

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

24 th of May, 2026	05:00 PM – 06:25 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	Present at the beginning of the meeting: 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, JJAUFU President - online 6. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu 7. Sara Paganini – JJIF Board Member 8. Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam – Board Member, Volunteer Commission
Attendees with NO voting right	9. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission 10. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF General Director 11. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director 12. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager
	13. Birgitte Dalsgaard – JJIF Head Referee for Duo and Show – online 14. Jose Dominguez - Pan American Union – online

2. Quorum

	Joachim Thumfart
At the commencement of the meeting, eight (8) 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 and welcomed all participants.	

4. Change in Composition of the JJIF Board – Introduction of Sara Paganini

	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Joachim Thumfart, Sara Paganini
Discussion	The President formally introduced Sara Paganini as a newly appointed member of the JJIF Executive Board. The Board noted that Ms. Paganini brings significant expertise as a World Champion and World Games Champion in the Duo System, contributing valuable athlete-level experience to the Board's work. Sara Paganini addressed the Board and expressed her appreciation for the confidence placed in her. She confirmed her commitment to contributing actively to the development of the JJIF and supporting the work of the Board.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

5. DUO System Rules Revision Proposal

Joachim Thumfart, Birgitte Dalsgaard, Peter Schouten, Christian Horvath-Portele

Discussion

The Board received and reviewed the proposal for amendments to the Duo System Rules (Version 1.7, dated May 2026), presented by Birgitte Dalsgaard.

The Board noted that the proposal is the result of an extended international consultation process, incorporating input from athletes, coaches, and referees across multiple regions and based on operational experience from recent international competitions.

The stated objective of the proposal is to simplify, clarify, and operationally improve the existing rule framework.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following changes:

- Variety Scoring

It was agreed that implementation must be supported by enhanced referee education, certification updating and structured training to ensure consistent interpretation.

- Team Competition
- Competition Divisions

The Board considered the potential need for transitional flexibility or selective application. The President expressed reservations regarding the complete removal of secondary divisions, noting their role in supporting participation and motivation, particularly for developing federations.

- Youth (Kids) Rules
- Technical Updates – Knife Attacks (C1/C2)
- Minor and Technical Amendments

In general, it was agreed that implementation should be supported by educational initiatives for referees, coaches, and federations with use of online formats (e.g., webinars) to ensure broad access.

The Board noted that implementation is dependent on competition software (Sportdata) adaptation and readiness. It was further noted that adjustments to the Sporting Code may be required, particularly regarding age category progression rules.

Decision

With 8 (eight) out of 8 (eight) Board Members voting in favour, the Board approved the adoption of the Duo System Rules Revision Proposal (Version 1.7) in principle.

The rules shall enter into force on 1 October 2026, subject to the following condition - confirmed readiness of the competition software system (Sportdata). In the event that software implementation cannot be completed within the required timeframe the entry into force shall be automatically deferred to 1 January 2027, without requiring further Board decision.

6. 2026 World Championship Adults – Host Withdrawal

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

The General Director Thumfart informed the Board that the Italian organising federation (FIJLKAM) had formally notified JJIF at the end of the previous week that it is no longer in a position to host the 2026 JJIF World Championships as originally planned. The Board noted that this communication was received at short notice, following prior exchanges and meetings with the organiser.

The Board was informed that the withdrawal requires urgent identification of an alternative host and JJIF operational team has already initiated active discussions with potential replacement organisers, in order to minimize disruption to athletes and federations.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

7. 2026 Youth World Championship – Hosting and Scheduling

Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Fahad Al Shamsi, Michael Korn

Discussion

The General Director informed the Board of the current status regarding the organisation of the 2026 Youth World Championships, noting that a decision was required by the end of May in order to proceed with planning and communication.

The Board was informed that several options had been explored, including identification of an alternative host location; partial relocation of event components; postponement to a later date (November) in coordination with the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation; maintenance of the existing schedule and location in Abu Dhabi (August 2026).

The Board noted that postponement to November would present significant scheduling challenges, including overlap with major international events and operational constraints within the UAE sports calendar.

President Theodoropoulos expressed confidence in Abu Dhabi as a safe and reliable host location and emphasized importance of stability in planning and scheduling. He also acknowledged uncertainty in the global environment, but stressed need for continuity. Proposed to maintain existing schedule and preparations, proceed with the event in Abu Dhabi as planned.

Mr. Fahad Al Shamsi confirmed full readiness and commitment to host the event. Stated that current conditions in the UAE are normal and stable and international travel and daily operations continue without disruption, mentioning recent successful large-scale international event hosted in Abu Dhabi. He offered pre-event visits or verification opportunities for reassurance if needed.

Vice-President Korn highlighted difference between adult and youth events, noting that youth participation decisions are strongly influenced by parental concerns. He also acknowledged existing perception of safety risks, particularly among families, but recognized that international sport often operates under uncertain external conditions. Mr. Korn noted that no viable alternative currently exists, proceeding with Abu Dhabi is the most practical option, again emphasized that safety remains the primary consideration.

Decision

With 8 out of 8 voting members present, the Board unanimously resolved to proceed with the 2026 Youth World Championships as originally scheduled in Abu Dhabi, to be held from 2-8/9 August 2026 (subject to final confirmation), noting that the situation will continue to be monitored and that any material developments affecting safety or feasibility will be duly assessed and addressed, while member federations retain the right to make independent decisions regarding their participation based on their respective circumstances.

8. Appeal – Russian Ju-Jitsu Federation (European Championship Results)

Joachim Thumfart, Michael Korn, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

Discussion

General Director Thumfart informed the Board that an appeal from the Russian Jiu-Jitsu Federation remains ongoing regarding the results of the European Championships. The Board noted that the matter concerns the correction of the official results list, which had been previously discussed.

The Vice-President reported that coordination is ongoing with the responsible parties, including technical support – there have been delays due to operational workload and changes in federation leadership. The matter is expected to be resolved within the coming days. It was confirmed that the issue is primarily of a technical implementation nature (results list correction).

President Theodoropoulos emphasized that the priority is to ensure accuracy and integrity of official results and maintaining credibility and trust in competition outcomes is essential.

The Board confirmed that the matter remains under active management and the required correction will be finalised promptly, subject only to technical implementation.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

9. Head Referee Inclusive Self-Defense Appointment

	Christian Horvath-Portele, P. Theodoropoulos, Gregory Vallarino
Discussion	Mr. Christian Horvath-Portele presented a proposal regarding the Head Referee position for the Inclusive Self-Defence system. The Board noted that Mr. Horvath-Portele is currently acting in this role. It was proposed to appoint Ms. Leticia Rodriguez Perez (Spain) take over the role of Head Referee. He stated that she is a former Duo competitor, holds a continental referee license in Inclusive Self-Defence, achieved the highest evaluation results in examinations, and is willing to contribute to the further development of the system.
Decision	With no objections raised, the Board resolved to appoint Ms. Leticia Rodriguez Perez (Spain) as Head Referee for the Inclusive Self-Defence system. It was agreed that the appointment will be formally communicated to the Royal Spanish Federation of Judo and Associated Sports following the decision.

10. Financial Matters – Greek Federation

	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Michael Korn
Discussion	General Director informed the Board of ongoing exchanges regarding financial matters with the Greek Federation, including recent correspondence concerning outstanding payments and differing interpretations of financial handling. The General Director indicated that reminders for outstanding payments would continue and noted concerns arising from the tone of recent correspondence. Vice-President Korn confirmed that he had reviewed the communication and recalled prior discussions held with the Greek Federation, during which the applicable financial procedures were explained. He emphasized that invoicing and collection of payments are part of standard operational responsibilities and that existing agreements should be respected. He further noted that any deviation or request for adjustment should be formally presented to the Board with justification. Mr. Korn stated that he would engage again with the President of the Greek Federation to provide further clarification and ensure mutual understanding of the applicable procedures. The President reiterated that financial obligations are governed by signed agreements and that these must be respected. He stressed that any claims of miscalculation would require proper documentation, including budget references, and that administrative staff are acting within their defined responsibilities. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining integrity and avoiding any perception of improper influence.
Decision	The Board noted that the matter remains under discussion and that further clarification will be pursued with the Greek Federation.

11. Ukraine Federation – Presidency Status

	Joachim Thumfart, Kostiantyn Pavlenko, Peter Schouten
Discussion	General Director Thumfart informed the Board that information had been received regarding a legal change in the presidency of the National Association Ju-Jitsu of Ukraine, following the outcome of a court case concerning the validity of a previous election. Mr. Pavlenko informed the Board that confirmation has been obtained from official registry records, indicating Mr. Maliutenko as the acting President. The Board discussed operational aspects related to Federation access, including the handling of Sport ID system credentials. It was noted that access had been transferred and that clarification was required regarding the active account and associated credentials. Mr. Schouten indicated that a request had already been received to adjust access and confirmed readiness to proceed once Board acknowledgment was provided.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

Decision	The Board noted the current status of the presidency based on available official records. It was agreed that technical adjustments to system access may proceed in line with the current registered representation, subject to ongoing monitoring of the situation.
12. JJIF Athlete Application – Spain	
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, C. Horvath-Portele, P. Schouten
Discussion	General Director Thumfart informed the Board that applications for international athlete status had been received, including one case submitted by the Spanish Federation concerning a minor athlete holding Japanese and British citizenship. It was noted that the athlete is a member of the Spanish Federation and participates in national competitions; is currently in the process of obtaining Spanish citizenship. The application was formally submitted, including signature and seal of the Spanish Federation.
Decision	With no objections raised, the Board resolved to grant the athlete international athlete status for a period of one year, subject to the requirement that the athlete's nationality status be updated and reported in due course.
13. JJIF Athlete Application – Romania	
	J. Thumfart, P. Theodoropoulos, N. Proag, C. Horvath-Portele, P. Schouten
Discussion	General Director Thumfart informed the Board that applications had been received for international athlete status from two Ukrainian athletes residing in Romania, identified as refugees. The Board discussed the status of the athletes and the applicable requirements. It was noted that the determination depends on confirmation of official refugee status. It was further noted that documentation supporting the refugee status had not yet been fully provided with the application. The Board discussed the role of the National Federation, noting the importance of having an identified point of contact for administrative matters related to the athletes. Reference was made to the need for clarity in cases where issues may arise, including responsibility for communication. It was also noted that, in principle, refugee status may form the basis for eligibility, subject to appropriate verification.
Decision	With no objections raised, the Board agreed that the applications may be accepted subject to submission and verification of official documentation confirming refugee status. It was agreed to request confirmation from the National Federation to ensure appropriate administrative coordination.
14. Membership Application – Democratic Republic of Congo	
	Nuvin Proag, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
Discussion	Vice-President Proag informed the Board of a new membership application from an association in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo Kinshasa), represented by Mr. Christophe Maputu. It was noted that the applicant has submitted documentation, including registration documents with the seal of the Ministry of Justice. An application form for JJIF membership has been submitted with certain minor inaccuracies in the application were attributed to language limitations. Formal recognition from the Ministry of Sports is not yet in place since in this jurisdiction national recognition processes depends on demonstrating international affiliation. President Theodoropoulos agreed with the proposal and emphasized that, in addition to administrative requirements, demonstration of sporting activity, including the organisation of a national championship, should be expected.

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:



JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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

Decision

With no objections raised, the Board agreed to grant provisional membership to the applicant association, subject to payment of the affiliation fee and confirmation of sporting activity as outlined by the Board.
It was agreed that these conditions should be communicated formally to the applicant.

President Theodoropoulos thanked all members for a fruitful meeting and suggested the next Board meeting to be held on June 28 2026. The meeting was officially adjourned.

Hybrid Meeting, 24th of May 2026

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

