



2019 Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation General Assembly Minutes
Tuesday, November 5, 2019 – 9:00 - 5:00 PM - Torrance, CA United States

I. Welcome

President, Mr. João Silva, welcomes attendees and states that it is his pleasure and honor to once again be present at the General Assembly (GA) meeting. The President states that he believes in the importance of the GA meeting as it provides members with the opportunity to come together and have discussions at the international level, learning about one another's culture and the unique needs that each national federation may have and how those needs fit into the bigger, international picture of SJJIF. He believes this is important for the continued growth of the organization.

The president wishes everyone a successful GA and indicates that he will be jointly conducting the GA with the General Secretary, Summer Casebere.

The President requests that all attendees briefly introduce themselves. Attendees present themselves, indicating what federation/country they represent and their respective positions.

II. Attendance

The following attendees are present:

- III. SJJIF President
- IV. SJJIF General Secretary
- V. SJJIF Treasurer
- VI. SJJIF Executive Assistant
- VII. NABJJF President (North America)
- VIII. SJJSAF President (South America)
- IX. SJJSAF Adapted BJJ Representative (South America)
- X. ASJJF President (Asia)
- XI. SJJHF President (Hungary)
- XII. SJJHF Official (Hungary)
- XIII. SJJNZ President (New Zealand)
- XIV. SJJUF President (Ukraine)
- XV. SJJFI President (India)
- XVI. FIGMMA Representative (Italy)
- XVII. FPBJJ Representative (Okinawa)
- XVIII. SJJJF Representative (Japan)
- XIX. SJJCF Representative (China)
- XX. SJJMF Representative (Malaysia)
- XXI. SJJVF Representative (Vietnam)
- XXII. SJJVF Representative (Vietnam)
- XXIII. SJJKF Representative (Korea)
- XXIV. SJJIF Software Developer

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III. Approval of Agenda

The SJJIF General Secretary, Summer Casebere, asks the GA to approve the proposed agenda. The GA unanimously agreed.

IV. Reports

A. President's Report

The President opens the President Report by stating that 2019 was a great year for SJJIF as goals met in previous years came to a full realization and his activity in 2019 was very rewarding.

Activity is as follows:

- a. Attendance at the 2019 GAISF/SportAccord Convention in May of 2019 in Gold Coast, Australia. President expands on SJJIF's Olympic mission and the necessary steps SJJIF must take towards accomplishing this mission, identifying GAISF membership as a required step and one of the biggest challenges BJJ's Olympic goal faced due to JJIF's inaccurate inclusion of BJJ as their sport's newaza. However, the President notes that SJJIF will continue to attend the GAISF/SportAccord Convention to ensure that SJJIF remains present on that international platform. He continues to expand on the benefits of connecting with other international organizations and entities present and reviews connections made in 2019.
- b. Participation in the Chengdu 2019 World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) in August of 2019 in Chengdu, China. President expands on the presence and supporting roles of Mr. Edison Kagohara, President of the Asian Continental Federation & Mr. Wang Kai, President of the China National Federation at the event which was very successful for SJJIF. BJJ was the biggest event of the WPFG, consequently leading to BJJ being included in the upcoming WPFG of 2021 and 2023 with SJJIF as the overseeing event organizer. The President takes the opportunity to note that participation in the WPFG and other events later discussed were a big part of making 2019 exciting for SJJIF, however, they also came with new learning curves and professional growth as SJJIF worked in partnership with other organizations and events.
- c. Participation in the TAFISA Martial Art Festival in September of 2019 in Ulyanovsk, Russia. President expands on the presence and supporting role of Mr. Catalin Vlad, Vice-President of the Romania National Federation, who together were able to present BJJ and host a seminar at the TAFISA event. The President expands on the unique atmosphere of the event, largely due to the 'Sport for All' mentality of TAFISA which is very welcoming.
- d. Participation at the World Martial Arts Games in October of 2019 in London, England. President notes that although he supported the inclusion of BJJ in this event he was unable to attend due to its close proximity to the SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. However, Mr. James Saks who previously represented the South Africa National Federation and is relocating to England was able to be present and oversee the BJJ event. The President revisits the topic of the learning curves of 2019 with participating in multi-sport events and notes that 2019 saw the emergence of national federation members taking active roles in events or alliances of SJJIF and the importance of remembering that not all variables are controlled and there has to be a flexibility in attitude to ensure the success of BJJ events.
- e. Membership to Traditional Sports and Games with more information to come in 2020.
- f. Development and launching of the SJJIF Educational Resources page to help shape the



2, 25, 2020

future mentality of BJJ and its community. The President expands on the year-long collaborative effort with the General Secretary to develop a resource for the BJJ community that educates and positively contributes to the growth of the sport. The educational page is open to all via the SJJIF website and is the product of individual partnerships or alliances SJJIF established with trustworthy organizations who specialize in the proliferation of sport related information across various topics. Organizational collaborations were made with True Sport, Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports, U.S. Center for Safesport, CPRCertification.com, Safe Sport Background Checks, NFHS Learning Center, Athlete 365, KSI (Hydration), CalorieKing, Mind of the Athlete, Positive Coaching Alliance, Project Play, Changing the Game Project, Athlete Ally Learning Tools, Sport Psychology, and Global Dro.

- g. Met Goals:
- h. Further development of the SJJIF Software to be discussed in greater detail at a later time of the meeting.
- i. Membership growth & loyalty which is in a positive trend. Projections indicate continued growth, especially as the SJJIF Software implementation project allows SJJIF to provide more benefits for members.
- j. Organization of the 2019 SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship.

President notes that this concludes his presentation with some topics addressed going into further detail at later points of the GA meeting. The floor is open for questions and comments.

Mr. Paulo Rogerio Gomes Oliveira, President of the New Zealand National Federation, inquires as to SJJIF's policy on gender control. It is noted that presently SJJIF's position is that gender control is the responsibility of national federations and it refers to IOC recommendations in force at the given time of a situation. However, a concern for safety is discussed as BJJ is a combative sport and members discuss alternatives that both respect and address the overall safety of all athletes. It is decided that SJJIF will research gender control to develop measures that appropriately address the topic to better guide national federations.

The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

B. General Secretary Report

General Secretary Summer Casebere opens the General Secretary Report presenting data on the 2019 SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship, sharing numbers of participation in both the traditional and adapted BJJ events and the respective country representation.

Mr. Alessandro Luiz Allen Lacolla Montano, representing SJJSAF Adapted BJJ, comments that although today there is a significant difference in participant numbers between traditional and adapted divisions, the fact that the largest age group of Adapted BJJ participants is children indicates positive growth in the future. Furthermore, Mr. Alessandro Luiz Allen Lacolla Montano notes that Adapted BJJ is not just about sport, there is a social component of inclusion and SJJIF's commitment to include adapted divisions across various events (world championship and continental and national events) is already a distinguishing component of SJJIF.



2,125,2020

The General Secretary continues with reporting that the 2019 SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship had national representation from over 55 countries other than the USA. The event will offer equal cash prizes to male female black belt athletes and introduce new Open Weight divisions (Heavy & Light) to address feedback provided by the black belt community. 2019 event specific information is followed with data comparison of traditional event participation from 2013 through 2019.

The General Secretary presents a report on the 2019 SJJIF Adapted World Jiu-Jitsu Championship that has positive growth in both the Para Jiu-Jitsu and Special Jiu-Jitsu and country representation from 6 countries.

The General Secretary presents a report on sanctioned events in 2019, reviewing data from 2013 through 2019, which indicate an exponential and positive growth trend in events ranging from traditional tournaments, Adapted BJJ events, community events, and educational events. General Secretary comments that event data will be more readily available as all continents begin using the SJJIF software for events and that as the software is further developed data collection itself will be further defined. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

General Secretary continues to present report on 2019 activity, which includes attendance to the 2019 GAISF/SportAccord Convention and pre/post preparation, organization of the 2019 SJJIF General Assembly meeting and World Jiu-Jitsu Championship, operational projects pertaining to software, membership and email/customer service, and co-development of the Education Resources page. Ongoing activity consists of 2020 organization of the GA meeting and world event, further development and implementation of all components of the educational resources, organization of education/resources booth for the 2020 world event and any objectives identified at the 2019 GA. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

C. Finance Report

SJJIF Treasurer, Patricia Silva, presents the 2018 balance sheet with detail, and the profit and loss account. Treasurer indicates that this is an updated report that includes information unknown at the time of the last general assembly meeting. SJJIF total income in 2018 was \$379,189 USD, however, it closed at \$20,478.70 USD. Clarifications are provided regarding how expenses are itemized.

The floor is open for questions and comments again; however, there are no further questions or comments from members. The General Secretary asks the assembly to accept the financial reports for 2018. The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2018 financial reports of the SJJIF.

Treasurer presents the estimated 2019 financial reports and indicates that the profit and loss report is as realistic and as skeptical as possible in an effort to present realistic data. Treasurer indicates that the estimated report includes accurate information from January through October 2019, however, there are many pending expenses from the SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. Treasurer proceeds to review the report by line, providing clarifications as needed regarding the updates to detail on item expenses in the finance report. It is projected that the SJJIF will close the year positively.



21/25/2020

The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members. The General Secretary asks the assembly to accept the estimated financial reports for 2019. The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2019 estimated financial reports of the SJJIF.

D. Continental Council VP Report

North America Report

CF President Mr. Sam Aschidamini of the NABJJF presents 2019 event activities in the North American continent with a total of 12 events with an increase in event participation and revenue in 2019. The Continental President attributes the overall growth of BJJ and number of practitioners to event growth, regardless of the increase in event organizers. In addition, NABJJF implemented a positive customer service approach to ensure that participants have a positive experience at events to promote participant loyalty. In addition, the Continental President noted that the SJJIF software helped the continental federation, with several features directly benefiting NABJJF across areas such as customer service, event organization, and ranking. He notes that the ranking has played a key role in establishing a competitor following and NABJJF is providing top ranked athletes with certificates and a credit to further promote loyalty.

CF President Sam Aschidamini states that the 2020 objectives will be to grow the number of participants for the existing number of events and the number of Adapted BJJ events. In 2019 NABJJF hosted their first Adapted BJJ event and found it to be amazing to provide a platform of inclusion for athletes, in addition to the fact that it is a distinguishing component of SJJIF sanctioned events.

The topic of Adapted BJJ qualifications arises and it is noted that SJJIF Adapted BJJ rulebooks were developed using the relevant IOC related bodies rules and guidelines to ensure the utmost understanding of athlete needs and athlete safety. A SJJIF goal is to develop respective Adapted BJJ committees led by Adapted BJJ athletes to better develop guidelines, programs, response to feedback or situation, and goals.

The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

South America Report

CF President Mr. Cleiber Maia of the SJJSAF reports that in 2019 he, with the support of other regional Brazilian federations who are associated with one another, acquired the required number of federations to establish the national Brazilian federation in 2020. This was a significant accomplishment because of the competitive mentality between event organizers / organizations and is key to moving forward with acquiring national recognition and support. Presently, they are planning on organizing a Brazilian team for the next World Police & Fire Games.

In 2019 SJJSAF hosted 20 events, all including Adapted BJJ divisions. In addition, in 2019 events successfully included traditional competition and a special event option where belt or weight divisions were combined to create a division that competes for a belt. 2020 goals are for the Adapted BJJ events to grow to 10% of the overall participation in events.



212512020 Page 5 of 14

In 2019 SJJSF hosted several social inclusion events and organized projects to promote BJJ/Adapted BJJ as a tool of social inclusion and betterment. Examples are the 1st Jiu-Jitsu Down Festival, educational campaigns and presentations that were and are widely received and supported by the BJJ community.

In 2019 SJJSF hosted several workshops and initiated projects or alliances that focused on Jiu-Jitsu for women to not only teach self-defense, but to promote safety for women. An example is a SJJSF initiative to create a call center that provides women with a support system to report assaults or abusive behavior. In addition, there were workshops to educate the community on types of abusive behavior and its data, and provide information on support and prevention, legitimate defense, and emotional well-being. Presently, SJJSF is the only federation to actively promote a pedagogy of BJJ for Women that addresses these social issues. In 2019 SJJSF organized and hosted 8 coach and athlete training programs that addressed competition rules and pedagogy.

CF President reviews data on BJJ engagement via social media platforms and discusses areas of growth for SJJSF and areas that SJJSF will be targeting to promote overall engagement of the BJJ community and public with SJJSF.

The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

Asia Report

CF President Edson Kogahara of the ASJJF reports that a positive trend in Asia is that due to the upcoming Asia Games there is a growing number of practitioners and ASJJF events have a good number of participants. However, the connection between JJIF and the Asian Games will have an inevitable backlash on BJJ events that the ASJJF is preparing themselves for. For detailed information on national activity CF President turns the presentation over to the respective national representative:

Japan - NF Representative Murata Ryoza reports recently hosting the second All Japan championship and is now working hard to solidify relationships in Japan to ensure future success of events. In addition, he recently had the opportunity to attend an Adapted BJJ event and was very impressed by the event, therefore planning to incorporate Adapted BJJ events in future Japan events and aims to increase the number of participants in events.

Question is posed regarding establishing a trademark for Sport Jiu-Jitsu in Japan. SJJJF approves this request, however, it is noted that the trademark will have to be nation specific to ensure that it does not impede growth in other nations or block activity of other national members.

NF Representative Ivan Sakamoto for Okinawa reports that events are widely popular in the region and consistently maintain themselves as the most highly participated events in the region. 2020 plans are to expand to a new venue to accommodate event growth.



21/05/2020 Page 6 of 14

India - NF Representative Gurwant Singh reports that Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is a relatively new sport in India and 3 events were organized in 2019. Challenges are that India doesn't yet have many practitioners and events require a substantial initial investment, however, he is working committedly to support the growth of the sport and federation. NF Representative notes that NoGi is more popular in India due to the cost of GIs, which is also something he has to consider when organizing events.

China - NF Representative Wang Kai reports that Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu has been present in China for about 10 years and it has grown exponentially in popularity and participation. Presently, there has been a significant shift in the amount of events being hosted by ASJJF with a total of 10 events to date in 2019 in China with a total number of participants across all events of 4000 - significantly larger than other events by other organizers.

NF Representative shares that he is not trying to compete in the old model of competitions where events are held in widely popular areas already saturated with events, rather he is trying to set-up competitions in new territories where participants of those areas are more easily able to compete and where the cost of organizing an event is lower.

For 2020 NF Representative aims to grow the number of events, introduce the SJJIF membership as a component of those events, and add Adapted BJJ divisions to the events.

Korea - NF Representative Sung Min Cho reports that Korea has experienced a growth in practitioners and ASJJF is widely respected as one of the better event organizers. However, with the Asian Games there are significant shifts in the BJJ community occurring now. The number of events organized have increased exponentially, and Korea plans to continue growth of events and capitalize on ASJJF's strong name in Korea.

Malaysia - NF Representative Raphael Moa reports that they are in the process of organizing their first competition and will use this experience to better plan and organize future events.

Vietnam - NF Representatives Kotani Hisanori and Nguyen Xuan report that the number of BJJ practitioners in Vietnam is still relatively small, however, they hosted their first event in 2019 with 450 competitors. The NF Representative notes that NoGi is very popular in Vietnam due to the cost of the GI uniform and consequently the Gi and NoGi events were relatively equal in number of participants. 2020 goals are for one big event and two smaller events to be hosted in Vietnam.

Oceania Report

CF President Minol Taviras is unable to attend the GA meeting due to personal reasons, however, President Joao Silva reports that he is feeling very positive about the future of Oceania as its development started strongly in Tahiti and now there are strong members in Australia and New Zealand to guide the growth of this continent. The President turns the presentation to NP Representative Paolo Rogerio Gomes Oliveira of New Zealand who reports that the national federation has a very strong presence and is widely supported. The last event hosted in New Zealand had over 1,300 competitors which placed the national federation in place to directly



21/25/2020 Page 7 of 14

compete with the largest events in the Oceania continent. In addition, New Zealand is one step away from formally sanctioning BJJ in New Zealand and the national federation as the organizing body which will be a big accomplishment for New Zealand.

In 2020 New Zealand has 12 events confirmed in their calendar and the Oceania Continental event in February of 2020 which is already being positively received. Presently, Oceania has the required national federations to formally establish the continental federation and this will be further developed in 2020.

Europe Report

CF President Marcello Rosa is unable to attend the GA meeting due to travel delays. SJJIF President shares that the European continent had growth in national members in 2019 and turns the presentation over to national representatives present.

Italy - NF Representative Alessandro Federico of Italy presents that the federation is in the process of developing itself in the face of IBJJF having previously held a monopoly in Italy. However, the NF Representative reports that their unique approach is that sports for all, regardless of age or socio-economic position and this is positively received. Two BJJ championships are presently being organized for 2020 and presently have 160 academies with approximately 3200 practitioners. The NF Representative states that 2020 goals are to translate the SJJIF rulebook to Italian, begin the process of including Adapted BJJ practitioners and divisions to events and developing an Italian team to participate at the next SJJIF World event.

Hungary - NF Representative Martina Jozsef of Hungary presents a report on Hungary to familiarize members with the country. In 2019 the federation focused on finalizing the formalizing of the federation and identifying the activities and goals of 2020. Membership has grown consistently since the founding of the federation in 2016 and they are preparing to organize their first competitive event.

Ukraine - NF Representative Serhii Pasichnyi of Ukraine reports that there are approximately 4000 BJJ practitioners in Ukraine and a 2020 goal is to plan regional competition events for both adults and kids and one national event. Winners of the national event will be provided with travel to compete at the SJJIF World as they have a goal of not only growing the national federation, but the federation's presence within SJJIF.

SJJIF President interjects to note that he believes SJJIF's growth will be organic, citing how the Italian federation coming on board is a result of a potential alliance being discussed in 2019. The alliance was not realized, however, friendships were built in the respectful process that led to growth for SJJIF. Therefore, he encourages all members to seek new relationships within the BJJ community as it can positively impact their respective federations and SJJIF.

Africa Report

CF President Jildson Simoes is unable to be at the GA meeting due to travel delays, however, a report is provided to the GA. SJJIF President reports that the African Open was initially set to be hosted in South Africa, however, due to the political climate of South Africa the event was once



212512020

again hosted in Mauritius. The 2019 Africa Open had strong growth in both the number of participants and nations represented and included Adapted BJJ. It is noted that this event represents huge accomplishments not only in the presentation of the event itself, but also the symbolic impact as it relates to peace and unity in the face of historic and present rivalry and conflict across nations and peoples in Africa.

It is noted that in 2018 SJJAF was able to acquire CONFEJES membership, the benefits more fully realized in 2019. In 2019 the Lion Heart initiative for BJJ was developed to promote the growth of BJJ in remote areas where BJJ is not present.

E. Approval of New Members

General Secretary Summer Casebere presents the next item, which is to approve the Provisional National Members to Full Member status as per the SJJIF Statutes & Bylaws. This year the SJJIF has received membership applications from the following countries; Italy, Israel and Bulgaria that have been approved and given provisional membership status as they await final approval from the general assembly. In addition, the GA needs to ratify an Executive Committee decision to grant the Hungary Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation Full Member status in 2019. The federations are:

- a. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Italy Federation - Federazione Italiana Grappling Mixed Martial Arts
- b. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Israeli Federation - Israel Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu League
- c. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Bulgaria Federation - Bulgarian Shootfighting Federation

The floor is open for questions and comments. CF President Sam Aschidamini inquires if a video submission by federations not present were provided per requirement decided upon at the 2018 SJJIF GA meeting. It is confirmed that the Israeli and Bulgarian federation did not provide a video. Consequently, it is proposed that the voting into Full Member status of the Israeli and Bulgarian federation be postponed until a video is submitted. Upon receipt of video and dispersal to all members, an electronic vote will take place to ratify said Provisional Members into Full Member status. The assembly unanimously agrees.

There are no further questions or comments from members. The General Secretary asks the General Assembly to ratify the acceptance of all remaining provisional members. The assembly unanimously agrees and welcomes Sport Jiu-Jitsu Italy Federation and Sport Jiu-Jitsu Hungary Federation. Present NF Representatives are provided with voting cards.

F. Election of SJJIF Executive Committee VP

General Secretary Summer Casebere presents the next item which is to elect the SJJIF Executive Committee VP as per SJJIF Statutes & Bylaws (8.3 - 8.6) which state that voting for elections shall be conducted by secret ballot unless there is only one candidate. If there is one candidate nominated for a position, he or she shall be acclaimed, unless one third of the member NFs having voting rights request that a secret vote take place. The candidate is Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus who is acclaimed to the position of SJJIF Vice President.

G. Software Report

Software developer presents report demonstrating software capabilities and features, informing members of the international federation capabilities and those features that will be available at the continental and national federation level and event organizer level. Features presented range from



event management, ranking, automated brackets, and competitor profile management. Software developer also reviews software from the member/competitor point-of-view, some of the customized features that will be available to federations, and the adaptability of the software to the varying needs of federations.

Discussion and Q&A follows with the rollout plan of the software, which will begin with events, as it will prioritize data collection and validity of records, key contributors to accurate ranking of athletes, teams, and nations. President João Silva adds that a key objective of the software is to ensure that the BJJ lineage is preserved through accurate records assuring that belt validation and accreditation is based on BJJ professor hierarchy. He also adds that the software will be available to event organizers that would like to work with the SJJIF rules & regulations in their own events, specifying that there will be a cost for the use of the software, but it will be available to the BJJ community.

H. Discussion Topics

A. Mission & Direction of SJJIF

The President begins by noting that the main mission for 2020 will be to continue to grow and develop SJJIF, defined by short and long-term objectives. The president notes that an immediate goal of the SJJIF is to build the BJJ community through the educational platform, both internally as it relates to development and standardization and the wider BJJ community as it relates to resources and understanding of the educational resources SJJIF is developing.

CF President Cleiber Maia adds that developing a universal BJJ standard that establishes a minimum level of knowledge for belts/ranks would be beneficial guidelines for the BJJ community as an introduction to BJJ and techniques.

B. Educational Resources

The President discusses the Educational Resources project launched in 2019 and the continued focus of 2020 to expand the awareness of these resources to the BJJ community and consequently their benefit to athletes, coaches, and professionals.

CF President Sam Aschidamini adds that connecting the educational resources and the leaders of our BJJ community to address social issues such as bullying would be very powerful. He shares a project that NABJJF did in 2019 that not only had a significant impact for their federation, but also provided material for marketing and promoting the federation, BJJ and its positive impact on society. SJJIF President adds that this is an idea that can also be used at the national federation level as they have more close contact with their national BJJ communities. The continental federations can then use the work of the national federations to promote the continental federation and activity, in addition to their own continental level projects. SJJIF would then focus on promoting the national and continental activity in addition to organizing or supporting global projects that bring together the continental and national federations.

C. Adapted BJJ

Discussion on the importance of implementing Adapted BJJ events at all levels of the federation while simultaneously noting that it requires additional planning and education of staff, but is rewarding and important to work towards creating platforms of inclusion at all levels.



21/25/2020

D. Member Duties and Annual Fees

SJJIF President reviews established duties, noting the importance of promoting all member's activity via SJJIF at the continental and national level as a means of evidence of international BJJ activity and tool to demonstrate how big our organization truly is. Annual fees are discussed and the required timeliness of payment by national federations.

E. SJJIF Ranking and Recognized Events

Discussion on SJJIF software which is developed and owned by SJJIF and the importance of all SJJIF event organizers using the software for data and ranking purposes. In 2020, SJJIF will aim to launch the individual ranking which will only be comprised of events that went through the SJJIF software due to result imports via other files causing too many issues for SJJIF.

In addition, situations unique to Israel and Italy are discussed and solutions on how to move forward are determined. Solutions include all members having to prove lineage / professor information and alternative options for proof of business to accommodate proof of legal standing in other countries.

Event standards are also discussed and a potential 2020 continental project to determine what the minimum international event standards will be. It is proposed that standards be tiered to support national federations growth while they establish themselves.

F. International Organizations

Discussion on 2020 goal to further develop relationships with existing international organizations, including relationships established with organizations linked to the Educational Resources.

Topic of collaborating in projects and events with other organizations is revisited, noting the learning curve that SJJIF members experienced in 2019 and the unique experiences of national, continental and international SJJIF leadership coming together to work at other organization's events.

G. Software

Presentation of overall SJJIF Software capabilities introduced by SJJIF President and continued by SJJIF software engineer. Detailed presentation on software capabilities and functions from the perspective of a continental or national federation and event organizer.

Q&A session follows with questions regarding live scoreboard updates, registration, finances, email/customer system department. In addition, the SJJIF President requests that the software developer create a form of required information from national federations to transition to the SJJIF software program.

H. Competition Rules

SJJIF President notes that there were no discussion item forms submitted on the topic of competition rules therefore there are no items to discuss. However, a brief discussion follows on Adapted BJJ competition rules and it is agreed that CF President Cleiber Maia will further develop items to be discussed at the 2020 SJJIF General Assembly meeting.



21/25/2020

I. Social Media & Marketing

Discussion on the importance of sharing all events and activities on social media outlets and using hashtags to facilitate sharing national and continental events at the international level.

J. Black Belt Prize Money

Review of 2019 additions to the black belt prizes for the 2019 SJJIF World event which include the belts and rings. Discussion on female black belt participation at the SJJIF World event with a review of the objective of equal cash prizes since SJJIF's first world event which was to substantiate SJJIF's value on equality by creating an equal cash prize payout for both male and female black belt athletes. However, it is noted that female black belts previously complained that the men had more weight divisions, therefore it was easier for men to get to the minimum number of participants for the larger cash prizes. SJJIF presented feedback to the SJJIF GA at that time and more female weight divisions were added to support female black belt athletes in acquiring the higher cash prizes. The complaint that followed was that there was a significant difference in size/weight between female black belts which made it difficult for the lighter females to win. SJJIF presented feedback to the SJJIF GA and a light and heavy open weight division were created for both female and male black belt athletes. However, the 2019 SJJIF World event had a total participation of 9 female black belt athletes. It is proposed that a different approach be taken to empower female BJJ athletes such as supporting female initiatives and projects that may potentially have a larger impact on growing and empowering the female BJJ athlete.

Discussion follows on the overall black belt cash prize system and a potential future need to restructure or divert funds currently allocated to the cash prizes to other projects and/or belt levels. Options discussed are investing overall cash prize money into social BJJ projects and/or initiatives, reducing the overall cash prize money, or using a portion of funds to support global athletes ranked at the continental level. It is noted that a budget will have to be created on overall black belt cash prizes based on the average of the annual amount awarded to both female and male black belt competitors in previous years to have a more accurate budget when discussing alternatives to the black belt cash prizes.

For purposes of the 2019 SJJIF GA meeting and the topic of the female black belt cash prize, it is decided that a budget will be provided to the GA members that is an average of the annual amount awarded to female black belt competitors. GA members will have the opportunity to present ideas/projects and projects will be selected via majority vote in 2020. The assembly unanimously agrees.

For purposes of the 2019 SJJIF GA meeting and the topic of the overall black belt cash prize, it is decided that it may need to be restructured, however, a budget will be provided to the GA members that is an average of the annual amount awarded to both male and female black belt competitors historically. GA members will have the opportunity to present ideas on the 2020 cash prize which will be voted and selected via a majority vote. It is noted that multiple votes may take place to come to a final decision on how to proceed for the 2020 SJJIF world event. The assembly unanimously agrees.



2/25/2020

I. SJJIF 2020 Objectives

General Secretary Summer Casebere presents that the 2020 objectives will be to strengthen current continental and national federations to ensure that we are stronger as a whole. Specific areas are as follows:

- a. Develop guidelines for SJJIF Continental Tour;
- b. Further develop SJJIF Educational Resources;
- c. Attend TAFISA Congress - November 2019;
- d. Attend GAISF / SportAccord Conference;
- e. SJJIF Software - ranking and expansion to national federations;
- f. Continue to develop SJJIF community & educational events around the globe;
- g. Continue to propagate the SJJIF mission;
- h. Continue to develop social work & events through Sport Jiu-Jitsu;

Discussion on potential post SJJIF World celebratory event to further unite the BJJ community.

Discussion on a potential SJJIF world grand prix or world tournament circuit held at the continental level. Ideas discussed are a 12 month versus 24 month event circuit, percentage of profit allocated to SJJIF to support SJJIF projects and financial stability, guidelines with event planning and dates as it relates to the SJJIF world event and as it relates to the potential success of continental events against their regional calendars, and potential event locations.

Long-term objectives of the SJJIF are to organize and establish the minimum national federations required by the IOC and WADA and abide by the guidelines of transparency, integrity, democracy, sport development & solidarity, and control mechanisms. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

J. 2020 SJJIF General Assembly

General Secretary Summer Casebere confirms that the 2020 SJJIF World event dates are already confirmed and the next Annual SJJIF Conference and General Assembly meeting will be scheduled in conjunction with the SJJIF World event. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

K. Concluding Remarks and Closing of the General Assembly

The President shares thoughts on why SJJIF was developed, noting the importance of a democratic system where individuals can come together with an equal presence to discuss and decide on topics. President notes that this General Assembly meeting held the first election of an executive committee position, citing the pivotal roles founding members had for SJJIF. President awards Continental President Sam Aschidamini with an award for his contributions to SJJIF as both a founding member and SJJIF Vice President up to the 2019 SJJIF GA meeting.

Continental President Sam Aschidamini shares a few words on his experience as a founding member of SJJIF and as a contributing member to its growth, noting that he looks forward to being part of SJJIF and its continental and national members' growth.

The President thanks everyone for his or her participation in meeting, stating that he recognizes the commitment it takes to be present. He believes that working and voting together is key to ensuring



2/25/2020

the continued growth and betterment of the sport and federation. He wishes everyone a successful and productive 2020.



João Silva

Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation
President



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21/25/2020 Page 14 of 14