



JJIF *Ju-Jitsu International Federation*

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To: All National Federations

Minutes of the JJIF Extraordinary General Assembly Thursday, November 19th, 2015 – Bangkok, Thailand

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION STATEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT

The JJIF President, Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, welcomes all attendees to this Extraordinary General Assembly to which he invited them according to our Statutes. He says he will try not to be long. He just wants to explain why we must have an EGA at this time and what will be the work we will do here.

The President says that, as we know, in our world today, we face a lot of different things happening: economic and political crises, movements around the world. This also affects, of course, the sports organizations and, for sure, the IOC, which is the highest one. In the last 2 years, the IOC decided to proceed with big changes in the way of governance of sports in the world and the way sports will be represented in the Olympic Games and in the IOC-approved multi-sport events.

JJIF is a federation that has not yet the recognition of IOC, but we are involved in many programs of the IOC. We have good appreciation from the commissions and IOC members, as well as from the other IF's. We are trying to give big visibility to our sport and our federation inside the Olympic movement.

After this April, when SportAccord stopped with its activities, IOC took over and started to reorganize all the federations' groups included in the Olympic movement. One of these groups is AIMS. We have a new board in AIMS, which had meetings with the IOC people, trying to connect AIMS (federations not recognized by IOC) and to get some sort of recognition. This will be settled in December. We have to wait a bit, until December 8, when the IOC Board will make a final decision, after the final

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presentation of this group of federations. What we ask is for AIMS to be the first step for recognition by the IOC. We hope it will be accepted.

Another thing that affected us is SportAccord. SportAccord has no more activities. The SportAccord and IOC Board want to merge SportAccord with SportAccord Convention. This will happen in the next Convention, in April 2016. Until then, we do not know the final shape of SportAccord. [SA]

Further, the President continues to our interests. He indicates that we want the World Combat Games to continue. We had a meeting in Lausanne with other IF's and IOC representatives. The Combat Games will continue. Hopefully, in 2018 we will have the next edition. There are some candidate cities and a final decision on the host town and how the organizing committee will be is expected in April 2016, during the SA Convention.

With help of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah, our members participate in all Asian Olympic recognized games – Asian Beach Games, Asian Games etc. We also may have now the opportunity to participate in the coming World Beach Games in 2017. Thank to Sheikh Ahmad because he pushed and is still pushing for ju-jitsu to be accepted. In the World Beach Games only Olympic sports are accepted, but ju-jitsu is a preferred sport to try out, from the non-recognized.

According to the 2020 Agenda, there are big changes of the IOC regarding the organizing the Olympic Games. They will stop considering the IF's as participants. They will start from Tokyo Olympics to work with disciplines. In a calculation they have done, there are 310 disciplines. The policy of the IOC from now on is to be able to easily change one discipline with another. Every edition there may be big changes of the participating disciplines. For us, it is important to be organized according to the recommendations, to fulfill the recognition requirements and to be ready with all 3 disciplines: Fighting, Duo and Ne-Waza. With the criteria that IOC will use (visibility, marketing, good connections, education, discipline etc.), we hope that one of our disciplines, in the future, can be part of the Olympic Games. Therefore, we must be sure we have a well-organized federation. At the moment, we have two unions that are strong and well-organized. We believe that with the help of our members, we can help the other unions to get organized and act as well as Europe and Asia do today.

The IOC recommendations which we are going to follow are coming to us in parts. Now, we have general recommendations on how to organize the federation. We will receive some more recommendations after December 8. The finalized criteria for recognition will be issued in January 2016. The finalized way of recognition and the working with IOC will be final in April 2016, in the next SA Convention, after the IOC meeting. This was the reason why I was not able to give you all information now. Some things may change in the upcoming months. The general idea, today, is to accept, all of us, that we are going to work in the way that IOC recommends to us. We will prepare all documents they ask, in the way accepted and approved by the IOC. We will organize our management and commissions according to the directions given through the good management advice from the IOC and results of EU Working Group on good management.

The President mentions that we have a lot of work to do. He hopes and he wants that after this meeting and when we start step by step to renew our rules and regulations and make the necessary changes to fulfill the requirements and according to the needs of our federations and for the good organization and management of our federation, that many of us will be happy and glad to participate in the working groups and in the committees in the near future.

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Mr. Theodoropoulos stresses that the main point of this EGA is for all member federations to accept, that we are going to work according to the IOC recommendations and rules. This is not something new, but we must have a decision, let's say, as a unified body, in this direction. We must be sure that changes in the future will be accepted and, of course, we will have time to check all proposal changes to our management. Still, we must be sure that all NF's are accepting that and Olympic recognition is their priority.

For this reason, because we must always remember that a part of what is written in our rules, statutes etc., must be updated. In the near future, the members with the right to vote will be the members with recognition from their own country (highest sports authority or that of the NOC). All others, affiliated now or in the future, without national recognition, will stay as provisional members until they get recognition. This is something simple and I think it fits everybody because we cannot talk about NF without the approval of the nation. Sometimes that can be dangerous.

Of course, we must always remember that we keep the autonomy and independence of all NF's. This means that any NF has to follow the rules and regulations and the Statutes of JJIF, but they decide independently if they, for example, want to exercise three, two or just one of the ju-jitsu disciplines. It doesn't matter. Every country can choose to invest in 1, 2 or 3 disciplines, for different reasons. Some would like to concentrate in Fighting, others in Ne-Waza, others, unfortunately, not so many, in Duo. All our disciplines are important and will continue with the same value. There is no question of improving one by destroying another. It is up to the NF's what discipline(s) they want to follow. We accept that. Of course, in the JJIF and Union official events we are obliged to have all 3 disciplines. But we make no obligation to the country to participate in all disciplines. For many years, we saw teams coming and participating only in Fighting or only in Duo, today some teams only in Ne-Waza. OK. It is up to them to decide. The opportunity is that in all official events, we have all 3 disciplines.

The President concludes the opening remarks indicating that we have to improve the education program. He spoke a few words about our disciplines. All are important, all can serve sports people, society, friendship, fair-play and good relations around the world. We are glad that in ju-jitsu we have really the best kind of people. He said he didn't know how it happened, but everywhere in the world, the ju-jitsu people are smart, polite, quiet. He said he is very happy to be the President of the JJIF.

2. ROLL CALL AND DEFINITION OF VOTING RIGHTS

The JJIF President said that considering the question today, he can say that it is not necessary to have a roll call. We can also vote by acclamation or raising of hands. It is a subject that affects everybody. I don't think we need to vote on if we agree to work in the recommendations of the IOC in order to get recognition. The other points on the agenda can be covered very fast, if we accept.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The JJIF President, Mr. Theodoropoulos, asks the Extraordinary General Assembly to approve the Agenda proposed by him. The assembly unanimously agreed. The vote was carried by acclamation.

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4. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS – (for all voting procedures)

The President made the observation that since there is no secret ballot, there is no need to appoint scrutineers.

5. APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO CHECK THE MINUTES

Mr. Theodoropoulos asks the delegates if there are three among them who would like to volunteer to check the minutes that the General Secretary, Mrs. Dana Mortelmans, is writing. Mr. Robert Horak (AUT), Mr. Suresh Gopi (IND) and Ms. Claudia Behnke (GER) volunteer as members in charge of verifying the minutes. There are no other proposals, so the assembly unanimously accepts them, by acclamation.

6. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2015 ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The JJIF President said that all delegates have received in time the Minutes of July 2015, of the General Assembly held in Kamena Vourla, in Greece. He asks for the approval of the Minutes and asks if there is anyone against the approval of the minutes. Nobody voices an objection. The minutes of the 2015 JJIF Ordinary General Assembly are approved by acclamation.

7.-10. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED STATUTES REFORM

The President said he will give the delegates some ideas about the structure of the JJIF. He indicates that the delegates have the right to discuss and ask for changes in the coming months. He is expecting from the National Federations (NF's) to be acting parts in this process, stating that the Statutes cannot be changed very easily again and again.

According to our decision, made at the JJIF Convention in July 2015, the new Board includes the President and 5 Vice-Presidents from the Continental Unions. We need to make clear there that this means for unions that have already been established. Otherwise, they cannot have an elected President. Unions without enough voting members – same thing. So, one of the subjects of the checking/clarifying is how will this procedure be. Apart from the voting for the President of the Union and his/her acceptance as JJIF Vice-president, we need to explain and have a procedure on how to move when the Union has not enough members.

Increasing the number of members of the Board may be important. Why? We need to have some more representatives coming from the unions that are larger in number (Europe, Asia). Maybe we can have some more members, apart from Vice-presidents. Also, we have a recommendation in the percentage of women. The president indicates that he would like some federations to promote women and to be in line with the recommendation (25% of the total board number to be women).

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The second stage of the structure: try to give some more activity to the regions. We can consider how we can have the different regions in the different unions and we can establish in the future a Council of governors, people coming from the regions, under the umbrella of the unions and of the JJIF.

There is also a need for the JJIF to have a third body (not voting, the same as the Council of governors). In order to do every-day work of the federation and to prepare the work of the commissions, the documents we need for the sport, for the referees and for the different commissions and a better way of organizing our federation, we will try to establish a secretariat, the headquarters, as we say (we say headquarters because this office will be under the guidelines of the President and the first Vice-president). We made discussions with JJAU about establishing a JJIF headquarters at Abu Dhabi. We have to finalize it. But for sure, in this headquarters we will work as professional part, with professional people. We will appoint a General Director, a Sports Director, a Financial Director and an Administrative Director. These people will be appointed by the board and their relation to the JJIF will be that of employees.

Talking about changes in the actual Statutes, it is a work that needs to be done by lawyers. We will give the Statutes to the lawyers, to check if we are parallel with the IOC recommendations. Maybe this will be done in the next two months. The draft will come to the members, before the next GA.

The President says that he asked the delegates before for their approval about the strategy to follow in order to get recognition. Now, he opens the floor to the delegates for possible questions. If some things are not clear, he indicates he will try to say them in a better way.

Not to keep the delegates too long here, and give them the opportunity to enjoy their stay in Bangkok, he asks them to raise their hands to indicate that they approve our strategy for better organization and IOC recognition. The vote is done by acclamation.

The president thanked the delegates very much.

Before closing the meeting, the President says that now the Board will give the delegates more information about the coming World Championship.

Mr. Fahad Ali Al Shamsi, JJAU General Secretary addresses the delegates. On behalf of the Asian members, he thanks the JJIF President and his team. He states that the Asian members are proud to work together with the rest of the JJIF. He indicates that the JJAU believes the future of ju-jitsu will be great. We took really steps in this direction. We must accept the others. There is no competition between the disciplines. We are working together. We shall support, we shall be behind the President and his team because in a very short time we will be on the way to the Olympics. From our side, in Asia, we are able to be part of everything, everywhere, helping everyone. Thank you very much!

Mr. Dario Quenza, JJEU President takes the floor. First of all, he thanks the JJIF President for accepting the proposal of the JJEU board regarding the assembly today. He says we are happy to work as JJEU and for the collaboration and for all ju-jitsu. Once again, thank you!

The Thai federation General Secretary, on behalf of the Thai Ju-Jitsu Association, speaks to the assembly. He indicates that the Thai federation has to do a most important work. As the JJAU General Secretary, he thanks the JJIF President, the JJAU, the JJIF and Thailand. Things changed every day. We tried to do the best. Maybe something will be a mistake, please accept my apologies. Welcome to Thailand! Thank you!

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The JJIF General Secretary, Mrs. Dana Mortelmans, takes the floor. She thanks the JJAU and the Thai federation for organizing the World Championship in Bangkok and wishes all teams the best of luck in the tournament. Further, she informs the delegates that on the tables before them they already have the first information regarding the U21 World Championship which will be organized in March 2016, in Madrid, Spain. She says that a first invitation is being prepared at the moment and it is expected to be sent to the NF's within a couple of weeks.

Mr. Reza Nassiri (IRI) addresses the delegates. On behalf of Iran, he would like to thank everyone for all the hard work they have done. He would like to add something, maybe as a suggestion to the President. We will try to take our sport to the Olympics. Therefore, we must develop all continents. The president mentioned some continents are working, some are not. Maybe from now on, we can work specifically on this. We must have all 5 continents; we must start them off. He thanks the JJAU, Dana, for all the hard work and administration she is doing, and the President.

The JJIF President invites Ms. Claudia Behnke (Athletes' Commission) to speak. Ms. Behnke indicates that she is the spokesperson of Athletes' Commission. She thanks the organizers for this championship and for all the work behind. She is glad we have many members, most countries participating. She indicates this makes her very happy and very proud. Thank you!

11. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND CLOSING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The JJIF President: Thank you all for your presence here and for your nice acceptance of what we propose. We close the EGA, with success. Thank you again and have good results in the coming championship!

P. Theodoropoulos
JJIF President



Dana Mortelmans
JJIF General Secretary

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