

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

4 th of May, 2025	05:00 PM – 07:20 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 – online 2. Robert Perc – JJIF Vice-President, JJEU President – online 3. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President - online 4. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu – online 5. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission – online 6. Lkhagvanyam Nyamdavaa – Board member, Volunteer Commission
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Director General 8. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director 9. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager
Observers (invited)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. JoseDominguez - Member of the JJPAU board-online

2. Quorum

Joachim Thumfart

At the commencement of the meeting, five (5) out of ten (10) Board Members with voting rights were present. Subsequently, one (1) additional Board Member joined the meeting. Accordingly, a sufficient quorum was declared.

3. Welcome by the JJIF President

Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos welcomed all attendees to the scheduled Board Meeting. He emphasized the intention to keep the meeting concise and focused, noting that certain urgent matters require immediate attention and approval by the Board. He stated that Director General Thumfart would elaborate on these items during the session, underscoring the importance of timely decision-making given the pressing nature of the issues. The President concluded his opening remarks by expressing appreciation for the presence of all members and wishing everyone a productive meeting.

4. Financial Audits and Approval of Expenses of the year 2024

Joachim Thumfart, Robert Perc, Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Director General Mr. Thumfart reported on the status of the Federation’s financial audits. He acknowledged that the external audits for the fiscal years 2023 and 2024 remain pending, although efforts have been underway for the past two months to initiate the process. A constructive meeting was held with Mr. Ahmed Jhahani, representing the headquarters, which laid the foundation for establishing a realistic timeline for the completion of the audits.

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Mr. Thumfart explained that the delay in finalizing the audit for 2023 was primarily due to the ongoing transition to a hybrid documentation system. Presently, certain records exist solely in digital form while others are maintained in physical paper folders. Furthermore, the Federation does not yet have a certified and secured digital approval system in place. While QuickBooks, the accounting software used, does offer an approval stage feature, the functionality has not yet been implemented for the President's use.

He also noted that the auditors, who had initially indicated their ability to perform the audit immediately prior to the Congress held during 2024 WC in Greece, ultimately determined that the task was too extensive to complete within such a short timeframe. At the time, both the auditors and the Board had access to the same list of expenses, and no queries were raised by the auditors prior to the proposed audit session.

In light of these developments, Mr. Thumfart proposed proceeding with the approval of the 2023 expenses and, provided there are no significant concerns, the preliminary approval of 2024 expenses. The process will involve printing and signing the cover page of each expense report by both the Director General and the President. For items relating specifically to either of these officers, a third Board member will be designated to authorize them. The signed physical copies will be supported by digital documentation stored within QuickBooks.

He further recommended inviting the auditors to the Federation's headquarters in Abu Dhabi to conduct the audit on-site. The aim is to complete the process by June, allowing for the transition of oversight to an external auditor based in the UAE. This auditor, associated with the UAEJJF, is internationally accredited and offers significantly lower fees compared to other providers previously engaged.

Director General Mr. Thumfart provided a brief but significant update regarding the ongoing efforts toward achieving International Olympic Committee (IOC) recognition. He reported that during a recent meeting held in the framework of the World Games, the Director responsible for IOC recognition personally approached him to discuss the status of jujitsu's application. Mr. Thumfart highlighted that this initiative came directly from the IOC representative and not at his prompting, which he interpreted as a positive and encouraging sign of interest.

He noted that while such interactions might be routine, the specific and proactive nature of the engagement gave him renewed optimism regarding the Federation's prospects for recognition. He further acknowledged that this development appears to align with the recommendations of Mr. Stephan Fox, though he emphasized that the decision-making authority lies collectively with relevant bodies within the IOC, and not solely with a single person.

In preparation for a potential progression in the recognition process, Mr. Thumfart stressed the necessity of ensuring that all relevant documentation is in order. This includes coordinated efforts between the headquarters and continental unions to gather comprehensive membership data and national statistics from affiliated countries. To support this, he reiterated the importance of finalizing the financial audits and advancing the Federation's systems to allow for digital transparency. The goal is to have a fully digitized and auditable financial and membership reporting system operational by 2025, which would facilitate oversight and streamline reporting for both internal and external review.

Following the earlier presentation of the financial situation, Director General Mr. Thumfart invited questions from the Board.

Vice-President Perc initiated a comprehensive review and clarification of specific financial entries, focusing on the legal basis for certain payments and the clarity of income and expense reporting.

Service Providers' Contracts

Mr. Perc inquired about the legal framework for payments made to Mrs. Claudia Behnke and Mr. Peter Schouten.

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JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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

Discussion

Mr. Thumfart confirmed that no formal contracts exist; instead, services are rendered and invoiced based on time worked, maintaining their status as freelancers.

Anti-Doping Related Costs

Mr. Perc questioned a \$1,210 payment to Dawn Wood recorded on January 9. Mr. Thumfart clarified this related to the development of an education and evaluation plan for anti-doping, for which the Asian Union had provided financial support. Additionally, Mr. Perc reviewed the International Testing Agency (ITA) expenses, totaling approximately \$95,809, with a further \$8,210 attributed to anti-doping activities. These were verified as legitimate and appropriately categorized.

Media and Marketing Expenditures

Mr. Perc questioned two payments to Hagen Bossdorf—\$10,000 and \$5,000—with the latter appearing as a negative entry. Mr. Pavlenko explained that negative entries reflect actual payments logged in the system. He elaborated that the accounting method had evolved mid-year to differentiate invoice recording from actual payment, enhancing tracking accuracy.

Uncategorized Income (Armen Madertian)

A transaction of €6,300 was questioned, identified as a mistaken incoming transfer. Mr. Thumfart confirmed it was an incorrect payment from a third party in Ethiopia, which was subsequently reimbursed. Mr. Pavlenko noted it should be treated through a transfer or intermediary account, as it was neither a true income nor expense.

Sayam Systems Payments

Mr. Perc reviewed a series of payments totaling \$25,000. Mr. Pavlenko confirmed all related invoices had been fully paid by early 2025, with no outstanding balances. The payments were related to database services provided by Sayam Systems, the new company of Mr. Schouten.

Website and Domain Services

Mr. Perc queried expenses related to FrischeWelt, a German CMS provider for the federation’s website and associated JJIF.sport domain. Mr. Thumfart confirmed the services and expenses as legitimate and necessary.

Ju-Sports Transaction

A €16,000 transaction on September 27 was discussed. Mr. Thumfart explained that the Saudi Arabian Union used the JJIF account to facilitate a payment related to a training camp in Greece. The amount was redirected to Ju-Sports at the request of the local organizing club to purchase necessary materials, with income and expense entries balanced.

Reimbursement to Mr. Thumfart

A €9,200 reimbursement to Mr. Thumfart on December 12 was confirmed as a consolidation of pre-approved operational expenses adding up throughout the year 2024.

General Observations on Financial Reporting

Mr. Perc noted the absence of full digital documentation and incomplete visibility of income within the reporting tool.

Mr. Thumfart acknowledged this, stating that for today’s meeting we focus on the expenses only. He reiterated that the accounting is complete and will be presented for a later meeting with the complete financial report of 2024.

Mr. Thumfart presented a brief financial summary, noting a total income of approximately \$256,000 and expenses of \$212,000 for the period in question, excluding certain adjustments. He emphasized that the goal of the current session was the formal approval of documented and justified expenses, with full financial reports to follow in due course.

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Decision	<p>Upon concluding the discussion and clarifications regarding specific financial entries and procedures, Director General Mr. Thumfart opened the floor for final questions. Receiving none, he requested formal approval from the Board for the expenses incurred in the year 2024.</p> <p>With 5 of 5 voted in favour the 2024 expenses were unanimously approved by the Board.</p>
Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that, in preparation for the upcoming external audit, several financial transactions require formal approval due to deviations from the Federation's established financial rules. He emphasized that while such cases are manageable during internal audits through contextual explanations, external audits require formal documentation and approvals.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart presented the first item for approval: an exceptional per diem payment of €200 per day made during the World Cup Jiu-Jitsu and the European Championship No-Gi. This rate exceeded the standard provisions of the Federation's financial rules. The payment was made to ensure equal treatment for all ITOs (International Technical Officials), following an arrangement between the Ju-Jitsu European Union and the local organizing committee. While all other ITOs received this amount on-site, Mr. Peter Schouten was excluded from the local disbursement due to a miscalculation and lack of available cash. To remedy this, the amount was subsequently reimbursed by the Israeli organizers.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized that the payment caused no financial loss to the Federation and was made in the spirit of fairness and equal treatment. He requested the Board's formal approval to include this exception in the official financial documentation, noting the necessity for transparency before submission to external auditors.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos acknowledged the logic of the request but expressed caution, stating that it is "tricky" to approve payments not foreseen under the existing financial regulations.</p> <p>Mr. Perc inquired how Mr. Schouten had been excluded from the original arrangement. Mr. Thumfart clarified that his inclusion was an oversight, and when the issue was raised, a refusal by the Ju-Jitsu European Union to cover the cost resulted in the Federation stepping in. Mr. Thumfart reiterated that the burden of fixing such administrative errors must lie with the Federation and not with the officials delivering services on-site.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board voted unanimously (5 of 5 members present) in favour of retrospective approval of the €200 per diem for Mr. Schouten. The exceptional payment will be documented accordingly and included in the audit files with the Board's formal approval noted.</p>
<h3>5. Approval of Financial Calculations According to Previous Financial Rules</h3>	
	<p>Joachim Thumfart, Rober Perc, Kostiantyn Pavlenko</p>
Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart presented two financial cases that require formal Board approval due to discrepancies between the current financial rules and historical contractual arrangements.</p> <p>European Cup Belgium 2024</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart explained that for the European Cup held in Belgium in 2024, percentage-based financial distributions to the Continental Union and the JJIF were calculated according to the old financial rules. Michael Korn had explained to him that was based on agreements made prior to the implementation of updated financial regulations. Supporting documentation, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JJIF and the local organizing committee, exists for this event. For the 2025 edition of the same event again the old calculation base was used. Mr. Thumfart asked for the contract between the Ju-Jitsu European Union and the local organizer to have complete and understandable files. Only a draft contract was made available, and it contained numerous errors.</p>

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Discussion	<p>Ultimately, the invoicing and distribution were still conducted using the old financial rules. To ensure transparency and proper documentation, Mr. Thumfart requested formal Board approval to retroactively accept the use of the old financial rules for this event.</p> <p>European Youth Championship Cyprus 2025 Mr. Thumfart moved to the second case: the European Youth Championship held in Cyprus in March 2025. He noted discrepancies in the financial calculations received from Mr. Michael Korn and the lack of supportive documents. Mr. Pavlenko provided a detailed presentation comparing four calculation methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDF File (v1): €16,682 • PDF File (v2): €15,365 (used as the official basis) • According to Financial Rules 2021: €19,755 • According to Financial Rules 2024: €13,170 <p>Mr. Pavlenko emphasized that neither version of the received calculations matched the official financial rules, past or present.</p> <p>Mr. Perc confirmed that the contract with the Cyprus organizing committee most likely reflects the old financial rules, which accounts for the inconsistencies. Mr. Thumfart reiterated that while there is no concern about the accuracy of Mr. Korn’s financial expertise, the lack of formal documentation requires either receipt of the contracts or Board approval to legitimize the figures.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board unanimously (5 of 5 members present) approved the use of the financial calculations implemented for both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Cup Belgium 2024, and • The European Youth Championship Cyprus 2025, <p>and agreed that this decision would be documented accordingly for audit purposes.</p>
<p>6. Implementation of 2024 Financial Rules, Implications for Event Contracts, Participation Fees, and Referee Contributions</p>	
<p>Joachim Thumfart, Robert Perc, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Gregory Vallarino</p>	
Decision	<p>Director General Thumfart initiated the discussion by raising concerns regarding the upcoming European Cup in Romania. He noted that despite the event not having occurred yet, issues had already emerged due to a pre-signed contract which did not align with the newly adopted financial rules. He queried whether the contract should be managed under the auspices of the JJEU framework, suggesting that inconsistencies in financial structuring could undermine its proposed designation as a Gold Ranking Tournament, which is intended to follow the standards of a Regional Championship.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele pointed out that as the event had not yet taken place, modifications to the contract should still be feasible.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart acknowledged that although the contract was signed, the implications for fair play—particularly for athletes—must be considered, indicating that cancellation would not be justifiable due to internal administrative discrepancies.</p> <p>Vice-President Perc requested several days to review the Romanian contract, noting that he was not previously aware of its contents. He emphasized the necessity for a joint discussion involving the organizer, the JJEU Treasurer, and the JJIF leadership to resolve ongoing ambiguities. Mr. Thumfart remarked that the JJEU Treasurer, Mr. Michael Korn had earlier expressed support for the financial rules prior to their formal discussion.</p>

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Discussion

Mr. Perc proceeded to express broader concerns regarding the financial rules adopted as of March 2024. He elaborated on the redistribution model, highlighting that under the revised structure, the Continental Unions and JJIF receive slightly reduced per-athlete contributions for Continental Championships. For example, with the mandated €60 minimum participation fee, JJIF and the Continental Union now each receive a reduced portion, while the share allocated to event organizers has increased. Mr. Perc further analyzed the composition of the participation fees, which are capped at €150. However, with €60 allocated as a base participation fee, an additional €100 earmarked for referee contributions, and €10 potentially for anti-doping administration (subject to confirmation), the cumulative amount could exceed the established ceiling. He underscored that such inconsistencies demand clarification, particularly regarding whether the anti-doping portion is included in the JJIF’s 10% share, which is designated to cover anti-doping management and related costs. A notable point of concern raised was the 15% fee categorized as “activity-related costs” introduced in the 2024 Financial rules. Mr. Perc emphasized the lack of clarity on the operationalization of this fee—specifically, which activities it encompasses, which entity is responsible for its execution, and the fate of the funds if the planned activities are not implemented. He indicated that such ambiguity risks financial strain for both JJIF and the Continental Unions, particularly with Grand Prix and Regional Championship events, where projected losses could be significant. For instance, prior allocations of €12.50 per athlete have now been reduced to €2.50, a drastic decrease that jeopardizes financial sustainability.

In response, Mr. Thumfart provided contextual clarification. He reiterated that the 15% activity-related allocation was introduced to support development and educational initiatives, such as anti-doping education, youth engagement (e.g., during Balkan Open), and inclusive programs like Para Jiu-Jitsu. He cited the Balkan Open as the pilot event where this model was attempted, though it failed to deliver the planned initiatives. Consequently, JJIF retained the funds as a deposit and later opted to redistribute them based on participation in the CSIT Games, as decided by the Board.

Mr. Thumfart stressed that the activity-related funds should incentivize organizers or Continental Unions who deliver tangible value, such as education programs, enhanced event management, or ITA-led anti-doping initiatives. He noted that, in cases where JJIF is the primary event organizer (e.g., Genoa Open), the federation should rightfully claim the 15% to cover additional operational efforts. The overarching principle, he stated, is that this allocation aims to enhance event quality and promote sustainable development across all regions.

Mr. Perc challenged the fairness of the 15% charge being levied on all participants, particularly in instances where no activity is delivered or is inaccessible to all. He questioned whether such a universal fee should be permissible if the corresponding value is not equitably provided. He emphasized that this results in JJIF or the organizer accruing surplus income without delivering the originally intended services.

The dialogue further evolved into a comparative analysis of the old and new financial models. Mr. Perc highlighted that under the previous regime, Continental Unions received 25% of revenues when managing events independently. Under the new structure, this has diminished to 5%, unless the Union qualifies for and claims the 15% activity-related fee. This shift has major financial ramifications for the European Union and others organizing Regional and Grand Prix events.

Mr. Thumfart reiterated that the referee contribution and participation fees were consolidated into a single sum of €/USD150 to prevent manipulation of financial allocations. He noted past incidents where organizers inflated referee contributions to lower JJIF and Union revenue shares. This consolidation aims to protect the integrity of the distribution and ensure transparency. He clarified that anti-doping fees are not for tests per se but cover broader administrative responsibilities, including fees to ITA. Further, he argued that organizers can and should claim the 15% if they provide qualifying activities. He also acknowledged regional disparities in operational costs—while referee contributions have ranged from \$55–\$65 in JJIF events, Europe may require higher allocations due to pricing variations.

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Discussion

Mr. Perc expressed concern that if €150 includes referee contributions and only €60 is recognized in JJIF’s calculation, then the real revenue for Continental Unions is significantly undermined.

Mr. Thumfart clarified that the €150 should be treated as a whole amount from which all shares are proportionally distributed—there is no separate accounting for referee contributions under the new model. He emphasized that misinterpreting this structure is a critical error and needs to be addressed in future contractual and operational planning. Reiterating the purpose behind the revised financial rules. He explained that the intent was to eliminate the practice of separately collecting participation and referee fees, which had led to repeated disagreements and unclear calculations in previous events. Referring to past experiences such as the German Open and various Grand Prix tournaments, he highlighted inconsistencies where events listed an inclusive amount (e.g., €150) without clearly distinguishing between participation and referee fees. This had often led to disputes about which portions were designated for specific purposes. According to Mr. Thumfart, the new model aimed to simplify the process by establishing a single participation fee — for example, €150 — from which fixed percentages are automatically allocated: 70% to the local organizer, 30% to JJIF and the respective Continental Union. Within this model, referee contributions are not separated but are included within the organizer’s share. He noted this change was intended to reduce ambiguity and eliminate the need to negotiate each cost element with organizers. As he stated, “The idea is not to separate these kinds of incomes anymore... We have an amount. This amount gets split up. From this amount there is a percentage.”

Mr. Perc raised concerns regarding the financial feasibility of this approach. He argued that under the new model, less funding effectively reaches the referees. Previously, a dedicated referee contribution — typically €100 per athlete — was set aside directly for referee expenses. Now, if the €150 participation fee is split by percentage, the actual amount available for referees may fall significantly below this threshold, potentially dropping to around €63. Mr. Perc emphasized, “If you say €150 is everything... then at the end we don’t have €100 for referees. We have less.”

President Theodoropoulos intervened to clarify that the €100 was a contribution, not a direct expense, and reiterated the policy that any additional referee funding beyond what the percentage yields must come from the continental union’s share. He affirmed, “If the continent wants to spend more money for the referee contribution, you just reduce your income from the percentage – if it’s possible.” He further noted that Asia, for instance, chooses to subsidize such costs from their own union resources without charging athletes. Mr. Perc insisted that the financial rules need to be more transparent from the JJIF’s perspective, maintaining that clear communication about fee breakdowns was essential. He also noted that older financial rules presented by Mr. Michael Korn had created further confusion due to their outdated nature, an observation with which the President concurred. Addressing the cost realities of event organizing, President Theodoropoulos highlighted that financial models must strike a balance across all continents. While Asia might afford higher contributions from union funds, such flexibility may not be available in Africa or the Americas. He warned against setting unrealistic participation fees that could hinder event organization in less affluent regions.

Mr. Thumfart acknowledged the concerns raised but reiterated that the core goal of the revised financial rules was administrative clarity and consistency. He stressed that under the new model, it is the local organizer’s responsibility to manage referee costs within their allocated percentage and that any required adjustments should be communicated early and officially — not retroactively during contract finalization. He remarked, “It would have been better to bring this up to the Board... instead of playing a shifty game, signing contracts, and then claiming everything was already agreed.”

In conclusion, both parties recognized a fundamental difference in perspectives: while Mr. Thumfart emphasized administrative simplification and fair distribution, Mr. Perc highlighted the practical financial needs of covering referee costs adequately.

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Discussion

President Theodoropoulos summarized that the JJIF financial rule must remain universally applicable, but consideration may be given for tailored solutions at the continental level, provided they remain within the agreed percentage structure or through increased participation fees.

Vice-President Vallarino noted that while the JJIF aims to support continental unions and organizers, concerns remain regarding the percentages and overall amounts currently proposed. In particular, he expressed that the proposed fee of USD 150–160 may be too high for some regions, including Pan America, and sought clarification on whether this amount must now be charged. Additionally, he raised questions concerning the minimum number of referees required depending on the number of mats, the standardization of their compensation, and whether the referee compensation amount (USD 100) is per referee or per competitor.

Mr. Thumfart explained that the JJIF Financial Rules are intended as a framework to guide event planning and financial structuring. The rules establish a minimum participation fee of USD 60, which primarily serves for budgeting purposes in regions that historically did not collect fees, and a maximum fee of USD 150. While the USD 150 figure is the agreed upper threshold, the Board retains the authority to allow exceptions if a budget is presented and justified. This approach permits flexibility while ensuring financial planning remains within a structured range.

He further noted that referee compensation remains under the jurisdiction of the individual Continental Unions and their internal financial rules. JJIF recommends that referees be fully supported by the local organizer to maintain high standards, but recognizes that this is not always feasible in all regions. JJIF currently provides a per diem of USD 60 and an elevated rate of USD 100 for exceptional roles (e.g. head referees or those with significant pre/post-event duties). Continental Unions are free to establish their own systems, such as monthly payments instead of per diem, provided such systems are properly documented and legally sound. The need for transparency was stressed, especially where government or National Olympic Committee support is involved. Moreover, Director General reiterated that the goal of the current financial model is to avoid segregating referee contributions as separate charges outside the participation fee, citing previous difficulties with late adjustments, inconsistent practices, and organizational confusion. However, it was acknowledged that the European Union maintains a different approach and prefers separating referee contributions, leading to some contradiction within the broader application of the financial framework. JJIF's intent remains to integrate all costs within a unified participation fee model for clarity and consistency.

President Theodoropoulos emphasized that, at present, the JJIF fee structure should remain stable for the remainder of the year.

Continents may request to charge more than the USD 150 threshold if needed, but this must be clearly justified and remain based on JJIF's standard calculations. A financial meeting is to be scheduled before the next fiscal year to allow all Unions to share their specific challenges and present proposals for adjusting the financial structure. The purpose of this meeting would be to identify opportunities to refine the calculation basis for participation fees and event budgeting across the JJIF. It was agreed that while Continental Unions may have unique approaches to referee management and financial structuring, alignment within the broader JJIF framework is necessary to prevent the fragmentation of the referee community and maintain consistency.

President Theodoropoulos also proposed that the JJIF Board receive and approve periodic reports on expenses at intervals not exceeding two months. Additionally, depending on the cost, the possibility of engaging external auditors on a semi-annual basis should be considered to strengthen financial oversight.

The meeting concluded this topic with consensus on the need for clearer documentation, ongoing coordination, and a scheduled financial meeting to review and potentially revise aspects of the JJIF financial rules.

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7. Scheduling of the JJIF Congress 2025

Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Joachim Thumfart, Peter Schouten

Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that some participants had already begun planning their travel arrangements for the 2025 World Championships. He clarified that, although the official schedule had not yet been published, the event would take place from 1 to 15 November 2025, starting with the Adult categories and concluding with the Youth competitions. This scheduling aligns with the broader international sports calendar, particularly to accommodate events such as the Asian Youth Games, Islamic Solidarity Games, and Southeast Asian Games.

A discussion followed regarding the most suitable date for the JJIF Congress during the Championship period. Mr. Thumfart initially proposed 3 or 4 November to allow delegates sufficient time to arrive and prepare without being rushed.

Mr. Schouten clarified that the competition schedule begins with the Masters division on 1 November, with Para Ju-Jitsu scheduled for 6 November and Inclusive Self-Defense for 7 November. The Adult competition is set from 1 to 7 November, placing 4 November in the middle of this phase.

President Theodoropoulos supported the suggestion of 4 November, emphasizing the benefit of allowing delegates time to settle before the Congress. The Board agreed that this date would be most convenient, falling within the adult competition phase but before the Youth segment, ensuring wide availability of participants and officials.

Decision

With 6 of 6 votes in favour, the Board unanimously approved the proposal to schedule the JJIF Congress on 4 November 2025 during the World Championships in the Kingdom of Thailand, with the official announcement to be published accordingly.

8. Membership Application – Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)

Joachim Thumfart

Mr. Thumfart informed the Board of a new membership application received from the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). The application was submitted by Mr. Manassé, who is currently acting as a communication manager for Africa. Mr. Thumfart confirmed that the documentation appears to be in good order and that the application was previously circulated to the Board for review.

The recommendation from Vice-President Nuvin, who has been in communication with the applicant, is to grant provisional membership to Congo, contingent upon the payment of the initial membership fee. Mr. Thumfart noted that the federation is not currently recognized by the national Olympic committee, with the explanation given that the committee only supports sports currently on the Olympic programme.

Decision

The Board approved the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) as a provisional member of JJIF, pending confirmation of the initial membership fee payment.

9. Discussion on Women's Commission Proposal Regarding Gi Colour Adaptation

Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Christian Horvath-Portele, Gregory Vallarino, Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam

Mr. Thumfart provided an update on the ongoing discussions regarding the Women's Commission proposal to allow darker-colored Gis as an option, particularly to address concerns raised by female athletes regarding menstruation visibility during competition. He noted that initial ideas had been exchanged in earlier administrative meetings, including the suggestion to conduct 2–3 test events to assess the visual impact and broader implications of allowing dark-colored Gi's. It was reported that JJEU, through communication between Ms. Denise Krahn and Mr. Rick Frowyn, had expressed willingness to host one of these test events.

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Discussion	<p>He proposed that the events be followed by a survey targeting referees, athletes, and spectators to collect data on visibility, broadcast impact, and acceptance. A recent incident at a in Paris Open competition, where a female athlete had to leave the mat due to menstruation, was cited as a relevant case underscoring the need for further exploration of solutions.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos expressed caution, emphasizing that changes to Gi regulations should not be rushed. He suggested that educational outreach to female athletes regarding available technological solutions for menstrual protection might be a preferable initial approach. Additionally, he proposed contacting companies producing protective gear to explore whether custom solutions could be developed to mitigate the issue without altering Gi color standards. This assignment was addressed to Mr. Pavlenko. Mr. Theoropoulos raised concerns that changes could impose financial burdens on athletes or lead to unwanted signalling.</p> <p>Mr. Perc confirmed support for the proposed test events, noting that further evaluation would follow based on outcomes.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele highlighted that any test events should be limited to local or regional-level competitions, explicitly stating that major events such as continental championships, world championships, or multi-sport events were not suitable platforms for experimentation. He suggested that such tests are best to be performed on the fields of JJIF endorsed events to ensure consistency and legitimacy.</p> <p>Mr. Vallarino reiterated his opposition to altering Gi colors, recalling prior discussions led by Ms. Krahn and maintaining that existing rules should suffice. He drew a parallel with judo, which has not amended its uniform policies despite similar concerns, and cautioned against extensive changes prompted by minority views.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos reiterated the importance of exploring the market availability of appropriate women’s protective gear and suggested initiating dialogue with manufacturers to ensure the best outcomes for female athletes.</p> <p>Ms. Lkhagvanyam shared feedback from female athletes who stated that they did not view the issue as significantly problematic, noting that many already wear suitable garments under their Gi. She warned that introducing multiple Gi colors could compromise the professional appearance of competitions and suggested maintaining current standards while exploring modest improvements.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart concluded the discussion by proposing that this matter enter a new evaluation stage, combining practical tests with market research and further consultation with female athletes, to responsibly determine the next steps.</p>
10. Educational Cooperation with Higher School of Security and Economics in Plovdiv, Bulgaria	
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
	<p>Mr. Thumfart reported on a recent meeting held in Bulgaria, attended by President Theodoropoulos, Mr. Tomo Borisov, and himself, regarding the revitalization of JJIF’s cooperation with the Higher School of Security and Economics. The primary aim of this collaboration is to strengthen JJIF’s presence in the field of education and to secure scientific and academic support for the development of JJIF’s training and educational framework.</p> <p>The initiative focuses on the potential mutual recognition of courses and seminars between JJIF and the institution, which is expanding its offerings in sports and security education. Of particular interest is the school’s capacity to grant European Union-recognized degrees, including Bachelor’s, Master’s, and PhD qualifications, which JJIF-affiliated participants may pursue. The institution is also in the process of obtaining certification for online education, which would enhance accessibility and reach.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos elaborated on the broader JJIF education plan, which aims to establish a structured, high-quality education system for coaches and trainers.</p>

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	<p>He emphasized the importance of safeguarding JJIF’s values and the technical integrity of the sport by implementing a standardized syllabus. This system would ensure consistent and elevated training standards across all affiliated clubs and regions.</p> <p>He acknowledged the complexity of the task, noting that it would require the integration of various components into a cohesive framework. However, there is strong demand for such a program, and JJIF intends to expand this model beyond Europe, with the goal of establishing similar systems in Asia and the Americas. President Theodoropoulos cited positive developments in Mongolia as an example of the global potential, highlighting the presence of highly qualified individuals capable of contributing to this educational initiative.</p> <p>Furthermore, the re-establishment of the JJIF Education Commission is underway. The commission will be expanded to include individuals from different regions with the expertise and capacity to support the development and implementation of this initiative. President Theodoropoulos concluded by noting that a formal proposal outlining the cooperation and its implementation will be presented in due course, and that contacts are being maintained globally to identify valuable contributors and partners for the project.</p>
<p align="center">11. Media Exposure and Sponsorship Development via Eurosport and Scheiber Consulting</p>	
	<p>Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos</p>
	<p>Mr. Thumfart informed the Board about developments arising from meetings held within the framework of the Paris Open, notably with Eurosport – potential commercial partners.</p> <p>In conjunction, JJIF held a meeting with Adidas Martial Arts (Double D) to negotiate contracts based on more realistic profit margins and supplier income models. A deeper financial analysis indicated that equipment suppliers significantly benefit from Ju-Jitsu’s growth, making them logical stakeholders in expanding exposure.</p> <p>Most importantly, Scheiber Consulting GmbH, represented by Mr. Emanuel Scheiber, has been instrumental in establishing key contacts and strategies. Mr. Scheiber operates as an independent consultant, currently at no cost to JJIF, and is proposing to work on a commission-based model, receiving a percentage of sponsorship income he helps to secure. Mr. Thumfart emphasized that Mr. Scheiber has previously worked successfully in a similar capacity for another international federations.</p> <p>A further focal point of the strategy involves so called “destination partners”, who are significantly more invested than traditional equipment sponsors. These partners are willing to contribute substantial funds but expect major JJIF events to be hosted in their regions in return, boosting local tourism and exposure.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos supported the initiative, proposing that the Board approve an initial framework for a consultancy agreement with Scheiber Consulting GmbH, noting that such arrangements are common practice in the sponsorship industry. He emphasized the importance of moving forward with those who bring tangible value and results, and highlighted that this collaboration presents a promising opportunity for the federation.</p> <p>Mr. Perc, Mr. Horvath-Portele, and other members agreed, noting the strategic importance of giving the President sufficient flexibility in negotiating such agreements, while ensuring the federation benefits from the best possible outcomes.</p> <p>It was further agreed that the legal and contractual review will be undertaken by Vice-President Proag to ensure a sound agreement.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>All six Board members with voting rights voted in favour of preparing, approving, and signing an agent contract with Scheiber Consulting GmbH, with terms to be finalized and reviewed in due course but based on the proposed gratification.</p>

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12. Update on The World Games 2025 Registration and Participation Progress

Joachim Thumfart, Peter Schouten

Mr. Thumfart inquired whether JJIF Administration Director Schouten would like to provide an update on the status of The World Games, noting that most other agenda items had been addressed.

Mr. Schouten confirmed and provided the following report:

- The registration deadline for The World Games was April 30th, and all entries were successfully submitted on time. He emphasized that achieving this was a significant effort, given the challenges involved.
- The process has now entered the phase where the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) must validate and approve all athlete and participant data.
- Several entries have already been rejected due to discrepancies such as:
 - Incorrect passport expiration dates or birth dates.
 - Mismatches between passport copies and the data entered in the registration system.
- Mr. Schouten noted that the data quality from several federations was suboptimal, requiring numerous corrections. While most issues were resolved, 17 cases still require follow-up, such as:
 - Submission of a clearer passport copy.
 - Replacement of an unsuitable photograph.
- Visa requirements are currently under review:
 - Mongolia has stated that its delegation does not require visas, whereas the organizer has indicated otherwise.
 - A similar situation exists for Kazakhstan, which, according to the Chinese government's website, does not require a visa, although the LOC has requested one.
 - These matters are being clarified in coordination with the relevant authorities.
- Mr. Schouten affirmed that all issues will be resolved in time, though the process has involved considerable administrative effort.
- The next phase is the shortlisting process, with a deadline of June 1st, after which only the approved participants will proceed.

13. Miscellaneous

Joachim Thumfart

Mr. Thumfart provided a brief report on his participation in the Annual General Meeting of the International World Games Association (IWGA). Mr. Thumfart reiterated the ongoing importance of The World Games to the JJIF and emphasized the need to remain engaged and proactive with the board elections scheduled for next year.

He went on to discuss future opportunities relating to the World Games, noting that some federations have already begun approaching the city of Karlsruhe, Germany, to propose hosting events for the 2029 edition. Other federations have applied already to include a new discipline under the Invitational Sport category, thereby expanding their presence beyond their standard quota. He expressed concern over the implications of this approach and stressed the importance of JJIF being alert and adaptable.

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14. Application of Chinese Athlete as Displaced Athlete

Joachim Thumfart, Peter Schouten, Christian Horvath-Portele

Mr. Schouten provided background on the athlete – Mr. Lan Youzhe, whom he had previously met during a regional event in Mongolia and the World Championships in Greece. He explained that the athlete, a minor (U18), had submitted an incomplete and unclear application. Upon further communication, it became evident that the athlete had been registered for previous events.

Mr. Schouten noted that Mr. Cao Tao, a representative of the Chinese Federation, had indicated willingness to allow the athlete to participate, and had communicated this via message.

Mr. Schouten clarified that the athlete should not be considered displaced, but rather a victim of organizational shortcomings within the Chinese Federation. He proposed to register the athlete under the Chinese Federation directly, assuming their continued agreement, rather than as a JJIF athlete. He offered to facilitate this process if the Federation supports it.

Mr. Horvath-Portele agreed with this assessment, emphasizing that the athlete is a Chinese citizen residing in China and therefore does not meet the criteria of a displaced athlete.

Mr. Schouten reiterated that the issue stemmed from internal disorganization in China, not any refusal from the Federation.

Mr. Thumfart cautioned that the Federation must proceed carefully. Although Mr. Cao Tao had been supportive and cooperative in the past, he has since retired, and his current official position is unclear. It is important to obtain clear, written authorization from the Federation, ideally in the form of an official request for registration. Proceeding without formal documentation could create unnecessary political issues, especially if the Chinese Federation later denies having approved the registration. He recommended maintaining full records of communications and avoiding informal confirmations via chat.

President Theodoropoulos emphasized the importance of distinguishing between feelings and formal decisions in such sensitive matters.

Mr. Horvath-Portele and Mr. Schouten agreed that all correspondence and approval must be conducted via official email rather than messaging platforms.

President Theodoropoulos informed the board of a planned joint meeting with Chinese sports authorities and AIMS in December 2025. The aim is to support the establishment or reorganization of a functional national ju-jitsu federation in China.

Mr. Schouten concluded that he would initiate a formal conversation with the athlete and contact Mr. Cao Tao to seek written approval. The matter will be revisited at a future meeting, if needed.

Mr. Thumfart added that any registration must be officially requested by the Chinese Federation, and all documentation should be retained for accountability.

Next Board meeting is planned for 8th of June, 2025, 5:00PM Aby-Dhabi time.

The JJIF President expressed his gratitude for the contributions and constructive discussions throughout the meeting.

Hybrid Meeting, 4th of May 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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