



2024 Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation General Assembly Minutes  
Wednesday September 25, 2024 - 9AM - 1 PM - I JST  
Nagoya, Japan (In-person & Virtual Meeting)

**I. Welcome**

President, Mr. João Silva, welcomes attendees and states that it is his pleasure to once again be present at the General Assembly (GA) meeting and finally back in a room with everyone after a few years of virtual meetings. The president acknowledges the absence of some members and expresses his hope that others join in on the Zoom meeting.

The President states that it is his honor to be present as the president of the Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation, working and collaborating with everyone as the goal of the SJJIF is for everyone to feel that they are part of the SJJIF's work and are clear of the mission and work being done. He believes that the general assembly is how we get to come together, share ideas, grow from one another, and uplift the sport.

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

The General Secretary requests that all attendees check in via the QR code and briefly introduce themselves. Attendees present themselves, indicating what federation/country they represent and their respective positions.

**II. Attendance**

The following attendees are present:

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SJJIF President

SJJIF Treasurer

SJJIF General Secretary

NABJJF Representative (North America)

ASJJF Representative (Asia)

OSJJF Representative (Oceania)

Representative of Malaysia

Representative of New Zealand

Representative of Okinawa

Representative of Taiwan

Representative of Malaysia

Representative of China

Representative of India

Representative of Korea

Representative of Marianas

Representative of Guam

Representative of Vietnam

**III. Approval of Agenda**

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

**IV. Approval of 2021, 2022, and 2023 GA Minutes**

The SJJIF General Secretary, Summer Casebere, asks the GA to approve the 2021, 2022, and 2023 General Assembly minutes individually. The GA unanimously agreed to each individually with 2022 and 2023 General Assembly minutes approved after the President's Report.

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## V. Reports

### A. President's Report

The President opens the President Report by informing members that his presentation will report activity going back to 2022.

#### 2022 Activity:

- Summary of SJJIF Worlds which returned to the Long Beach Arena / Convention Center in California in July of 2022.
- Developed the scoreboard for the traditional and submission only events.
- Finalized and implemented the SJJIF World Bidding process where continental and national federations have the opportunity to host the event.
- Transition of Oceania Federation leadership to Paulo Oliveira upon the resignation of Minol Tavares who did a great job in the start up development of the Australian and Oceania Federations.

The SJJIF General Secretary, Summer Casebere, asks the GA if there are any questions regarding the 2022 General Assembly minutes. There are no questions therefore the General Secretary asks the GA to approve the 2022 General Assembly minutes. The GA unanimously approves.

#### 2023 Activity:

- Summary of SJJIF Worlds which was supposed to be hosted at the Long Beach Pyramid in California but due to extended construction projects the venue would no longer be available in 2023 for outside sporting events. The decision to move the event to the Credit Union of Texas Event Center was made after they offered tremendous support and provided an opportunity to conduct a mega event. However, the event did not garner sufficient traction to maintain SJJIF's event standards and the event was consequently canceled in the United States. Discussions with the South American federation president Cleiber Maia ensued leading to the World championship event moving to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November of 2023. The short marketing time potentially impacted participation numbers, however, the event allowed SJJIF to host its 10th world edition in the country and state of the birth of Sport Jiu-Jitsu. In addition, the event received tremendous and positive feedback and engagement with the BJJ community, not only in Brazil but worldwide through news platforms and social media. During and after the event the presence and engagement of the SJJIF was positively impacted.
- Acquired pro bono legal representation from an international law firm. President provided update to the services & or projects currently being reviewed and or worked on with legal support.
- Partnership with Sprintty and launching of JiuJiteiro TV to explore live streaming opportunities of federation events under one platform.
- Partnership with SmoothComp to provide federations and event organizers who have faced payment gateway challenges an alternative platform that continues to use the SJJIF scoreboard and provide data for ranking purposes. Discussed pros, cons, and continued need for belt verification which the SJJIF software & process does for sport integrity and a potential hybrid solution between platforms.

The SJJIF General Secretary, Summer Casebere, asks the GA if there are any questions regarding the 2023 General Assembly minutes. Discussion resulting from questions regarding



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belt verification, features that Smooth Comp provides, and follow up tasks identified. The General Secretary asks the GA to approve the 2023 General Assembly minutes. The GA unanimously approves.

2024 Activity:

- SJJIF software and app update including live mode capabilities and app which will have alert and communication capabilities to share information or provide alerts and updates during tournaments.
- Smooth Comp updates include the submission only scoreboard in addition to the traditional scoreboard which is already developed to look and feel the same across all SJJIF sanctioned events regardless of whether the event host is using Smooth Comp or the SJJIF software. President provides a pros and cons analysis of using Smooth Comp or other open softwares compared to SJJIF software only and states that event organizers have the option to use either but understanding the benefits and potential consequences to make the best choice for their federation or event.
- President João Silva & Christian Roberts, president of the Brazilian confederation are working together to acquire the recognition of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as a cultural patrimony of Brazil under IPHAN.
- Law firm partnered with SJJIF has submitted all necessary forms to trademark the SJJIF name & logo and the request should be finalized by the end of 2024 or early 2025.
- Event options to increase exposure of the SJJIF name & logo (SJJIF Open & SJJIF World Tour Event) and provide partnership opportunities for the continued growth of our sport.
  - SJJIF Open event: Not restricted to federations; open to any event organizer wanting to work with the SJJIF using the federation's rules and regulations. The goal is to work with event organizers in regions or countries where the SJJIF is targeting growth or expansion. Event organizers would not acquire voting rights, but partner with SJJIF for a flat fee to host an event in exchange for guidance and support including planning & preparation, staffing, marketing, operational support during event, and post event result and ranking processes. The goal is to continue to promote standardized rules and to create greater opportunities for officials similar to other sports. A percentage of the fee would go towards Team of the Year ranking and cash prizes as another avenue to give back to the BJJ community.

Discussion & feedback addresses market competition, hindrance to sport development due to a lack of standardized rules across all events, the need to educate sport community on benefits of rule standardization, SJJIF certification & desirability, incentives via cash prizes and team ranking for federation members, point system and preventing cheating by ensuring that when using cross-feeding systems the SJJIF rulebook and ranking points are aligned, and credibility of athlete/event results being submitted for ranking.

- SJJIF World Tour: Restricted to national and continental federations with the goal of creating a next level, elite competitor platform of athletes representing their country. Format would be similar to a World Cup, but with caps in multiple of eight. Hosting federations would pay a fee to SJJIF and commit to bringing the top eight competitors to the SJJIF Worlds (two males (gi and no gi) and two females (gi and no gi) to compete in the traditional event and have a separate competition of qualifying athletes



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only. The eight elite athletes should be the best from the open events.

- Athlete Representation and Divisions
  - The goal is to have \$20,000 in cash prize.
  - There would be two male athletes: light and heavyweight open weight, then a female light and open and heavyweights.
  - Male athletes can compete in both GI and No-Gi, or countries can bring separate athletes for each division.
  - Live stream and show production for the elite division.
- Benefits of hosting the event include global exposure, national talent can compete at the World Tour event within the SJJIF World event and also in the traditional competition, local economy boost due to people traveling in, community engagement, potential of national athletes winning the \$20,000 cash prize.
- Goal is to reach a 32 athlete world tour which can then be hosted independently & outside of the SJJIF World event.
- Review of SJJIF World Championship bidding process which is open to all national and continental federations who can pay the hosting fee and can demonstrate the capability to host a successful event including quality of presentation, organization, staffing, government support, sponsors, and number of athletes. Further details are included in the SJJIF World Bidding booklet and application.
- Revisit to the previously proposed Jiu-Jitsu World Day on October 1st which is Helio Garcie's birthday and considered the founder of sport jiu-jitsu. Event goal is to celebrate and build solidarity amongst the global BJJ community and would involve promotion of event via social media and the inclusion of hashtag #JiuJitsuWorldDay as BJJ practitioners take BJJ photos, training, seminars, etc. Potential federation activity is open events or seminars.

#### **B. Vice President Report**

Vice President Tawfiq Jaunbocus opens with sharing challenges he believes are unique to Africa including political and economic instability and issues with travel and immigration within the continent. He reports that the continent relies heavily on sponsors to continue hosting the annual Africa Open and notes Mauritius' continued political and economic stability that allows them to continue hosting the Africa Open.

Vice President Jaunbocus reports on external organizations who are either funding projects or seeking to expand their sport presence in the African continent.

Regarding the development of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Africa the Vice President notes the challenges African athletes encounter due to financial constraints such as traveling internationally and issues of event participation reciprocity. Vice President Jaubocus requests the support of other countries to support events in Africa so that a reciprocal relationship can be further solidified amongst athletes and Africa's growth, highlighting the importance of connections and collaboration for the development of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Africa.

#### **C. General Secretary Report**

General Secretary Summer Casebere reports on activity as follows:



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- a. Review of number of SJJIF events data from 2013 to 2024 with post-COVID-19 recovery and growth projections noted.
- b. Review of 2024 SJJIF World Championship & Adapted BJJ data.
- c. Review of SJJIF GS activity including supporting and finalizing the world bidding procedures, acquiring partnership with the Shearman & Sterling LLP law firm and new tax firm which is reviewing SJJIF financial documents & processes.
- d. 2025 Objectives:
  - i. Acquiring grants
  - ii. Revamp of SJJIF competition rule books
  - iii. Organization Jiu-Jitsu World day

The General Secretary notes that this concludes her presentation. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

#### **D. Finance Report**

SJJIF GS presents the financial reports including the 2021, 2022 and 2023 balance sheet with details, and the profit and loss account. The General Secretary indicates that this is an updated report that includes information unknown at the time of the last general assembly meeting. NF membership fees are discussed and the payment requirement to maintain voting rights at the general assembly meeting. Ongoing discussion about the benefits of collaborative efforts to sustain the continued growth of SJJIF and its initiatives.

The floor is open for questions and comments. There are no questions or comments from members. The General Secretary asks the assembly to accept the financial reports for 2021, 2022 and 2023. The General Assembly unanimously approved the financial reports of the SJJIF.

The General Secretary presents the estimated 2024 financial reports and indicates that the profit and loss report is as realistic and as skeptical as possible to present realistic data. The General Secretary indicates that the estimated report includes accurate information from January through August 2024.

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 2024. The General Assembly unanimously approved the 2024 estimated financial reports of the SJJIF.

#### **E. Continental Council VP Report**

##### **North America Report**

The CF Vice President Patricia Silva of the NABJJF reports on events, the ranking system that is awarding top teams and professors, and new finale event. The goal is continued growth of events and maintaining strong relationships with the BJJ community. Challenges faced are emerging / growing event organizers which are being countered with maintaining affordable registration fees and excellent customer service.

##### **South America Report**

CF President Mr. Cleiber Maia of the SJJSAF will report at a later date.



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## **Asia Report**

CF President Edson Kogahara of the ASJJF reports on the far reaching and positive impact of hosting the SJJIF World Championship not only for the federations, but for BJJ academies who have reported an increase in student enrollment. He also reports growth in newcomer participation with an increased percentage of white belts - a positive trend for BJJ professors, events and the sport.

CF President Edson Kogahara's marketing and event strategy congratulated, shared and discussed as a successful template to replicate as the growth in Asia across all sectors (national federations, events, participation, SJJIF/ASJJF awareness, SJJIF competition rules awareness, etc.) speaks for itself.

National federations under the ASJJF report on events and participation, identify challenges and areas of growth, and present future goals for the development of BJJ and SJJIF in their respective nations / national federations.

## **Oceania Report**

SJJIF President reports that a motion is required to finalize Paulo Oliveira as the president of the Oceania Federation with all development moving forward under his direction. Motion is unanimously approved.

Oceania President Paulo Oliveira discusses New Zealand event and BJJ practitioner growth and event demographics, identifying the development of the kid sector of the federation as a targeted area as he believes they are key to the future of our sport. Challenges and targeted areas of growth/opportunity in Australia and French Polynesia are presented.

## **Africa Report**

SJJIF VP Tawfiq Jaunbocus reported previously.

## **Europe Report**

CF President Marcello Rosa will report at a later date.

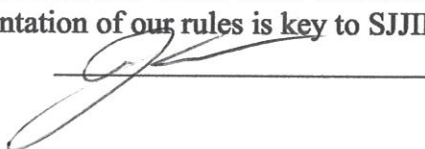
The floor is open for questions and comments. There are no questions or comments from members.

## **F. Discussion Topics**

### **1. Membership Duties / Events**

The importance of membership duties is discussed with a collective action and unified direction to support one another and the collective growth:

- a. Communication to avoid overlap or close proximity of major (continental) events is noted with a suggestion that such events should be 2 months apart.
- b. National events recommended to use the SJJIF software if the capability is present in that respective nation or approved alternative options to ensure that the SJJIF scoreboard and ranking is used.
- c. Event standards to be maintained and naming of events to be reflective of set standards for such events. However, SJJIF competition rules can never be altered or changed, SJJIF competition rules are to be fully implemented 100% of the time. The education of our SJJIF rules and regulations and the continued implementation of our rules is key to SJJIF's continued growth.



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- d. Goal of 4 national federation events per year and all events should have respective federation logo and SJJIF logo, should promote SJJIF membership and SJJIF rules.
- e. NF and CF members are required to be present at the annual General Assembly meeting.
- f. Goal of 2 rule seminars per year.
- g. Social media posts should tag and/or collaborate with SJJIF.

## 2. Mission & Direction

The slogan *"Together we are stronger"* emphasizes the importance of collaboration among all SJJIF member federations. While many individuals in Jiu-Jitsu work hard, isolated or parallel efforts do not create unity or long-term growth. Federations must collectively promote the sport, uphold values, implement rules, and respect local communities by organizing quality events that deepen understanding of the sport's standards.

Federations should not act solely as event organizers—who can easily change rules or incentives to attract athletes—but instead must take on the responsibility of educating, instilling values, and ensuring consistency in the sport. Strategic growth comes from going beyond events to build community, foster social inclusion, and strengthen the culture of Jiu-Jitsu worldwide.

A key responsibility is for each federation to host meaningful events such as rules courses, collective seminars, "Jiu-Jitsu in the Park," self-defense days, Jiu-Jitsu history days, and quality competitions. Every federation must organize at least four high-standard events per year that reflect the full professionalism of official championships—complete with gymnasium setup, tatami, medals, trophies, podiums, and all the elements that make athletes proud to belong to the federation.

When federations uphold these standards, they strengthen their bond with their communities and motivate athletes to participate with confidence in both local and international events. For example, if athletes are invited to compete in Africa and see a complete, professional event that blends international quality with local culture, they feel excited and motivated to return. Conversely, if another continental event lacks medals or professionalism, it damages the federation's credibility and discourages athletes from future participation, harming both the event and the federation's reputation.

Ultimately, each federation must represent its territory authentically while also collaborating with event organizers, aligning efforts toward the collective growth of Jiu-Jitsu worldwide.

## 3. Rulebook Updates & Clarifications

Confirmed:

1. Barotoplata: Age 12+ allowed;
2. No Gi uniform must have 30%+ rank color in a visible area with the secondary color being white or black beginning January 2026 for both adult and kid divisions;

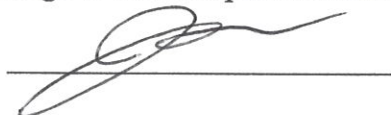


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3. Gi uniform standard colors are white, black or royal blue;
4. Guard pass points:
  1. In the case where a competitor passing the guard has his arm trapped between the opponent's legs, points will be awarded if the competitor on top is holding the competitor in the bottom in a cradle position.
  2. If determined that the competitor is the one in control by controlling with a grip or lasso hook the competitor on top will have to free their arm before receiving guard pass points.
5. Turtle Guard will be considered turtle guard in the case where competitor A transitions to turtle position from a previously established guard with a previous grip or as a continuous motion of attack.
  1. In the case where competitor A is in guard position and competitor B attempts to pass the guard and competitor A rolls into a turtle position and rolls competitor B where competitor A ends up on top then competitor A will receive 2 points for sweep.
  2. In the case where competitor A is in guard position and competitor B attempts to pass the guard and rolls competitor A into a turtle position and attempts to take the back but competitor B defends the position by ending up on top of competitor A will not be considered turtle guard and competitor A will not be awarded 2 points for a sweep.
  3. If competitor A falls into a turtle position during a take down it will not be considered a turtle guard position since no previous guard was established. (Example: Competitor A attempts a double legs takedown and competitor B sprawls resulting in competitor A being on the bottom will not be considered a turtle guard position since no previous guard was established or if both competitor A and competitor B are standing and competitor A snaps down competitor B acquiring top control competitor B will not be considered to be in a turtle guard position).
  4. In the case where competitor A is attempting to pass the guard and rolls competitor B into turtle guard and while attempting a submission gets rolled over, ending up in the bottom of competitor B, will only be considered an escape and not a sweep. No points will be awarded.
  5. In the case where competitor A is attempting to pass the guard and rolls competitor B into turtle position and while attempting a submission competitor A falls into an established guard pass position such as side control or north and south 3 points will be awarded for the guard pass.

President Joao Silva notes the importance of everyone's presence at the general assembly meeting to ensure a fair and optimal voting and representation of the global BJJ community as issues that impact the entire organization are voted on. He further comments that today's discussion and required clarification on guard pass and turtle guard identified two key practices that need to be fully member by SJJIF members:

1. Key items to be discussed and potentially voted on at the general assembly must be submitted in the discussion form prior to the general assembly meeting or are subject to having vote postponed to a later date.
2. Errors in interpretation of rules or regulations of the SJJIF do not automatically lead to a change to those respective rules. Changes to the rules & regulations



3. may occur if discussions result in a proposed change of rules with ample time provided to all federation members to consider and discuss proposals prior to a vote taking place. That being said, all federation members and officials are responsible for ensuring the correct interpretation of SJJIF rules and regulations and bear the responsibility to correct mistakes if they may occur. National federations bear the responsibility to ensure that the rule and regulation books are translated into their respective language. If a dispute arises between translations the official SJJIF Rules & Regulations English version will be used to resolve said dispute. In the case where the federation does not have a qualified referee director it is the federation's duty to bring a qualified referee director to their events to train and develop future quality referee directors in that respective nation.

**4. Continental Federations**

1. CF should actively work to build national federations in their region.
2. Development of a CF for the central American region presented and shelved for 2025.

**5. Open Q &A:**

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

**H. 2025 World Championship**

The SJJIF President informs members that information on the 2025 World Championship will be provided as soon as possible as location and date options are still being finalized. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

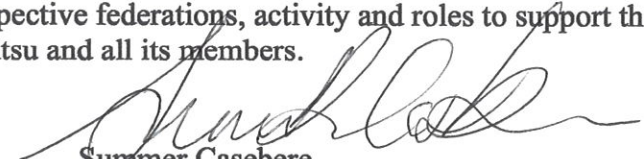
**I. 2025 SJJIF General Assembly**

The SJJIF President informs the GA that the 2025 General Assembly meeting date and location will be based on the 2025 SJJIF World Championship date and location. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

**J. Concluding Remarks and Closing of the General Assembly**

The President notes his excitement for the 2025 SJJIF World Championship and the collective efforts of all members to reinvent their respective federations, activity and roles to support the continued growth of SJJIF, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and all its members.

João Silva  
Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation  
President



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