

OLYMPIC NORDIC CENTER PLANICA, SLOVENIA  
EXPERT TECHNICAL MEETING

15 March 2017

## Report from the President - information for members

Pursuing the annual calendar of activities, the project of implementation of **Basic Principles of Good Governance** (the IOC and the SIGGS guidelines) and activities plan of 40 years' anniversary of creating JJEU, an **Expert Technical Meeting** (hereinafter **ETM**) in Olympic Nordic Center Planica, Slovenia, was held from Friday, 10 March, to Sunday, 12 March 2017.



Local organiser of the event was Ju-Jitsu Federation of Slovenia. Olympic Nordic Centre was chosen as they can provide adequate logistical support to our needs. Every participant received welcome package of printed basic materials (also published on website, panel moderators received additional USB keys with materials, some pictures, videos and data was provided from participants), accreditation, ETM T-shirt and tourist information provided by the Tourist Office of Kranjska Gora. Participants also received Certificate of Attendance.



**34 participants from 14 countries** (37 from 16 countries were registered for the event but some could not attend), national members of JJEU/JJIF, participated at the event. Basic principle behind the project was to invite athletes, coaches, referees and other stakeholders in ju-jitsu to meet and discuss the challenges, opportunities and possible development scenarios in our sport and martial arts.

Four major topics (panels) were addressed: **Ne-Waza, Duo System, Fighting System and Organisation**. Panels were moderated by mix teams already set in advance. Basic guidelines were prepared for discussion but the floor was open for additional ideas, proposals, presentations etc. All panels prepare and present reports at the plenary session the last day with general discussion. The end-result is a good base to support future activities, decision making process of the Board and will allow to test certain proposals to receive event more feedback from athletes, coaches, referees, officials before final implementation. Some solutions could find a way to life quickly as the modify



practice and not the rules and regulations, some can be taken into consideration and some can be in our minds for long-term development.



On Saturday, as a part of Organisation Panel, **Mr Edvard Kolar, Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of Slovenia** and **Mr Miro Cerar, two-time Olympic Gold and one Bronze, the President of the Slovenian Olympic Academy** participated and contributed to the agenda. Mr Kolar presented principles of good governance from many aspects and Mr Cerar presented importance of Fair Play in sport and life.



For decades of cooperation and support to the Fair Play, sports achievements and inspiration he has been to JJEU for implementing Fair Play in Ju-Jitsu the JJEU has awarded Mr **Miro Cerar** with **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

Summary of final discussions – common suggestions and topics identified by all panels (in general):



a) **Education:** need for systematic and constant education on many levels (for all stakeholders) has been recognised as common issue in all panels. Education programme should involve all stakeholder and should be a part of conditions to achieve licence (per example for referees, coached etc.). There is a huge knowledge pool in Ju-Jitsu family which should be practice more and new tools should be created to support education.

b) **Referee Licence:** the system of licences should allow faster progress under certain conditions (per example former athletes etc. which present adequate expertise and has good evaluation scores could advance faster) and specialization (with education) is required to obtain maximum knowledge and performance on the mat.





- c) **Children and Youth Programmes:** common basic programme for children in Ju-Jitsu should be prepared. This will allow continues improvement of skills and can be a good base for future development of children. Additional to technical aspect that kind of the programme could be a part of competition system on a national level as part of motivation for development (example of Slovenia was presented).
- d) **Consistency in decision making process:** it has been identified that changes should be presented based on evaluation of possible consequences, testing, discussions, analyses, evaluations... and introducing before implementing to stakeholders. That is a part of good governance, related especially to understanding of integrity, transparency and participation before decision is made. Ad hoc changes without proper evaluation, to many changes, not respecting previous decisions etc. is decreasing the trust in the organisation.

- e) **Duo System and graded approach:** this unique

competition system should maintain technical excellence. It is a rare example of sport when male/female compete as a team. The name itself should be preserved and cannot be mixed with Duo Show per example as it could harm decades of development and its actual presence, originated from Ju-Jitsu Ebo-No kata – and creates confusion. Name “Duo” should be preserved for only one (Duo System “Classic”) In the future changes will be proposed to adopt different levels of Duo System (graded approach) which will allow step by step progress.

- f) **Media and Marketing:** related with the budget organisation is having and visibility in the media/public. Part of the step in right direction are JJIF activities for integrated competition/TV/stream platform and some additional ideas were presented for future evaluation and realisation. Part of the public visibility is also the level of organisation of the



events (respecting the rules, antidoping, prevention against match fixing, behaviour, order and organisation of sport hall, security and safety issues...).

- g) **Future development – next steps:** A very broad consensus is that ju-jitsu is not doing enough in the field of promotion and education of broader public. The problem of all disciplines is that people/viewers/audience doesn't understand it. The main audience of martial arts are martial arts practitioners and people interested in the martial arts. The vicious circle of media – audience – financial means has to be broken. Examples of good practices of other sports should be used.

Lack of funds for promotional purposes can be mitigated in several ways. Of course, finding sponsors is the easiest way, but in practice part of the circle, which means that we need to approach things in different way.

Use means that are for free. Facebook live broadcasting is for free. All you need is one camera per referee table. There are certainly other means and ways that can be used.

One possible way is crowdfunding. But crowdfunding will function only if we raise awareness of people involved in our sport. Why would they finance recording, editing and production of promotional videos of ju-jitsu. Every federation and club should be interested in the promotion of the martial arts. Global recognition of the martial arts is helping everybody and everybody should be interested in presenting best examples of our art, simple presentations of the rules of the art, 10 best points at European level competitions, short statements by best fighters. All the materials should be made available to everybody, which means that clubs can share the outputs by embedding them on their webpages, share them by social media etc.

Funding gathered this way will not be enough to engage professional companies that do this kind of materials. This is reason why we need to search for people with knowledge who are willing to help us. The suggestion would be to make international tender by the JJEU on the webpage and all other media, shared by all national federation looking to IT, design, marketing students to prepare the best proposal for promotion of the martial art. The JJEU would gather limited funds that could be used for this purpose, but the main goal should be to give young talents possibility for international recognition.

To make it marketable, the selected group should be allowed to make additional payable materials as additional long term stimulation. There are cases of examples that started this was like Darftfish Judo TV.

By involving young talents from different countries and by giving focus on security-awareness, anti-violence and other aspects supported by the EU programmes there are possibilities to raise additional funds.

JJEU Board has already reach the decision to test some proposals on coming 2017 events, to gain more practical data and feedback to support future activities (possible modifications, proposals to JJIF to change some rules etc.):

- a) **Paris Open:** additional test and presentation of CARE system of video capturing the mat to assist referees (possible application as education tool for referees), at this time planned only for ne-waza.

- b) **Masters Poland:** test and evaluation of different composition of referees on the mat (side referees on fix positions, different options, influence on the result, communication among referees etc.
- c) **European Championship:** additional evaluation team will score only mat referee decisions (will not interfere the mat and regular championship) – analyse after will show are there and how big there are tolerances between official scoring with three referees and evaluation scoring taking into account only mat referee (some tests like that were already performed but JJEU Board would like to have a championship test also).

Participants completed “Evaluation Questionnaire” where among many other items which shall be evaluated by the JJEU Board for future actions one was emphasised: the need for this kind of event as inclusion mechanism of all in shaping the future of Ju-Jitsu. Participants received pleasant hospitality, worked in a creative and open-minded atmosphere and enjoyed beautiful nature under Slovenian Alps.

JJEU would like to thank Olympic Committee of Slovenia and Slovenian Olympic Academy for the support of the event, Olympic Nordic Centre Planica for warm hospitality and especially Mr Vitja Gricar and Mr Martin Jazbec from Ju-Jitsu Federation of Slovenia for logistical support and 24/7 assistance to the event.

Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to all participants for valuable and open discussions, sharing experiences and best practices. You are the reason and assurance that together we have the future. A recognition goes also to panel moderators and my colleagues from the Board for assisting and conducting workshops.

In the attachment, you may find panels results and some other information from the event.

With best regards,

Robert Perc  
JJEU President