



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]

28 th of September, 2025	05:00 PM – 06:45 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	<p>Present at the beginning of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos – JJIF President – online2. Fahad Al Shamsi –JJAU General Secretary – online <i>[representing JJIF Senior Vice-President, JJAU President Abdelmunem Al Hashmi]</i>3. Robert Perc – JJIF Vice President, JJEU President – online4. Gregory Vallarino – JJIF Vice-President, JJPAU President – online5. Nuvin Proag – JJIF Vice-President, JJAFU President – online6. Elcirley Luz Silva – Board Member - Inclusive Sport & Para Ju-Jitsu – online7. Christian Horvath-Portele – JJIF Board Member, JJ4GOOD Commission – online	
Attendees with NO voting right	<ul style="list-style-type: none">8. Joachim Thumfart – JJIF General Director9. Peter Schouten – JJIF Administration Director10. Kostiantyn Pavlenko – JJIF HQ Manager	
Guest	11. Jose Dominguez - Pan American Union	
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	
<p>JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos welcomed all attendees to the board meeting and noted that the session was scheduled earlier than usual due to the upcoming European Union elections and related developments that have impacted the regular business flow.</p> <p>He acknowledged the importance of the meeting, emphasizing that it is a time for open discussion and significant decision-making.</p>		
4. Revision and Adoption of the JJIF Financial Rules 2026		
	Joachim Thumfart, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Robert Perc	
Discussion	<p>General Director Thumfart presented the revised Financial Rules. He outlined key amendments: appointment of independent external auditors, adjustment of membership fees to USD 800 for full and USD 300 for provisional members, introduction of contract fees for major regional events, and removal of the previous 15% activity-related fee. He also noted that participation fees include anti-doping and ITO costs, and new penalties were introduced for doping cases and delayed payments. He clarified that the rules are intended to enter into force on 1 January 2026.</p>	

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Discussion	<p>President Theodoropoulos emphasized the need for stronger financial control, transparency of event budgets, and consistent application of anti-doping procedures. He underlined that event organizing federations must submit budgets at least six months in advance, and that only approved testing procedures should be used to avoid inflated costs. He confirmed differentiated treatment between full and provisional members and proposed a revenue-sharing mechanism with Continental Unions to support their operations.</p> <p>Vice-President Perc supported the revisions but suggested fixing the membership fee in euros to ensure accounting consistency and warned that anti-doping costs may exceed estimates. He informed that he would abstain from voting as his mandate is ending.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart clarified that invoices are issued in euros, with exchange rates fixed on the date of issuance, and that the Financial Rules remain subject to future review by the new Board. He noted that several provisional members have long-standing obligations and that their status might be reconsidered.</p>
Decision	<p>With 6 (six) of 7 (seven) members present voting in favour and 1 (one) abstaining, the Board approved the revised JJIF Financial Rules, effective 1 January 2026.</p>
5. Review of the World Games 2025 Financials	
	Joachim Thumfart
Discussion	<p>General Director Mr. Joachim Thumfart reported that all costs related to the World Games 2025 had been well covered by the amounts collected from participating countries. He noted that JJIF's financial position concerning the event was stable.</p> <p>He highlighted the exceptionally high workload associated with the preparation and follow-up of the World Games and proposed an additional compensation for Mr. Peter Schouten, who had undertaken multiple functions — including those of Sport Director and IT Coordinator — beyond his regular duties. Mr. Thumfart proposed that Mr. Schouten receive an additional three months' remuneration, totaling USD 3,300, as recognition for the substantial extra work performed before and after the event.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board unanimously (with all 7 (seven) of 7 (seven) members present) approved the proposal to pay Mr. Schouten an additional remuneration of USD 3,300, corresponding to three months of his current compensation rate, for the extended workload related to the World Games 2025.</p>
6. Anti-Doping Financials	
	Joachim Thumfart, Nuvin Proag, Robert Perc
Discussion	<p>General Director Joachim Thumfart introduced the topic, noting the need to finalize JJIF's accounting related to anti-doping expenditures and invited Vice-President Proag to present details.</p> <p>Mr. Proag explained that his legal work for JJIF between 2017 and 2025 primarily concerned anti-doping cases, contract drafting, disputes, and disciplinary matters. He reported that 17 legal matters were handled under four main categories, with anti-doping cases representing over 90% of total work. He stated that since 2019, 32 anti-doping cases had been managed, and that his services were billed at a discounted rate of USD 150/hour (less than half the usual legal rate). The total amount for the legal services over the six-year period amounted to USD 69,012. Mr. Proag noted that part of the delay in invoicing resulted from prioritizing ongoing case management and confirmed that future fee structures would be updated from 2025 onward.</p>

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Discussion	<p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized that the work performed was essential and cost-efficient compared to external legal market rates and explained that several federations had already reimbursed JJIF for part of these expenses. He highlighted the accounting challenge of how to allocate legal fees spanning multiple years and proposed, for the sake of financial consistency, to record at least part of the amount under 2024 accounts.</p> <p>Mr. Pavlenko advised that, according to IFRS standards, expenses should ideally be recognized in the period in which the services were rendered. However, since reopening previous financial years was impractical, he suggested consulting the auditors on how best to treat the accrued costs.</p> <p>Vice-President Perc agreed with the proposed approach, noting that the invoice was formally issued in 2025 and that the Federation should ensure transparent explanation of this exceptional expense in its financial report.</p> <p>After further clarification, the Board agreed that Vice-President Proag, Director General Thumfart, and the auditors would coordinate to determine the most compliant method of booking the costs.</p>
Decision	<p>With 6 (six) of 7 (seven) members present voting in favour and 1 (one) abstaining due to conflict of interest, the Board approved the payment of legal fees totalling USD 69,012 for anti-doping-related services rendered between 2019 and 2025, and authorized the administration to allocate the expenses in coordination with the auditors and according to applicable accounting standards.</p>
7. Para Jiu-Jitsu Classification Procedure	
	Joachim Thumfart, Christian Horvath-Portele, Peter Schouten
Discussion	<p>Director General Thumfart introduced the item, noting that the updated Para Jiu-Jitsu Classification Procedure, prepared by Mr. Christian Horvath-Portele, had been circulated to all Board Members for review.</p> <p>Mr. Christian Horvath-Portele explained that the document formalizes the requirements national federations must meet to classify their para-athletes, ensuring uniformity and transparency. He stated that the procedure should be incorporated into the Sporting Code and that it clearly defines the documentation national federations are responsible for providing to validate an athlete's classification.</p> <p>Mr. Thumfart proposed that, unlike the general revisions to the Sporting Code effective from 1 January 2026, this classification procedure should take immediate effect to prevent any disputes over athlete eligibility in ongoing or upcoming events.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele agreed, stressing that national federations bear full responsibility for the accuracy and validity of all medical documentation submitted. He confirmed that JJIF has qualified experts and a Medical Commission capable of verifying the documents and classifications in accordance with international para-sport standards.</p> <p>Mr. Peter Schouten asked whether an appeal mechanism exists for athletes whose classification is rejected. Mr. Horvath-Portele confirmed that appeals may be submitted to the JJIF Medical Commission and the JJIF Board, which will jointly review such cases. It was agreed to include this provision explicitly in the written procedure.</p> <p>The Board further discussed the importance of clarity in the appeal process and of preventing unauthorized or unofficial entities (e.g., regional representatives) from contesting JJIF decisions. It was confirmed that only National Federations may submit athletes for classification and handle any related appeals.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele added that the classification certificate must be issued by a recognized medical specialist, valid for a period of 12 months, and aligned with the detailed classification criteria defined by the World Para Jiu-Jitsu Federation.</p>
Discussion	<p>With all 7 (seven) of 7 (seven) members present voting in favour, the Board approved the Para Jiu-Jitsu Classification Procedure for immediate enforcement, and confirmed that it will be incorporated into the revised edition of JJIF Sporting Code effective from 1 January 2026.</p>

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8. University Ju-Jitsu

Joachim Thumfart

Discussion

Director General Thumfart presented the newly developed University Jiu-Jitsu Handbook, noting that the document had been shared with all Board Members. He explained that the handbook provides practical guidance for organizing university-level jiu-jitsu events and includes minor adjustments to the Sporting Code – such as updates to Gi color regulations, mat setup, and simplified operational standards – to facilitate event management. He further clarified that university competitions operate in a transitional framework, allowing participation of students who are not members of national federations, as part of JJIF's broader strategy to promote development and inclusivity at the university level.

9. Congress 2025

Joachim Thumfart, Christian Horvath-Portele, Robert Perc, Gregory Vallarino

Discussion

Slovak Association of Sports Jiu-Jitsu – application for Full Membership
General Director Thumfart introduced the agenda item by noting that Slovakia had applied for full JJIF membership. He explained that although it is a small federation with 18 registered athletes in the JJIF competition system, it has demonstrated consistent commitment and active participation. Slovakia took part in the 2022 Congress, the 2024 World Championship, and the 2024 European Championship, and submitted all required legal documentation confirming its national federation status. Mr. Thumfart highlighted that this reflects the federation's motivation and compliance with JJIF membership criteria. Mr. Horvath-Portele supported the proposal, noting that the Slovak Federation had also participated in the 2023 Junior World Championship in Kazakhstan, and is highly engaged in safeguarding activities, with two officers regularly liaising with JJIF's safeguarding department. He commended the federation's proactive approach and agreed with its nomination for full membership. Mr. Thumfart concluded that the application of Slovakia for full membership will be included on the agenda of the JJIF Congress 2026 for formal approval.

Proposed Amendments to JJIF Statutes

Director General Thumfart introduced the proposed amendments to the JJIF Statutes, noting that the document had been circulated to all Board Members. He explained that the primary revisions concerned alignment with the revised Financial Rules, updates to JJIF's objectives, and structural clarifications.

He outlined the key proposed changes as follows:

1. **Auditors' Appointment:** The Congress will ratify, rather than appoint, the auditors, in line with the new Financial Rules.
2. **JJIF Objectives:** Addition of a new goal to "grant access to jiu-jitsu for all and provide a platform for inclusive sports," reflecting JJIF's growing commitment to Para Jiu-Jitsu.
3. **Referee and Grading Licenses:** Removal of provisions allowing continental referee certification and grading, with these functions to be centralized under the JJIF Technical and Grading Commissions.

Vice-President Vallarino (via Mr. Dominguez) raised concerns that removing the clause allowing continental black belt certification (up to 5th Dan) might limit regional development.

Mr. Thumfart responded that maintaining centralized grading and licensing is essential to avoid parallel systems and ensure quality control. He emphasized that continental unions will remain involved through representation in the Technical and Grading Commissions but should not operate independent structures.

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	<p>Vice-President Proag further expressed support for the changes, noting that standardization of grading and certification would strengthen JJIF's governance and that the inclusion of confederation structures was a positive development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Regional and Confederation Structures: Introduction of a new definition of "Alliance" to formalize cooperation among groups such as the Francophone countries, Commonwealth nations, and Mediterranean region countries, community of Spanish-speaking nations etc. 5. Provisional Members' Rights: Clarification that provisional members may participate in all JJIF events except the World Championships, unless invited by the JJIF Board. <p>Mr. Proag suggested a minor editorial amendment in the provisional membership clause ("Championships, except upon invitation..."), which was accepted.</p>
Decision	<p>With all (7 (seven) out of 7 (seven)) members present voting in favour, the Board approved the proposed amendments to the JJIF Statutes and resolved to submit them to the Congress for final ratification.</p>
Discussion	<p>JJIF Code of Ethics and Ethics Statutes</p> <p>Director General Thumfart presented the revised JJIF Code of Ethics and Ethics Statutes, updated under the leadership of Mr. Christian Horvath-Portele and in consultation with the JJIF Ethics Commission. He explained that the revisions aimed to modernize the document, remove outdated references, and ensure full alignment with IOC principles of good governance, safeguarding, and democracy.</p> <p>He noted that certain passages derived from traditional Budo or Bushido codes—which discouraged criticism of leadership—were incompatible with modern ethical and governance standards. Therefore, JJIF requested that the Ethics Commission prepare a commented version to preserve the historical context while clarifying that these elements are not applicable to modern sport ethics.</p> <p>Mr. Horvath-Portele added that the new version consolidates the Disciplinary and Ethics Codes into a single, unified document for clarity and accessibility, with a consistent format and structure across JJIF regulations.</p> <p>No objections or further remarks were raised.</p>
Decision	<p>With all (7 (seven) out of 7 (seven)) members present voting in favour, the Board approved the revised JJIF Code of Ethics and Ethics Statutes, and resolved to submit them to the Congress for ratification.</p>
Discussion	<p>JJIF Sporting Code – Review and Next Steps</p> <p>Director General Thumfart provided an update on the ongoing revision of the JJIF Sporting Code, noting that the document is still under review with the Technical Commission and will be finalized before the Congress.</p> <p>He highlighted several key updates under consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporation of Para Jiu-Jitsu as an official discipline. • Adjustments to event format and ranking systems to accommodate growing participation. • Clarifications on Regional Championships, including new definitions for regional and multi-continental events. • Inclusion of the Competition Equipment Guide and updates to mat size and warning area specifications for consistency. <p>Mr. Thumfart emphasized that while the document is not yet final, the Board's input is requested prior to its presentation to Congress.</p> <p>The Board took note of the current draft of the JJIF Sporting Code and endorsed its continued development, with the goal of final adoption and entry into force on 1 January 2026.</p>

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Discussion	<p>Vice-President Perc congratulated the Director General on concluding the Adidas agreement and suggested communicating clearly through WhatsApp and other channels the obligations and timelines related to protective equipment. Director General Thumfart confirmed that a newsletter had already been circulated before the summer and noted that the approved product list is still under preparation, as final confirmation from Adidas is pending. He agreed on the need for more direct communication with members and athletes.</p> <p>President Theodoropoulos emphasized that JJIF's supplier agreements do not grant exclusivity and that continental unions may use other JJIF-approved materials. He added that detailed guidelines on sponsorship, approved materials, and marketing rights will be issued to ensure clarity and consistency across JJIF and continental events.</p>
10. Congress 2025 – Agenda Approval	
	Joachim Thumfart,
Discussion	<p>Director General Thumfart presented the proposed agenda for the JJIF Congress 2025, consisting of 19 items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome by the President 2. Appointing the Scrutineers to check credentials (3) 3. Roll Call and Right to vote (Scrutineers and Director General) 4. Agenda approval 5. Information about activities 2024/2025 6. Financial Report and Audit 7. Discharge of the JJIF board 8. Adoption of changes: JJIF statutes 9. Adoption of the JJIF Ethic Rules, Status of Ethics commission 10. Ratification JJIF Board members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-President representing JJEU Athletes representatives Appointed Board Members 11. Strategy, perspectives and action plan 2025-2028 12. Technical issues, proposals and information 13. Membership matters and Anti-Doping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Membership Slovakia 14. Calendar of Activities 2024-2026 15. Host of World Championships 16. Reports from the Continental Unions and development plans 17. Congress 2026 – proposal for dates and venues (to be finally resolved by the Board) 18. Any other matter or motions not previously included to the agenda. 19. Closing the Congress. <p>He noted that no additional items had been submitted by Members and invited the Board to propose any further points if needed. As no new topics were raised, the Director General confirmed that the presented version would be finalized and circulated.</p>
Decision	<p>The Board unanimously (7 (seven) out of 7 (seven)) approved proposed agenda of the JJIF Congress 2025 for distribution to the Members.</p>

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12. Update on the Election of the Athletes Commission and Next Meetings

Joachim Thumfart

Director General Thumfart reported that the Athletes Commission election process is ongoing, with 10–15 applications received so far. Initial calls resulted in five submissions, and the next step involves confirming each candidate's nomination with their respective national federation. He noted that, while progress has been somewhat uneven, the process is advancing well with significant assistance from Nyamdavaa Lkhagvanyam in preparing communications and promotional materials.

Director General Thumfart then proposed closing the meeting, outlined the upcoming schedule: an in-person or hybrid Board meeting on 3 November, followed by another session on 5 November, after the Congress, with the newly ratified and appointed Board. He noted that timing will likely follow Bangkok hours, which may pose challenges for Pan American participation, but expressed hope that Vice-President Vallarino could join in person.

13. Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements

Robert Perc, Nuvin Proag, Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Gregory Vallarino

Vice-President Perc expressed his appreciation to the Board, noting that this was his final JJIF Board meeting, and warmly invited everyone to join him for a farewell drink. President Theodoropoulos thanked him sincerely for his many years of service, leadership, and commitment to Ju-Jitsu both in Europe and internationally, and encouraged him to remain close to JJIF and continue contributing with his experience and ideas.

Vice-President Perc thanked the President and colleagues, confirming that he will remain involved in Ju-Jitsu.

Vice-President Proag joined in thanking Mr. Perc for his dedication and positive collaboration over the years, emphasizing that his presence and expertise will be missed at Board level.

Vice-President Vallarino, speaking through Mr. Dominguez, expressed gratitude to President Theodoropoulos for his support of the Pan-American Championship and confirmed that further discussions on Pan-American matters could continue at the next meeting. President Theodoropoulos responded positively, acknowledging the active work being done in Panama and across Central America and the Caribbean. He requested that Mr. Vallarino prepare an update for the next Board meeting regarding the progress of new national federations in the region and the possible granting of provisional membership status.

Next Board meeting is planned for 3rd of November, 2025.

The JJIF President thanked all members for the fruitful meeting and confirmed that the next Board meeting will take place on 3rd of November. The meeting was officially adjourned.

Hybrid Meeting, 28th of September 2025

Minutes by Kostiantyn Pavlenko

Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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