

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

6 th of April, 2025	05:00 PM – 07:30 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Online
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Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President
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Type of meeting	JJIF Board Member Meeting
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Notetaker	Kostiantyn Pavlenko
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1. Roll call

Attendees with voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President – online 2. Fahad Al Shamsi –JJAU General Secretary – online <i>[representing JJIF Senior Vice-President, JJAU President Abdelmunem Al Hashmi]</i> 3. Robert Perc – JJIF Vice-President, JJEU President – online 4. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAFU President – online 5. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President - online 6. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu – online 7. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission – online 8. Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa – Board member, Volunteer Commission 9. Denise Krahn – Board member, Athletes Commission – online
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Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Director General 11. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director 12. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager
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Observers (invited)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. JoseDominguez - Member of the JJPAU board-online 14. Emanuel Scheiber – invited observer from Scheiber-consulting
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2. Quorum

Joachim Thumfart

9 of 10 Members with voting rights were present, therefore a sufficient quorum was declared. Director General Thumfart introduced Mr. Scheiber – guest speaker, who was invited to present on the sponsorship and marketing segment of the agenda.

3. Welcome by the JJIF President

Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, welcomed all attendees, noting that while the agenda was concise, the items outlined remained of significant importance.

4. Recent developments in the JJIF Membership and Grading App

Joachim Thumfart

Director General Thumfart informed that him and Mr. Pavlenko met Mr. Samer Shoueiry [Sports Intelligence] who offers to create a joint venture to operate a federation app.

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	<p>Following the meeting, we received a draft proposal for the Memorandum of Understanding, which we would like VP Proag to review.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart highlighted that this is a key point of interest for the development of the “Sports for All” initiative, particularly in light of the broader opportunity to establish a synchronized database for grading tracking. The establishment of a structured eco-system within the Ju-Jitsu community will have a significant impact across multiple levels, ranging from marketing and sponsorship at the continental and national scale to the direct involvement, development and motivation of individual coaches.</p> <p>Key aspects of the initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated database to track grading, linked to the existing federation system. • Marketing potential, including video sponsorships that can be regionally tailored. • Revenue distribution, ensuring that a portion of grading fees is allocated to coaches and national federations to incentivize participation. <p>This signals a move toward standardized grading and certification across international jurisdictions. From a financial perspective, the platform developer has proposed that 50% of revenue generated from membership fees, grading fees, and video-related income will be allocated to cover ongoing development, maintenance, and content production costs.</p> <p>The next steps will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal review by Vice-President Proag to ensure compliance and feasibility. • Further assessment of marketing strategies and engagement models. • Evaluation of technical integration with existing grading databases. <p>This initiative presents a significant opportunity for structured growth in sports development, creating an inclusive ecosystem where recognized grading activities contribute directly to the broader competitive framework.</p>
Discussion	<p>Vice-President Perc raised a question regarding the intended use of the membership and grading app, specifically whether its primary function is to facilitate individual recognition for grading candidates or to serve as a registry for national federations to track graded members.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart, in response, clarified that the app intends to operate on two fundamental levels:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognition of styles – If a martial arts style is formally recognized, individuals can grade within this system. 2. Platform registration – Any individual seeking a JJIF diploma must be registered on the platform. <p>A key takeaway from insights gathered through IMMAF was that some national federations have already fully integrated similar grading systems, using them as a digital alternative to Budo passports. These platforms facilitate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing and extension of licenses within a structured registry. • Regional approaches to grading requirements and recognition. • Video production for grading systems, which can be regionally branded and adapted based on market demand. <p>A shift toward digitalization was emphasized, with a projected phasing out of paper-based passports and documents over the next five years. The proposed app could serve national federations, allowing them to customize access and administration within a dedicated system while ensuring financial viability through cost and income-sharing models. The first step remains mandatory registration for individuals seeking JJIF recognition. However, the long-term vision includes an ecosystem where national federations fully integrate the system within their own administration framework.</p> <p>From a technical perspective, the platform's sophistication was highlighted, emphasizing the scale of development and maintenance involved.</p>

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	<p>Profitability hinges on effective promotion and sustained engagement. To reinforce the value of the initiative, a parallel example from IMMAF was provided, demonstrating how mandatory registration within their grading system has become a prerequisite for competition eligibility. While the app primarily focuses on grading, its potential extends to membership management and broader sporting engagement</p>
<h2>5. Sponsorship and Marketing</h2>	
	<p>Joachim Thumfart, Emanuel Scheiber</p>
	<p>Mr. Thumfart introduced Mr. Emmanuel Scheiber to the Board as a highly experienced sports administrator with a strong background in powerlifting. Having served as Technical Delegate for powerlifting events at the World Games and held leadership roles, including General Manager, he has played a key role in advancing media presence, marketing, and sponsorship within the sport. Following his departure from powerlifting, Mr. Scheiber has expressed interest in bringing his expertise to our federation. Over the past year, discussions have explored sponsorship, equipment licensing, marketing, and media strategies, leading to promising ideas for future development. This session aims to provide an overview of the proposed initiatives, seek feedback, and determine the best path forward for implementation. Mr. Scheiber is invited to share his insights and vision for the federation’s growth.</p> <p>Mr. Scheiber began by expressing his appreciation for being invited to participate in the Board meeting. He emphasized his extensive background in sports, noting that although he comes from a powerlifting background, he is also active in sports. While Ju-Jitsu is relatively new to him, he identified strong parallels between its commercial and developmental landscape and that of powerlifting.</p> <p>He highlighted that both the International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) and the Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF) are members of AIMS and are working towards recognition by the IOC. Drawing on over 15 years of experience in marketing for the IPF—including marketing strategy, media operations, and sponsorship development—he underscored his qualifications in marketing, media, and strategic analysis.</p> <p>Mr. Scheiber detailed his collaboration with Mr. Thumfart, which dates back to 2010, and noted his past role managing powerlifting’s media and sponsorships for five editions of The World Games. Turning to his current work with JJIF, he was invited to assist with enhancing media coverage and developing sustainable sponsorship models.</p> <p>Sponsorship Strategy Mr. Scheiber outlined a dual-track sponsorship strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Internal Sport-Related Sponsorships: These include equipment manufacturers and service providers directly involved in the sport. He noted that in most sports, equipment suppliers are often the largest financial beneficiaries. However, such suppliers tend to downplay their profits when approached for sponsorship. He advised that the JJIF must adopt a more assertive stance, requiring reciprocal value from these sponsors. 2. Non-Sport External Partnerships: These would include commercial partners with no direct involvement in Ju-Jitsu. An example given was a destination partner, which is interested in visibility and hosting events, offering a mutually beneficial partnership model that does not depend on equipment approvals.

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Approved Equipment List

Mr. Scheiber proposed the introduction of a certified Approved Equipment List, modelled on the IPF system established in 2010. Under this system:

1. Only licensed equipment may be used in international competitions.
2. Approvals are granted after technical evaluation and are valid for a four-year period.
3. Suppliers pay a one-time approval fee and an annual licensing fee.

Based on a preliminary analysis of equipment types and average market prices (with data provided by Mr. Thumfart), he presented estimated income projections. For instance, a supplier who will be able to have the whole portfolio of equipment approved, could contribute approximately €59,000 in approval fees and €40,000 annually in license fees. This system is intended not only to generate income but also to elevate brand credibility and industry standards.

Sponsorship Tiers and Financial Forecast

The marketing expert presented a tiered sponsorship model:

- Master Supplier
- Premium Partner
- Gold Sponsor
- Silver Sponsor
- Bronze Sponsor

These tiers apply to suppliers in gear, technology, nutrition, logistics, and communication sectors. Emphasis was placed on avoiding monopolies by allowing multiple suppliers to participate at various levels.

Partner Level	Gear	Technology	Nutrition	Logistic or Travel	Communication	Destination
Premium Partner	4	1	1	1	1	1
Gold Sponsor	2	1	1	1	1	1
Silver Sponsor	2	1	1	1	1	1
Bronze Sponsor	2	1	1	1	1	1
Master Supplier	4

Financial projections for sponsorships (excluding television rights) for suppliers or similar partners were shared.

Higher amounts from 2027 on corresponds with the full implementation of the sponsorship and equipment systems.

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<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Television and Media Rights</p> <p>The speaker stressed the importance of television partnerships, especially with Eurosport, to enhance visibility and attract external sponsors. A TV-included sponsorship package could increase value by €100,000 annually.</p> <p>Negotiations with Visit Malta demonstrated the potential for non-gear-based partnerships, especially if JJIF secures consistent TV broadcasting. Estimated value from such an agreement could reach + €300,000 annually, reinforcing the need to fund high-quality TV production, with costs expected to exceed +€350,000 per year.</p> <p>Long-Term Financial Planning</p> <p>Mr. Scheiber proposed that in the first implementation phase (2025–2026), JJIF should aim to generate + €600,000 annually through licenses and sponsorships. Most of this income would be reinvested into media, event organization, and operational development. By the end of a four-year cycle, JJIF could stabilize its income model and begin building financial reserves.</p> <p>From 2027 onward, JJIF may consider revenue-sharing models with regional federations, based on metrics such as membership size or activity levels.</p> <p>In the conclusion, Mr. Scheiber encouraged the Board to adopt a proactive and confident approach in engaging both internal and external partners to elevate the Federation’s visibility and financial stability.</p> <p>Discussion on Sponsorship and Licensing</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized the importance of distinguishing between supplier licensing and sponsorships in the federation’s commercial strategy. While existing sponsorship agreements, such as with Ju-Sport, are in place, ongoing negotiations with Adidas highlight the need for a structured approach. Sponsors seek visibility through the sport, whereas license holders supply approved equipment. To attract sponsors effectively, media reach—particularly via television—must be prioritized, with Eurosport identified as a key broadcast partner. He also noted that discussions with media consultants and broadcasters are underway to ensure high-quality live production that keeps audiences engaged. A professional system for equipment licensing and supplier approvals has been under consideration for years, with a gradual implementation approach decided at the beginning of the year. It was further acknowledged that Jiu-Jitsu-related equipment, particularly Gi’s, will remain exempt from mandatory approval until 2028 to accommodate specific sensitivities within the sport.</p> <p>Mr. Scheiber outlined the proposed fee structure for equipment approval and licensing, emphasizing the importance of uniform pricing across all manufacturers. Differentiated fees for individual suppliers could create internal tensions and disrupt industry harmony. Therefore, once the executive board sets the standard fees, they must be applied consistently. While sponsorship agreements are negotiated on a case-by-case basis, the approval and licensing fees must remain fixed across all manufacturers to ensure fairness and transparency.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart provided an update on recent developments, including Adidas' eagerness to finalize an agreement before the Paris Open. Additionally, discussions with Visit Malta and other destination partners remain active, presenting opportunities for event collaborations</p>
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Discussion

that would benefit both JJIF and host locations.

The Board was asked for feedback on the proposed strategy, including the sponsorship model, supplier licensing framework, and media partnerships. Adjustments to financial projections may be required based on further discussions with stakeholders, but the key priority remains ensuring a sustainable, structured approach that positions the federation for long-term growth.

Vice-President Perc expressed appreciation for Mr. Scheiber's presentation and emphasized the need to consolidate JJIF equipment standards into a single reference document. He highlighted the importance of clearly defining specifications—such as fabric composition and protective features—to ensure transparency in negotiations with manufacturers. The Technical Commission was identified as the responsible body for reviewing and refining existing documentation to align industry standards with JJIF's requirements.

Additionally, he supported the structured, step-by-step sponsorship approach, acknowledging that achieving large-scale sponsorship deals requires a systematic foundation. He reinforced the necessity of completing the groundwork on equipment standards before advancing further negotiations.

Mr. Scheiber acknowledged the importance of standardizing equipment requirements and emphasized that while his presentation focused on the commercial aspects, it is the responsibility of the Technical Commission and the Board to harmonize all related documents. He stressed that manufacturers and sponsors pay close attention to details when financial agreements are involved, making it essential for JJIF to clearly define equipment specifications. A consolidated document encompassing all relevant rules, bylaws, and standards should be created and made publicly accessible. This would ensure transparency for manufacturers, allowing them to assess whether their equipment meets JJIF requirements or requires modifications.

Mr. Scheiber reiterated that precise, unambiguous standards are crucial for the Federation's credibility and long-term sustainability.

Since no further comments or question followed, Mr. Scheiber thanked all participants for their engagement, expressing his appreciation for the discussion and his enthusiasm for future collaboration. He wished everyone a productive continuation of the meeting and noted his anticipation of working closely with the Board.

In conclusion of the topic, President Theodoropoulos expressed confidence in Mr. Scheiber's expertise and commitment, emphasizing that his involvement will strengthen JJIF's visibility and growth. He highlighted the importance of compensating professionals who contribute to the Federation's development. The next step involves finalizing an agreement with Emmanuel, ensuring financial considerations are balanced within the market framework for brokers and agents. President anticipated rapid progress and successful outcomes. Additionally, he stressed the value of partnerships with recognized brands such as Adidas, reinforcing JJIF's credibility in the sports industry.

In closing, President Theodoropoulos requested the Board's approval to proceed with discussions and finalize the agreement in the coming weeks, calling for a vote to ensure alignment among Board members.

Director General Thumfart addressed a question from Denise Krahn regarding concerns about monopolization in the supplier licensing process. He clarified that current contracts include four master suppliers, each holding licenses for all products, while additional licenses can be granted for single products. He acknowledged the need for flexibility in pricing should companies hesitate to sign agreements due to costs. Smaller manufacturers, particularly those specializing in Gi production, will still have opportunities to apply for specific licenses.

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	<p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized that at least 4–5 suppliers must be onboard before mandatory requirements can be enforced. The licensing rollout begins with safety equipment in 2025, followed by Gi regulations in 2027, with Jiu-Jitsu Gi requirements set for 2028–2029. While some athletes may prefer specific equipment, Mr. Thumfart reiterated Mr. Scheiber’s point that all stakeholders must contribute to the sport’s growth, especially with the transition to televised events. JJIF remains committed to maintaining fairness and ensuring athletes benefit from sponsorship opportunities.</p> <p>Following the explanation to Denise, Mr. Thumfart returned to President Theodoropoulos’ proposal to proceed with discussions on a contract with Mr. Scheiber and follow the outlined strategy.</p> <p>Mr. Al Shamsi sought clarification on whether the decision was to sign a contract or initiate discussions. Mr. Thumfart confirmed that the next step was to begin discussions and establish a proper business agreement on this matter.</p>
Decision	<p>With eight votes in favour and one abstaining, the Board has decided to proceed with discussions to establish a business agreement with Mr. Scheiber consulting.</p>
<h2>6. Homepage design development</h2>	
	<p>Joachim Thumfart</p>
	<p>Director General Thumfart informed the Board that Mr. Thumfart provided an update on the homepage redesign, detailing recent progress made by a team of him, Mr. Schouten and Mr. Pavlenko together with Mr. Frank Herbst – external contractor. While the primary focus has been on technological advancements, design proposals have also been presented. The team analyzed web pages from various federations, including karate, judo, boxing, and FIFA, to refine JJIF’s approach. Recognizing that social media platforms drive much of modern information flow, they explored design elements that align with JJIF’s identity and enhance its digital presence.</p> <p>Key design considerations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating martial arts-associated colors (black, red, white, blue) and symbolic elements like water, bamboo, and yin-yang. • Transitioning to Lato as the primary font for JJIF’s corporate identity, offering a modern and cohesive presentation across all official communications. • Refining logo placement and color contrasts to ensure clear visibility, particularly adjusting shades of blue. • Integrating enhanced sharing options and technical improvements for better functionality. <p>While the redesign aims to maintain continuity, subtle enhancements will modernize JJIF’s branding and streamline its corporate identity. The Board acknowledged the progress and agreed that the homepage redevelopment aligns with broader strategic objectives.</p>
Discussion	<p>Vice-President Vallarino inquired about the possibility of incorporating a dedicated space on the webpage for union participation.</p> <p>Director General Thumfart confirmed that a dedicated section for Pan America can be integrated into the webpage, allowing regional administrators to manage and update content directly. Technical discussions have already covered the possibility of granting admin rights, ensuring flexibility in content maintenance. Language options, including Spanish and English for Panamerica and French and English for Africa, can be incorporated. Existing domains such as JJPAU.sport can be linked seamlessly, maintaining a unified technical platform. Standardizing this approach ensures that rule and statute updates need only be modified once across the system, preventing duplication.</p>

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While the overall design will remain consistent, adjustments such as background color variations can help distinguish regional sections. News indexing will allow users to filter between general JJIF updates and regional-specific content. The necessary technical solutions are already in place, and the team is prepared to move forward with implementation.

Mr. Thumfart emphasized the urgency of reactivating regional webpages and reaffirmed the benefits of maintaining a centralized platform for streamlined management. He also highlighted additional approaches in webpage development, noting the extensive background research conducted by the team. He emphasized the value of continuing this work and acknowledged Schouten's ongoing discussions regarding technical solutions and API integration. Efforts are being made to ensure seamless access to the Federation's database via the platform, optimizing functionality and efficiency.

7. TWG Qualification - Update and Deadlines

Joachim Thumfart, Peter Schouten, Christian Horvath-Portele, Nuvin Proag

Mr. Thumfart provided a summary on the status of the World Games qualification process. He emphasized the increasing urgency due to the narrowing timeframe and the necessity to finalize athlete registration and official delegation lists. The board has been receiving regular updates, but immediate decisions are now required due to logistical constraints and deadlines.

He noted the successful confirmation of two Chinese participants in Inclusive Self-Defense, with the involvement of China's National Paralympic Committee. However, broader participation from China remains uncertain due to local regulatory constraints. Open slots were deliberately left available in anticipation of their participation.

He highlighted the concept of "reverse inclusion," whereby Para athletes are prioritized to integrate into the broader jiu-jitsu program—a concept supported by the Board.

Mr. Schouten, serving as Technical Delegate, reported that 110 out of 132 athletes had been registered, with further submissions expected by early next week. The data will then be uploaded into the IWGA system, initiating the LOC's approval process. Participants will be required to verify their identities, sign consent forms, and download personalized documents, such as visa letters.

He underlined that ADEL (Anti-Doping Education and Learning) certificates are mandatory for all athletes and at least one coach per delegation. Preferably, all coaches and medical staff should be certified. These requirements were discussed at the recent WADA Congress, as Mr. Thumfart confirmed, stating that only ADEL-issued certificates would be accepted, excluding all national-level certifications.

Vice-President Mr. Proag referred to Bulletin No. 3 of the IWGA, reiterating that ADEL certification must be completed no later than seven days before the competition. Participants who completed the course earlier are encouraged to complete a refresher. He also highlighted the bulletin's specific insurance requirements.

Mr. Horvath-Portele recommended reinforcing communication with National Federations, emphasizing that they are responsible for ensuring their athletes are fully trained and compliant with all outlined requirements.

Mr. Schouten raised concerns over poor data quality and communication from several federations, citing the Swedish federation as an example of delayed responses and incomplete documentation. He urged national representatives to stress the importance of timely compliance with registration procedures.

The final deadline for registrations was confirmed as April 30, with internal data collection deadlines occurring earlier to allow for verification and corrections. Mr. Pavlenko added that each qualification round had its own deadlines, with the fourth round due the following Monday.

In cases of persistent non-compliance or missing information, Mr. Thumfart noted that reserve athletes and countries known for reliable participation would be prioritized. Continental Union Presidents may be included in follow-up communications to enhance responsiveness from member federations.

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Mr. Schouten requested updates on remaining open slots. Mr. Horvath-Portele reported the following:

- Confirmation of participation from China.
- Portugal is expected to submit names within the next 24 hours.
- One visual impairment category slot remains open, with a possible second Chinese entry under consideration.
- Thailand lacks funding despite having suitable candidates.
- A balance between equity and host country privileges must be considered when allocating the remaining slot(s).

Mr. Thumfart proposed that, if needed, a second slot be granted to China as host country, aligning with standard international sports practices.

All present acknowledged the significance of having the Chinese National Paralympic Committee on board, particularly as a foundation for future collaboration.

The Board agreed that additional newsletters and clearer guidance would be distributed to federations to address the low engagement and clarify registration responsibilities. These will reinforce key requirements from the IWGA Bulletins and the updated Welcome Guide, including insurance coverage, WADA certification, and system registration.

No further questions on the topic were raised by the Board. The preparation team was commended for their efforts under challenging circumstances. Members were reminded to promptly report any issues or concerns from their respective federations to the organizing team, particularly regarding athlete readiness and compliance with administrative requirements.

8. Appeal from Spain

Joachim Thumfart, Christian Horvath-Portele

Mr. Thumfart introduced the topic, noting an appeal received from Spain concerning the eligibility of an athlete in the Inclusive Self-Defense Physical category. He invited Mr. Horvath-Portele to provide background.

Mr. Horvath-Portele explained that the issue originated in April 2024, when the Spanish Federation inquired about eligibility criteria for an athlete wishing to compete in the European Championship in Gelsenkirchen. At that time, it was clearly communicated that the athlete's classification did not meet the criteria for the Inclusive Self-Defense Physical category. The Spanish Federation responded that the athlete would be removed from the list of participants, and no further follow-up was made based on that assurance.

However, it was later discovered that the same athlete did compete in both the European Championship in Gelsenkirchen and the World Championship in Heraklion. Medical documentation was subsequently reviewed by the JJF Medical Commission and international experts, who confirmed that the athlete was not eligible for the category in question. A formal notification was then sent to the Spanish Federation reiterating that the athlete's classification did not qualify.

Despite this, an appeal was submitted, withdrawn, and then resubmitted. Notably, the final appeal came not from the Spanish Federation itself, but from a regional president within the federation—an individual not authorized to lodge an official appeal with the JJF.

Mr. Thumfart and Mr. Horvath-Portele emphasized that the matter represented a clear breach of classification rules. They also raised concerns about the athlete potentially gaining an unfair advantage and noted that this behavior could be interpreted as unsportsmanlike, particularly given the prior communication.

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Discussion	<p>Vice-President Perc recommended that the case be considered as unsportsmanlike conduct, with a conclusion to withdraw the athlete’s results from the European and World Championships.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos supported this position, suggesting both the annulment of past results and prohibition from future participation, including at the upcoming Paris Open.</p> <p>Mr. Schouten also agreed, stating that the athlete would be removed from the Paris Open registration and the organizers would be informed accordingly.</p> <p>It was agreed that a formal vote by the Board was necessary to establish a clear position and to ensure that any further attempts to enter the athlete into future competitions would be formally rejected.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board concluded that adherence to classification rules is critical to ensuring fair play and maintaining the integrity of competition.</p> <p>Unanimous vote (9 in favor) confirmed the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rejection of the appeal on the grounds of ineligibility and improper procedure. • Removal of the athlete’s results from the European and World Championships. • Prohibition of participation in upcoming events, including the Paris Open, with formal notification to event organizers. • Official communication to be sent to the Spanish Federation explaining the Board’s decision and the rationale behind it. • Continued attempts by the athlete to enter competitions without eligibility may result in escalation to the Ethics Commission.
<p>9. Miscellaneous</p>	
<p>Joachim Thumfart, Gregory Vallarino, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Robert Perc</p>	
	<p>Mr. Thumfart opened the discussion on the status of ju-jitsu development in Cuba.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory Vallarino reported that there were no significant updates at this time. Communication with Cuban representatives is ongoing. The Cuban side indicated that they require a formal letter addressed to their relevant governmental authority in order to recognize ju-jitsu officially in the country. While this letter has not yet been issued, Cuban representatives have stated they are recognized by the Justice Department, though no formal documentation has been received to confirm this recognition.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos clarified that in Cuba, recognition of sports disciplines does not fall under a ministry but rather under a specific governmental body responsible for sport. He recalled from previous interactions that the responsible authority is INDER — the National Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Recreation. Recognition by this institution is essential for the official establishment of ju-jitsu in Cuba.</p>
	<p>Vice-President Perc raised a concern regarding the accuracy of the published minutes from the last General Assembly. He noted a discrepancy in the recorded decision relating to the financial reports and the auditor’s report. The minutes indicate that the reports were approved and the JJIF Board was discharged. However, as the auditors had not yet finalized their report at the time, this representation may be incorrect.</p> <p>He clarified that while the Assembly accepted the reports and acknowledged the need for the auditors to complete their work, no formal approval or discharge of the Board should have been stated. He described the situation as awkward since the minutes have already been published and signed, but emphasized that it may have been a typographical error. He recommended that the matter be addressed appropriately at the next General Assembly, when the auditors’ report will be finalized.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart acknowledged the issue and confirmed that the Board had previously agreed on securing external audits for the financial years 2023 and 2024, particularly in light of increasing financial volumes and requirements from entities such as the IPC. He reported that Mr. Pavlenko had started looking into affordable audit firms, as larger international firms quoted prohibitively high fees. However, communication with the current internal auditors had been limited, and no concrete proposal for completing the 2023 audit had been</p>

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	<p>received. Follow-up efforts will continue.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos supported the view that while the minutes were already published, the situation must be corrected at the next General Assembly. He advised against republishing the corrected minutes but emphasized addressing the issue formally in the next session. He reiterated the importance of external auditors, particularly those licensed and based locally — suggesting that Abu Dhabi is the most practical location for conducting the external audit, given the proximity to all documentation.</p> <p>Mr. Al Shamsi confirmed his willingness to assist with arranging external audits locally.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart added that proposals from audit firms so far were not proportionate to the federation’s needs and stressed the importance of finding a cost-effective but qualified solution.</p> <p>Vice-President Perc emphasized the continued value of internal audits, especially for ensuring that financial practices align with internal decisions and policies. He stated that internal audits offer contextual insights that external audits may not provide.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos concluded that, moving forward, the Board should receive regular financial reports, including detailed records of expenditures. He proposed including such financial updates as a standing item in future Board meeting agendas. This should begin with the next Board meeting and cover financial data from 2024 up to March 2025. Mr. Thumfart agreed, noting that both 2024 and 2025 figures should be shared in advance to allow Board members to review them before meetings.</p>
	<p>Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that the JJIF administration recently held a meeting with the FISU (International University Sports Federation) office and received 95% confirmation that Jiu-Jitsu will be included in the FISU World Combat Championship 2026, scheduled to take place in Brasilia, Brazil.</p> <p>He emphasized that the administration is proactively engaging in university-level sports initiatives, and members should not be surprised to see increased activity in this area. While university sport structures operate independently of national federations and are governed directly through university channels, support from member federations will be critical—especially in promoting these events and generating national-level participation and visibility.</p> <p>All national university championships and related events are highly valuable, and federations are encouraged to submit reports on such activities to support JJIF’s university sport portfolio.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart also proposed the appointment of Mr. Alexandre Nascimento as Technical Delegate for the event, pending final confirmation. The JJIF is currently awaiting further information from the Local Organizing Committee regarding the event's requirements and logistics. Updates will be shared with the Board as more details become available.</p> <p>He concluded by highlighting the significance of this development in strengthening JJIF's presence in the international university sports community.</p>
<p>10. Conclusion</p>	
	<p>Panagiotis Theodoropoulos</p>
	<p>President Theodoropoulos expressed his appreciation to all Board members for their active participation, constructive discussions, and their commitment to the development of the sport. He emphasized that the meeting was conducted with transparency, clarity, and fairness. He thanked everyone once again for their efforts and concluded the session by noting that the Board would reconvene in one month.</p>

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JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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Next Board meeting is planned for 4th of May, 2025, 5:00PM Aby-Dhabi time.

The JJIF President thanked the participants, stating that it is good practice to have regular meetings to discuss matters and maintain connection. Following his remarks, the meeting was adjourned.

Hybrid Meeting, 6th of April 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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