

## Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [ JJIF ]

8 <sup>th</sup> of June, 2025	05:00 PM – 06:20 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Online
Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President	
Type of meeting	JJIF Board Member Meeting	
Notetaker	Kostiantyn Pavlenko	
<b>1. Roll call</b>		
Attendees with voting right	<p>Present at the beginning of the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President – online</li> <li>2. Fahad Al Shamsi –JJAU General Secretary – online <i>[representing JJIF Senior Vice-President, JJAU President Abdelmunem Al Hashmi]</i></li> <li>3. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President – online</li> <li>4. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport &amp; Para Ju-Jitsu – online</li> <li>5. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission – online</li> </ol> <p>Late arrival:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAFU President – online joined the meeting at 18:05 and held full voting rights from that point onward.</li> </ol>	
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Director General</li> <li>8. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director</li> <li>9. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager</li> </ol>	
Observers (invited)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. JoseDominguez - Member of the JJPAU board-online</li> </ol>	
<b>2. Quorum</b>		
	Joachim Thumfart	
<p>At the commencement of the meeting, five (5) out of ten (10) Board Members with voting rights were present meeting the quorum requirement. Subsequently, one (1) additional Board Member (Mr. Nuvin Proag) joined the meeting.</p>		
<b>3. Welcome by the JJIF President</b>		
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
<p>JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos President Theodoropoulos welcomed the members and thanked them for attending. He acknowledged the extensive agenda and noted that efforts would be made to streamline the discussions. The meeting was then declared open.</p>		
<b>4. IOC Recognition Process</b>		
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
Discussion	<p>Director General Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that, following coordinated efforts through AIMS and direct engagement by Mr. Stephan Fox, Ju -Jitsu has been proposed to the IOC Directorate for inclusion in the new recognition cycle. A draft letter requesting the initiation of the recognition process will be finalized and sent to IOC Sport Director Mr. Kit McConnell, pending Board agreement. Mr. Thumfart noted that recognition will require substantial internal preparation, including a review of legal documents, statutes, and</p>	

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Discussion	<p>financial compliance. These matters are included in the meeting agenda for further discussion.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos requested the Board approval to proceed with a formal letter to the IOC regarding JJIF's recognition process. While the IOC has accepted JJIF's request to apply, the specific recognition criteria remain unclear.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board unanimously approved (with all 5 of 5 members present) the text of the letter to the IOC, initiating the application process for IOC recognition.</p>

## 5. IOC Recognition and Development Budget Approval

Joachim Thumfart, Fahad Al Shamsi, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

### Technological Investments

Director General Thumfart explained that IOC's exact recognition criteria has not yet been presented, suggesting instead that JJIF should work with its network and consultants. Despite this ambiguity, he emphasized the importance of being fully prepared. JJIF has already undertaken considerable efforts in the area of technical development in coordination with the IOC. Key pillars such as governance and financial compliance were incorporated into JJIF's budget, including forward-looking projects aimed at fast-tracking development in anticipation of IOC recognition.

He detailed several initiatives:

- AI Chatbot Testing;
- Smoothcomp Integration: Widespread member support has been expressed for officially adopting Smoothcomp as the JJIF event platform, particularly for regional and national events. Negotiations with Mr. Roman Breitner are ongoing regarding contractual adjustments.
- Website Upgrade: A comprehensive web upgrade is underway, with automation features connected to the JJIF database. Mr. Peter Schouten is negotiating to reduce this where possible. There may also be additional upfront costs to build out continental sub-pages, supported by training seminars (e.g., with Mr. Ricardo Ramos for Pan America).
- Hosting & Software Tools:
  - Hetzner Web Server
  - Dropbox (Data Management)
  - Domain Name: (to be migrated to Hetzner)
  - Zoom
  - Sender.net (Newsletter Software)
  - Asana (Project Management)
- JJIF App - Joint Venture: A new mobile application is proposed under a profit-sharing model with Sports Intelligence, without JJIF bearing any upfront development cost. Revenue from product sales or sponsorships will be split after all JJIF-related deductions (e.g., national federation shares) are applied. Legal review is pending with Mr. Nuvin. Mr. Pavlenko attended the initial meeting.

Estimated Total Annual Technology Investment for 2025: \$30,600, contingent on full project realization.

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Discussion

## Administrative Investments

President Theodoropoulos emphasized the need to increase administrative capacity due to JJIF's expanding obligations. He proposed:

- Expanding support to Mr. Pavlenko with additional staff;
- Engaging personnel on a freelance or project-based basis depending on budget and regional cooperation;
- Initial agreement with a support staff member (Mr. Horvath-Portele) to assist in preparing documentation for IOC submission.

He also invited discussion with continental unions, particularly Asia, regarding possible joint staffing contributions.

Mr. Thumfart confirmed the urgency of having additional support in anticipation of rapid and unpredictable requests from the IOC, referencing past experiences with FISU. He proposed budgeting temporary support positions to manage short-term workload spikes.

## IOC Recognition – Clarity on Criteria and Strategic Response

Mr. Fahad Al Shamsi raised concerns over the lack of official criteria from the IOC, describing the situation as increasingly opaque. He questioned whether the recognition process was genuinely merit-based or simply reactive.

President Theodoropoulos confirmed that JJIF is prepared and already fulfills the majority of known criteria, including:

- 56 JJIF member countries, exceeding the commonly cited benchmark of 50 with National Olympic Committee (NOC) recognition;
- Strong compliance with WADA requirements;
- Ongoing initiatives in sustainability, peace through sport, and media engagement.

Mr. Al Shamsi stressed the need for clarity in order to allocate resources and mobilize support efficiently, suggesting that JJIF should strategize based on known elements of the 80% existing criteria, while preparing for minor additions.

President Theodoropoulos agreed, adding that efforts must now be focused on formalizing existing compliance into structured documentation.

Mr. Thumfart further recommended:

- Drafting reports summarizing sustainability and media compliance;
- Seeking support from continental unions and external media partners to enhance JJIF's submission package.

Mr. Al Shamsi reaffirmed that all media data and reporting developed in Asia would be shared with and credited to JJIF to strengthen the organization's position.

## Legal Review and Reserve Use Strategy

Mr. Thumfart noted that as JJIF's annual turnover increases, legal scrutiny is also rising. He proposed a legal review of JJIF statutes, especially in light of recent changes in Swiss law

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Discussion	<p>affecting AIMS. He also noted that JJIF's increasing reserve funds – intentionally accumulated for moments like these – are now expected to decrease over the next three years due to strategic investment.</p> <p>Budget Overview and Governance</p> <p>Director General Thumfart presented a total budget of \$93,000 for special projects and strategic needs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$32,000: Personnel and legal support</li> <li>• \$30,600: Technology and digital projects</li> <li>• \$20,000: Presidential discretionary fund for urgent IOC-related activities</li> <li>• \$10,000: Ongoing support for Oceania (approved in 2023)</li> </ul> <p>President Theodoropoulos emphasized that the Board must be fully informed and supportive of the strategic direction, particularly in the context of IOC recognition. He reaffirmed his commitment to transparent and participatory governance, noting that no major decisions would be enacted without Board approval.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board voted unanimously (5 of 5 members present) in favour of approval of the the proposed budget.</p>

## 6. JJIF App recent developments

	<p>Joachim Thumfart</p>
	<p>Mr. Thumfart provided an update on the JJIF App project, developed in partnership with Sports Intelligence. The proposed model is a joint venture with no upfront financial obligation from JJIF and a 50/50 revenue-sharing structure. The contract draft has been submitted to Mr. Nuvin Proag for legal review.</p> <p>The partner company has requested a 10-year agreement, citing the need for long-term investment stability. Mr. Thumfart suggested including a clause allowing for renegotiation of the revenue split (e.g., 60/40 in JJIF's favor) once the project reaches a defined turnover threshold.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board voted unanimously (5 of 5 members present) in favour of continued development of the project and authorized further work toward finalizing the contract with Sports Intelligence, pending legal review.</p>

## 7. JJIF AI Chatbot project recent developments

	<p>Joachim Thumfart</p>
	<p>Mr. Thumfart provided an update on the AI chatbot project currently in testing. He noted that the pilot version has been trained on a limited number of documents but has shown promising results, particularly in its multilingual capabilities. The system operates without internet access, using only JJIF-provided content, and demonstrates strong accuracy across several languages. He emphasized that the service is cost-effective, flexible, and can be cancelled at any time if it does not meet expectations. The project is also aligned with the IOC's emphasis on technological innovation.</p>

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Decision	The Board voted unanimously (5 of 5 members present) in favour of continuation of the project and authorized further steps toward finalizing a contract with the chatbot developer.
<b>8. Eurosport TV Agreement and Sponsorship Negotiations</b>	
	Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Mr. Thumfart informed the Board of recent developments in negotiations with Eurosport and Scheiber Consulting. Following meetings in Paris and subsequent online discussions, Eurosport has expressed strong interest in collaborating with JJIF. However, their initial expectations were deemed overly ambitious in terms of pace and financial scale.</p> <p>Parallel negotiations are ongoing with a potential main sponsor – linked to a national tourism authority – which may require JJIF to host events in their country, coordinated through local agencies. Further discussions are scheduled in Rome and potentially Abu Dhabi to finalize the sponsorship terms.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized that the Eurosport agreement is contingent on securing this sponsorship, as the TV spots form part of the overall value offered to the sponsor.</p> <p>Note: This update was provided for the Board’s information. No decision was requested or taken at this stage.</p>
<b>9. Legal Registration in Switzerland – Update and Adjustment</b>	
	Joachim Thumfart, Fahad Al Shamsi, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
	<p>Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that the current legal registration of JJIF in the Swiss Commercial Register has not been updated since 2013 and reflects outdated Board composition and statutes. He stressed the urgency of submitting an updated registration.</p> <p>The pending matter relates to the inclusion of Abdelmunem Al Hashmi as Senior Vice-President and whether he should be granted signing authority. Mr. Thumfart suggested that, should signing rights be removed, the registration process could proceed immediately with the current documentation.</p> <p>Mr. Al Shamsi confirmed he would consult with Mr. Abdul Munim within the coming days to determine his preference and facilitate the most efficient path forward.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos expressed a preference for retaining signing authority for the Senior Vice-President, emphasizing the importance of having a second authorized signatory in case of his own unavailability.</p> <p>Action Point: Mr. Al Shamsi will follow up with H.E. Abdelmunem Al Hashmi and report back to finalize the decision and enable submission to the Swiss authorities.</p>

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10. Code of Conduct – Entourage	
	Christian Horvath-Portele, Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Mr. Horvath-Portele presented a draft Code of Conduct for the Entourage of Athletes, developed in alignment with IOC guidelines and in response to increased safeguarding concerns related to inappropriate behavior by coaches, parents, and other support personnel at recent JJIF events.</p> <p>The Code is based on the IOC template and provides JJIF with a legal framework to address misconduct within the entourage. National Federations will be responsible for collecting and storing signed copies of the document from all entourage members (e.g. coaches, parents, doctors, physiotherapists, nutritionists). These documents must be made available to JJIF upon request.</p> <p>The draft was sent to the Board on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.</p>
Decision	The Board voted unanimously (5 of 5 members present) in favour of both approval of the text of the Code of Conduct for the Entourage of Athletes and the associated implementation framework, under which National Federations are tasked with collecting and maintaining signed declarations and providing them to JJIF upon request.
11. Inclusive Self-Defence – Correction of Rules Document	
	Christian Horvath-Portele, Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Mr. Horvath-Portele reported that a review of the Inclusive Self-Defence Rules identified several typographical and formatting errors, including an incorrect scoring range and a mislabeled image. The corrections included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjusting the score range in Section 5 from "1 to 4" to the correct "0 to 3"</li> <li>• Replacing an image for Attack B1 to improve clarity and remove obsolete markings</li> <li>• General layout and formatting improvements to ensure consistency</li> </ul> <p>No rule content was changed; all modifications were editorial in nature.</p>
Decision	The Board voted unanimously (5 of 5 members present) in favour of approval of the updated version Inclusive Self-Defence Rules reflecting the described corrections.
12. Financial report	
	Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Director General Thumfart confirmed that the JJIF Financial Report for 2024 was distributed to Board Members approximately ten days prior to the meeting. No questions or objections were raised.</p>
Decision	The Board unanimously (5 of 5 members present) approved the 2024 Financial Report for submission to the external audit and subsequent presentation to the JJIF Congress for final approval.

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## 13. 2025 Paris Open – Final Calculation of Activity Support Allocation

Joachim Thumfart

Mr. Thumfart presented the final accounting for the 2025 Paris Open, specifically concerning the 15% activity-related share from the event. He noted:

- JJIF conducted an official meeting related to Fighting Rules, with costs shared between JJIF (travel and per diems) and the French Federation (accommodation).
- Representatives from the Ju-Jitsu European Union were not involved in any JJIF-related activities; their presence was limited to ceremonial roles and federation representation.

To simplify cost allocation, Mr. Thumfart proposed that the 15% activity-related share be equally split between JJIF and the French Federation (i.e., 7.5% each).

Decision

The Board unanimously (5 of 5 members present) approved the equal (50/50) split of the 15% activity-related share from the 2025 Paris Open between JJIF and the French Federation.

## 14. Hall of Fame Nomination – Mr. Hans Greger (Sweden)

Joachim Thumfart

Mr. Thumfart informed the Board that the JJIF Headquarters had received an official letter from the Swedish Ju-Jitsu Federation requesting that Mr. Hans Greger be considered for inclusion in the JJIF Hall of Fame.

He provided the following background:

- Mr. Greger was one of the six original signatories of the European Ju-Jitsu Federation, the foundation from which JJIF eventually developed.
- He served as a long-term member of the JJIF Technical Commission, with several historical documents bearing his signature, contributing to the development of international ju-jitsu events.
- Mr. Greger held the rank of 10th Dan in Ju-Jitsu Kai, a style officially recognized by the Swedish Ju-Jitsu Federation.
- Though retired from the sport since the 1990s due to age and health, his foundational role in JJIF history justifies formal recognition.

Mr. Thumfart proposed that, consistent with previous recognitions (e.g., Heinz Llamada), the Board should:

1. Approve the formal induction of Mr. Hans Greger into the JJIF Hall of Fame, and
2. Officially recognize his 10th Dan in Ju-Jitsu Kai under JJIF.

Decision

The Board unanimously (5 of 5 members present) approved induction of Mr. Hans Greger into the JJIF Hall of Fame and recognition of his 10th Dan in Ju-Jitsu Kai.

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## 15. World Police and Fire Games Progress Update

Joachim Thumfart

Mr. Thumfart provided updates on JJIF's recent involvement in two events and strategic perspectives for the future:

### World Police and Fire Games

- JJIF has initiated discussions with the organizing committee of the World Police and Fire Games (WPFJG).
- The WPFJG is a known but relatively modest-scale event, organized independently by a private company.
- JJIF's main strategic interest is to maintain its presence and to ensure that ju-jitsu remains under JJIF's authority.
- JJIF is supporting the local Academy appointed by the organizers and aims to install a JJIF head referee to ensure adherence to JJIF rules.
- The organizers clarified that there will be no financial contribution from their side – only basic hospitality may be offered.
- Despite its simplicity, the event has potential to reflect JJIF's quality with adequate effort and investment.
- Jiu-jitsu is reportedly becoming the largest sport by number of participants in the WPFJG.
- As part of increasing visibility, JJIF is working to possibly integrate the event on the JJIF Smoothcomp platform.

### Conclusion:

JJIF will maintain a presence and technical oversight at WPFJG with limited investment, using it as a platform to reinforce its role as the leading federation in ju-jitsu.

### CSIT World Sport Games

- JJIF participated in the CSIT World Sport Games, which took place recently and were attended by JJIF leadership.
- The event had a friendly and festive atmosphere but posed challenges in terms of athlete engagement.
- Upon review, the event primarily caters to smaller sports not included in mainstream federations.
- The ju-jitsu competition was successfully executed with on-site improvements led by Mr. Thumfart and Mr. Horvath-Portele.
- While the event was executed well by JJIF, it was noted that JJIF adds significant value to CSIT, possibly more than it receives.
- Going forward, JJIF will consider future collaboration only under a joint venture model that reflects JJIF's contribution and provides reciprocal benefits.
- The event should remain under the "Sports for All" category rather than a priority competition platform.
- Participation must come through National Workers' Organizations, as per CSIT structure.

### Conclusion:

JJIF will remain open to future collaboration with CSIT, but only if structured as an equitable joint venture. No further large-scale investments are planned under the current framework.

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## 16. World Games 2025 Update – Athlete Accommodation and Registration

Joachim Thumfart, Peter Schouten

Mr. Schouten provided a detailed update regarding accommodation and registration for the World Games:

### Accommodation Challenges

- JJIF encountered an unexpected issue due to an existing agreement between the local organizers and IWGA, which stipulates that athletes are not entitled to single rooms.
- This arrangement conflicts with JJIF’s safeguarding and governance policy, which emphasizes:
  - No mixing of genders in shared rooms
  - No mixing of nationalities
  - Separation between athletes and officials
- Emails were sent to national federations to gather feedback on their willingness to allow flexibility (e.g., sharing between nationalities or roles, where acceptable).
- In principle, JJIF will not mix coaches and athletes, even if the coach is of the same gender, unless explicitly requested by the national federation.
- For team officials, including referees, single rooms are available at an extra cost (approx. \$38/night).

Mr. Thumfart stressed:

- This situation undermines established principles of good governance and athlete safeguarding expected by the IOC.
- JJIF must raise this with the World Games organizers to prevent such arrangements in future contracts.
- Practical solutions may include:
  - Booking additional hotel rooms for key personnel, especially before competition days
  - Encouraging federations to budget accordingly to ensure athlete comfort and privacy
- Sharing rooms between athletes from different countries who are scheduled to compete against each other is deemed unacceptable.

President Theodoropoulos supported the stance and emphasized the importance of ensuring such situations are avoided in the future.

### Registration Status

- All athlete registrations are complete and on schedule.
- A few outstanding team official registrations remain:
  - Six officials pending local organizer approval
  - One case awaiting an updated passport
- If documents are not provided in time, those individuals cannot be registered.
- JJIF continues to work closely with organizers to resolve these issues promptly.

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

	<p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized the need to ensure that future accommodation contracts respect fundamental principles of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Athlete safeguarding</li><li>• Non-mixing of genders and nationalities</li><li>• Separation of athletes and officials</li></ul> <p>This position was supported by President Theodoropoulos and aligned with JJIF's commitment to athlete welfare and good governance.</p> <p>He also added that this issue must not remain unresolved in future editions of the World Games. He proposed that JJIF should collaborate with other international federations to collectively address this concern at the IWGA Congress.</p>
<b>17. Miscellaneous</b>	
	<p>Elcirley Luz Silva</p> <p>Mr. Silva expressed his gratitude to JJIF for supporting Para Ju-Jitsu development in Brazil, particularly for sending Mr. Horvath-Portele to participate in their recent national training camp ahead of the World Games preparation. He highlighted the week as a significant step forward, strengthening the federation's efforts in building a sustainable model for inclusive Ju-Jitsu.</p> <p>He thanked Mr. Thumfart for his ongoing support and acknowledged the JJIF leadership for their guidance, noting that the Brazilian federation is learning a great deal from JJIF's professional approach.</p>
	<p>Next Board meeting is planned for 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2025, 5:00PM Aby-Dhabi time.</p>
<p>The JJIF President thanked all members for their participation and collaboration. He noted that the meeting was brief due to a full agenda and confirmed that the next Board meeting will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> of July.</p>	

Hybrid Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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