



# 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]

6 <sup>th</sup> of July, 2025	05:00 PM – 06:05 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Online
Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President	
Type of meeting	JJIF Board Member Meeting	
Notetaker	Kostiantyn Pavlenko	

### 1. Roll call

Attendees with voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President – online</li><li>2. Fahad Al Shamsi –JJAU General Secretary – online <i>[representing JJIF Senior Vice-President, JJAU President Abdelmunem Al Hashmi]</i></li><li>3. Robert Perc – JJIF Vice-President, JJEU President – online</li><li>4. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAFU President – online</li><li>5. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President – online</li><li>6. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport &amp; Para Ju-Jitsu – online</li><li>7. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission – online</li><li>8. Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam– Board member, Volunteer Commission</li><li>9. Denise Krahn – Board member, Athletes Commission – online</li></ol>
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>10. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF Director General</li><li>11. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director</li><li>12. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager</li></ol>

### 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 Panagiotis Theodoropoulos welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. The meeting was then declared open.	

### 4. Enhanced ITA Contract

	Joachim Thumfart
	Director General Thumfart informed the Board that ITA (International Testing Agency) submitted an enhanced contract proposal: additional annual cost: approximately USD 35,000, raising total to ~USD 100,000. Benefits: ITA to manage result management, compliance support, and education programs. Mr. Thumfart also noted that RTP (Registered Testing Pool) must include 11 athletes, not 10.

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

Discussion	<p>Vice-President Proag supported the proposal, noting it reduces workload and strengthens credibility with WADA and IOC.</p> <p>Mr. Al Shamsi inquired about current spending and confirmed increased costs.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos stressed that alternatives were limited and ITA is the only viable partner, despite rising costs.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board approved (with all 9 of 9 members present) decision to authorize the JJIF to proceed with the execution of an agreement with the ITA, with an anticipated annual financial commitment of approximately USD 100,000.</p> <p>The Director General is hereby instructed to finalize and execute the agreement with ITA no later than August of the current calendar year.</p>
<b>5. Appointment of Independent Auditor for 2023/2024</b>	
	Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Director General Thumfart, informed the Board that the Ju-Jitsu International Federation (JJIF) has received a proposal from TAG.Global to conduct an independent audit for the fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The total fee quoted for the two-year engagement is AED 52,500 (approximately USD 14,300).</p> <p>It was noted that TAG.Global is currently engaged with the UAE Ju-Jitsu Federation and that the audit report will be prepared in English and conform to internationally recognized auditing standards.</p>
Discussion	<p>President Theodoropoulos noted that past challenges with internal audit procedures have highlighted the need for a more reliable and standardized approach. He emphasized that external audits – conducted independently and in accordance with International Standards on Auditing – are critical for ensuring transparency and accuracy in financial reporting. Given that internal auditors are typically appointed by the General Assembly and may lack the necessary qualifications, the Board should to consider whether future reliance should be placed solely on external audits. This approach would align JJIF with prevailing global practices, where approximately 99% of organizations utilize ISA-compliant external audits.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board approved (with all 9 of 9 members present) decision to proceed with the proposed external audit contract.</p>
<b>6. Reapplication for Membership - Guam</b>	
	Joachim Thumfart
	<p>Director General Thumfart provided a comprehensive update regarding Guam's reapplication for JJIF membership. He noted that Purebred JiuJitsu Guam had previously held provisional member status but had become inactive. The current applicant operates more as a club and is affiliated with IBJJF, which is not compatible with JJIF membership requirements. Mr. Thumfart reported ongoing communication with Mr. Steven Roberto, who acknowledged the need to establish a formal National Federation in cooperation with the Guam National Olympic Committee. The applicant has also shown regional engagement, including contacts in the Philippines and Japan.</p> <p>In light of these developments, the Director General proposed granting Guam a one-year provisional membership, contingent upon demonstrable progress toward forming a recognized National Federation.</p>

*Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:*



	This approach would support JJIF's strategic development in Oceania, where regional activity remains limited but promising.
Discussion	Mr. Horvath-Portele emphasized that full membership requires the legal entity to be registered as a non-profit.
Decision	The Board voted unanimously (9 of 9 members present) in favour of granting provisional membership status for Purebred JiuJitsu Guam for one year, with the condition of forming a NOC recognized non-profit National Federation.
<b>7. Case Update – Mr. Patrik Tremel</b>	
	Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Joachim Thumfart
	<p>President Theodoropoulos and Director General Thumfart presented the ongoing matter concerning Mr. Patrick Tremel. It was recalled that Mr. Tremel had been removed from official JJIF positions for a two-year period but retained his referee license, as the Board decision did not extend to refereeing at smaller or national events. Despite this, the German Federation reported being pressured not to appoint him as a referee at the German Youth Championship, under the claim that he was suspended entirely. This situation created confusion and concern.</p> <p>The Director General further explained that Mr. Tremel had approached the Ethics Commission for clarification, but the response received did not address the central issue, leaving the matter unresolved and Mr. Tremel feeling undermined. The President emphasized that such misinterpretations risk threatening the fairness of the system and the rights of referees, and stressed the need to ensure consistent application of Board decisions.</p>
Discussion	<p>During the discussion, Vice-President Perc recalled that the Board's original sanction was limited to international and continental events (World and European Championships), without affecting national or regional refereeing opportunities. He highlighted the importance of consistency, drawing parallels to earlier sanctions where the scope and duration were clearly defined and respected. He noted that Mr. Tremel must be allowed to maintain refereeing practice in order to keep his license valid, which had been the Board's original intention.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos reiterated that there was no proposal to shorten or modify the sanction period, but underlined the need to protect referees from undue pressure and to avoid contradictory interpretations that might unfairly exclude them from participation. The matter was framed as an example of the importance of applying Board decisions uniformly and communicating them clearly to event organizers and national federations. Director General Thumfart added that the Ethics Commission's handling of the matter might have left uncertainty about its role in resolving such issues. He warned that continued miscommunication could undermine confidence in JJIF processes.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board reaffirmed its original position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr. Patrick Tremel remains suspended from holding JJIF official positions and from refereeing at World and Continental Championships until the end of the two-year sanction period.</li> <li>- His referee license remains valid, and he is permitted to officiate at national, regional, and other smaller events.</li> <li>- Event organizers and national federations will be formally informed to prevent misinterpretations and ensure that referees' rights are respected.</li> </ul> <p>The Board agreed that this case should serve as a precedent for handling similar matters in the future, ensuring clarity, fairness, and consistency in the enforcement of sanctions.</p>

Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:

## 8. The World Games 2025 – Accommodation and Safeguarding

Joachim Thumfart, Peter Schouten

- Issues with room allocation policy:
  - Default double rooms.
  - Option for single rooms with surcharge (CNY 274/night).
- Safeguarding concerns:
  - Coaches/officials should not share rooms with athletes (including father-son cases).
  - Athletes from different genders/nationalities must not share.

Sensitive cultural considerations (religion, language, category conflicts).

Discussion

Board Members expressed strong support for upholding safeguarding standards despite cost implications.

- Mr. Proag and Mr. Al Shamsi agreed exceptions (father-son) should not override policy.
- Ms. Krahn (athlete rep): Clear rules avoid complications; supported strict policy.

Option for athletes/teams to self-upgrade to single rooms if desired.

Mr. Horvath-Portele introduced addition to the Appendix 1 of the JJIF Safe Policy:

- Officials/support personnel must have separate rooms from athletes.
- Athletes of different genders/nationalities must not share rooms.

Decision

- Policy reaffirmed. JJIF will strictly apply safeguarding guidelines.
- Proposal list of room allocations to be sent to World Games organizers.
- Upgrades available at own/team expense; if unavailable, JJIF may cover limited costs.

The Board voted unanimously (9 of 9 members present) in favour of approval of the amendment of the JJIF Safe Policy.

## 9. Future World Championships Format

Joachim Thumfart

Director General Thumfart introduced a brainstorming exercise conducted together with the President Theodoropoulos regarding the structuring and allocation of future World Championships. The starting point was feedback from stakeholders indicating that the current two-week format for major events was overly demanding, particularly for referees and staff, while also imposing significant logistical challenges on organizers and participants.

Mr. Thumfart noted the balance between cost factors: while a single large event reduces international travel costs, it increases accommodation and local expenses due to its extended duration. Conversely, multiple smaller events may increase travel frequency but reduce the strain of long stays. The aim was therefore to explore an optimized model combining practicality, cost-effectiveness, and athlete welfare.

Several host candidates for the upcoming year were presented:

- Italy expressed interest in organizing the World Championships for adults.
- United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi or Al Ain) signaled readiness to host the Youth World Championships in June or July.

*Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turkey declared interest in hosting youth championships, though their reliability remained under consideration given limited prior experience.</li> <li>Malta also expressed interest in organizing a major event jointly with JJIF.</li> </ul> <p>To address competitive balance and organizational feasibility, a proposal was tabled to divide events by discipline and age group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Italy could host a complete World Championship dedicated to the Duo System, Duo Show, and Self-Defence disciplines (281 entries in 2024).</li> <li>A second adult-focused block (approx. 1,477 entries in 2024) would group Fighting, Jiu-Jitsu, Ne-Waza (No-Gi), Para Jiu-Jitsu, and the Fighting System.</li> <li>Turkey could be assigned a smaller event combining Contact Jiu-Jitsu and a World Cup in No-Gi Jiu-Jitsu, given the cultural and technical alignment with their national strengths (approx. 494 entries).</li> <li>Youth events would be structured to separate U16 + U21 from U18 + Adults + Masters, thereby reducing overlapping entries and protecting athletes from excessive participation within the same event.</li> </ul> <p>This approach aimed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the overall length of individual competitions.</li> <li>Protect referees and athletes from overexertion.</li> <li>Allow greater flexibility for organizers, with shorter and more specialized event formats.</li> <li>Provide more countries with opportunities to host international competitions.</li> </ul>
Discussion	<p>Vice-President Perc welcomed the proposed calculations and confirmed the importance of adjusting the structure to reduce time and workload demands, particularly on referees, who are not professional and face significant burdens during extended championships. He supported splitting disciplines and categories, noting this could also ease budgetary demands on organizers.</p> <p>However, he expressed reservations about awarding Turkey the right to organize a World Championship, citing unresolved issues from their registration for the European Championship in Cyprus, where they failed to attend despite applying, leading to financial consequences. While he acknowledged Turkey's potential, he suggested that if they were assigned an event, it should be limited to a smaller scale competition (e.g., World Cup) rather than a full World Championship.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos emphasized the strategic need to give hosting opportunities to more countries while also reducing the duration and concentration of events. He stressed that future planning must anticipate rising participation numbers, as international recognition of JJIF is expected to increase athlete entries substantially. He argued that the JJIF should not simply follow a "large event at all costs" model but ensure that athletes and teams are cared for in the best possible way, balancing quality with inclusivity.</p> <p>Director General Thumfart highlighted the importance of maintaining unity across disciplines. While practical reasons justified splitting events, he favored the idea of periodically (e.g., every four to six years) hosting a "grand convention" bringing all disciplines together, ensuring continued cross-disciplinary visibility and cohesion.</p>
Decision	<p>Not final. Further details to be presented at September Board meeting.</p> <p>Structure and allocation of events to be finalized later in 2025.</p>

*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

## 10. JJEU General Assembly Announcement

Robert Perc

Vice-President Perc informed the Board that the General Assembly of JJEU will take place on October 1<sup>st</sup>, during the European Championship in Belgium. This Assembly will be an electoral session, with the election of the new President and Board members. Vice-President Perc announced that he will not be a candidate for re-election as JJEU President. Vice-President Perc extended a cordial invitation to the JJIF President and the Director General to attend the Assembly. He reported that the JJEU Board would meet in the following week to finalize technical details, agenda, and the publication of candidacies, ensuring compliance with statutory deadlines. A written invitation and full agenda will be circulated in early September, including reports on the previous four years and the election procedure.

Next Board meeting is planned for 7th of September, 2025, 5:00PM Aby-Dhabi time.  
No meeting planned in August due to World Games.

The JJIF President thanked all members for the constructive discussions.

Hybrid Meeting, 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

*Ju-Jitsu International Federation is a proud Member of:*

