



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

Member of: SPORTACCORD-GAISF/AGFIS, IWGA, FISPT

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To: All National Federations

MINUTES **of the JJIF General Assembly** **November 26th, 2010 – Saint Petersburg, Russia**

The General Assembly was opened by Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, President of JJIF. After welcoming the delegates to the General Assembly, Mr. Theodoropoulos asked for a minute of silence for Rossitsa Stateva, former JJIF General Secretary, who passed away this summer.

Next, Mr. Georgy Kukoverov, representing the host country, welcomed the delegates to the World Championship in Saint Petersburg and expressed his wish that the championship will be a great success.

Mr. Robert Perc, acting JJIF General Secretary, passed around the attendance sheet and performed the roll call. 27 full members of JJIF attended the meeting, together with 5 provisional members, which acted as observers.

Mr. Perc was nominated as the **chairman** of the General Assembly.

Mr. Georgy Kukoverov and Mr. Frank Furst were nominated for **verifying the** General Assembly **Minutes**, and Mr. Matthias Van Leuvenhaege, Mr. Stefan Badenski and Mr. M.H. Rostamian were elected as **scrutinizers**.

The **Agenda** proposed by the JJIF Board for the General Assembly was **accepted** by the delegates and the **minutes of the 2009 General Assembly** were also **accepted** by the General Assembly.

Before continuing with the presentation of the reports, the JJIF Board expressed their thanks to Mr. Heinz Lamade, Vice-President of JJIF, for his activity that ended with this General Assembly.

The works of the 2010 General Assembly started with the presentation of the **JJIF Activity Report**, presented by Mr. Theodoropoulos.



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

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Mr. Theodoropoulos spoke about the recent 2010 Combat Games held in Beijing, China. For ju-jitsu, this was a special event, very well organized, with a spectacular participation (athletes from 31 countries from Europe, Asia, Africa and America – medals were won by Algeria and Argentina). The referees' work was wonderful, the athletes presented high-value techniques and the sport was well appreciated. Since we presented well, we are looking forward to recognition from the IOC.

The President referred next to the future, stressing the need to promote and develop our sport. In this sense, he mentioned the need for financial support and better media coverage. The new method of changing ideas on the technical part, through the open dialogue via the Internet/e-mails, seemed to work for this year's Technical Congress and we will use it again in the future.

Mr. Theodoropoulos mentioned the activities in progress, indicating the self-defense activity lead by Mr. Tomo Borisov, JJIF Vice-President. Next year (2011), we prepare for the police and firemen's championship in self-defense.

The JJIF future events include the World Games to be organized in Cali, Colombia, in 2013 and the next edition of the SportAccord Combat Games, which will probably be held in Russia, in 2014. In light of these new events, the Board is close to finalizing the Sports and Organizing Code, which will set clear guidelines for the organizing of international events, and will provide the organizers with a checklist, in order to facilitate their work.

Also, another point of interest is represented by the children. JJIF doesn't have championships involving children, but it will provide guidelines for the national federations in this sense. Since the Board received a proposal for U15 Competition Rules, from Constantin Cory Vacarenco, he was asked to continue this work, gather information from the countries and present a final version of the U15 rules by the summer of 2011.

The JJIF started organizing a Mediterranean Ju-Jitsu Co-federation, aiming to apply, to be members and to participate in the Mediterranean Games.

Also, we will incorporate and develop ju-jitsu ne-waza, project which starts this year. In view of our participation to World Games and Combat Games, we believe there is space for a new discipline. We will not reduce our categories. If possible, we would like to add athletes.

With respect to the social activity of JJIF, the President spoke of the peace and sports programs and of the 4-year project started in Colombia, in collaboration with the Ju-Jitsu Colombian Federation. The JJIF budget for this project is of 10.000 EUR, other financing coming from the JJEU, in an attempt to become more involved in social activities.

In Africa, ju-jitsu is developing fast, in spite of the financial and other types of difficulties. We started in Ethiopia, one year ago. So far, in Africa there have been organized trainings, lessons, seminars, even a referee course. The referee course was taught by World Referees Dimitrios Georgantidis, Constantin Cory Vacarenco, and Dana Murgescu, and it was finalized with 6 new Continental B referees, who participated in the first Ju-Jitsu African Championship, held in Tunisia in March 2010. We are looking forward to continue development, with the help of Dimitrios Georgantidis (Head Referee of Africa) and Giancarlo Bagnulo (Technical Director), but we must understand that their work will take time.

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For America, Theo Roncken will give a full report. People there are experienced, know what to do, but still need help. That is why the JJIF Board has a new proposal regarding the organizing of World Championships for seniors, in the sense of holding such an event every year, in the even years to be held in Europe and in the odd years to be held on other continents. The first proposal is for the hosting of the 2011 World Championship in Cali, Colombia, in preparation for the 2013 World Games to be held in the same location.

Also, Mr. Theodoropoulos mentioned that we are close to finalizing our system of education and evaluation of referees, especially from continents other than Europe. The universal scoreboard system is also close to completion. Our aim is to have a database of athletes, coaches, referees etc., as soon as possible; we are also working for a system of online registration for events, in order for our sport to be better organized. The universal scoreboard system will be available to all national federations, free of charge.

Finally, the President indicated that there are a number of proposals for better and more professional organizing of our federation, and he invited the authors of the proposals to present their ideas to the General Assembly.

The next point on the Agenda was the presentation of the new **ju-jitsu ne-waza** system, presentation made by Mr. Eugene Domagata. Mr. Domagata pointed out that ne-waza is part our sport and we must recover this part before other federations move in. Further, he explained the technical details of the competition, indicating that a thorough presentation will be made at a future JJIF training camp, where everyone is invited.

The report of the **JJIF Referee Committee** was presented by the Referee Director, Henrik Sandberg. Mr. Sandberg presented the referee education activities of last year, which comprised referee courses to be held in Slovenia (8 persons passed examinations for World Referee license), Germany (4 persons), Austria (1 person).

In Africa, two referee courses were organized in Tunisia, in January and March of 2010, where seven continental referees were awarded their license. We expect that they will be able to educate other referees in Africa and, therefore, raise the technical level.

In America referee courses were held in Mexico in 2009 and 2010, with 6 new Continental B referees, and 3 Continental A referees. Mr. Sandberg thanked Michael Piaser and Theo Roncken for a job well done in this department.

Mr. Sandberg indicated that at present, the JJIF comprises 29 World A referees, 40 World B referees, 32 Continental A referees and 61 Continental B referees, from five continents. He also mentioned that money and time make it very difficult for the referees to attend all meetings and courses necessary and that maybe having a referee course, a JJIF Congress, meetings and World Championship at the same time may be too much for referees to be able to attend. He indicated that at least 10 selected referees were still not present in Saint Petersburg one day prior to the competition.



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

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Next **report** came from Joachim Thumfart, the **JJIF Sports Director**. He spoke of the events organized in 2010. The first such event was the Summer Camp and referee course in Bad Blankenburg, ended with a competition, where a small number of athletes were present, but, however, of good technical quality. Mr. Thumfart expressed his opinion that maybe the beginning of July is too early for the Summer Camp and he suggested this date be moved up to the end of July-beginning of August.

Then, a Youth Olympic Day was held in Berlin, within a European event. Mr. Thumfart presented ju-jitsu to three IOC members.

The main work of 2010 was the Combat Games held in Beijing, China. This event was very well organized, but communication was quite difficult. However, the tournament was very successful. Prior to the Combat Games a new form of publicity for our sport and our international events was the posting of messages and event invitation on Facebook and other social networks, promoting ju-jitsu.

Finally, the Sports Director pointed out the complex structure of ju-jitsu, consisting of the martial art side, the competition sport side and the self-defense department, emphasizing the need of bringing together the top-level World referees with the technical people, such as to better communicate and work together in the future, for the development of our sport.

Bert van Haren presented the **Report of the Coaches' Committee**. Mr. van Haren spoke of the wide range of JJIF activities, suggesting to the JJIF Board the creation of a new managerial position, of a technical advisor, who could help systematize the proposals of the technical persons, avoid doubling proposals.

Next, Mr. van Haren made a proposal that all continents should establish a Coach and Education Committee which, if successful, could be then established at the national level. Having the same structure from the national to the JJIF level should shorten the communication lines and improve our activity.

Also, he suggested that out of the many summer camps organized by the countries, the JJIF should appoint an official Summer Camp, where referees, coaches and athletes could come together and work in specific workshops (clinics).

Finally, with respect to the ne-waza system, Mr. van Haren pointed out the already unbalanced number of medals (categories) between the Duo and the Fighting system, unbalance which will increase by adding ne-waza, also a fighting system. Therefore, he suggested considering the possibility to also organize an extra duo competition, held on the same day as the ne-waza system.

Mr. Tomo Borisov presented the **Vice-President's report**. In charge of the self-defense department, Mr. Borisov presented the activities of this department. Starting 2009, a meeting was held with the police academies in Spain (organized in Madrid), for the purpose of initiating a cooperation between the JJIF and the police organizations. Again in Madrid in May 2010 a seminar was held, with 70 participants from 8 different countries.

In June 2010, the European Police and Firemen Games were held, a duo and fighting competition, establishing ju-jitsu as discipline of this event. A meeting was held with the Vice-President of the World Police and Firemen Games, attempting to include ju-jitsu in the World Games to be organized in 2013 in Ireland.

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A new seminar was hosted by Greece (July 31-August 1, 2010), with more than 70 participants. In October, in Sofia, an agreement was signed between the Bulgarian Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic for the cooperation of police, army and security personnel, through the self-defense department. Meetings were held in November 2010 with the Labor Ministry in Bulgaria, setting the ground for applying for European funding for this line of sport.

For year 2011, two security and self-defense seminars are already in preparation, one during the Winter Camp of the Ju-Jitsu Balkan Federation (Bansko, Bulgaria, January 26-30, 2011) and one in June, held in Sofia, with the occasion of a ju-jitsu tournament, in due and fighting, as preparation for the European Police and Firemen Games which will take place in 2012 in Tenerife, Spain.

Mr. Dario Quenza spoke about the **JJIF Summer Camp 2011**. The Summer Camp will be held approximately 100 km away from Venice, Italy, in the period July 31 – August 6, 2011). The organizers have all necessary facilities, including 400 sqm of tatami, pool, restaurants and beach. Mr. Quenza asked the national federations to indicate by April 10, 2011, the approximate number of participants. The costs will be similar to those of last year's camp in Germany, and payment will be made in installments.

Theo Roncken, appointed as Technical Delegate from the JJIF for the **World Games 2013** (Cali, Colombia) spoke about this event. Mr. Roncken indicated that as Technical Delegate, he attended the first meeting for the event. 31 sports were represented at the meeting, held at the end of August 2009. The venues were selected for all sports. We will share a venue with wushu and karate. Mr. Orlandi also visited the venue and Mr. Roncken thanked him for his support.

The World Games organizing committee had several questions for the JJIF and they also had a proposal for JJIF to host a preliminary event in Cali, if possible, in the second half of year 2011. The Board was asked to make a decision in this sense and communicate it as soon as possible. Other questions referred to communication: the need for the final confirmation of the venue for ju-jitsu; the appointment of a person responsible for the ju-jitsu promotion for the event; better explanation of what the World Games are, to the Colombian authorities, which do not pay enough attention to this event.

Next, the floor was open for **comments on the reports** presented.

The first comment came from the German federation and referred to the report of the Coaches' Committee. The German representative indicated that the JJIF had appointed an official Summer Camp and that for the last two years it had been held in Germany.

The second part of the comment was an attempt to identify which persons are working on the Coaches' Committee and a strong proposal to appoint such members of the committee, to actually perform some work.

Finally, the question was raised as to why we would need a technical advisor when we have a Technical Director?



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

Member of: SPORTACCORD-GAISF/AGFIS, IWGA, FISPT

The second comment came from Austria, also indicating there is no need for a technical advisor and that it would be difficult to differentiate this person's job from that of the technical director.

Finally, the issue was put aside, at Mr. Perc's suggestion that, since it was a proposal for the Board, the Board will analyze it and decide upon it.

The floor was given to Mr. Domagata, for the presentation of a new proposal. Mr. Domagata indicated that it is time for the JJIF to perform a more professional job. In order for this to happen, everything must be clear, each of us must have a clear job. For instance, the coaches should train the athletes, not get involved in political issues. He further expressed the viewpoint that the decisional system in place now is good for now, it works for us. There's no need to change it.

Another point made was that most often, the discussions within the JJIF are made by the technical people, not by the managers. And we must change this process. We must attempt to go towards a professional way of management within the JJIF. For example, in the last three months, all proposals came to the Technical Director, not the manager, and this is not good.

On the positive side, Mr. Domagata appreciated as very good the idea to meet the managers of the Mediterranean Games (organization of 20 nations) and request our integration. It is important for us to participate in many events. Although 27 nations are present in the General Assembly, it is not good enough. It is important for us to grow. He concluded with the observation that the JJIF Board and the Technical Director did a good job in the previous year.

The final comment came from Mr. Frank Furst, who said that it is necessary for us to adopt ne-waza as soon as possible, given the fact that the International Wrestling Federation has adopted a kind of MMA competition system. It is important for us to act fast.

The acting General Secretary, Mr. Robert Perc, proposed to the **General Assembly to accept the reports presented**. The proposal was **accepted**, with 14 votes in favour.

The **future proposals** (regarding the peace and sport for Monaco; the 2013 World Games in Colombia; the 2014 Combat Games in Russia; the elaboration of the U15 competition rules; the European Martial Arts games Union; the Mediterranean Games; the training in workshops/clinics; and the universal scoreboard system) were subjected to the approval of the Assembly and were **accepted** with 14 votes in favour.

Next point on the Agenda referred to the JJIF **Financial matters**, presented by the JJIF Treasurer, Luc Mortelmans.

He started his presentation with the balance sheets of 2009 and with the financial results at the end of the 3rd quarter of 2010. Also, an independent auditors' report was presented, indicating that the accounts were presented accurately.

The JJIF budget for 2011 was presented, which shows an expected outcome of 41 EUR.

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Comments on the reports and the 2011 budget: the only comment referred to the amount of 14,000 EUR owed to JJIF by the former President, amount which was forfeited this year, after long consideration, believing that it would be more costly to sue for the recovery of the amount.

Upon the proposal of the General Secretary, the **financial report for 2009** and the **budget for 2011 were approved** by the General Assembly, unanimously.

Next, Mr. Mortelmans presented a proposal for upgrading the JJIF Financial Rules. The aim of this upgrading was to support smaller countries, with smaller budgets and fewer athletes. The first decision was taken last year, when the annual fee was reduced from 1,600 EUR to 500 EUR. In the Treasurer's opinion this is the entire amount due by the countries. The Continental Unions should not charge additional fees.

The proposal is to increase the athletes' participation fees, with the surplus amount being distributed in an honest and fair way, for the benefit of all (60% to the organizing country, 25% to the Continental Unions, and 15% to the JJIF). If the JJIF itself organizes something, its 15% will be distributed equally among the Continental Unions.

Comments: A comment came from Ukraine, regarding the increased penalty for not bringing a referee to an international event. There seems to be still a little confusion if a country that does not have a referee should pay this penalty or if the penalty refers only to countries which have referees, but refuse to bring them. Mr. Mortelmans explained that "developing" members are not subjected to the penalty fee. Ms. Murgescu pointed out that the JJIF considers "developing" members only the provisional members. After two years, when a country becomes full members of the JJIF, it will be subjected to the penalty fee, even if it does not have a referee. Mr. Mortelmans indicated that exceptions can be made, for individual cases. Mr. Quenza suggested that the fees regarding referees should be implemented starting after two years.

The proposal was made to the Assembly to **approve the upgrading of the financial rules**, as presented, with the **exception that the referee penalties will apply after two years**. The Assembly **accepted** this proposal, unanimously.

The next point on the Agenda was the **Reports of the Continental Unions:**

1. **Ju-Jitsu European Union** – presented by President Christian Blareau

The JJEU is a strong organization, but its strength is only as the strength of its weakest link. Therefore, Europe also needs help and support, cooperation and exchange of knowledge. We will support ideas from other continents, as well, and with our coaches and experienced refereed, we can help others.

With respect to the website, we would like to provide the latest news from the national federations, and www.jjeu.eu remains promising for global matters.



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

Member of: SPORTACCORD-GAISF/AGFIS, IWGA, FISPT

The European Challenge Cups were held and brought together the best of the best athletes. The tournaments are also good practice for the referees. However, in organizing the camps there is not enough communication between experts.

The 2010 technical Congress organized by the JJIF was organized very well. And we agree with the Board's initiative to finalize the Sport and Organizing Code, which should clarify and explain what we face at every competition.

Finally, the President mentioned that we are very proud of the Technical Director and the committees within JJEU, which have worked hard and did a wonderful job in organizing and supervising the biggest event in Europe. Also, Mr. Blareau expressed his thanks to the JJIF Board for their support and understanding.

2. Pan-American Union – presented by Michael Piaser

The Pan-American Union has, formally, 11 members. However, active members are slightly fewer. For instance, Canada is a member but no representatives of this country ever took part in the events organized.

In November 2009, the Pan-American Union held elections in Argentina. Mr. Ignacio Aloise was reelected to the position of President, but the rest of the Board was changed.

In what concerns the events of 2010, one of the biggest accomplishments was the bronze medal gained by Argentina in the Combat Games of Beijing. Now, we feel the Pan-American Union is part of the ju-jitsu family in a more significant way.

Also in 2010, a Pan-American Championship was held in Mexico, where 6 countries participated, but with only 1-2 athletes each. The vast majority of competitors were from Mexico.

The problem is that distances are huge and time and money become issues. The proposal is to have separate championships in North and South America, and get qualification points in either of them.

At the Congress in Mexico, a new work-plan was established. Thus, within 1-2 months the Pan-American Union will have a new website, with links to the JJIF and other Unions, as well as with our member-states. Also, work has started on a database for the Americas.

We salute the idea of hosting a World Championship in Cali, Colombia, in 2011. But, will the European states attend? We are better organized now, but, still, this is a very slow process. A suggestion would be in the next 6-8 years to organize an international championship in a very touristic place, easy to reach by plane from all over the world. This may be a good idea.

In terms of challenges faced, we believe we have a difficulty ensuring that for 2012 our members will pay the annual fee to the JJIF. Also, we are having difficulties obtaining support for Olympic recognition.

3. Ju-Jitsu African Union – presented by Dr. Tsegaye Degineh

In October 2009, in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, elections were held. Mr. Colince Tatsa Chinda was reelected President, and a new General Secretary was elected. Provisional Technical Director was elected Mr. Giancarlo Bagnulo, and provisional Referee Director, Mr. Dimitrios Georgantidis.



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

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Due to the large distances and difficulties in traveling, most of the Board meetings are held via Skype.

In January 2010, we had an international training camp, organized by the JJIF and the JJAFU, followed in March by a referee course, where 6 new Continental B referees obtained their licenses. For 2011, the camp in Mozambique, we would like to include self-defense.

Also, in 2010, Africa had its first participation to the Combat Games. Algeria obtained a silver medal.

Our new website, www.jjafu.org is updated daily and is working.

We have a provisional calendar for 2011. We have created an account of the Union, to help coordinate the financial matters.

Finally, we express our thanks to the German Ju-Jitsu Federation, Mr. Tomo Borisov, JJIF Vice-President, Mr. Bagnulo and Mr. Georgantidis for their help and support and we would ask the JJIF to continue to assist Africa, both financially and technically.

No report from the Asian Union was presented, due to the problems existing in the area, issues that we expect to solve very soon.

There were no motions from the national federations.

The **report of the Technical Congress** and the proposals made at the Congress were presented by Mr. Robert Perc and can be found as separate material, attached to these minutes.

The General Assembly unanimously **accepted** the report of the Technical Congress and urged the JJIF Board to make the final decision very soon.

Next point of the Agenda was the **elections** for three new Board members: two positions of Vice-President and the position of General Secretary.

For Vice-President, there were four candidates: Mr. Tom Kempkens (Netherlands), Mr. Georgy Kukoverov (Russia), Mr. Michael Takacs (Austria) and Mr. Dylan Sung (Taiwan).

Each candidate had a short period of time for introducing himself. CV's and letters of intent, along with support of the respective national federations had been submitted to the Board by September 15, 2010, and all delegates had access to them prior to the General Assembly.

The results of the elections were:

Mr. Kempkens – 6 votes, Mr. Kukoverov – 18 votes, Mr. Takacs – 10 votes, Mr. Sung – 20 votes. Therefore, the **new Vice-Presidents** of the JJIF are **Mr. Georgy Kukoverov and Mr. Dylan Sung**.

For the position of **General Secretary** there was only one candidate, **Ms. Dana Murgescu** (Romania), who was elected unanimously.

Also, elections for two **auditors** took place. Although we will maintain the **external auditor (Vyvey En Co – Belgium)**, it might be good to have an Auditors' Committee within the JJIF. Two persons were nominated, **Hugo van Os**, from



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

Member of: SPORTACCORD-GAISF/AGFIS, IWGA, FISPT

Belgium and **Michael J. Player**, from Great Britain, and **accepted** by the General Assembly.

The Assembly was reminded about the following JJIF World Championships, which will take place in 2011 in Cali, Colombia, and in 2012 in Vienna, Austria.

Also, a presentation was made of the city of Genoa, host of future JJIF events, as well as a presentation of the EU Sport Commission, with which we are trying to collaborate.

Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos closed the General Assembly, wishing welcome to the new Board members and expressing his hope that we will all meet again next year, in Gent (Belgium), during the Juniors' World Championship.

P.Theodoropoulos
JJIF President



Dana Murgescu
JJIF General Secretary