



JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

11 th of January, 2026	05:00 PM – 06:20 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Hybrid (in-person and online)
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 – online 4. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President – online 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. Isra Waseem Khan – Board Member, Athletes Commission – online 9. Dmytro Pernykoza – Board Member, Athletes Commission – online
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF General Director 11. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director 12. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager
Guest	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Jose Dominguez - Pan American Union – online

2. Quorum

Joachim Thumfart

At the commencement of the meeting, nine (9) out of ten (10) Board Members with voting rights were present meeting the quorum requirement.

3. Welcome by the JJIF President

Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

JJIF President Theodoropoulos welcomed all attendees to the first Board meeting of 2026 and noted that a significant amount of work lies ahead in the coming year.

4. Activation of JJIF Database

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

General Director Thumfart informed the Board of the activation of the JJIF central database and the transition from third-party system to a JJIF-owned digital platform. The Board was briefed on the key elements of the system, including:

- The introduction of individual competitor licences (competition licences) with unique athlete identifiers;
- The inclusion of referees, continental advisers, and grading records within the same system;
- The implementation of direct consent and mandatory declarations by athletes and officials, covering anti-doping compliance, code of conduct and data protection requirements;

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Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Centralised data access to enable direct communication with athletes, particularly for anti-doping and safeguarding purposes. <p>The General Director further outlined a phased implementation approach, commencing in 2026, with mandatory application foreseen for events during the 2027–2028 period, subject to agreed transition arrangements.</p> <p>The Board took note of the information and supported the phased implementation and further presentations to Continental Unions and National Federations.</p>
5. Progress report on the IOC recognition process	
	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	<p>The Board was informed that the JJIF submission dossier “pre-assessment” for IOC recognition had been formally submitted.</p> <p>The IOC acknowledged receipt and indicated that the documentation is under review. No feedback or decision has yet been received.</p> <p>The Board acknowledged the update provided. No action required at this stage.</p>
6. Minutes of the 2025 JJIF Congress	
	Joachim Thumfart, Michael Korn
Discussion	<p>The Board reviewed the Congress minutes previously circulated.</p> <p>Clarification was provided that numbering differences between the agenda and the minutes resulted from additional speeches and ceremonial items not originally listed on the agenda.</p> <p>The Board reviewed and accepted the substance and content of the Congress minutes.</p>
7. JJIF Sporting Code 2026	
	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	<p>Director General Thumfart informed the Board of the ongoing work on the JJIF Sporting Code, noting that a revised draft had been circulated to Board members following intensive review and consolidation. He explained that approximately 30% of the amendments had already been adopted by Congress, while the remaining changes consisted primarily of clarifications, detailed provisions, and improvements aimed at enhancing legal certainty and athlete safety.</p> <p>The Board was advised that initial comments on the draft had already been received, although further review of these had not yet been completed due to time constraints. It was indicated that all feedback would be processed promptly. Attention was drawn to certain incomplete sections, notably regarding team competitions, which may require either further development within the Sporting Code or the preparation of a separate handbook or supplementary format.</p> <p>The Director General emphasized that most remaining modifications concerned editorial and legal wording adjustments, aimed at improving clarity and consistency without altering the substantive meaning. He invited Board members to raise any substantial concerns or contradictions, particularly in relation to technical definitions and safety classifications.</p> <p>In light of the upcoming event planning timelines, Director General Thumfart proposed that the Sporting Code be formally enforced, subject to a final circulation of the latest version. Board members would be given three days to submit any final comments, after which the document would be uploaded and communicated officially by the end of the week or early the following week.</p>

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Decision	With 9 (nine) of 9 (nine) members present voting in favour the Board resolved to formally enforce the JJIF Sporting Code, subject to the final circulation of the updated version to all Board members.
8. Additions to the Financial Rules	
	Joachim Thumfart, Kostiantyn Pavlenko
Discussion	The Board considered proposed amendments to the Financial Rules, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Section 2, Subsection C – Accounting: Allocation of Payments Received, providing for the application of payments on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis, whereby payments are allocated to the oldest outstanding financial obligations first. - New Section 7 – Internal Controls Framework, introducing a structured framework aimed at strengthening financial governance, enhancing internal oversight, and improving auditability and compliance.
Discussion	With all 9 (nine) of 9 (nine) members present voting in favour, the Board approved additions to the Financial Rules 2026 to be incorporated effective immediately.
9. Logo Copyright Protection – Budget	
	Joachim Thumfart, Kostiantyn Pavlenko
Discussion	The General Director informed the Board that research had been conducted regarding the legal protection of the JJF logo. The purpose of the initiative is to ensure comprehensive brand protection beyond the existing European registration. Information noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Estimated budget EUR 14,000 – 17,000. - Coverage across multiple classes of products/services, and jurisdictions. - Final costs subject to receipt of a formal quotation. - The initiative is also linked to the forthcoming development of a JJF Brand Book, which reinforces the need for clear brand ownership. - <p>The Board took note and agreed in principle to proceed once final quotations are received.</p>
10. Disciplinary Suspensions – World Championships 2025	
	Joachim Thumfart, Christian Horvath-Portele, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
Discussion	The Safeguarding and Disciplinary proposals were presented for confirmation to the Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ukraine – minor misconduct. A Written apology was issued by the athlete immediately, on the same day the incident occurred. Proposed Suspension: 3 months. 2. Kazakhstan – Serious misconduct. Proposed suspension: 1 year, conditional on written apology. Failure to comply would extend suspension to 3 years. 3. Ethiopia – Severe safeguarding violation involving a minor. Proposed suspension: 5 years with continued security ban thereafter, subject to proof of behavioural change. Failure to demonstrate change results in lifetime exclusion. <p>The Safeguarding decisions approved by the Board shall be made public by publishing them on the official JJIF website.</p>
Decision	Board approves the disciplinary measures proposed by the JJIF Safeguarding, with the further publication of such decisions on the official website. The decision was adopted unanimously, with 9 (nine) out of 9 (nine) Board Members voting in favour.

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11. Application for JJIF International Athlete Status

	Joachim Thumfart, Michael Korn
Discussion	The Board considered an application for International Athlete status from an athlete of Ukrainian nationality and noted that, while such applications are normally approved, this submission lacked endorsement from any national federation. The German Federation, where the athlete currently resides, confirmed it does not support the application due to the athlete's nationality status, and the Ukrainian Federation was confirmed not to have been informed or asked for consent. The Board recalled that International Athlete status is intended primarily for displaced athletes facing exceptional circumstances and agreed that accepting applications directly from private individuals without federation involvement could create procedural issues. It was agreed that clarification should be sought from both the Ukrainian and German Federations in line with established procedures, that the applicant be informed accordingly, and that the matter be reconsidered at a subsequent meeting, with the possibility of late registration for an upcoming championship remaining open subject to resolution.
Decision	The Board deferred the decision. The applicant shall be requested to clarify her status with the relevant National Federations. The case will be reconsidered at the next Board meeting. The Board expressed openness to facilitate participation subject to compliance with the established procedure.

12. Anti-Doping Testing and Financing

	Joachim Thumfart, Michael Korn, Gregory Vallarino, Fahad Al Shamsi
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart provided an overview of JJIF's anti-doping system, emphasizing that JJIF is a WADA Code signatory and the sole authorized body for anti-doping controls in jiu-jitsu, operating under strict WADA rules. He clarified that testing applies to all age categories, including minors (with special safeguards), and rejected misconceptions that testing is limited to adults or governed by national law variations. He explained the principle of "intelligent testing," and the need to coordinate with continental unions and local organizers to reduce costs through flexible and creative funding models, while maintaining compliance and confidentiality.</p> <p>Vice-President Korn stressed the importance of uniform application of anti-doping rules to ensure clean sport, particularly at major championships. He raised questions regarding the definition of the testing pool (adults vs. youth categories) and noted recurring discussions with European organizers concerning testing volume and costs. He confirmed that contracts with organizers require anti-doping compliance and agreed to share contractual provisions to support further clarification.</p> <p>Vice-President Vallarino expressed concern about the financial strain caused by increasing anti-doping costs on local organizers and federations, given budget uncertainties and government funding reductions. They emphasized their preference to continue with JJIF as the central coordinating authority for anti-doping rather than transferring responsibility to local entities, while acknowledging the need to manage costs sustainably.</p> <p>Mr. Al Shamsi highlighted that anti-doping is a non-negotiable requirement for participation in multi-sport and continental events. He underlined the importance of education, whereabouts programs, and certification for athletes and officials, noting that significant investment in anti-doping is essential to achieving clean and credible sport. He expressed appreciation for JJIF's flexibility and confirmed Asia's strong commitment to funding and implementation.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos reaffirmed that clean sport and safe sport are fundamental prerequisites for the future of the organization, and not optional. He proposed addressing regional implementation and funding challenges – particularly in Europe – in a separate dedicated meeting, reaffirming the Board's commitment to alignment with JJIF standards and international expectations.</p>

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Discussion	The Board confirmed the importance of a WADA-compliant, centrally coordinated anti-doping system and acknowledged cost and organizational challenges. It was agreed to hold a separate meeting to align the anti-doping approach for the upcoming European Championship.
13. Request for Financial Adjustment – Balkan Open 2025	
	Joachim Thumfart,
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart informed the Board that the Greek Federation, as organizer of the 2025 Balkan Open, submitted a request for a reduction of the participation fee percentage payable to JJIF, citing high organizational costs. He emphasized that the matter was referred to the Board to ensure full transparency and the lack of delegated authority for management to decide on fee reductions. He further highlighted concerns regarding insufficient financial documentation, lack of prior response from the organizer, and the absence of a formal agreement governing the event.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos stated that the financial information provided was not sufficiently transparent or supported by documentation and stressed that event applications must be accompanied by clear and verifiable budgets. He underlined the need to ensure transparency across European events and proposed addressing this and broader Balkan region governance issues through direct engagement with the European leadership, including a presidential level meeting to clarify future structure and responsibilities.</p> <p>Vice-President Korn emphasized that organizers seeking regional or championship status must engage the relevant Union in advance, rather than requesting adjustments after the event, to avoid governance and financial complications.</p> <p>The Board agreed that the matter requires further clarification and joint discussion at management and European levels. It was decided to hold a dedicated meeting to review the financial documentation, determine an aligned position toward the Greek Federation, and establish clearer procedures for future regional events.</p>
14. Implementation of the 2027 World Anti-Doping Code and International Standards	
	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	<p>The General Director informed the Board of the forthcoming implementation of the 2027 World Anti-Doping Code, noting that this will require significant preparatory work alongside existing operational commitments. He confirmed that, at this stage, no immediate decisions are required, as key responsibilities are expected to transition to the International Testing Agency (ITA) under the planned expansion of the existing cooperation agreement. It was agreed that the next step is to finalize the updated contract with ITA and subsequently review implementation requirements once ITA has clarified its scope of responsibility.</p> <p>The Board confirmed that JJIF will implement the 2027 World Anti-Doping Code and related International Standards in line with WADA timelines. No decision required at this time.</p>
15. Referee Per Diem Increase	
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Fahad Al shamsi
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart informed the Board that a request had been received from a group of referees proposing a shift from the current per diem framework to a salary-based model, including full cost coverage plus a daily fee, representing a substantial increase in overall expenditure. While acknowledging the legitimacy of fair compensation and professional development, he noted that the proposal would result in approximately three times higher costs and was considered financially unrealistic at this stage. He recalled prior improvements made in favor of referees, including the removal of course fees and upgraded accommodation, and emphasized the need to balance professionalism with financial sustainability.</p>

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Discussion	<p>President Theodoropoulos stated clearly that the proposal was fully rejected, describing it as financially unfeasible and inappropriate, particularly where it implied increasing participant fees to fund referee salaries. He emphasized that decisions regarding referee compensation are a matter for the Board and not subject to external pressure or conditional requests.</p> <p>JJAU General Secretary Al Shamsi supported the President's position, expressing concern that accepting such proposals would create ongoing budgetary pressure and escalating demands. He noted that no demonstrable performance improvements justified the proposed changes and confirmed his support for maintaining the current compensation structure.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board rejected the referees' proposal to introduce amended compensation and confirmed that no changes will be made to the existing per diem system at this time.</p>
16. Deferred Agenda Items	
	Joachim Thumfart
	<p>The following items were postponed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of expenses for 2025 (until the next Board meeting) - JJIF Fighting Rules 2026
	Next Board meeting is planned for February 22 nd , 2026.
<p>The JJIF President thanked all members for the fruitful meeting and confirmed that the next Board meeting will take place on 22nd of February. The meeting was officially adjourned.</p>	

Hybrid Meeting, 11th of January 2026

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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