



# **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 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Gent, Belgium**

The General Assembly was opened by Mr. Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, President of JJIF. In his welcoming speech, Mr. Theodoropoulos presented briefly the JJIF activity for the passing year, insisting on the Peace & Sport Project developed in Colombia, project which increased JJIF's visibility in the media and drew attention on our federation as promoter of the social role of sports. Mr. Theodoropoulos indicated that the project is very successful and the interest regarding ju-jitsu is increasing in the areas where we have been involved.

Ms. Dana Murgescu, JJIF General Secretary, passed around the attendance sheet and performed the roll call. 19 full members of JJIF attended the meeting, only 15 with the right to vote, 4 national delegates missing the official proxy from their respective federations. One provisional member assisted, which acted as observer.

Ms. Murgescu was nominated as the **chairperson** of the General Assembly.

Mr. Dario Quenza and Mr. Paco Gomez were nominated for **verifying the** General Assembly **Minutes**.

The **Agenda** proposed by the JJIF Board for the General Assembly was unanimously **accepted** by the delegates and the **minutes of the 2010 General Assembly** were also **accepted** by the unanimous vote of the General Assembly.

The works of the 2011 General Assembly started with the presentations of the **Activity Reports** from the Board members.

**Mr. Theodoropoulos** took the floor again and informed the assembly that his welcoming speech had included the relevant information he wanted to share with the assembly and he would rather let the technical people and the Continental Union delegates present their activity.

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The following report was presented by **Mr. Tomo Borissov**, JJIF Vice-President. Mr. Borissov spoke about the development of the self-defense department under his care and his involvement in the Peace & Sport project in Colombia.

Also, Mr. Borissov informed the assembly about the conclusion of an agreement between the JJIF and the Human Rights, Police and Military Intervention Association, for the creation of the Human Rights, Police and Military Intervention World Commission, on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Sofia. At this meeting were also present high officials of the European Police and Fire Games and a representative of the World Police and Fire Games (Mr. Robert Thomas).

In July 2011, Mr. Thomas presented ju-jitsu before the organizing committee of the WPFPG 2013, asking for the inclusion of our sport in this world-class tournament.

Further to these actions, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Sofia took place the first International championship of Ju-Jitsu and Self-defense for the Army, the Police and Security companies.

Finally, a special project was approved in Brussels as a European program named "European youth model for active citizenship". The program is starting immediately and it involves Bulgaria, Greece, Kazakhstan and Bolivia.

In conclusion, Mr. Borissov pointed out the 2012 European Police and Fire Games, which will take place in the Canary Islands in July, where ju-jitsu will be present as a discipline, with its duo and fighting systems.

Next, **Mr. Dylan Sung**, JJIF Vice-President, presented his activity report. Mr. Sung presented Mr. Theodoropoulos's visit to Taiwan, at the end of last year, and expressed his confidence that Taiwan will be able to host a future edition of the World Championship. As a pre-event, starting with 2012, Taiwan will organize an international open, which will be presented to the JJIF Board for inclusion of the results in the official JJIF Ranking List, providing a better opportunity for Asian athletes to qualify for the World Games and Combat Games through the Ranking List, rather than only be using the continental quota.

Mr. Sung also presented the extended work performed in Asia in the area of ju-jitsu training for police and the military, as well as in women's self-defense.

In conclusion, Mr. Sung indicated that Ju-jitsu has been developing at a steady pace in most Asian member countries. Still, greater regional efforts need to be coordinated in order for Asia to progress collectively. Thorough planning in advance is crucial to ensure the operational success of the planned activities. Closer collaboration and improved communication among Asian member federations are a must. These will be essential prerequisites for activities in Asia to be fruitful in 2012.

The **Treasurer's Report** included the presentation of the balance sheet for 2010, of the auditor's report for 2010, as well as the clarification of the JJIF Financial Rules adopted last year in the General Assembly. The clarification of the Financial Rules referred to the express statement that the JJIF Financial Rules are compulsory for all Continental Unions and for all JJIF-approved, official events. Also, any reference in the Financial Rules to the "Ju-Jitsu European Union" or the "European Championships/events" was changed into "Continental Union", respectively, "Continental Championships/events". The immediate result of the application of the financial rules is that continental unions are no longer allowed to charge an annual affiliation fee from the member NF's. Furthermore, as indicated in the last decision of the Board, the Continental Unions are kindly requested to send their budgets to the JJIF Treasurer for approval and harmonization verification, prior to subjecting them to the approval of the respective Continental General Assemblies. Of course, the local organizers of the JJIF-approved, official events will do the same.

Mr. Dario Quenza, Treasurer of the JJEU commented on the Financial rules, indicating that their application would cause a deficit of 15,000 Euros in the JJEU's budget for 2012, which will be reflected in less availability to cover expenses for activities performed by coaches and/or referees. The JJEU budget will have to be redesigned and rebalanced,



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without the guarantee of being able to provide support for all the activities financed in the past.

Mr. Mortelmans replied that he disagrees with the financial implications presented by the JJEU Treasurer, given the fact that according to the new rules, the JJEU will receive 25% of all athlete's competition fees, from all official events, collecting an amount greater than the alleged 15,000 Euros deficit. Also, Mr. Mortelmans indicated that the philosophy of the new budgets should be oriented towards active, income-generating events, expressing his conviction that the JJEU will manage with the new rules.

Mr. Robert Perc, JJEU General Secretary mentioned that the issue of the Continental Unions collecting or not the affiliation fees had already been settled in Sankt Petersburg (2010 GA) and later changed in Maribor (2011 JJEU GA), apparently in conflict with the JJIF rules. Therefore, the assembly should concentrate on the fact that in the 2011 General Assembly the vote refers only to the acceptance of the minor changes (European to Continental), since the rules have been accepted and are applied since the beginning of the year.

The revised financial rules were subjected to vote before the General Assembly and they were approved with 14 votes in favour, 1 abstention (Slovenia) and 1 vote against (Italy).

The next point on the Agenda was the presentation of the **Continental Unions' Reports.**

The first report was presented by **Mr. Robert Perc**, General Secretary of the **JJEU**. Mr. Perc presented the very rich sportive activity of the JJEU, which included in year 2011, the organizing of a European Championship in Maribor, Slovenia, of four European Challenge-Cup tournaments (Moscow, Paris, Hanau and Dobova) and of eleven other international tournaments. All the ECC tournaments benefitted of observers from the Referee Committee. Also, during last year, in Europe were organized several international summer camps and training seminars. Mr. Perc also presented the increasingly important Balkan Championship and the Adriatic Cup project.

Mr. Perc went on to discuss the JJIF Summer Camp in Lignano, Italy, stressing the importance, in the future, of knowing in advance the approximate number of trainees who will participate, as well as their formation and interest, such as the following Summer Camps to have a program better suited for the actual audience.

On the side of JJEU development and ideas for the future, Mr. Perc informed the assembly about the trip Mr. Roel van Ravens (JJEU Referee Director) took to Ukraine and the course the Mr. Martin Jazbec and Mr. Stane Preskar taught in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Of course, the Adriatic Cup project is developing steadily, attracting more and more countries in the area.

With respect to the work of the JJEU Board and the Committees, Mr. Perc pointed out the loss of Mr. Christian Blareau, which left the JJEU Board with only three members with the very difficult task of managing the Continental Union. The Board agreed that the new elections will take place in Genoa, Italy, with the occasion of the 2012 JJEU General Assembly.

Finally, Mr. Perc informed the assembly that work will begin on the re-writing of the JJEU Statutes, as to harmonize it with the JJIF Statutes.

The report of the **Ju-Jitsu African Union** was presented by **Mr. Dimitris Georgantidis**, JJAFU Referee Director, duly appointed as representative in the General Assembly. Mr. Georgantidis presented the report drafted by the JJAFU President, Mr. Colince Tatsa-Tchinda. The assembly was informed that following discussion, it seems that ju-jitsu will be included as a discipline in the next African Games.

At the technical level, the assembly was informed that during last year six technical camps were organized in Ivory Coast, Senegal and Mali, instructed by the JJAFU Technical



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Director. Mr. Giancarlo Bagnulo. The first seminar held in Gambia was taught by Mr. Wolfgang Reitsch. Two referee courses were held in Senegal, in February and September 2011, with the intent to raise the level of the referees at the continental standard.

Mr. Tchinda also indicated the intent of JJAFU officials and athletes to participate in the JJIF Summer Camp, but they were denied visas. The issue of visas is a very important problem for JJAFU and steps must be taken in the direction of helping the African countries to send the smallest number of persons to participate in the JJIF events.

Finally, the assembly's attention was drawn to the JJAFU new website ([www.jjafu.org](http://www.jjafu.org)) and to the fact that the JJAFU appointed a Special Advisor and a Media Committee Director, in order to ensure better visibility of our sports and of JJAFU's activity in the future.

**Ms. Dana Murgescu** presented the **JJPAU Report**, as no Pan-American Union representative was present in the JJIF General Assembly. The activities in the JJPAU were numerous in 2011, starting with a Technical seminar a Referee course and the Continental Championship in Rosario, Argentina (May 2011), and ending with the organizing of the World Championship for seniors in Cali, Colombia (October 2011), as a pre-test event for the 2013 World Games. The participation was very good in all continental events and the JJPAU is becoming an increasingly active entity within the JJIF. At present, there are eight active members of the Union, two more countries (Costa Rica and Cuba joining the JJIF family very recently).

The JJPAU Report also mentioned the appointment of former World Champion Gregory Vallarino as JJIF's Ambassador for Peace in the already-known Peace & Sport Project developed in Colombia.

Next report was presented by the **JJIF Technical Director, Mr. Joachim Thumfart**. The first point of the report was that the JJIF has opened an account on Facebook, where all our events are now advertized. The page is going increasingly well, with the help of other ju-jitsu friends from the NF's. During the World Championship in October, we reached a number of 14,145 views from 20 countries throughout the world.

The second issue discussed was the Summer Camp 2011, which was not as successful as expected, reason for which the Technical Director made a specific proposal to the Board regarding the structure and the typology of the future JJIF camps. Also, discussions with coaches and referees revolved around this issue and a common set of ideas will be presented hereinafter.

Next, the Technical Director presented his work, together with the General Secretary and the local organizers, regarding the challenging World Championship in Cali, which we consider to have been successful.

Finally, the assembly was informed with respect to the technical seminars held last year, intended for the development and spreading of ju-jitsu throughout the world.

The **General Secretary's** report was very short, **Ms. Murgescu** indicating that her work has been visible to all NF's by means of the regular information e-mails sent throughout the year since the last General Assembly.

The one particular point made was to inform the assembly that the JJIF is now in full compliance with the WADA Anti-doping requirements, which allows ju-jitsu to remain on the list of the World Games sports. This achievement did not come easy and a considerable amount of work was put in by the President, the General Secretary and the Anti-doping Committee Director.

Finally, Ms. Murgescu referred to the social work of the JJIF, praising the Peace & Sport Project undertaken in Colombia and expressing her hope that our federation will be further involved in social projects in the future.

The **Referee Committee Report** was presented by the Referee Committee Director, **Mr. Henrik Sandberg**. Since the last General Assembly, JJIF held several referee courses,



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following which new licenses were awarded (Continental B and World B). Mr. Sandberg presented the assembly the general situation of all referees, insisting on the differences in number of referees between the continents and pointing out the increasing number of Continental referees. Also, the Referee Director mentioned the international tournaments which benefitted from the help of observers, in charge of analyzing the refereeing activity.

**Mr. Bert van Haren** presented the **Coaches' Committee's Report**. Mr. van Haren's first remarks indicated that this year a very good collaboration occurred between referees and coaches, collaboration which must be enhanced in the future. With respect to the 2011 Summer Camp, the coaches' opinion is that the camps, in general, must have a more work-oriented nature, with more hours of training on the tatami, more students, coaches, competitors and referees, in order to raise the technical level of the camp. A positive point regarding the Summer Camp was the opportunity given to several national coaches to teach classes, as well as the specific kata and ne-waza trainings.

The second part of the report concentrated on the wishes expressed by coaches for future development. The coaches would like the Juniors and Aspirants to have the same tournament procedure as the seniors, with World and/or Continental Championships every year. They stressed the importance of maintaining the World Championship for this age-group, indicating that many competitors have registered for this year's Championship in Gent. Secondly, it would be very good if it were possible to set the dates of the big tournaments (counting for the Ranking list, ECC's etc.) and camps two years in advance, allowing the coaches to prepare a long-term training schedule. With respect to the tournaments, the coaches would like to enforce a dress code and a behavior code for coaches accompanying the athletes to the tatami. Also, they feel very strongly that the weigh-in should take place always in the evening prior to the competition. Following each competition, it would be good to have the Ranking list updated and circulated to all NF's. Next, concerning the introduction of the new rules, the coaches feel that stability is very important, such as new competition rules and their comments should be discussed with the coaches, and they should only enter into effect in the year after the World Games (new rules every four years, not earlier). Also, with the desire to improve communication, the coaches suggest organizing meetings, with one coach from each nation, one day earlier than the registration day for the Continental/World Championships.

The first comments on the Coaches' Committee report came from Mr. Steffen Hecke, who expressed the need to have a World Championship, at least for juniors, if it is not possible/practical to have it for aspirants, as well. The idea was seconded by Mr. Eugene Domagata, who spoke about the de-motivation of aspirants and juniors, before they reach the level of seniors, if they are treated differently.

Mr. Ueli Zurcher (JJEU Referee Committee Secretary) indicated that on the big tournament there are usually around 50 referees and at this point there are already too many tournaments for the referees to be able to properly cover them.

Mr. van Haren stated that while he understands this practical problem, he would like everyone to keep working until a suitable solution is found.

Mr. Robert Perc pointed out that the decision to take out the World Championships for juniors and aspirants was made during the 2010 Technical Congress, following a certain set of arguments. It seems we shall put the issue again before the Technical Congress of 2012. Unfortunately, such multiple changes in a short period of time may be detrimental to the sport at the national level, the Ministries of Sports appreciating more constancy in regulations.

Because of the wide support expressed by the majority of coaches and delegates regarding the re-introduction of the World Championships for aspirants and juniors, and because, according to the old rules, in 2012 there was no World Championship scheduled, the JJIF Board decided to reverse the decision of 2010 and to allow the organizing of a



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World Championship for juniors and aspirants in 2013. Romania, the organizing country of the 2013 European Championship for aspirants and juniors agreed to change the event into a World Championship.

The next point on the agenda was the presentation of proposals for the 2012 Winter Camp and Summer Camp and the decision regarding these two events.

For the **Winter Camp**, the only proposal came from Bulgaria. The Bulgarian Ju-Jitsu Federation was willing to organize the JJIF Winter Camp in Bansko, in the period January 26-29, 2012. After a proposal from Mr. Domagata, the period was extended to **January 23-29, 2012**. The price for the camp, in a double room, is 215 eur/person for accommodation + 30 eur for the seminar. Further details will follow shortly to the NF's.

The organizing of this event by the Bulgarian federation was unanimously accepted.

For the 2012 **Summer Camp**, the only proposal came from France, presented by Mr. Domagata. He started with an analysis of the 2011 camp, which was a very interesting experience, but without many participants. If we want to work together, the NF's must mobilize and must increase the number of their athletes and technical staff participating to the camps. Otherwise, we risk the rich and strong federations to stop coming, which will immediately decrease the quality of the camps. As we need better qualification of coaches and referees, we need higher participation. In order to move forward, technicians and athletes of the NF's must participate. The referee course must be 4-5 days long, making it more valuable and providing the opportunity for interaction and communication with the coaches. In a two-day course, there can be no quality.

The proposal for the 2012 Summer Camp is the town of St. Cyprien, by the Mediterranean Sea, 65 km from the border with Spain. Two dates were proposed, August 18-25, 2012 and August 25-September 2, 2012. The full price is 400 eur/person. The General Assembly voted in favour of the first period, **August 18-25, 2012**.

Mr. Thumfart presented before the assembly the decision of the Board, made at his suggestion, regarding the separation of the two main JJIF camps into a Budo camp, more traditional, focused on self-defense and the martial arts training (the Winter Camp) and a competition camp, intended mainly for the national teams, competition training and referee courses.

The following point on the agenda was regarding the discussions for the future World Championships. The 2012 World Championship was presented by the Austrian federation. The championship will be organized in Vienna, between November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. We expect the organization to go very well and to have an excellent tournament.

As future events, Greece is a candidate for the 2014 World Championship, while the JIAFU will be active in attempting to organize a Continental Camp between April 15-21, 2012 in Addis Abeba (Ethiopia) and a Continental Championship in November 2013, in Ivory Coast or Senegal. Taiwan is also considering organizing the Taiwan Open in the first half of 2012.

Point 14 on the agenda refers to the proposals of the Board.

First proposal was to organize, for the World Championships held outside Europe, a technical seminar for 1-2 days after the tournament, giving a chance to the participants to receive top-level training without the need for great further expenses. The assembly accepted this proposal with unanimity of votes.

The second proposal referred to the qualification method and the deadlines for the 2013 World Games and Combat Games. Mr. Thumfart briefly mentioned the qualification method, approved in 2009 and sent to all NF's.



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Because the World Games will be organized in July 2013, the proposed deadline is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the assembly. The deadline proposed and unanimously accepted by the assembly for the qualification for the Combat Games (to take place in October) is the later of May/June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, depending on the requirements of the organizers.

The qualification events have also been sent out to all NF's.

The following proposal regards the Board's intention to find a way to support the creation of national, regional, continental and international-level tournaments for clubs. For this, the clubs should be somehow individualized within the JJIF and licensed to participate in such events, without interfering with the NF's member status. All the clubs involved in these tournaments should have the full support of their NF's. In case of interest shown by clubs from countries where no ju-jitsu federation is established, the JJIF could provide support for the creation of a federation. Also, we are considering the creation of a communication and registration platform for clubs, with the possibility of classifying them in a world ranking list. The assembly agrees, but is waiting for a concrete proposal.

The issue of the misbehavior of the US Federation President towards the JJIF Board and the JJIF activity was discussed. The assembly voted unanimously that the Board should continue its approach towards asking official explanations and starting disciplinary procedures against Mr. Bruce Bethers.

The final point presented by the Board was the possibility that a women's event could be organized in Panama, with the full financial support of the sports authorities. If this event is organized, 400 persons will be invited for a Women's championship in duo, fighting and ne-waza, together with a special self-defense seminar for women. The period intended for this event is February-March 2012.

Point 15 on the agenda was the approval of new member applications. The General Secretary indicated that she received membership applications from Ghana, Cuba, Costa Rica and Uzbekistan, also pointing out that the Board had already pre-approved the applications and Cuba and Costa Rica participated in the World Championship in Cali. The General Assembly unanimously voted for the acceptance of all four applications, the federations being considered provisional members.

The last point on the Agenda referred to the date and location of the next General Assembly. The assembly will be held in Vienna, Austria, on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Since there were no other motions from the national federations, the General Assembly was declared closed.

P.Theodoropoulos  
JJIF President



Dana Murgescu  
JJIF General Secretary