

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

3 rd of November, 2025	08:00 PM – 09:45 PM (Bangkok Time)	In-person session
Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President	
Type of meeting	JJIF Board Members Meeting	
Notetaker	Kostiantyn Pavlenko	
1. Roll call		
Attendees with voting right	<p>Present at the beginning of the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President 2. Fahad Al Shamsi –JJAU General Secretary <i>[representing JJIF Senior Vice-President, JJAU President Abdelmunem Al Hashmi]</i> 3. Michael Korn – JJIF Vice President, JJEU President 4. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAFU President 5. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu 6. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission 7. Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam – Board Member, Volunteer Commission 8. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President joined the meeting at 20:55 	
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF General Director 10. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director 11. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager 	
2. Quorum		
	Joachim Thumfart	
At the commencement of the meeting, 7 (seven) out of 10 (ten) Board Members with voting rights were present meeting the quorum requirement.		
3. Welcome by the JJIF President		
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos welcomed all attendees to the Board meeting and noted that the session was convened in advance of the annual JJIF Congress. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss, where necessary, and consolidate matters to be communicated to the Congress attendees.		
4. IOC Recognition and Continental Strategy		
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Fahad Al Shamsi, Joachim Thumfart	
Discussion	<p>The agenda item was introduced following questions received from multiple National Federations regarding the timelines for IOC recognition. The Board discussed the ongoing IOC recognition process and the continued lack of certainty regarding timing. The President Theodoropoulos provided contextual remarks on the matter, noting the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, changes in IOC leadership, and the resulting delays in recognition-related processes. He reported on recent contacts with representatives of the IOC and the Sports Director, clarifying that Ju-Jitsu has been presented at a high level and is well understood within the relevant IOC structures.</p>	

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Discussion	<p>However, he emphasized that timelines for recognition remain uncertain and are subject to broader political decision-making outside the direct control of JJIF.</p> <p>The President proposed extending an invitation to Mr. Stefan Fox, President of AIMS, to attend the upcoming Congress and address the JJIF Congress on matters related to IOC recognition, emphasizing that AIMS, as the parent organization of which JJIF is a member, is responsible for the IOC recognition application process for its member federations.</p> <p>It was emphasized that recognition decisions rest with the IOC Recognition Office and are not subject to unilateral action by JJIF.</p> <p>Continental Unions were encouraged to take an active role in engaging with National Olympic Committees, applying for inclusion in continental and regional multi-sport games, and advocating for Ju-Jitsu within existing institutional frameworks.</p> <p>Differences between continents were noted, including procedurally stricter approaches in Europe and greater flexibility in Africa and Asia.</p> <p>Board Members stressed the importance of delivering a consistent, transparent message to member federations, namely that JJIF is formally engaged in the IOC recognition process, but that definitive timelines cannot be guaranteed as progress depends on external institutions. Continental and national advocacy remains essential.</p> <p>No formal decision or vote was taken.</p>
5. Membership Obligations, Non-Payments, and Eligibility	
	Joachim Thumfart, Michael Korn, Kostiantyn Pavlenko
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart raised issues concerning outstanding financial obligations of certain member federations, including unpaid annual fees and participation fees. Specific cases were referenced (e.g., delayed payments, partial payments, misunderstandings regarding invoicing). The distinction between annual membership fees and other financial obligations was discussed. It was reiterated that non-payment of annual membership fees traditionally results in loss of good standing. Concerns were raised regarding inconsistent enforcement and the need for clarity prior to the General Assembly/Congress.</p> <p>The Board reaffirmed the principle that payment of the annual membership fee is mandatory for good standing. Outstanding obligations must be reviewed transparently prior to Congress. Operational follow-up was assigned to the administration. No new sanctions or thresholds were formally adopted during this meeting.</p>
6. Auditing, Financial Oversight, and Governance	
	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart informed The Board on the status of external audits for financial years 2023 and 2024. Delays in receipt of audit reports were noted. The role and effectiveness of internal auditors were extensively discussed. Several Board Members expressed concerns regarding the practical value, independence, and availability of internal auditors. The President Theodoropoulos proposed enhanced Board-level financial oversight through regular reporting rather than reliance on internal auditors. The President emphasized that JJIF publishes its financial information on the official website, ensuring transparency and access for all members. It was noted that members may review the published financials and raise any objections or questions at the General Assembly, to which the administration remains available to respond.</p> <p>The President further noted that a standard internal audit statement consisting solely of a brief confirmation of correct bookkeeping was considered insufficient.</p> <p>The Board reached a consensus (without formal vote) that external independent auditing remains mandatory and essential. Monthly financial reporting to the Board should be strengthened. The continuation of internal auditors should be reconsidered in future governance revisions.</p>

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7. Statutes, Ethics, and Sporting Code

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

The General Director Thumfart confirmed that amendments to the Statutes, as well as the adoption of the Ethics Rules and Ethics Statutes, had been previously approved by the Board and were progressing toward ratification by the Congress. It was noted that certain traditional Budo ethics texts raise concerns due to potential inconsistencies with modern principles of safeguarding, democratic governance, and freedom of expression. The General Director further provided updates on revisions to the Sporting Code, including technical rule updates and the integration of Para Ju-Jitsu provisions.

8. Athletes Commission and Board Composition

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

The General Director reported on the ratification of JJIF Board member appointments, noting that such ratification is also a requirement for compliance with Swiss registration. The General Director further reported that an election was held to finalize the completion of the JJIF Athletes Commission from the European Union, and that athlete representation had been formally incorporated into the JJIF governance structure. It was reported that the Athletes Commission, newly constituted, elected from among its members two representatives to the JJIF Board, namely Ms. Isra Waseem Khan from Pakistan and Mr. Dmytro Pernykoza from Ukraine. The professional backgrounds and expertise of the elected Athletes Commission representatives were noted as positive for JJIF's strategic and governance development. The Board took note of the completion of the Athletes Commission election process and the election of its representatives to the JJIF Board.

Decision

No objections were raised.
The board ratify the election of Ms. Isra Waseem Khan and Mr. Dmytro Pernykoza

9. Honorary membership / Hall of Fame

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

The General Director proposed the formal recognition of Mr. Dario Quenza as an JJIF Honorary Member and Hall of Fame inductee, citing over 60 years of contribution to Ju-Jitsu and his leadership roles in Europe.

Decision

The proposal was approved unanimously by the Board, with seven (7) votes in favour. It was resolved that the proposal be submitted to the JJIF Congress 2025 for formal appointment.

10. Calendar of Events and Championships

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

The Board reviewed the provisional international calendar of events, including World Championships, Continental Championships, university sport events, and multi-sport games. It was noted that venue availability, logistical considerations, and organizational constraints remain factors in finalizing the calendar. The potential separation of disciplines, including No-Gi competitions, was also noted. Potential host regions, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Turkey, were referenced as part of the planning process.

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	The Board took note of the proposed directions for the international calendar. Final confirmations remain subject to contractual agreements and completion of organizational requirements.
11. Para Ju-Jitsu – Strategic Intervention	
	Elcirley Luz Silva
Decision	<p>Mr. Silva, responsible for Para Ju-Jitsu delivered a detailed intervention outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The social, educational, and rehabilitative impact of Para Ju-Jitsu globally. - The growth of Para Ju-Jitsu participation. - The need for stronger institutional support, visibility, and education at national and governmental levels. <p>Board Members acknowledged the intervention and its significance.</p> <p>The Board took note of the presentation and reaffirmed Para Ju-Jitsu as a strategic priority within JJIF.</p>
12. Safeguarding – Urgent Matter	
	Christian Horvath-Portele
Discussion	<p>The Board was informed of a serious safeguarding allegation concerning an incident alleged to have occurred in connection with a previous World Championship. Since both parties are active athletes and they both are present at the current World Championship, Mr. Horvath-Portele requested the imposition of an immediate provisional suspension of the individual concerned in order to allow the safeguarding investigation to proceed without interference.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board acknowledged the urgency of the matter and expressed its support for the safeguarding process in principle.</p> <p>With 8 (eight) of 8 (eight) Board members present, the Board unanimously approved the immediate provisional suspension of the person of interest from participation in the World Championship for the duration of the ongoing investigation.</p> <p>The Board confirmed that any formal disciplinary measures and procedures shall be conducted strictly in accordance with the JJIF Safeguarding Regulations and Disciplinary Regulations.</p>
	Next Board meeting is planned for 4 th of November, 2025.
<p>The JJIF President thanked all members for their contribution and confirmed that the next Board meeting will take place on 4th of November after the JJIF Congress. The meeting was officially concluded without further formal resolutions.</p>	

Hybrid Meeting, 3rd of November 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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