory equipment usage during the period 2025-2028 that should be adopted. The goal of the contract is to promote and facilitate a smooth transition from different brands to JJIF-branded mandatory equipment across all continents over a four-year period, covering most of the JJIF disciplines.
Conclusion	The Board has unanimously approved the draft of the contract and the overall direction of the branding strategy proposed by the Director General, with all six votes in favour.
8. Case of Matsuura violation of the intellectual property rights	
Discussion	The Director General emphasized the importance of the Matsuura case. The management of the Netherlands-registered sport equipment producer has applied several times, explaining that the violation of JJIF intellectual property rights was unintentional. The company is willing to contribute to resolving the issue and seeks JJIF approval to continue to produce sports equipment with JJIF logo that will be permitted for the athletes to use during JJIF competitions. The amount of contribution offered is 4,000 US dollars.
Conclusion	The Board has decided to grant permission for Matsuura Company to resume distribution of sport equipment allowed to be used during JJIF events, contingent upon the payment of 4,000 US dollars as compensation for the infringement of intellectual property rights. All six votes in favour.
9. Unacceptable behaviour of a Romanian representative	
Discussion	Robert Perc informed the Board about an incident during the Adults European Championship involving the head of the NF delegation, who also competed in the Masters division. The individual emotionally reacted during a Romanian athlete's performance and confronted the referee, leading to his removal from the arena. The Romanian Federation issued an apology and banned the individual from being a head of the delegation for at least two years. The individual also apologized to officials, referees, and volunteers. The JJEU Board found the apologies sincere but considered additional penalties due to the individual's role as a referee. Mr. Perc questioned the best course of action. Mr. Schouten noted the individual's previous similar behaviour in 2023. Mr. Thumfart, and Mr. Theodoropoulos discussed potential sanctions, including cancelling the referee license and exclusion from future events. Mr. Perc suggested informing the individual of close supervision and immediate action if the behaviour repeats.

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Discussion	<p>Mr. Horvath noted that the individual in question is participating in the Genoa Open competition at the end of January 2025. He proposed making a final decision during the next Board meeting, which will take place a week after the Genoa Open. In the meantime, the individual will be excluded from the European Youth Championship referee selection.</p> <p>Mr. Perc summarized and proposed that JJIF supports JJEU's decision to exclude the individual as a referee from the next continental event. The final JJIF decision will be made during the following JJIF Board members meeting in February 2025. Mr. Horvath added that he would like to add JJIF safeguarding committee in the next hearing of the case.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart again summarized all propositions concluding that JJIF supports JJEU's decision to exclude the individual as a referee from the next continental event. The final JJIF decision will be made during the next JJIF Board members meeting in February 2025.</p>
Decision	All six votes in favour. The decision was made with the aim of maintaining the integrity and professionalism of JJIF events.
10. Changes in JJIF Commissions and Committees	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Perc inquired about potential changes within existing JJIF commissions and committees. Mr. Theodoropoulos stated that transformation ideas would be presented to the Board, emphasizing the need to renew the structure to enhance day-to-day efficiency. This includes changes in structure and positions. He highlighted the importance of centralizing coordination at JJIF headquarters and noted that some elected or appointed individuals are not actively working in their roles. Mr. Thumfart added that the Board first needs to confirm who remains in their positions and which units remain. Mr. Theodoropoulos concluded that the final decision would be made by the Technical Congress worldwide.</p>
11. Invitation to European Youth Championship	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Perc extended an invitation to the JJIF President and the Director General to attend the European Youth Championship in Cyprus. Details regarding accommodation and protocol matters should be discussed with the JJEU Secretary General.</p>
12. Relocation of European Championship and dates changes	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Perc informed the Board that due to LOC government support issues the Adults European Championship has been relocated to Belgium, with the dates shifted to the beginning of October.</p> <p>This change raised concerns among the Board members due to the proximity of these event dates to the World Championship dates.</p> <p>Mr. Perc suggested that this matter should serve as an example, highlighting the need for continental unions to receive better assurances from event organizers regarding their readiness to conduct events.</p> <p>Mr. Perc also informed that JJEU has sent out western Balkan region events announcement that will be conducted in the Open format - available for all JJIF athletes.</p>

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13. JJEU - JJAU cooperation	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Perc informed the Board that in December 2024, a delegation from JJEU visited JJAU and UAEJJF at their headquarters in Abu Dhabi, UAE. During this visit, they signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JJEU and JJAU to promote and enhance special education and joint events. Mr. Perc expressed his gratitude to Mr. Fahad Al Shamsi for the warm welcome and the opportunity to attend all the protocol activities.</p> <p>Mr. Al Shamsi assured that colleagues from the European Union are always welcome and that any educational activities between the Unions are mutually beneficial for the development of shared goals.</p>
	Next Board meeting is planned for February 9 th , 2025, 5:00PM Aby-Dhabi time.
The JJIF President addressed the Board, expressing his gratitude to all present for their participation and the productive discussions. Following his remarks, the meeting was adjourned.	

Hybrid Meeting, 19th of January 2025


 Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos



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