



JJIF Ju-Jitsu International Federation

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To: Presidents & General Secretaries,
All JJIF Member Federations

Ref. No. IF-GEN20260608
8 June 2026

Subject: 2026 JJIF World Championships: Venue Change: Ostia/Rome, Italy - Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Dear Presidents and General Secretaries,

We are writing to inform you of an important development regarding the 2026 JJIF World Championships and to provide you with the necessary information to communicate this change to your members.

1. Background

The 2026 JJIF World Championships (Adults and Masters in Fighting and Jiu-Jitsu, and all age divisions in Duo and Show) were awarded to the Italian National Federation (FIJLKAM) in accordance with the established application process. This followed a comprehensive preparation and consultation period of approximately two years, during which JJIF and the Italian organiser worked closely on the planning and development of the event. Preparations were underway based on this coordinated effort.

On 24 May 2026, the Italian organiser formally notified JJIF that they were no longer in a position to host the event. This notification was received at short notice and did not allow for the standard host selection process to be conducted.

This decision was made by the Italian organiser. JJIF had fulfilled all its obligations and provided full support to the organising committee throughout the preparation period.

2. JJIF Decision

Following the withdrawal of the original host, two options were considered: cancellation of the event or the appointment of a new host at short notice.

Cancellation was not accepted. Thousands of athletes worldwide have already qualified and prepared for this event, and cancelling it would not be in the interest of the athletes or the sport. Several National Federations expressed their willingness to host the event at short notice. However, selecting one of these options would have required organising the event from the beginning within a limited timeframe, which could have created risks in terms of operational readiness and delivery.

Therefore, the JJIF decided to proceed with an option that would ensure the 2026 World Championships can still take place as planned and accepted the proposal of the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation to act as the replacement host. The 2026 JJIF World Championships will therefore be held in Abu Dhabi. The UAE has previously hosted JJIF World Championships in 2019, 2021, and 2022, delivering events of a consistently high standard.

3. Security Situation in the UAE

We are aware that the Gulf region has experienced security-related developments in 2026. We take this matter seriously and wish to address it transparently.

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JJIF is headquartered in Abu Dhabi and is in continuous contact with the UAE Jiu-Jitsu Federation and the relevant UAE authorities regarding the security situation in Abu Dhabi and across the UAE. The UAE is not a conflict zone. However, we recognise that regional instability may create legitimate concerns for delegations considering international travel.

Our commitment is clear: should JJIF conclude at any point that the safety of participants cannot be adequately ensured, the event will not proceed in its current location. Any such decision will be communicated immediately and formally to all Member Federations.

4. Impact on Federations – Measures Taken

JJIF acknowledges that this change will have operational and financial implications for National Federations and their athletes. The following measures are being implemented:

- Registration deadlines extended – updated outlines will be published as soon as possible.
- Visa facilitation – the UAE has a strong track record of facilitating entry for international sporting delegations. UAEJJF will provide detailed visa guidance in the updated outlines.
- Travel briefing – JJIF will organise an online briefing for national federation officials; further details will follow.

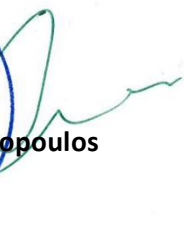
5. Communication Guidance for JJIF Federations

We kindly request all National Federations to:

- Inform athletes and coaches through official channels prior to the circulation of unverified information on social media.
- Use the provided key messages as the basis for national communications.
- Direct all athlete inquiries regarding safety to JJIF. Please refrain from issuing independent public statements on the security situation without verified information, as this requires coordinated communication.
- Direct all operational and financial inquiries to mail@jjif.org.

We remain fully committed to delivering a World Championship worthy of our sport and our athletes. We thank you for your trust and continued support of JJIF.

Yours sincerely,


Panagiotis Theodoropoulos
President
Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF)



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