

EVERYONE FOR JIU-JITSU = JIU-JITSU FOR EVERYONE

2016 Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation General Assembly Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2016 – 11:00AM-4:00PM - Torrance, CA United States

I. Welcome

President, Mr. João Silva, welcomes attendees and states that it his pleasure and honor to be present at the General Assembly (GA) meeting working to take Jiu-Jitsu to the next level and believes that this is a key moment for the future of our sport.

The President indicates that he will be jointly conducting the GA with the General Secretary, Summer Casebere. The President indicates that this is the first official GA of the Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation (SJJIF) and requests that all attendees briefly introduce themselves. Attendees present themselves, indicating what federation/country they represent, and their respective position.

The President concludes wishing everyone a successful GA, stating that he is confident that today is a key moment for our organization to move forward in its mission.

II. Attendance

The following attendees are present:

1. SJJIF President
2. SJJIF Vice President
3. SJJIF General Secretary
4. SJJIF Treasurer
5. SJJIF Executive Assistant
6. NABJJF General Secretary/Proxy (North America)
7. SJJSAF President (South America)
8. SJJAF President (Africa)
9. ASJJF President (Asia)
10. ASJJF Referee Director (Asia)
11. ASJJF Public Relations Officer (Asia)
12. SJJ AUSF President (Australia)
13. SJJ AUSF Secretary (Australia)
14. MBBJF Treasurer/Proxy (Mauritius)
15. MBBJF Assist. General Secretary (Mauritius)
16. SJJM Proxy/ Int'l Public Relations Officer (Morocco)
17. FPSJJF Proxy/President (French Polynesia)
18. FPSJJF Assist. Referee (French Polynesia)

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III. Approval of Agenda

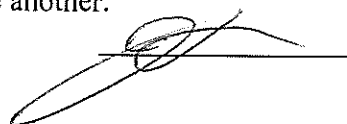
The SJJIF General Secretary, Summer Casebere, asks the GA to approve the proposed agenda. The GA unanimously agreed.

IV. Activity Reports

a. President's Report

The President presents the 2016 SJJIF President Report that reports his activity during the 2016 year to further the SJJIF mission and development of Sport Jiu-Jitsu. Report chronologically presented President João Silva's activity as follows:

1. Dec 15/Jan 16 – Meeting with SJJSAF President, Cleiber Maia, in Brazil to discuss development of sport and continental federation. President João Silva indicates that he believes this meeting was key in the growth of the SJJSAF.
2. Feb 16 – Meeting with SJJAF President, Jildson Simoes, in Africa to discuss development of sport and continental federation. President João Silva and SJJAF President Jildson Simoes met with the Vice Minister of Sports of Angola and Vice President of the Angola Olympic Committee on separate occasions to discuss development of sport in Angola and internationally. President João Silva indicates that the meeting with the Angola Olympic Committee was key in receiving direction on how to best organize the SJJIF to receive IOC recognition. President João Silva indicates that the opportunity to travel to Angola and understand the progression, challenges, and growth of the sport was a phenomenal experience that provided a lot of insight as to the specific dynamics of the African continent.
3. Mar/Apr 16 – Meeting with ASJJF President, Edson Kogahara, in Asia to discuss development of sport and continental federation. President indicates that visit to Asia also allowed the SJJIF to test the new software that he believes will be the biggest implementation of the SJJIF in 2017. President João Silva met with the Director of International Relations of the Olympic Committee of Japan to discuss the SJJIF Olympic mission and received full support during the meeting.
4. Apr 16 – Attendance of the Sports Accord Convention in Lausanne, Switzerland. President João Silva indicates that attendance at the Sports Accord, representing Sport Jiu-Jitsu for the first time was an honor. The President indicates that he believes the SJJIF was able to open many doors and better understand the challenges and necessary steps the SJJIF needs to take for our sport to become recognized by the IOC. President discussed opportunities to meet presidents of other organizations involved with the IOC that are very important and target other populations (i.e. Special Olympics, Deaflympics) as potential avenues for SJJIF.
5. May 16 - Meeting with the French Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation & French Polynesia Ministry of Sports. President indicates that the acquisition of the French Polynesia Ministry of Sports was huge for the SJJIF as over 80 athletes were selected & supported in participating in the SJJIF World event to represent their country. The president believes that this is a key shift for the future of our sport and federation, having competitors that represent their country, and is a good example for other countries and national federations.
6. Jun 16 – The President reports that the SJJIF hosted its first community event, significant because we were able to show the Sport Jiu-Jitsu community that we are different, we are working for the community and not only event organizers. Furthermore, President João Silva indicates that it is very important for all members of the SJJIF to host community events that are not competitive, to support the bonding of the sport community and develop understanding and respect of one another.



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President João Silva indicates that Continental Council VPs led other key activity and he will let them share their activity during their reports. The General Secretary then presents the Sanctioned Events and 2016 Met Goals data of the President's Report. Data presented number of sanctioned events, type of events, and participating countries from 2013 – 2016, demonstrating the growth of the SJJIF.

The President interjects to thank all members for their hard work and dedication to the sport and federation, sharing that this data is important for us to recognize the collective successes and growth of the SJJIF. The President also indicates that it is important for us to recognize, when discussing 2016 met goals, the internal growth of the SJJIF and the growing number of people working with the SJJIF to realize its mission. Furthermore, he believes that an overarching success of the goals met in 2016 was the federation and its members upholding the value of fair play and the preservation of our sport's history and lineage. The President indicates that today there are other organizations that are trying to represent our sport, and it is only through our unity and insistence in preserving the history of our sport, its development, and expansion throughout the world that we will be able to preserve the essence and roots of Jiu-Jitsu.

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, presents her activity for the 2016 year. The General Secretary indicates that key objectives were to finalize the SJJIF Statutes & Bylaws as agreed upon at the 2015 SJJIF Executive Committee meeting, finalize the SJJIF Competition Rules & Regulation book, and organize the first official SJJIF General Assembly meeting in collaboration with the NABJJF General Secretary Veronica Burgos.

The General Secretary then reports ongoing activity and objectives for 2017. A key objective will be to acquire recognition from an international sporting organization, as the SJJIF has already applied for recognition from WADA and TAFISA. She shares that the federation has experienced challenges in 2016, primarily due to the fact that there are other federations such as the JJIF and UWW who are falsely claiming to represent Jiu-Jitsu. However, the SJJIF will continue to fight to represent our sport and pursue recognition from an international organization.

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 2015 balance sheet with some details and the profit and loss account. Treasurer Patricia Silva indicates that in 2015, the SJJIF's only income was through the membership fees that totaled to \$10,000 and costs were minimal and consisted of only bank fees.

The floor is open for questions and comments. SJJISAF President Cleiber Maia asks why there are no other costs such as the supplies for the SJJIF cards, printers, etc. Treasurer Patricia Silva explains that prior to 2016 the SJJIF had limited to zero funds for expenses, therefore, Built to Submit funded the majority of the SJJIF costs as a collaborative partnership. President João Silva interjects to further explain that the SJJIF was founded in 2013; however, it was only recognized as a non-profit organization in mid 2015. Therefore, the SJJIF as an organization did not begin to receive income until September of 2015 that is reflected in the membership fee income. Prior to this, Built to Submit Enterprise essentially invested in the SJJIF to help it take off.

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



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accept the financial reports for 2015. The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2015 financial reports of the SJJIF.

Treasurer Patricia Silva presents the estimated 2016 financial reports and indicates that the profit and loss report is much more extensive in details as the SJJIF had income in 2016. SJJSAF President Cleiber Maia asks where the cost of the president's attendance to the Sport Accord Convention is listed. Treasurer Patricia Silva identifies the item on the report and indicates that the SJJIF only had funds to attend the Sport Accord Convention and not to present. She continues to explain that although the SJJIF began to incur income from the beginning of the year, the majority of income began to be received after June of 2016 as the registration of the SJJIF World event opened. Treasurer adds that the SJJIF experienced huge growth in 2016, however, estimates for 2016 are a break even, possible negative result. It is projected that the SJJIF will have more income in 2017 as the SJJIF is expanding income sources (i.e. merchandise, national federation membership fees) that will allow the federation to further establish a financial safety net.

The floor is open for questions and comments. Vice President Sam Aschidamini comments that the federation was established several years ago and we are reaching many goals, furthermore it is important to realize that many individuals in the room have been involved since day one. It is important for us to realize that we have a lot of resources within our own federation; experiences, skills, people and we need to tap into that to further support the growth of the federation, events, etc. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus asks if present membership income is based on individuals only. Treasurer Patricia Silva replies that it is based on both individual and academy membership, in 2017 the SJJIF will begin to collect national federation membership fees. There are no further questions or comments from members. The General Secretary asks the assembly to accept the estimated financial reports for 2016. The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2016 estimated financial reports of the SJJIF.

V. Continental Council VP Reports

a. NABJJF Report

President Sam Aschidamini reports that the North American federation was established in 2005 with only one tournament and only 175 competitors. In 2016 the NABJJF hosted ten events, one more than in 2015, and two more than in 2014. The focus of 2016 was not to grow the number of events, but to grow the existing events hosted by the federation by 15% and the goal was reached. In 2017 the NABJJF is looking to expand the number of events into new territories of the United States.

The floor is open for questions and comments. President João Silva comments that when we are discussing the growth of the North and South American continental federations it is important to understand that these continents are difficult to develop, not because of the number of participants, but rather the acceptance of our federation because there are other longstanding organizations that have created a misleading concept of what an international federation represents. In these continents, the continental federations have to educate its participants in the mission of the SJJIF, its vision for our future's sport, and our rules. There is a lot of division amongst our participants due to other organizations. For example, many people think that the IBJJF is a federation, but it is not a federation or a competitor of the SJJIF because they are a for profit corporation, we have different goals. However, to educate people as to these differences takes a while. There are also other organizations like the JJIF who has partnered with UAEJJF who claim that BJJ is part of their Ju Jitsu Newaza or UWW who claim that BJJ is part of their Grappling program that are competing to represent our sport. On that note, it is important



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for us to recognize that each continent will face unique challenges and limitations in how it grows. There are no further questions or comments from members.

b. SJJSF Report

President Cleiber Maia reports that for the South American federation one of the biggest challenges it faces is to present the SJJIF mission and educate the Jiu-Jitsu community that there is a different option in sport organization and leadership. Therefore, he is trying to unite with other likeminded individuals, who believe in a different future for our sport, with belief in unity and growth, and which isn't solely based on making profit. Choosing the right people to work with him is crucial and difficult, especially in South America where Jiu-Jitsu has a long history and organizations that do not necessarily share the vision of unity for our sport.

The goal of 2017 will be to grow the number of individuals and national federations working in collaboration with the SJJSF to host events and follow the competition rules of the SJJIF. His vision is that as other individuals and organizations have the opportunity to work with the SJJSF and SJJIF, which strives to provide the sport and its members with a unique experience of professionalism and fair play, that more South American nations will come on board and become members of the SJJSF and SJJIF.

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

c. ASJJF Report

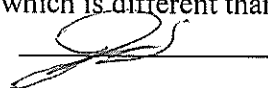
President Edson Kogahara reports that for the Asian Federation their involvement with the SJJIF has been in the making for five years when communication started between Mr. Kogahara and Mr. João Silva. The ASJJF began hosting events aligned with the SJJIF competition rules in 2014 primarily located in Japan. By the end of the 2015 year, the federation was able to host their first event outside of Japan, in the Philippines. 2016 was a year of great growth and expansion for the ASJJF, hosting events in five other countries in Asia; China, South Korea, Singapore, Philippines, and Thailand. The goal of 2017 is to expand events hosted by the ASJJF to other countries of Asia and to establish national federations to represent the ASJJF and SJJIF throughout Asia.

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

d. SJJAF Report

President Jildson Simoes reports that for the African federation their involvement with the SJJIF began in 2015 and in 2016 he brought in Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus to work with him. Together, they have organized two events in Angola and Mauritius. He reports that their mission for 2016 was to unite as many countries as possible with the SJJAF, and in 6 months they have united 9 countries of Africa to work with the SJJAF and SJJIF. Their goal for 2017 is for the SJJAF to host the first continental tournament, an African Championship.

Mr. Jildson Simoes invites Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus, General Secretary of the SJJAF, to report more details on the SJJAF activity of 2016. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus reports that he has had the opportunity to work with the SJJIF and Mr. João Silva for about 6 months, prior to that he was a board member of the JJIF. In addition, last year he visited the president of the IBJJF trying to pursue establishing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Africa. However, his experience with the IBJJF and SJJIF led him to conclude that the SJJIF has the structure and a better vision for our sport. After his meeting with the IBJJF president he realized that they are really a profit making enterprise that uses the name of a federation. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus reports that in Mauritius this was a problem because the Sports Act governs them and any federation founded in Mauritius needs to abide by the law. This is the same case for all of the African countries, which is different than other nations where he sees that there are



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a lot of organizations promoting leadership of Jiu-Jitsu. In many African countries there can only be one organization for a specific sport, and establishing themselves as the federation of Jiu-Jitsu is what they have been working on. Specific objectives of the SJJAF have been to develop the SJJAF website with its national members, their flags, affiliated academies and teams for each specific country. This organization aims to provide a structure that simultaneously values the lineage and original system of our sport and at the same time in line with the new government sport structure. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus reports that in his capacity as General Secretary of the SJJAF, he has been applying for international sport recognition. The first one was UNICEF, the second was international sport recognition within Africa to recognize the SJJAF. He has also applied to UNESCO and International Peace for Africa. Therefore, the SJJAF has applied to four main international bodies to recognize the African organization. The main problem for Africa was and is the confusion that the JJIF has created and continues to create as they try to claim our Jiu-Jitsu as part of their traditional ju jitsu.

Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus emphasizes the importance for all federations to be registered according to the laws of their territory to ensure that we better represent our sport and do not face difficulties related to paperwork in the future. For the SJJAF we have fully registered and finalized all paperwork for the African federation and are now in the process of ensuring that the national federations have done the same. He wants to make sure that all continental federations are doing the same in their own continent.

Presently, the SJJAF is also developing courses for coaches in Africa where all brown and black belts have to have an understanding of the science, the human body, and how an athlete should prepare before, during, and after competition to minimize injury to our athletes and maximize longevity of competition for our athletes. This will be a continued project in 2017 in addition to continuing to bring more national members to our federation.

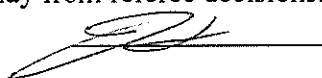
The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

e. Oceania Report

President Minol Tavares Tutida of the SJJ AUSF reports that their involvement with the SJJIF began in November of 2015, largely due to Mr. Edson Kogahara who connected him with Mr. João Silva and the SJJIF. Presently, in Australia there is the federation that works under the IBJJF who host events, however, there are a lot of complaints due to the rules, the referees, and the organization itself – the athletes are not happy. Prior to his involvement with the SJJIF he contacted another Brazilian federation, the CBJJE, and their idea was mainly money rather than do something for the sport. He wanted to do something for the sport so it was then that he contacted Mr. Edson Kogahara because he thought it was the right time to have a federation in Australia.

The SJJ AUSF hosted its first event in the capital of Australia, and they were able to use a venue that was built for the Olympics when they were hosted in Australia. The SJJ AUSF's first event was small, with only 75 competitors in total, but the feedback was very positive. However, because our federation is new we face the challenge of just being another federation and one of the difficulties is presenting our federation and our mission, trying to get people on board. It is good to see that the NABJJF had similar challenges in the beginning and to see where they are now.

Upon returning to Australia Mr. Minol Tavares Tutida is going to concentrate on areas that are remote and do not have a lot of Jiu-Jitsu events and areas that are central to other cities. In the event that the SJJ AUSF hosted there was limited advertisement, but athletes were presented with large medals and trophies, different from competing organization that gives no medals or trophies and which athletes are angry with results due to the lack of fair play from referee decisions. The SJJ AUSF had very positive



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feedback and teams asking for more lead time to our events so they could bring bigger teams. The SJJUSF will be hosting the next tournament in February of 2017 and we are already advertising the tournament so we are excited about that. In regards to Oceania, in 2017 Mr. Minol Tavares Tutida plans on working more closely with the other countries so that they can better work together.

The floor is open for questions and comments. President João Silva comments that the SJJUSF hosted a small event, however, the positive feedback even reached the SJJIF with what a great event it was and athletes and teams also asking for information on the next event. Also, individuals who the SJJIF reached out to years ago and who then thought there were other better organizations to work with are now reaching out to the SJJIF and supporting our events, recognizing our good work and effort on behalf of our sport. As far as Oceania, we are in the process of organizing the other federations so that they can finalize their federation board and pending items.

There are no further questions or comments from members.

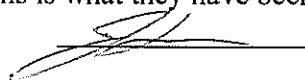
VI. Approval of New Members

General Secretary Summer Casebere presents the next item, which is to approve the Provisional National Members into Full Member status as per the SJJIF Statutes & Bylaws. This year, the SJJIF has received membership applications from the following countries: Algeria, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Tunisia, Pakistan, Seychelles, Egypt that have been approved and given provisional membership status as they await final approval from the general assembly. The federations are:

- a. Commission Algerienne Sport Jiu-Jitsu
- b. Federation Mauritanienne Sport Jiu-Jitsu Gi & No Gi
- c. Mauritius Brazilian Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation
- d. Federation Royale Morocco Sport Jiu-Jitsu
- e. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Tunisian Federation
- f. Pakistan Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation
- g. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Seychelles Federation
- h. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Egyptian Federation

The floor is open for questions and comments. Mr. Cleiber Maia asks if Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus is primarily responsible for these new members. President João Silva confirms that yes and invites Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus to comment on the new federations. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus comments that the SJJAF primarily worked on the structure of Africa and acquiring its national members because the law in Africa only allows for one organization to represent a specific sport. Mr. Cleiber Maia asks if this means that no other organization can represent Sport Jiu-Jitsu/Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in the respective countries, commenting on the existence of the JJIF. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus replies that yes, with the JJIF, they have claimed ju jitsu but he was able to prove that ju jitsu is different from our sport.

President João Silva adds that there is a common question that the SJJIF gets, which is why Sport Jiu-Jitsu and not Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Our federation is a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu entity, there is no question about that, we preserve the sport and culture, but we work with Sport Jiu-Jitsu because it is sport that we are working for. Jiu-Jitsu is an art, which can be culturally unique to different nations, but Sport Jiu-Jitsu is the sport we are working for. Internationally, in the eyes of the IOC, sports are not Korean Taekwondo or Japanese Judo, it is just Taekwondo and Judo. However, if we would have just used Jiu-Jitsu it would have been more of a mess because so many different martial arts have the jitsu as part of their name, this is why we went with Sport Jiu-Jitsu. This is what we will have to fight for and explain, that we are a different sport. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus adds that this is what they have been fighting for and winning in Africa,



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proving that just because ju jitsu and Jiu-Jitsu share the same end word 'jitsu' does not mean that they are the same sport. Key examples would be how football and handball share the same end word but are completely different sports or boxing and kickboxing.

There are no further questions or comments from members. The General Secretary asks the General Assembly to ratify the acceptance of all new provisional members. The assembly unanimously agrees and welcomes all new national federation members.

First session of the General Assembly is concluded and members break for lunch.

VII. Discussion of Proposed Topics for the 2016 SJJIF GA

The General Secretary, Ms. Summer Casebere, introduces the first order of business for session two, which will be a discussion of proposed topics. The General Secretary directs the GA to the provided Proposed Discussion Topics & SJJIF Rulebook & Statutes Article Guide provided to all members to facilitate discussion of the topics. Topics presented in order of discussion.

a. Weight & Age Divisions

Proposed for purposes of translation and simplification are to rename present age divisions of toddler, kinder, and youth to Kid 1, 2, 3 as appropriate, for the Juvenile division pending discussion is having Juvenile only or Juvenile 1 and 2, and for adults we want to remove the Senior division but pending discussion whether to only have Adult 1,2,3...as appropriate or Adult and Master 1,2,3...as appropriate. The General Secretary proposes that the General Assembly vote to determine if we are in favor of redrafting the proposed changes. The General Secretary specifies that this voting will not lead to a final version or revision of the rulebook, rather, this will allow the General Secretary to redraft the current rulebook with proposals that will be submitted to all members electronically and which can be voted on electronically. The assembly unanimously agrees.

b. Belt Divisions

Proposed to maintain the SJJIF Belt Divisions for kids and adults, but add a statute or article to the rulebook that allows continental and national federations to have discretion in the combining of belt divisions for competition. In addition, the SJJIF will develop guidelines for combining belt divisions for competition and what combinations are no longer considered fair play or preserve the health and longevity of the athlete. In addition, combined divisions will not be considered a specific belt division match, rather, a match up division and tournaments that do not have the number of competitors needed to fill all belt divisions can use the alternate SJJIF beginner, intermediate, and advance format. However, if a tournament is not using the alternate format, a match up or combined division has to be identified as such and if a lower belt athlete is moved up to a higher belt division then that athlete has to be identified as a match-up athlete. The General Secretary proposes that the General Assembly vote to determine if we are in favor of redrafting the proposed changes. The General Secretary specifies that this voting will not lead to a final version or revision of the rulebook, rather, this will allow the General Secretary to redraft the current rulebook with proposals that will be submitted to all members electronically and which can be voted on electronically. The assembly unanimously agrees.

c. Special Events

Proposed that the SJJIF develop division criteria for special events. Due to time constraints of the General Assembly meeting, the General Secretary proposes that a working committee be formed to discuss and develop a proposal for the SJJIF and General Assembly to consider for special events. The working committee will be led by



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Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus and collaborating members will be Mr. João Silva, Mr. Yannick Hartmann, and Mrs. Gloria Huerta. The assembly unanimously agrees.

d. Ranking System

Proposed that no changes be made for the 2017 year so that all members can have an opportunity to familiarize and experience the current system. However, the 2017 General Assembly meeting will discuss proposed changes to the ranking system. The assembly unanimously agrees.

e. SJJIF Rulebook

Proposed that the General Assembly members be given 30 days to review the new SJJIF Rulebook draft and provide feedback on corrections or suggested changes. In addition, changes to the new SJJIF Rulebook will be implemented in 2018. The assembly unanimously agrees.

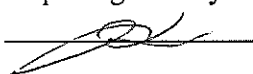
f. National Federation Structure

President João Silva proposes that the mission of the continental federations for 2017 is to bring in as many national federations on board as possible. As Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus commented, there are countries where it is challenging to establish national federation because other national federations are already registered. However, the mission in those countries is to ally ourselves with associations or organizations that can help us develop our sport in that region. In the beginning this is what we have to do, they may not be full members of the SJJIF but they can be associate members who help us develop our sport.

For national federations that are being established or existing federations who want to work with us we have to ensure that they are structured right. This means that they have to be a non-profit organization with voting rights. This is very important because it means that the president of today may not be the president of tomorrow, and that is a good thing, it means that we are working together to get somewhere. It is also important for us to understand that the academies, professors, and athletes have to have a voice in the national federations. The SJJIF Statutes & Bylaws were written with the goal of meeting the IOC requirements. They are good guidelines to ensure that federations are being structured correctly.

Another key component is that we develop social programs that target the youth and the future of our sport; we need to ensure that we are giving them the opportunity to train Jiu-Jitsu. Brazil has a lot of projects today and I believe that the future of Jiu-Jitsu is not only with the big academies anymore, the future will be the social programs or programs that target special communities. It is important that national federations open themselves and give a voice to different people, developing committees for special programs because the more people you have in a federation the stronger it is.

The floor is open for questions and comments. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus comments that it is very important that the structure and paperwork is set correctly and the continental federations should be supporting the national federations to accomplish this. We all need to ensure that federations are established legally and abide the laws of their territory, in addition, all federations need to pursue recognition from their country and sport organizations. President João Silva adds that the SJJIF is facing an intense timeline due to other sport organizations trying to claim our Jiu-Jitsu as part of their sport, disregarding our history, roots, and sport culture. In 2017 we have to ally ourselves with existing Jiu-Jitsu national federations or establish national federations and the continental federations have to ensure that these federations are being established according to the law and are abiding the statutes & bylaws and rules & regulations of the SJJIF. Mr. Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus further adds that this will be critical in establishing recognition from international organizations, especially because we also have to work very hard to prove that Sport Jiu-Jitsu/Jit-Jitsu/BJJ is its own sport, and we deserve the same respect and prestige as any other sport. If it comes to be that another



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organization succeeds in claiming our sport, we need to ensure that all SJJIF federations have the organization and structure to continue fighting for our own sport. It is crucial that all federations educate our sport community of the SJJIF mission and the importance of our athletes only competing in SJJIF sanctioned events so other sport organizations can not claim them as athletes of their sport. There are no further questions or comments from members.

g. SJJIF Calendar

President João Silva informs the General Assembly that the 2017 SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship will be hosted between October 15 – December 15 of 2017, depending on available venues. In regards to the continental tournaments, it is important that we schedule these events with sufficient time in between so that athletes can participate and travel to tournaments. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

h. SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship

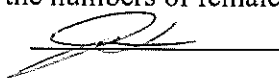
President João Silva proposes that for the 2017 World event national teams wear a uniform and all athletes have their national country name on the top back of their Gi and their national flag on the front left chest of their Gi. He believes that this will have a big impact on the 2017 event, especially after the 2016 World event which is rolling out having national flags above the top 3 athletes on the podium as well as the national anthem being played for the top black belt athlete of each division. We are teaching our competitors to be part of something greater, rather than just representing their team; they are representing their country. This is the future of our events, where athletes unite under a national flag and team to represent their country at our World event. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

VIII. SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship

Vice President Sam Aschidamini presents the 2013 – 2016 World event data, sharing number of participants and displaying growth chart. He indicates that the 2016 World event had a small growth in number of participants; however, there was a significant increase in participants from other countries with participants from 45 countries outside of the United States.

In addition, for the 2016 World event the SJJIF will be awarding up to \$40,000 USD in prize money to Black Belt champions. The cash prize is not only a way of motivating black belts to be part of our events, but also a way to give back to those that support our mission and fight for our medals. It is also a way of motivating lower belts to continue growing in our sport and to pursue a higher belt rank. In addition, the SJJIF made sure to emphasize the equal rights between men and women in sport as they both have the same pay structure. This was a response to complaints received last year from the women competitors who questioned receiving a flat cash prize of \$2,000USD as oppose to the male division cash prize of \$5,000USD. At the time, the difference in prize money was solely based on the fact that male divisions had over 100 black belts registered and the female division only had 4 black belts registered. Therefore, the SJJIF implemented changes that reflected the voice of our female black belt competitors. It is a goal of the SJJIF to increase the cash prizes accordingly with the growth of the federation to reward our well-deserved top athletes.

The floor is open for questions and comments. Mr. Cleiber Maia adds that this is a historical moment in our sport as it is changing the old practice of valuing only the male divisions and giving the female athletes equal respect in our sport. Other members comment that there is a continued challenge in many countries for females in competition due the fact that although the numbers of female athletes have grown, it will still take



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time for female athletes to acquire the number of athletes in higher ranked belts of our sport. There are no further questions or comments from members.

IX. 2017 SJJIF General Assembly

General Secretary Summer Casebere presents that the 2017 objectives will be a continuance of the hard work that we have all been doing. Further establishing the awareness of our federation, growing our numbers, doing things the right way, rolling out the new ranking system, continuing to develop community and special events as well as all programs recognized by the IOC. A key objective will be to continue developing our anti-doping program so that we can be recognized by WADA. The General Secretary identifies that the 2-year goal of the SJJIF is to establish the minimum number of national federations required by the IOC and WADA.

Furthermore, the General Secretary presents the IOC Guidelines for National and International Federations as guidelines that the SJJIF will follow to ensure that the SJJIF is being organized appropriately. These guidelines target areas of transparency, integrity, democracy, sport development and solidarity, and control mechanisms and will become a checklist for the SJJIF.

The floor is open for questions and comments. Mr. Cleiber Maia comments that an objective of 2017 should also be to expand communication amongst the continental and national federations to further build solidarity amongst our members and promote each other's accomplishments. The GA agrees and President João Silva adds that an easy and valuable tool is embracing the power of social media to communicate and promote within the Jiu-Jitsu community. This tool can also be used to build solidarity within our sport community. The SJJIF truly believes in the adopted slogans "*Everyone for Jiu-Jitsu = Jiu-Jitsu for Everyone*" and "*Together We Are Stronger*" because it truly represents what the SJJIF believes in, in regards to unity. Unity is a necessary and valuable tool for the growth and future of our sport. The President also emphasizes the importance of every federation working with the SJJIF to promote our mission in their native language so we can tell the world that we are doing something different. If we want the world to know, we have to tell the world together. There are no further questions or comments from members.

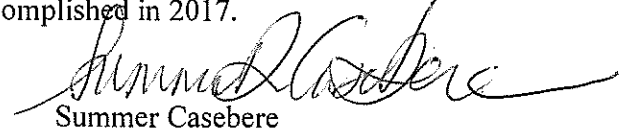
X. 2017 General Assembly

The General Secretary informs the General Assembly that the next Annual SJJIF Conference and General Assembly meeting will be scheduled according to the SJJIF World event. The General Secretary informs the General Assembly that it is tentatively scheduled as a 2-3 conference and she will be contacting members early in 2017 to determine preference on conference being held before or after the SJJIF world event.

XI. Concluding Remarks and Closing of the General Assembly

The President thanks everyone for his or her participation in today's meeting expressing his excitement for what will be accomplished in 2017.


João Silva
Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation
President


Summer Casebere
Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation
General Secretary

Summer Casebere
SJJIF General Secretary
20775 S. Western Ave, Ste. 103
Torrance, CA 90501

Mobile: 1(310) 908-1731, e-mail: summercasebere@sjjif.com