

Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF]

5 th of August, 2026	07:05 PM – 07:40 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. Michael Korn – JJIF Vice-President, JJEU President – online 3. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAUFU President 4. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu – online 5. Dmytro Pernykoza – Board Member - Athletes Commission - online 6. Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam – Board Member, Volunteer Commission 7. Sara Paganini – Board Member
Attendees with NO voting right	8. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission 9. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF General Director 10. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director – online 11. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF Manager

2. Quorum

Joachim Thumfart
At the commencement of the meeting, seven (7) 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 participants, noting the late hour / length of the day, invited the Board to proceed directly with the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes – 28 June 2026 Board Meeting

	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	General Director Thumfart confirmed that the minutes of the 28 June 2026 Board meeting had been finalized, approved by the President, and circulated to all Board Members in advance of this meeting.
Decision	No objections were raised. The minutes of the 28 June 2026 Board meeting were unanimously approved as circulated.

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5. JJIF Congress 2026 – Date, Venue and Format

	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
Discussion	The General Director reported that no further proposals, applications or venue ideas had been received for the 2026 Congress. On that basis, it was proposed that the Congress be held at JJIF Headquarters in Abu Dhabi on 14 November 2026, timed to coincide with the Youth World Pro competition and an accompanying side programme, and noted that this falls within the statutory notice deadline (three months).
Decision	The Board 7 (seven) out of 7 (seven) present unanimously approved the JJIF Congress 2026 taking place on 14 November 2026 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. JJIF Headquarters was authorized to issue the first invitation without delay.

6. Event Schedule 2026 — European Cup (“German Open”)

	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	The General Director reported a short-notice request to host a European Cup (“German Open”) in Germany. A contract had been submitted by the organizer covering the standard JJIF/JJEU requirements; the General Director noted that the organizer's financial rules differ from those JJIF has on file and requested that a copy of the underlying (EU-related) financial rules be obtained for the record. The proposed date (October 2026) falls after the World Championships, in an otherwise open period on the calendar – no objections raised.
Decision	The Board approved the European Cup / German Open, subject to JJIF Headquarters obtaining and filing a copy of the organizer's applicable financial rules referenced in the hosting contract.

7. Event Calendar Coordination – Format Review and Standing Agenda Item

	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	The General Director reported on a Technical Commission meeting held approximately ten days prior concerning general scheduling and calendar principles, and the broader question of competition format. He noted that the number of medal events has grown from approximately 146 ten years ago to close to 1,000 today, driven in particular by the growth of Para Ju-Jitsu (currently filling roughly 10% of possible categories) and Masters (roughly 30%), making a single combined “all-disciplines-in-one-event” World Championship format increasingly difficult to run. JJIF Headquarters will work on proposals for more flexible/modular competition formats and naming conventions, with the aim of presenting initial ideas to the Board by the September 2026 meeting.
Decision	The Board reaffirmed that the shared staging calendar (Google Calendar) should be used by all organizers from the planning stage – not only after an event is confirmed – to avoid the scheduling overlaps experienced during 2026, which

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Decision	were noted to have adversely affected participation in some events. All new event applications should be submitted in the first instance to events@jjif.org. Calendar status will continue to be reviewed at the start of every Board meeting. The Board agreed, without objection, that this approach to calendar coordination is correct and should continue; Board Members and Continental Unions were asked to submit ideas and proposals on competition format directly to the Headquarters.
8. Duo Rules – Entry into Force, 1 September 2026	
	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	JJIF Headquarters (IT) confirmed that the revised Duo rules can be technically enforced/supported from 1 September 2026. It was noted that the relevant teams and referees would welcome an earlier practical rollout, and it was suggested the new Duo system could be run on a trial basis at the Balkan Open (World Cup, Duo).
Decision	The Board confirmed 1 September 2026 as the entry-into-force date for the revised Duo rules, with no objection to an earlier practical trial at the Balkan Open.
9. International Referees — Suspension of Greek Referees	
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Michael Korn
Discussion	President Panagiotis reported on the suspension of the licenses of Greek international referees. Background: the Greek Federation's (national) technical commission had reportedly decided that no Greek referees or athletes would attend the 2026 World Championships in Abu Dhabi. JJIF subsequently received a letter from two of the referees stating that they had not been correctly informed of that decision in advance and that they would not travel, citing pressure from athletes' families over safety concerns. The President stated that international referees may not take instructions from a National Federation; requests or objections must instead be directed to, and resolved by, the JJIF Head Referee in coordination with the Technical Commission. On that basis, the President considered that the two referees who were not personally involved in the national technical commission's decision should not be sanctioned. Mr. Konstantinos ("Kostas") Kazakos, the Head Referee for Greece, was however reported to have been part of the Greek technical commission that made the decision, and had not disclosed this to JJIF beforehand; the President accordingly proposed to waive the sanction for the Greek referees generally, while maintaining it in respect of Mr. Kazakos. Vice-President Korn noted the practical reality that referees originate from, and depend on, their National Federation for licensing and development, and questioned – based on the information available to him – the basis for the suspension, given the referees' own position that they were personally unable to travel for family/safety reasons rather than by choice. The President clarified that JJIF holds signed declarations that the non-travel decision was made by the Greek technical commission, and that, since JJIF

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	assumed the costs associated with international referees in 2018 (specifically so that international referees would not remain financially/organizationally dependent on their National Federation), internationally licensed referees are institutionally part of the international federation, not the National Federation, once certified. He stated that if international referees can be instructed by a National Federation, JJIF cannot be confident that outcomes are unaffected by that influence. The General Director referred to a parallel case involving a French referee, who stated publicly (including on social media) that the French Federation had prevented him from travelling to Abu Dhabi against his wishes, and that he considered this a violation of his personal rights. The General Director flagged the systemic risk that, if international referees are subject to instruction by their National Federations, this creates a material integrity risk extending to on-mat decisions and Video Referee (VR) review, and called for JJIF to develop a dedicated policy against match/result manipulation. Vice-President Korn raised a related safeguarding point: where a National Federation opens a case against a referee, coach or other official (for example, in relation to sexual-violence prevention), JJIF should also be informed, so that international licensing decisions are properly informed. Board Member Horvath-Portele stated that this is a further reason why every National Federation should be required to appoint a Safeguarding Officer, who would in turn be responsible for reporting such matters to the JJIF Safeguarding Committee. The President confirmed this is an obligation of National Federations. The General Director added that, while National Federations are entitled to raise a confidential objection to an individual's international involvement for a substantiated reason (including on safeguarding grounds), the Board should guard against unsubstantiated or personally motivated vetoes, citing prior cases in which internationally active officials (including African referees) appeared to have been side-lined domestically without a clearly stated legitimate reason after being selected for international opportunities. For the record, the President also clarified a separate point previously raised at an online athletes' meeting: adult athletes remain free to ask their own National Federation for permission to compete in Abu Dhabi under that Federation's flag and anthem; no athlete competes under a "JJIF flag" independent of their Federation. This clarification was noted as distinct from, and not affecting, the referee independence principles discussed above.
Decision	The Board unanimously (no objections) approved the President's proposal to lift the suspension of the international referee licenses of the Greek referees generally, while maintaining the suspension of Mr. Konstantinos Kazakos's license. JJIF will issue an official letter to the referees and to the Greek Federation. JJIF will further engage directly with Mr. Kazakos – including in relation to his stated role and voting rights within the Greek technical commission – before any further/final determination is made regarding his position.

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11. 2026 World Championship (Abu Dhabi) – Event Debrief

Joachim Thumfart, Fahad Al Shamsi

Discussion

The General Director reported that the 2026 World Championship ran smoothly, with 45 countries and approximately 1,500 athletes participating. He confirmed that a four-athlete delegation from Congo was unable to attend despite holding valid visas, owing to a mandatory 21-day quarantine requirement imposed by health authorities in connection with the Ebola situation in that country — a public-health rather than immigration matter, which became clear only after initial enquiries. Mr. Al Shamsi acknowledged that notification to the relevant embassy had gone out later than it should have on the host side. Isolated visa issues were also noted affecting some participants from Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan (partial delegations).

Mr. Al Shamsi, on behalf of the host Federation, thanked the President, Board, teams and athletes, and reaffirmed the host's commitment to working with affected federations ahead of future events.

12. World Championship 2027 and Related Events – Status Update

Joachim Thumfart, Fahad Al Shamsi, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

Discussion

The General Director reported ongoing discussions regarding the organization of the 2027 World Championship in Abu Dhabi. Abu Dhabi remains the only current bidder with the capacity to host an event of the anticipated scale. Mr. Al Shamsi confirmed, on behalf of the UAE Ju-Jitsu Federation, its readiness in principle to host the event, subject to final agreement on the event format and scope. The intention to include a celebration marking JJIF's 40th anniversary as part of the event was also noted.

The Board was informed that discussions are also continuing with several potential hosts regarding future JJIF events, including proposals from Mongolia, Croatia, Panama, and Morocco.

The Board agreed that JJIF Headquarters and the President will continue negotiations with the prospective hosts and develop a complete proposal for consideration at a future Board meeting. Board members and JJIF Headquarters were requested not to communicate provisional event details publicly before formal confirmation.

13. Next Meeting

The next Board meeting was set for 6 September 2026, selected deliberately as the earliest practicable date given the increasingly congested September calendar (Thailand Open Grand Prix, Balkan Open, African Championship, Asian Games).

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JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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

President Theodoropoulos thanked all participants for a productive meeting. The meeting was officially adjourned.

Hybrid Meeting, 5th of August 2026

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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