

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

9 th February, 2025	05:00 PM – 07:15 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Online
Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President	
Type of meeting	JJIF Board Member Meeting	
Notetaker	Kostiantyn Pavlenko	
1. Roll call		
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 4. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice president - JJAFU President 5. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu 6. Christian Horvath-Portele - Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission 7. Denise Krahn Board member, Athletes Commission 8. Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa – Board member, Volunteer Commission 	
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Director General 10. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director 11. Kostiantyn Pavlenko - JJIF HQ Manager 	
2. Quorum		
	Joachim Thumfart	
8 of 10 Members with voting rights were present, and sufficient quorum was declared.		
3. Welcome by the JJIF President		
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
JJIF President, Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, welcomed all the members present at the meeting.		
4. Minutes of the last Board meeting		
	Joachim Thumfart	
Mr. Thumfart stated that the draft minutes of the last Board meeting had been sent out to the Board members and inquired if there were any comments or amendments.		
Conclusion	No comments or amendments to the previous Board meeting minutes were declared. The Board meeting minutes of January 19, 2025, were approved unanimously.	
5. Recent developments in the IOC recognition process		
Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart announced that after a pause since 2019, there have been updates regarding the recognition of new members of the Olympic movement. He then passed the floor to Mr. Kostiantyn Pavlenko for further details.</p> <p>Mr. Pavlenko informed the Board that a new document, titled "IOC Recognition Procedure for Constituents of the Olympic Movement," was approved in October 2024. This document outlines the process for provisional and full recognition, compliance monitoring, suspension, and withdrawal of recognition for Olympic movement constituents. However, the description remains general and provides limited details.</p>	

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

Mr. Thumfart added that no accompanying documents, such as applications, questionnaires, or lists of requirements, have been provided. There has been no official release as well. He believes that a potential meeting with Stephan Fox, President of AIMS, on February 13-14, 2025 in Thailand, and the AIMS online meeting at the end of February 2025 would provide further explanations.

6. Discussion on Specific Requirements in the IOC Recognition Procedures Document

Discussion

Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that he has already communicated with the JJIF internal auditors to perform final auditing procedures, provide recommendations, and prepare for the external audit of financial statements for the financial years 2023 and 2024. Additionally, headquarters representatives will gather information regarding the cost of these financial services.

Director General Thumfart also emphasised the importance of mentioning the International Testing Agency (ITA), the doping tests service provider and JJIF contractor, as one of the few organizations that can be selected as potential consultants for the IOC during the provisional recognition assessment. He suggested increasing the level of cooperation by delegating most of the anti-doping procedures to the ITA as a part of package deal, leaving only a necessary minimum of activities for the JJIF. This transfer of responsibilities would result in an additional cost of 30-50 thousand US dollars annually, 130-150 thousand CHF in total, but would ensure comprehensive management of anti-doping matters in full compliance with WADA and IOC requirements. He also familiarized the Board members with the ITA's offer, providing examples of available options.

President Theodoropoulos added that, according to the document, a special commission (namely the Steering Committee) has been created to assess applications. The overall recognition procedure will be handled by AIMS and members of other IOC-recognized groups from winter and summer Olympic sports and recognized federations of ARISF. He noted that everything should be clear after February 25th, the date of the AIMS meeting. President Theodoropoulos also agreed that integrated collaboration with the ITA can result in the best possible outcome and that the increase in costs related to this cooperation would have the best results for the Federation.

Another IOC criterion is the confirmation of recognition of National Federations by NOCs and ministries of sports. President Theodoropoulos mentioned that we have a strong position in this matter, as JJIF meets this requirement. Mr. Thumfart added that we should be prepared to collect confirmation letters from our JJNOs throughout the world.

Vice President Proag, responsible for in-house anti-doping legal and compliance procedures, agreed with Mr. Thumfart's and President Theodoropoulos's suggestion to forward most of the doping management activities to the ITA. Leaving the results management within JJIF if these procedures would be charged additionally. Summarizing the discussion, Director General Thumfart stated that we are expecting to receive more details by the end of February and expressed hope to meet ITA representatives in person during the WADA symposium in March in Switzerland.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:



7. Changes in the Code of Ethics	
Discussion	<p>President Theodoropoulos addressed Vice President Proag, instructing him to initiate changes in the JJIF Code of Ethics to align it with IOC requirements. The primary area for correction is related to Budo principle of non-criticism, which contradicts modern generally accepted ethics code and is not comparable to the IOC Code of Ethics accepted as a basis.</p> <p>Mr. Proag acknowledged the task.</p>
8. Case of a minor displaced person, seeking international status as an athlete	
Discussion	<p>Director General Thumfart asked Board Member Christian Horvath-Portele to provide details regarding the athlete's case.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele provided information from the Austrian Jiu Jitsu Federation about a 16-year-old athlete, Albert Navasardyan, born in Armenia who has been living most of his life in Austria and training in an Austrian club and with the Austrian national team. The Austrian Federation requested the Board to grant the athlete international status so he can be registered in SportData for the forthcoming</p>
Decision	<p>With all eight votes in favour, the JJIF Board has decided to grant Albert Navasardyan the status of international athlete with the review procedure scheduled next year.</p>
9. Introduction and Welcome Speech from New Board Members	
	<p>President Theodoropoulos asked the new Board Members, Denise Krahn, Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa, and Elcirley Luz Silva, to introduce themselves and share a few words.</p> <p>Denise Krahn (Germany): Denise briefly introduced herself, mentioning that she is a competing athlete. She accepted the offer to represent athletes on the Board due to her understanding of its importance.</p> <p>Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa (Mongolia): A volunteer since 2019, Lkhagvanyam reminded everyone of her previous activities and expressed her excitement and commitment to contributing to the organization.</p> <p>Elcirley Luz Silva (Brazil): With a background as a jiu-jitsu and self-defense instructor, training police and army representatives, Elcirley became a person with a disability 10 years ago and started his journey in parasport. Mr. Silva expressed his appreciation, excitement, and the importance of being able to contribute to the JJIF and make every effort for the development of para jiu-jitsu on a global level to increase involvement of "invisible people" in jiu-jitsu as a way of life and sport.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos thanked everyone and emphasized that at JJIF, we do not separate people. JJIF is open to all human beings.</p> <p>Mr. Fahad Al Shamsi also welcomed new members, younger members and new ideas that shows the intention of the Ju-Jitsu Family to accept and collaborate with the "new blood", looking for ideas that guarantee that in the future JJIF will develop.</p> <p>Vice President Robert Perc greeted the new Board Members as well.</p>

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:



10. Unacceptable behaviour of a Romanian representative (Ongoing)

Discussion

Mr. Horvath-Portele reminded the Board of the case discussed during previous meeting regarding head of Romanian delegation Rinu Adonis Trasca Staicu. The Board received an opinion from the Safeguarding Department on the subject, declaring that, based on the principle of precedence, the suspension of the referee license for a minimum of two years, starting from September 23, 2024, should be implemented, starting from the day after his last participation in an event.

Mr. Perc dissented, stating that the cases had similarities but were not the same. The issue in this particular case is the time, which was “unreasonable”, taken to aggregate all written statements, receive feedbacks from different federations involved and process everything according to procedures implemented by the JJEU. And due to almost a year passed since the time of the incident and the person of interest has already been involved in several events as a referee, implementation of sanctions with such a big time of delay, especially without suspension of the person during the period of proceedings, makes it delayed action and inappropriate to imply sanctions now and any decision by the Board, involved sanctions, would not be supported by Mr. Perc.

At this moment, taking into account that previous misbehaving was not recorded and prosecuted, JJEU is satisfied with the current result: suspension as a referee from 2025 JJEU Youth Championship, received apologies from the Romanian Federation and separately from the person involved and with the fact that now JJEU has a solid case base against person of interest which in case of repeat of incident of the same nature, would have immediate effect and possibility to imposition of more severe sanctions.

President Theodoropoulos noted that this is not the first time an action towards the person of interest was implemented - Rinu Adonis Trasca Staicu got his accreditation cancelled and he was expelled from the World Championship in Mongolia in 2023 by the decision of JJIF Administration Director Mr. Peter Schouten. Mr. Schouten could not recall the reason for the report on this case not being concluded. President Theodoropoulos stated that JJIF Board must make a decision considering opinion of the Safeguarding Committee, he does not believe that person that was involved in multiple cases of similar nature can change. He suggested to postpone final decision until the Board’s meeting that will take place after 2025 JJEU Youth Championship.

Mr. Perc continued emphasizing the necessity of reporting cases immediately. A recent incident was highlighted where the reporting was delayed by over a month. The JJEU Board underscored the need for individuals involved to prepare written reports promptly. On the other hand successful examples of immediate case reporting and forwarding to the national Federation were shared. He proposed that, in the future, all necessary paperwork should be completed within one week after an event and the process must be initiated promptly to avoid complications. Delays in starting the process result in unnecessary prolongation and difficulties for JJIF or JJEU events.

President Theodoropoulos noted that the Board cannot act immediately, except in cases involving the acceptance of proposals or evaluate actions taken by the safeguarding officer of the event.

Mr. Horvath-Portele added that he agrees with Mr. Perc that reports should be on time; however, the timeframe can vary depending on the severity of the incident. Misconduct cases generally don't require six weeks for recovery, while more severe cases, such as physical or sexual assault, may need a longer timeframe. He highlighted the importance of adhering to the reasonable timeframe outlined in the safeguarding policy, while recognizing the need for flexibility based on the specifics of each incident.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:



	<p>He stressed that, although setting a strict timeframe is challenging due to the varying nature of incidents and victim psychology, a reasonable timeframe should be maintained to facilitate prompt handling of cases. Examples, such as the prolonged reporting of sexual assault cases within the church, illustrate the necessity of considering the unique circumstances of each case.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele agreed that, in the future, all necessary paperwork should be completed within one week after an event and the process must be initiated promptly to avoid complications. However, flexibility should be maintained, allowing for adjustments based on the nature and severity of each incident.</p>
Decision	To postpone final decision until the Board's meeting that will take place after 2025 JJEU Youth Championship to take into consideration Mr. Rinu Adonis Trasca Staicu's behaviour during the event. All eight votes in favour.

11. Rule Changes and Adaptations

	Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Director General Thumfart proposed the following topic for discussion and possible suggestions: next steps for rule changes and adaptations. Concerns were raised about certain aspects of the fighting system that, while correctly applied by referees, were perceived as against the competition's philosophy. Proposals from technical meetings in Asia and the duo team commission were noted. Amran had also sent proposals for discussion.</p> <p>What needs to be done:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss specific issues in smaller groups, possibly during events like a training camp during Paris Open. 2. Consider holding a technical Congress during the World Championship, although there are concerns about the energy levels and availability of key participants during long competition days. 3. Evaluate the possibility of holding meetings during the CSIT Games in Loutraki, despite logistical challenges such as the accreditation costs amounted to 170 EUR and full package requirement. This could provide a focused time frame for discussions and finalising proposals. <p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine the feasibility and logistics of holding a meeting either before the World Championship or during the CSIT Games to finalise rule change proposals. 2. Explore financing options to support participants. 3. Gather feedback on the proposed schedule and meeting formats.
Discussion	<p>President Theodoropoulos added that another opportunity to conduct a meeting could be arranged during the Mediterranean Festival. He emphasized that Continental Unions should consider this and inform the Board about their ideas and proposals at the next Board meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart added that conducting a technical meeting during The World Games is not advisable due to the "elite only" status of the event, which would result in many participants being absent. He supported the expressed idea of holding meetings during the Mediterranean Festival or the World Championship as these events have a larger number of potential participants for the working group. In conclusion, we are awaiting feedback from the Continental Unions. This topic may be worth discussing among the Continental Union Boards.</p>

12. Gi colours discussion

	Mr. Thumfart proposed the following topic for discussion supporting the initiative of Athletes Commission representative Denise Krahn. The topic of Gi colors has been debated numerous times, with different viewpoints being considered. Recently, the discussion included a female perspective, focusing on the visibility of blood stains.
--	--

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

Discussion	<p>The Board discussed a proposal to introduce black Gi for female and male athletes, which had been supported by a majority of athletes in a previous survey. However, concerns were raised about the practicality of having two colours, the potential for referees to have difficulty distinguishing between them, and the potential for athletes to wear dirty or stained uniforms. There was also a discussion about the hygiene standards that would need to be established if black uniforms were introduced. Board members agreed that more information was needed before making a decision, particularly regarding the effectiveness of menstrual protection products. The proposal was seen as a political decision rather than a technical one, and the team agreed to continue discussing the issue.</p> <p>Evaluating Black Gi in Competitions</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele proposed a trial of black Gi in regional championships or up to Grand Prix to evaluate their impact before deciding on their use in major events. Mr. Perc suggested picking events with proper Gi checks to gather statistics. Mr. Thumfart proposed having someone from their side check the Gi and gather statistics at test events. He also expressed concerns about the French team's opposition to coloured Gi. Mr. Proag suggested considering other solutions besides changing the colour of the Gi, such as gear and clothing. President Theodoropoulos suggested preparing a questionnaire for female athletes to gather their opinions and experiences. Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa proposed distributing questionnaires during competitions in warm-up areas to get more accurate responses.</p> <p>The Board agreed to identify test events, review existing questionnaires, and gather more information on potential solutions besides changing Gi colour.</p>
13. Somalia Membership request	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that a new application and provisional membership request had been submitted by The Federation of Somali Jiu-Jitsu. He delegated to Mr. Proag the task of announcing the details.</p> <p>Mr. Proag explained that, according to the information at his disposal, the structure of Somali sport governing bodies places all martial arts federations under the umbrella organization – Somali Martial Arts Federation. He noted that they had received a letter from the Ministry of Sports and the Somali Olympics, recognizing The Federation of Somali Jiu-Jitsu as operating under the Somali Martial Arts Federation. Applications from both organizations had been submitted, along with their Statutes, but not scanned copies, making it impossible to verify their authenticity at the moment. Furthermore, certificates of registration for both organizations had not been received, preventing verification of their status.</p> <p>Nevertheless, based on the analysis of the received documents, Mr. Proag declared that the grounds were sufficient for the Board to vote to grant The Federation of Somali Jiu-Jitsu provisional membership status, contingent upon the payment of the 2025 membership fee and the submission of the necessary missing documents: a copy of the letter of recognition from the Somali Olympic Committee and the certificates of registration for both entities.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart briefly explained to the new members of the Board that provisional status could be granted or revoked by the Board, unlike full membership, which can only be granted or revoked by voting at the JJIF General Assembly.</p>
Conclusion	<p>All eight members of the Board voted in favour of granting provisional membership to The Federation of Somali Jiu-Jitsu.</p>

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:



14. Current JJIF The World Games Status

Mr. Thumfart delegated the task of informing Board members about the current state of preparation for the 2025 World Games to the newly appointed JJIF Technical Delegate for TWG, Mr. Schouten.

Mr. Schouten informed the Board that all qualified and confirmed athletes are now registered in the TWG system. Starting from February 10, 2025, extra officials will be able to register. It is now time to start filling the list of athletes eligible by quota, also known as “wild cards.” A list-proposal for the first round of this selection has already been made. This selection targets countries that do not have athletes in the top 4 rankings and have no participating athletes from their countries, but do have athletes in the top 10. A total of 8 athletes and 1 show couple are included.

Regarding the list of athletes per quota of the hosting country, an inquiry has been made but no response has been received yet.

In the inclusive discipline, Mr. Schouten addressed Mr. Horvath-Portele to confirm that the inclusive athletes from Spain are not participating in TWG as their status has not been confirmed based on the provided documents. Mr. Horvath-Portele confirmed the revocation of participation for the athlete couple from Spain. Mr. Schouten mentioned that with this information in hand, their results from the last World and European Championships also need to be removed.

Mr. Schouten discussed with Mr. Horvath-Portele the necessity of forming a complete list of participants in the inclusive disciplines.

Before approving the quota list, President Theodoropoulos asked Mr. Thumfart to ensure that the total number of athletes per country does not exceed the TWG qualification requirements. After checking, no discrepancies were found, and the total number of participating countries, including those from the round 1 quota list, is 33.

Discussion

Category	Ranking	Country	Last name	First name	Points
ADULTS JIU-JITSU FEMALE -63 KG	13	Indonesia	MEGAWATI	ILMA YENI	268.75
ADULTS JIU-JITSU MALE -77 KG	7	Bahrain	MUNFAREDI	ALI	351.25
ADULTS JU-JITSU FIGHTING FEMALE -52 KG	6	Switzerland	STAUB	SINA	487.5
ADULTS JU-JITSU FIGHTING FEMALE -52 KG	12	Chinese Taipei	WU	YU-TING	195
ADULTS JU-JITSU FIGHTING FEMALE -57 KG	9	Panama	AROSEMENA	YACQUELINE	305
ADULTS JU-JITSU FIGHTING MALE -62 KG	15	Morocco	HAMZA	EL GARWAOU	215
ADULTS JU-JITSU FIGHTING MALE -69 KG	9	JJIF	BESHNETC	DMITRII	315
ADULTS JU-JITSU FIGHTING MALE -69 KG		Mauritius	Proag	Ryan	
ADULTS JU-JITSU SHOW OPEN	14	Cambodia	KONGMONA MITHORA	TOUCH PIKADA	120

Mr. Thumfart is now asking Board members if there are any objections to the list of athletes per quota.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

Conclusion	No objections were received. All eight members of the Board voted in favour of approving the round 1 list of athletes accepted to participate in The World Games according to the continental quota.
15. The World Games Inclusive Status	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart inquired Mr. Horvath-Portele about the situation with inclusive participants. Mr. Horvath-Portele suggested including a couple from Italy whom he had become familiar with at the latest Genoa Open event.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart then asked whether they should adhere to the principle of allowing only one participation per country (e.g., pairs from Romania and Austria) or grant more time to scout participants from other countries. Mr. Horvath-Portele mentioned that, besides Italy, he is currently in touch with representatives from Cambodia on this matter and that more time is required.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart suggested removing inclusive participants from the quota to handle it separately, as TWG handles it separately. Hence, the number of inclusive participants does not affect the total number of participants selected by ranking and by other quotas.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos asked if there is a specific quota for inclusive participants. According to Mr. Thumfart's explanation, JJIF has a separate athlete quota for inclusive self-defense: 6 participants – 12 people, which is separately granted by TWG. This quota does not reduce other quotas.</p>
Conclusion	<p>President Theodoropoulos concluded that the same country of origin for athletes in inclusive disciplines and other disciplines does not contradict or influence the selection process. He emphasized the need for flexibility on this matter.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele expressed his expectation that Board Member Silva would support JJIF in scouting. Mr. Silva confirmed that he is ready to assist in this activity.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele announced a step-by-step manual for the short-term period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get in touch with Italy and Cambodia to confirm if they have couples. 2. Check the quantity of sports available. 3. Fill the slots with participants from WPJJF. <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele also addressed the Board members, particularly the Presidents of continental unions, asking them to contact him if they know federations working in this field or if they know of suitable couples.</p> <p>Mr. Schouten added that the deadline for registration is April 30. Everyone must be registered before that date, as no changes can be made after that.</p>
16. Miscellaneous	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart also informed the Board about two matters that do not require a Board resolution yet and are provided for general information purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a proposal for the Oceanian Championship, to be held from October 2-5, 2025, in Australia, has been received. Mr. Thumfart suggested continuing communication with the potential organiser. - Mr. Gregory Vallarino, JJIF Vice President and JJPAU President, who was absent from this Board meeting, sent information indicating that he has been in contact with representatives of ju-jitsu in Cuba. We are excited to re-establish connections with them.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:



JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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

Next Board meeting is planned for March 2nd, 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, 9th of February 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

