



Minutes of the Ju-Jitsu International Federation [JJIF] Board Meeting		
5th July 2020	05:00 PM - 7:30 PM (Abu Dhabi Time)	Online - recorded
Meeting called by	H.E. PANAGIOTIS THEODOROPOULOS, JJIF President	
Type of meeting	JJIF Board Member Meeting	
Note taker	Mr. Joachim Thumfart/ Shiela Maglalang	
Attendees with voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos- JJIF President 2. Ms. Margarita Ochoa - JJIF Board Member 3. Mr. Trilok Kumar Proag (Nuvin Proag)- JJIF Board Member 4. Mr. Adolfo Trejo - JJPAU board 5. Mr. Robert Perc- JJEU President 6. Mr. Faisal Al Ketbi - athletes commission 	
Attendees with NO voting right	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Joachim Thumfart- JJIF board 2. Mr. Suresh Gopi- JJAU board 3. Mr. Rick Frowyn- JJEU board 4. Mr. Tareq Al Bahri- JJAU 5. Mr. Tsegaye Degineh- JJAFU board - Ethics commission 6. Mr. Macode Fall JJAFU board 7. Mr. Zoumana JJAFU board 8. Mr. Paul Pauwels - Grading 9. Mr. Michael Korn JJEU board 10. Mr. Arturo Soler- JJPAU Board 	
1. WELCOME and Speech delivered by the JJIF President		
05:00 PM	Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos	
JJIF President, Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos welcomed all the members present.		
2. Roll call / Quorum / Minutes		
	Mr. Joachim Thumfart, (JJIF Director General)	
8 Members with voting rights are present and the quorum was declared as adequate. The Agenda as tabled was approved unanimously.		
3. Information		
	Mr. Tsegaye Degineh, Member of Ethics Commission	
Discussion	Mr. Tsegaye Degineh, member of JJIF Ethics Commission informed the Board that Dr. Jaffer Al Muthafer has contacted the Ethics Commission and said that he will first talk with the President of Ju Jitsu Asian Union (JJAU). He also added that Dr. Jaffer said that he is not in favor to go to the court now and he would rather use the internal mechanism and apply to the Ethics Commission.	
Conclusion	The President proposed to go back to that that topic after discussing the matters included in the agenda.	

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	<p>Mr. Joachim Thumfart, JJIF Director General</p>
	<p>Mr. Joachim Thumfart, JJIF Director General took the floor and reported to the board the update and activities in the previous days. In that point of view, he informed the board that they have pretty constructive meeting on Friday evening (3rd July, 2020) mainly discussing if all the things in JJIF Board and can consider to include in JJIF the proposal with the grading. He also mentioned that they are sure that it is a very good proposal structure concerning the martial arts line of JJIF and 100% sure it will fit for this. He also mentioned that they had a meeting with the Fighting System and discuss if it's possible to have a style of Ju Jitsu where the grading system serves the needs of a fighting athlete and give the requirement for the fighting athlete that well and agreed in to this matter. Mr. Thumfart added that, Mr. Alexandre Nascimento was with them during the meeting and discuss the same for the Jiu-Jitsu (ne-waza) to say that they have a similar to BJJ and UAEJJ grading system to be recognized under JJIF. Mr. Nascimento has to check the program if it fits under the requirements if needed to talk about to discuss another line of sport jiu jitsu styles to say that there is a little bit different criteria in what they want to see to surely have the sport ju jitsu in to this.</p>
<p>4. Grading</p>	
	<p>Mr. Nuvin Proag, JJIF Board Member (GRADING)</p>
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>On the document “International Recognition of Ju-Jitsu Styles, Practical Guidelines” (“Guidelines”) prepared and submitted by Mr Paul, Mr. Nuvin stated his impression during the meeting on Friday, he said that this was remarkable work which has been accomplished by Mr. Paul Pauwels, it’s very structured and very clear. The different techniques are well listed, points are attributed to the different techniques, and it is well stated that any applicant’s syllabus has to reach the 150 marks to be able to be able to qualify as Ju-Jitsu JJIF style. He said that, the Board should approve the Grading system. Any the National federation which would have their own syllabus or grading system or style can use this as a rule book or guidelines to apply for their grading system to be recognized. It is flexible enough to apply to all the members who already have well-structured and well established syllabuses or grading systems. Mr Nuvin proposed, for new members and existing members which do not have a proper grading system which can be recognized in accordance with these Guidelines or for those who would wish to change their grading system, that Mr. Paul works out a model of the JJIF syllabus or grading system from white to 5th dan so that JJIF, alongside accepting any style that fits with the criteria laid down in the Guidelines would also be offering a standard model grading system which federations can only absorb and incorporate within their own system. Mr Nuvin added that during the Friday discussion which was attended by Head Jiu-Jitsu Ne-Waza referee, Alexandre, the question arose as to whether the Jiu Jitsu Ne Waza could qualify as a style. This has to be checked because in the Guidelines that Mr. Paul has come up with, ground techniques score the least points. They have to ask a question whether in Jiu Jitsu (ne-waza) syllabus would make it up to the 150 marks and this is what they have to test. The Guidelines can fit the fighting system and the contact system because these systems comprise of all techniques. The question is whether the ne-waza syllabus will fit, if it does, this is fine, then we have one document which fits all, otherwise we would have to have a different recognition process for ne-waza. It was also discussed that in Ne Waza, there should be one style which will be recognized upon which Mr. Alex Nascimento is working because in the ne-waza system that belt competitions are contemplated. So if there are different syllabuses which would be recognized by JJIF for the Ne-Waza system, then it would create a problem when it comes to the belt competitions. Mr Nuvin added that in the Guidelines, Mr. Paul has written that there was committee which worked on the document that he presented and it was said in the discussion that in fact Mr. Paul alone worked on this document and we have to commend him on that amazing and impressive work. Mr Nuvin passed on the floor to Mr. Paul to speak.</p>

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	<p>Mr. Paul Pauwels</p>
	<p>Mr. Paul thanked everybody in the meeting, he mentioned that they had an interesting meeting held last Friday and two weeks ago with the fighting system commission. He said that he was thinking about how to implement things and come together. He said that there will be no problems because of what he has heard both from the fighting system and jiu jitsu (ne-waza) is that they pay attention to self-defense, maybe in a different way than the more traditional styles but at a certain point they pay attention to self-defense. He also mentioned that during their meeting on Friday that if somebody is going through competition he/she will have his/her own techniques and if we only judge on those competition techniques, we will say that that is not enough for man or woman who would know only know 5 techniques, but every fighter chooses his/her preferred techniques from a whole loads of techniques that have been taught to him before and its only after many years of training that they have to come to their preferred techniques so both in the fighting system and ne-waza system as far as he knows they learned a lot techniques than only the techniques we see during the competitions. He said that he would like to see that in paper first and he said he thought that it would not a problem to come up to 150 points. He also mentioned the issue concerning the traditional styles which have a name based on an ancestry which will be subject to an application for recognition and that there may be different applications with the same ancestry name but which are different in content. That the grading system truly reflects the traditional style will have to be looked into.</p>
	<p>Mr. President took the floor and said he would like to go back to the first idea, that the idea they had was to create a JJIF Style Commission which would inspect all the styles of the world and see if they are good styles, if they are correct or incorrect according to the main idea of Ju Jitsu. This is why the Guidelines have been created by Mr. Paul and he also mentioned that he appreciates that. The President also added that he doesn't think that they must rush and create now the styles for the competitions, because competition should be composition of techniques that gives best result for the athletes and these techniques should be approved by JJIF Technical Commission only for the competitions. He said that Styles is something that should keep their identity and dependence how they can develop and of course by accepting them and approved by the JJIF as a style and their target is to create masters and teachers of Ju jitsu and when they are ready they will give certain period of time and set a meeting with the people in order to discuss styles and everything from the view of developing Ju Jitsu as martial art. Sport and competitions should be kept under the control of technical commission and following the rules that have been established and should be proposed and changed in the future.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>6 of 6 of votes in favor of the Guidelines of proposal of Mr. Paul Pauwels.</p>

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5.	
Discussion	<p>Mr. Panagiotis mentioned that he has two points to address to the JJIF Board that are both sensitive matters.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's been a month that that they have been discussing the case of Dr. Jaffer and he thinks that this matter is closed. He also mentioned that Dr. Jaffer has been out of Ju Jitsu because he created a lot of troubles and has not been collaborating and did not even at least say one word to the board and used other ways to attack instead. The President reminded that it was not the first time that Dr. Jaffer created trouble. Firstly, what he did with Mr. Khalil Khan, that he tried to establish an independent Federation in Asia and broke the solidarity with JJIF and for many years Ju-Jitsu in Asia was suffering until this system got rotten and Asia reacted through OCA and pulled out Mr. Khan who was already declared as <i>persona non grata</i> by JJIF since many years and they have made an agreement with OCA that they will help Ju Jitsu and establish the Asian Union in a healthy way. What has been done to Dr. Jaffer is something that is now following a certain road that there is no return. The President stated that he learned that their system has its own weaknesses, we give space to people who think that they can control and go around and make a multiple trouble especially with characters like Dr. Jaffer. He also mentioned that JJAU should be careful what to do with Dr. Jaffer because if they accept Dr. Jaffer to continue in JJAU, they would have to discuss if by working with Dr. Jaffer they are not being in favor of his accusations against the President and the General Director of JJIF. The President recommended to the Board that it will be a good idea in the future to recheck their Statutes and write some obligations of JJIF's Unions in the future. 2. The President said that they have noticed this year that they are having problems with other regions mainly in Pan-American Union because they tried to discuss many things and the main excuse was the bad communication which is not acceptable by the board and not existing communication and that is never an excuse not to be active. He also mentioned that during the beginning of August he will send a proposal to the board for the next General Assembly to discuss and decide whether if its correct to make corrections or not and it's up to something that will come out. He added that on the other hand the story of the Corona Virus is not yet finished, we still face problems and it seems these problems will continue until next year not in the same level but it will continue so what he proposed is to think if they can organize events with the help of the Technical Commission and of course a kind of competition similar to competitions of other sports like football or basketball, where locally the clubs can compete each other, creating champions of the country that can represent the nation in the same level of a club competitions and continental level. In this way we can keep the clubs working because the clubs are the essence of Ju Jitsu in the counties. So if the clubs don't have the opportunity to survive financially, then ju jitsu will drop down and in this way they can improve each team competitions in a form that can be worked out with the Technical Commission.
	<p>Mr. Robert Perc took the opportunity to talk and gave his opinion about the case of Dr. Jaffer. Mr. Perc said that he was contacted by Mr. Jaffer and that he gave him a very clear message to contact Mr. Nuvin and to contact the JJIF Board because at that time before the last decision it was very clear and open road which was offered; so Mr. Nuvin was representing the JJIF Board and he received the letter and that he had to reply to the letter and that's the only discussion that they had. He said that personally he doesn't have anything with the case because Dr Jaffer has been instructed and been invited how to respond. And sadly to say Dr. Jaffer now is using the Ethics Commission to make more mess to the system is not really fair from his side. Mr. Perc added that Dr. Jaffer came with all the guns he had and now he received the response from the board and he wishes to step down and go back to the Ethics Commission. The time for that was a month before the letter. So in this case he advises that even the members of the Ethics Commission should be very careful because they will be used for the purpose. He said that if Dr Jaffer did not respond, then he cannot use another line in the system which he did not use when the time was right and he has received a letter as invitation or a warning but he never responded at all.</p>

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	<p>And about the corona, Mr Perc mentioned that in Europe they had again the case that most likely the virus will live with us in certain amount of time, so it is really most impossible to predict what will happen in the next following months. But the experience they have so far even in Balkan Countries, the spread of the virus had hit very high numbers in Serbia and Bosnia and even borders are closing for passengers coming from those countries. In Slovenia, from yesterday all passengers coming from a country with a very high case of virus has to go through 2 weeks of quarantine.</p> <p>Mr. Tsegaye Digeneh mentioned they don't have any official complaint from Dr. Jaffer, he said that it was just a request concerning with his strategy to say that he is now going to apply to the Ethics Commission. But Dr. Jaffer informed them that he has to talk with the JJAU President first, so for the Ethics Commission there is currently nothing to do. Mr. Degineh also mentioned that he talked with Dr. Jaffer and asked him why he never replied to the letter sent to him by the JJIF legal within the deadline but he answered that it contains a formal hearing and with the consultation of his lawyer he didn't do so. But when he told us that he has to talk first to the JJAU President and told him not to go to court instead try the internal way. If he will come to Ethics Commission with a complaint or appeal, then they will first review if it's possible to process or not. If they will agree to start with the process, then the Ethics Commission will ask for the documents and witnesses and the other parties will grant to see all the documents and witnesses according to the process that has been written by laws of Ethics Commission.</p> <p>Mr. Perc asked permission to the President to talk and comment on Mr. Degineh's statement. Mr. Perc said at the moment since not replying to any letters from the legal department of JJIF and the last letter following the process has been indicated that Dr. Al Muthafer has been expelled basically and no longer a member of JJIF. But currently following the process of JJIF he is not a member anymore and JJIF had made a decision on that and he cannot go back to complain or file any case within the JJIF Ethics Committee.</p> <p>Mr. Nuvin advises the Ethics Commission that if ever there is any letter or complaint application made by Dr. Al Muthafer at this stage he endorses whatever the JJIF President and Mr. Perc have said. But first, the Ethics commission needs to check the standing of Dr. Al Muthafer whether now at this stage he has a right as an expelled member to seek the Ethics Commission. Secondly, whether the Ethics Commission has jurisdiction now to process such a complaint.</p>
<p>6. Fighting Rules U14/U16 years</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Mr. Joachim Thumfart has presented Annex "10_Rules_Fighting_2020-06_v2" proposal for the Fighting Competition Rules. Inclusion of the rules for U16 and U14 in the already ratified Fighting rules.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>As the rules are already approved the additional paragraph</p>
<p>7. Update of Events</p>	
<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Mr. Tareq Al Bahri thanked the board for giving him the chance to talk. He mentioned that they have a plan to organize the AJP this year but as per the current situation they are just depending when the virus will stop but as per him they are doing their very best to make it this year. On their side they are looking forward for more collaboration and cooperation with JJIF in professional way. It was also mentioned that they have to make a meeting to discuss further regarding the vision and how to handle the upcoming events this 2020.</p>

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Discussion	The President asked Mr. Perc to make a good presentation about the Team competition cup and how it will work in this situation. Mr. Perc answered that JJIF need to have a stand regarding the international activities and need to somehow focus locally regionally because it is the easiest way to do something at least from the activity sport side. Mr. Perc mentioned that when they made decision in March to close international activities there were reasons for that. He said if they go back to that document more or less the reasons today are the same, the level is different, the countries are different and so on but international or worldwide has a huge problem and being a contact sport it really doesn't help at this time. He also added that as they already proposed as European Unions and has been discussed for several months and nobody can say for sure what will be on December that's the fact but what will be on the 25 th of November we will know exactly week before and there's no way of planning and its simply impossible. He proposed to the board to make a decision soon whether they will organize the World Championship or not to avoid any problem or inconvenience to all the federations so that all National Federations can also inform their sports authorities as soon as possible as this will impact on their budget allocations.
Discussion	Mr. President said that he totally agrees with Mr. Perc, logically they must cancel all the international activities because there is no certainty. The President proposed to take the decision in the next JJIF Board member meeting on 9 th of August 2020.
8. Safe Guarding webinars	
	Mrs. Meggie Ochoa
Discussion	Mrs. Meggie Ochoa introduce the possibility to cooperate for safeguarding webinars.
Conclusion	JJIF board welcomes the indicative. Meggie Ochoa and Dr. Oh shall handle the matter and follow up.
<u>Conclusion</u>	
The JJIF President addressed the Board. He thanked all persons present for their participation. The meeting was thereafter adjourned. Next board meeting will be scheduled for the 09 th August 2020.	

Online Meeting, 5th July 2020
Approved by JJIF President Panagiotis Theodoropoulos

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