

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

19 th of April, 2026	05:00 PM – 05:45 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	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 4. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President 5. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAFU President 6. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu 7. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission 8. Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam – Board Member, Volunteer Commission 9. Dr. Isra Waseem – Board Member, Athletes Commission 	
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 	
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, formally opened the Board meeting, welcomed the participants, and noted that the agenda was limited in scope. He encouraged an efficient discussion of the listed items with the aim of concluding the meeting in a timely manner.		
4. Change in Composition of the JJIF Board		
	Joachim Thumfart, Christian Horvath-Portele	
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart informed the Board that a written communication had been received from Mr. Christian Horvath-Portele regarding his status as a voting Board Member. It was explained that, in light of his ongoing professional engagement with the JJIF and other entities, Mr. Horvath-Portele proposed to waive his voting rights in order to avoid any potential or perceived conflict of interest, while expressing his willingness to continue serving on the Board as a non-voting member and to maintain his existing duties. The President acknowledged and welcomed this approach, noting that the separation of voting rights from professional engagement serves to uphold good governance principles and avoid conflicts of interest. Board Members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Horvath-Portele's continued contribution and support for his remaining on the Board in a non-voting capacity.</p>	

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Discussion	Following this, the General Director raised the matter of identifying a potential replacement for the vacant voting position. The President informed the Board that preliminary discussions had taken place with a potential candidate from Italy, Mrs. Sara Paganini, noting the importance of strengthening gender representation on the Board and highlighting her extensive experience and long-standing involvement in Ju-Jitsu, including participation at World Championship level. It was proposed that Mrs. Paganini be invited to a future Board meeting for further consideration.
Decision	Following the discussion, the Board agreed that Mr. Horvath-Portele would continue as a Board Member without voting rights, effective from the decision taken during the meeting. The Board raised no objections to the proposal of candidature Mrs. Paganini and it was agreed that the matter would be revisited at the next Board meeting.
5. International Athlete Application [ANG/FRA]	
	Joachim Thumfart, Christian Horvath-Portele, Nuvin Proag, Peter Schouten
Discussion	General Director Thumfart presented an application concerning an adult athlete of Angolan nationality, formerly competing under the Angolan Federation and currently residing in France, who has applied for recognition as an international displaced/refugee athlete. It was noted that the athlete claims official refugee status in France. The French Federation has provided written support for the application, while the Angolan Federation was informed and did not submit any objection or response. During the discussion, the Board emphasized the need for documentary proof of the athlete's refugee status issued by the competent authorities. It was noted that, in the absence of such official documentation, the application cannot be assessed conclusively. The Board further agreed that, should the athlete's refugee status be formally confirmed, the athlete would meet the eligibility criteria to compete as part of a refugee team, and not as an independent or individual neutral athlete.
Decision	The Board agreed to request official documentation confirming the athlete's refugee status (e.g. an official refugee ID card, refugee travel document, or formal confirmation issued by the relevant authorities). Upon receipt and verification of such documentation, the application may be approved without requiring further Board consideration.
6. Participation of Russian Athlete	
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Fahad Al Shamsi, Kostiantyn Pavlenko
Discussion	The General Director introduced the agenda item concerning recent developments within international sport regarding the participation of athletes from countries affected by armed conflict. Reference was made to decisions taken by other International Federations, including World Athletics, Judo, and Taekwondo, to adjust or remove certain restrictions, and to the absence of a unified or updated directive from the International Olympic Committee applicable to all competitions. The Board discussed the complexity and sensitivity of the matter, noting the distinction between Olympic events, where participation policies are determined by the IOC, and JJIF competitions, where the Federation is responsible for defining its own policy. Consideration was given to existing IOC recommendations, including those permitting limited participation under neutral conditions in youth events, as well as to the broader implications for athlete participation, National Federations, host countries, and ongoing efforts toward IOC recognition. Concerns were raised regarding governance consistency, safeguarding against political influence, potential reactions from affected National Federations, and the risk that any policy change could unintentionally prevent athletes from other countries, including Ukraine, from participating due to national regulations or governmental restrictions. The Board also noted the importance of background checks, athlete conduct, and alignment with anti-doping and ethical standards, while recognizing the limitations and challenges of such assessments.

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

Discussion	The Board agreed that the issue requires further analysis and external consultation, including seeking additional information from IOC representatives and relevant International Federations, before any policy adjustment is considered. It was emphasized that there is no immediate pressure to take a decision, and that the matter should be approached with caution, neutrality, and respect for the Federation's strategic objectives.
Decision	The Board therefore decided to defer any decision on the participation of Russian athletes and to revisit the matter at a future Board meeting, once further information and guidance have been obtained.
7. Status Update – Preparations and for the 2026 Youth World Championship in Abu Dhabi	
	Fahad Al Shamsi, Joachim Thumfart, Michael Korn
Discussion	<p>The Board received an update from the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation regarding the ongoing preparations for the 2026 Youth World Championship in Abu Dhabi. The Host Federation confirmed that preparations are progressing as planned, that conditions on the ground remain stable, and that the Federation remains fully committed to hosting the event. It was emphasized that, at present, there are no operational or safety concerns affecting the organization of the championship.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos and the General Director Thumfart acknowledged the update and confirmed that the JJIF's current position is that the event remains scheduled as planned. At the same time, the Board recognized the importance of continued monitoring of the broader regional and international context, including official travel advisories and insurance considerations, particularly given the youth nature of the event.</p> <p>The Board agreed that preparations should continue without interruption and that a final assessment will be maintained until the end of May, allowing sufficient time to react should official travel warnings or other material changes arise. It was noted that, should significant security risks or official travel restrictions be in place at that time, the JJIF would retain the option to review the venue and/or timing of the event in coordination with the Host Federation.</p> <p>The Board expressed its appreciation to the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation for its transparency, preparedness, and continued cooperation.</p>
<p>President Theodoropoulos thanked all members for a fruitful meeting and noted that the date of the next Board meeting has not yet been determined and will be scheduled at the call of the President. The meeting was officially adjourned.</p>	

Online Meeting, 19th of April 2026

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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