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To: JJIF board, JJIF Newaza – JiuJitsu commission
Contents: adding Belt divisions in JJIF competitions

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Dear friends,

Last 3 years I am more and more wondering why we have not the amount of participants in our events even if there are really a lot of BJJ – JiuJitsu fighters around the world.

I find out, after having some interviews with JJIF and JJEU Newaza fighters that they having problems with the “Open Classes” we as JJIF are using for Newaza – JiuJitsu. As we all know, BJJ/JiuJitsu uses divisions like the Novice class (White belts), the Intermediate (Blue and Purple) and the advanced (Brown and Black belts). This setup assures for a save competition environment for the athletes.

Facing the fact we are not having the big amount of participants in our National, Regional, Continental and World competitions we might need to change our setup. Therefore I propose the next change, starting at the 1st of January 2019.

For regional events, like National Championships, National Open events and Club events we allow the next kind of Newaza – JiuJitsu events:

- Events with categories for Novice classes for u15/u18/u21 and seniors
- Events with categories for Intermediate for u18/u21/seniors and masters
- Events with categories for advanced for u21/seniors and masters.

For continental events like Grand Prix and continental CUP events, Grand Prix/Slam, World and Continental Championship U18/U21 events I propose the next categories in these events:

- Events with categories for Intermediate for u18/u21/seniors and masters
- Events with categories for advanced for u21/seniors and masters.

For Olympic continental events, like Continental Olympic Games, for World Games and World Championship Seniors

- Events with categories for advanced for u21/seniors and masters.

So with this setup we create a save area for starters (white belts) and fighters who already are doing Newaza – JiuJitsu for as older athlete but never in competition did any experience a good start to grow to the next level. Of course we need to discuss with the Newaza development group the promotion level of fighters from category 1 to 2 and so on, we might even need to copy the BJJ – JiuJitsu belt graduation system, so we are assure that experienced Traditional JuJitsu fighters start at the minimum of blue belt. But mean idea is to create 3 competitions, in the JJIF

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area, where only the best of the world can compete at the World Games and World Championships. A setup like this can also help in development of developing referees in Newaza – JiuJitsu. For me its clear, a referee in a Novice competition must have purple as a minimum, a referee in Intermediate must have brown as minimum and a referee in Advanced must be a blackbelt. The theoretical referee we have running now must show their practical Newaza – JiuJitsu skills, or prove they are at the belt level as described.

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