2018 Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation General Assembly Minutes
Wednesday, October 24, 2018 – 9:00 - 5:00 PM - Torrance, CA United States

I. Welcome

President, Mr. João Silva, welcomes attendees and states that it his pleasure and honor to once again be present at the General Assembly (GA) meeting where we come together to collaborate on issues, ideas, and projects for the betterment of our sport. The president wishes everyone a successful GA, stating that he believes in the importance of coming together to collaborate with one another. The president notes that there are some individuals who were unable to attend due to issues arising from travel visas and/or schedule conflicts; however, they have prepared videos discussing activity that will be shared during the meeting.

The President 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 position.

II. Attendance

The following attendees are present:

1. SJJIF President
2. SJJIF General Secretary
3. SJJIF Treasurer
4. SJJIF Executive Assistant
5. NABJJF President (North America)
6. SJJSAF President (South America)
7. SJJHF President (Honduras)
8. SJJAF General Secretary / MBJJF Treasurer (Africa)
9. MBJJF Proxy/ Representative (Mauritius)
10. ASJJF Proxy/ Representative Officer (Asia)
11. CASJJ Proxy (Algeria)
12. SASJJF President (South Africa)
13. FPSJJF Proxy/ Representative Officer (French Polynesia)

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 presents the 2018 SJJIF President Report that reports his activity during the 2018 year to further the SJJIF mission and development of Sport Jiu-Jitsu. Activity is as follows:

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a. Further consolidated our continental federations and sanctioned events to better establish the SJJIF. Data to be presented at a later point in the meeting.
b. Alliances & Membership to International Organizations in 2018 was very successful with SJJIF building relationships and/or establishing membership with the following organizations. President João Silva expands with the following:
   i. TAFISA membership – The Association for International Sport for All - leading international organization that aims to reintroduce physical activity into the everyday life in order to bring joy, health, social interaction, integration and development to communities around the globe.
   ii. ICSSPE membership – International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education – world's largest network of organizations and institutes that foster sport, exercise, education and health for the development of human society.
   iii. WMAGC membership – World Martial Arts Games Committee – leading martial arts group that aims to unite the martial arts world. SJJIF had the opportunity to participate in the Games in 2018, however, due to the short notice and scheduling conflicts with ASJJF, participation has been postponed until 2019.
   iv. WPFG partnership – World Police Fire Games – hosts an Olympic style competition with athletes who represent law enforcement, firefighters, and officers from corrections, probation, border protection, immigration and customs from 70+ countries. SJJIF has partnered with WPFG and SJJIF rules will be utilized in the 2019 Chengdu with a possibility at the 2021 Rotterdam Games, and SJJIF will support the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu events.
   v. SIGA supporter – Sport Integrity Global Alliance – SIGA works towards a vision of sport played and governed under the highest integrity standards, free from any form of unethical, illicit and criminal activity, to safeguard sport values
   vi. UNESCO TSG – Traditional Sport Games – SJJIF is trying to develop a relationship based on Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu being a traditional sport of Brazil, alongside SJJIF's mission to develop Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as a stand-alone Olympic sport.
c. Attendance at the 2017 TAFISA Convention (November 15-19, Seoul, Korea): President Joao Silva discusses his attendance at the 2017 TAFISA Convention where it was a huge honor to represent SJJIF. The President states that he believes that TAFISA is a true representative of the Sport for All movement and being part of this event brought many new ideas and goals for the development of our sport and community. The President shares that he had the opportunity to discuss the current situation of other organizations not only trying to claim our sport, but also trying to impede the development of BJJ in many countries by blocking the legal founding of BJJ federations, blocking the organization of competitive events, and he believes that he was able to clearly communicate the situation as SJJIF acquired TAFISA membership in 2018.
d. Attendance at the 2018 Africa Open in Mauritius Islands & the SJJAF General Assembly Meeting (February 20 – 27, Mauritius, Africa): President Joao Silva recaps his attendance at the 2018 SJJAF Congress, 2018 Open Africa Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championship, and meetings held with the Mauritius Sports Council. The President notes that there were many other noteworthy

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accomplishments throughout his visit and believes that the African federation, together with the Mauritius federation, did a fabulous job in implementing the SJJIF mission at the 2018 Open Africa, as well as in the African Congress. The hosted events highlighted many of the attributes valued by the international sport community, with a great display of union, solidarity, and fair play amongst all athletes.

e. Attendance at the 2018 SportAccord (April 15-20, Bangkok, Thailand): President João Silva discusses some of the unique challenges of the membership or recognition process within GAISF as the existing federation of Ju-Jitsu, JJIF, is falsely claiming that BJJ is part of their Newaza style and are already a member of GAISF. This situation places SJJIF in a rivalry scenario which has impeded SJJIF's membership application approval. The president states that SJJIF is committed to fighting for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu to be recognized as a stand-alone sport, and is hopeful that with the growth and development of other sports throughout the globe seeking to authentically represent their sport internationally, those international federations will undergo a more stringent review or process when claiming to represent sports.
f. Ambassador Program is underway and was developed to provide Adapted BJJ practitioners with a platform to represent themselves and have a voice within the SJJIF Adapted BJJ programs. This program was a direct result of conversations held at the 2018 SportAccord with Special Olympics, Deaflympics and Paralympics in which they stipulated that athlete representatives are necessary as we further develop these programs.
g. Met Goals:
    i. Translation of SJJIF Rulebook in Japanese & Portuguese was completed and have been posted on the website. The goal is to continue providing translations of the rulebook as it allows SJJIF to connect with the global BJJ community and allows global BJJ practitioners to understand our rules and organization's commitment to fair play.
    ii. Official launching of the SJJIF Software through the NABJJF events that have provided more data for records and a pilot experience to identify how implementation can be improved before expanding to all other continental and national federations. The launching of this project was a huge success, still in process as issues unique to continental and national member federations are identified & problem solved. However, SJJIF is prioritizing this project as data collection, participant information, and demographics are critical for validation of our organization and future decisions on projects, sport organization, and development.
    iii. Membership growth & loyalty is in a positive trend, and projections indicate continued growth especially as the SJJIF Software implementation project allows SJJIF to provide more benefits for members.

President notes that this concludes the presentation with some topics addressed going into further detail at later points of the GA meeting. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

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B. General Secretary Report

General Secretary, Summer Casebere, presents a more detailed report of the Adapted BJJ Ambassador Program developed to address the following needs and goals:

a. Purpose of the SJJIF Ambassador Program is to provide a platform in which individuals are able to support the vision and mission of SJJIF through their personal skill sets, strengths, and capabilities with the goal of further unifying the world of BJJ, promoting inclusion and BJJ for All.
b. Goal of the SJJIF Ambassador Program is that the ambassadors develop and implement a variety of BJJ based projects/goals that utilize athletes' strengths and capabilities on and off the performance/competitive environment. Examples include:
    i. Activities that promote growth in the BJJ for All and/or other SJJIF programs;
    ii. Activities that organize participants to attend a community event, training or seminar;
    iii. Activities that share stories to promote inclusion at SJJIF events and diversity workshops.

General Secretary shares that a future goal is that the projects developed by the SJJIF Ambassadors are projects that individuals or organizations that are sponsors of SJJIF can choose to be a part of. Therefore, the goal is two-fold; ambassadors develop projects that are meaningful to them as athletes and representatives of the BJJ community and sponsors have the option to pick or be part of projects that resonate with them as individuals or organizations. The floor is open for questions; however, there are no questions from members.

President João Silva comments that the concept of the Ambassador Program should be implemented at the continental and national level because it will allow this project to be realized at a greater level as each federation will have greater opportunities to connect with their immediate communities.

General Secretary continues with report on 2018 SJJIF World Championship, which included the second edition of the Adapted Jiu-Jitsu events and totaled at approximately 2850 competitors. There were 71 countries, other than the United States, which participated in the event. The event continued to offer equal cash prizes to male and female black belt athletes and made changes to the female weight divisions. General Secretary notes that there was a negative growth in overall number of competitors, however, there was a positive growth in the number of countries represented at the world event.

President João Silva interjects to expand on the international awareness of the SJJIF world event, and the importance of positive growth in the number of countries represented at the world event as it truly validates the international presence of SJJIF. In addition, he touched on the participation of high level athletes, noting that a point of pride of this event was the reemergence of a high level female black belt who decided to compete as a result of SJJIF's equal male/female black belt payout. The president notes that the feedback and appreciation the SJJIF is receiving as a result of some of the very purposeful decisions it has made to promote equality and fair play have been very rewarding. However, the president notes that there is a developing issue that has been

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consistently brought to his attention and that is the fact that the Black Belt Open Weight division, which has the highest cash prize, is consistently dominated by the heavier black belts due to the inherent advantage of their size and weight. The president notes that he would like this topic to be discussed so that the SJJIF can determine if changes need to be made.

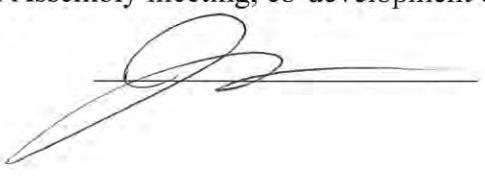
General Secretary continues with report on 2018 SJJIF Adapted World Championship noting that the SJJIF Adapted BJJ event struggled in 2018 and it is believed to be a direct result of the development of Adapted BJJ events by other organizations who have the resources to pay athletes to compete or are able to pay traveling costs, etc. President João Silva comments that the financial advantages of some organizations are impossible to compete with, resulting in athletes who although all year were commitment to being part of the SJJIF Ambassador Program and the Adapted BJJ event, have begun to promote other organizations. The President notes that as SJJIF continues to develop this program, internally we have to understand that there are differences in the financial strength that some organizations have today.

General Secretary continues with report on 2018 SJJIF Adapted World Championship noting that the Deaf Jiu-Jitsu event was very successful in 2017, however, for unknown reasons event participation declined in 2018. The General Secretary notes that the support received in early 2018 by then Deaflympics President Dr. Valery Rukhledev was received with great excitement from many Deaf athletes, however, the subsequent corruption scandal that resulted in Dr. Valery Rukhledev's resignation adversely effected the full realization of Deaflympics' support of the SJJIF's Deaf BJJ world event. Consequently, many Deaf athletes reached out to SJJIF inquiring as to how the SJJIF world event would be effected and unfortunately SJJIF was unable to provide a clear answer as the interim board was requesting for SJJIF to restart the application process. The General Secretary notes that it is believed that this situation may have adversely impacted BJJ Deaf athlete moral and attendance at the 2018 world event.

General Secretary continues with report on 2018 SJJIF Adapted World Championship noting that the Special Jiu-Jitsu event had some growth with the inspirational participation of several kids in the Special Jiu-Jitsu world event. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

General Secretary presents report on sanctioned events in 2018, reviewing data from 2013 through 2018, 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 2018 activity, which includes attendance to the 2018 SportAccord Convention and pre/post preparation, organization of the 2018 SJJIF General Assembly meeting, co-development of the Adapted Ambassador Program,



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continued press releases & use of News on SJJIF website. Ongoing activity consists of acquiring recognition from international organizations, handling membership application processes, and outlining 2019 further development of SJJIF's anti-doping policy and procedures. 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 2017 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 2017 was $292,907.00 USD, however, it closed at $19,891.18 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 2017. The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2017 financial reports of the SJJIF.

Treasurer presents the estimated 2018 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 estimated report includes accurate information from January through October 15, 2018, however, there are many pending expenses from the SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. Treasurer proceeds to review report by line, providing clarifications as needed regarding the updates to detail on item expenses in finance report. It is projected that the SJJIF will close the year with an estimated profit of $10,500.00 USD.

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 2018. The General Assembly unanimously approves the 2018 estimated financial reports of the SJJIF.

D. Continental Council VP Reports

a. SJJAF Report

President Jildson Simoes was regrettably unable to attend the SJJIF 2018 General Assembly meeting due to illness. However, General Secretary Muhamad Tawfiq Jaunbocus is present and reports on the SJJAF 2018 activity.

SJJAF General Secretary reports that the growth of BJJ in Africa through SJJAF is great, regardless of the unique challenges that the African continent faces as a result of weak infrastructure, communication, and financial stability. SJJAF is officially working with 12 nations, but notes that in 2018 they faced unique challenges from JJIF who has actively worked against African national federations and events. Furthermore, SJJAF is establishing relationships with other nations and is positive of the growing strength and presence of the many

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nations of Africa in SJJAF.

SJJAF General Secretary reviews events held throughout the African continent and notes that the continental federation has worked endlessly to organize events, which in Africa require government approval, consequently adding a complex piece to the organization of events.

With great pride the SJJAF General Secretary shares that the 2018 African Open hosted Adapted BJJ events which was positively received and has positively impacted the growth and participation of Adapted BJJ athletes, noting that in his nation of Mauritius Islands there has already been a growth in Adapted BJJ athletes participating in local events. Furthermore, the event overall was highly successful with the SJJAF Congress being held alongside the event and in which the 2019 Africa Open was voted to be hosted in South Africa.

SJJAF General Secretary presents met goal of 2018, which was to develop a relationship with CONFEJES, a significant accomplishment for SJJAF. CONFEJES is an IOC recognized organization of Africa where all the African ministers of French speaking nations determine what countries and/or sports will be supported. SJJAF is very proud of the official relationship established between SJJAF and CONFEJES and is very excited at the future opportunities this relationship will provide for SJJAF and BJJ in Africa.

SJJAF General Secretary presents SJJAF's future plan of hosting an African Club Championship to further build unity and friendship amongst the different BJJ schools. In addition, there is a plan to host a free SJJAF training camp in Madagascar where funds and resources for the event can be donated to Madagascar where financial resources are very limited.

SJJAF General Secretary presents 2019/2020 objectives, which are to have Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu included in the Africa Games and in the Francophonie Games. SJJAF has taken steps towards these objectives and are positive that their determination and commitment to realizing these goals will bear fruition. In addition, SJJAF is presently in the process of revamping the continental website, lead by Mr. James Saks of South Africa.

With great excitement SJJAF General Secretary reports on activity in Mauritius noting that for the first time in the history of BJJ in Africa, practitioners will have the opportunity to seek employment as coaches/instructors due to SJJAF's developed relationship with MUA and their obtained recognition by FISU for the curriculum program they submitted for approval. These developments have being widely received with excitement & support from not only athletes, but also institutions that are welcoming this BJJ program and supporting BJJ athletes.

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The floor is open for questions and comments. SJJSAF President Mr. Cleiber Maia asks for further details on the curriculum submitted to FISU. SJJAF General Secretary specifies that the curriculum / belt promotion guidelines created where foundational and used existing guidelines and a committee of black belts for input. However, SJJAF General Secretary notes that there is an understanding that this document should be reviewed annually and updated as necessary. SJJIF President notes that this may be a project that can be worked on at the international level; enabling other national federations to develop similar programs and opportunities for their BJJ athletes. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

b. Oceania Report

President Minol Tavares Tutida of the SJJAUSF reports via video on activity. SJJOF President reports that in 2018 events were held in New Zealand, Australia and Tahita and there are projected plans to collaborate together in 2019 for the organization of a continental event. SJJOF President believes that collaborated events will greatly benefit the BJJ community in Oceania and the continental and national federations.

SJJIF President expands on Oceania activity, identifying some challenges unique to the region and the developmental stage of many of the national federations, noting that SJJOF President has been successful in setting up key meetings throughout 2018 and it is just a matter of time to allow these meetings and relationships to further develop so that goals can be realized in this region. President also expands on the development of the New Zealand federation and new events that the Oceania Federation is developing that are intended to stand apart from traditional competitions. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

c. ASJJF Report

President Edson Kogahara of the ASJJF reports via video on activity. ASJJF President reports that the Asian federation hosted many events, as usual, but not as many as originally planned. In 2018 many national federations found themselves facing many of the struggles of 2017, which were federations and events being blocked by other organizations claiming Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as part of their sport. In addition, natural disasters that befell the Asian continent had catastrophic consequences for key events of the federation, negatively affecting the financial stability of the continental federation. However, ASJJF President notes that there are plans in place to support the financial recovery of the ASJJF (incurred by the effected events of natural disasters) and the plan for 2019 remains to continue to develop national federations and events. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

d. ESJJF Report

President Marcello Rosa of the ESJJF reports via video on activity. ESJJF President reports that the ESJJF grew in question of national members, many of which are still in a provisional member status. The early stage of these national federations means that national activity has largely been based on the necessary legalities of formalizing a national federation. In 2019 it is expected that more events will be hosted throughout the European continent and ESJJF President is excited at the expected growth of events. SJJIF President comments that finances are always a key contributor or factor of growth and that for the ESJJF it has been difficult to expand due to limited finances. The President stresses the importance of networking and as an international federation constantly connecting with people who may want to be part of SJJIF or help the federation grow. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

Following the ESJJF Report, President Rezoug Rabah of the Commission Algerienne Sport Jiu-Jitsu shares work of the federation and unique challenges faced in Algeria. Mr. Rabah also shares that the national federation of Morocco, with support of its government, is interested in hosting a world event. SJJIF President states that venue contracts for 2019 are already underway, and the earliest year in which another nation could host the world event would be 2020. However, it is noted that a national federation wanting to host the world event would have to have a history of hosting several national, territorial and a significantly successful continental event to ensure their ability to successfully organize and host a world event and be able to accommodate the influx of competitors traveling to the event. SJJAF General Secretary notes that it will be beneficial to have fully detailed requirements for hosting the world event, which is met with overall agreement.

e. NABJJF Report

President Sam Aschidamini reports that the North American federation realized its 2018 goal to expand the number of events to a total of 12 events for the year. NABJJF piloted the implementation of the SJJIF software in January of 2018 and that brought new challenges to the beginning of the year as competitors adapted to the new system. In addition, the saturation of BJJ events was a continued challenge, noting that a recent NABJJF event had 4 events within 70 miles on the same day. However, NABJJF President notes that with the software implementation the individual ranking was rolled out and this positively impacted event loyalty. NABJJF President takes a moment to demonstrate the SJJIF software from the NABJJF perspective, presenting ranking, upcoming event management features, etc. SJJSAF President asks what is the timeline of the ranking year in which SJJIF President responds that the official SJJIF ranking year begins right after the world event to the next world event. NABJJF's ranking year mirrors this, however, federations will be able to specify their national or continental ranking year independent of SJJIF's ranking year. A brief discussion follows regarding the future objectives of the SJJIF

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software, however, the discussion closes with an understanding that the following steps will be focused on software implementation. NABJJF President shares that 2019 goals are to increase number of events and potentially begin working with other event organizers, through the software, to increase number of events in new territory. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

f. **SJJSAF Report** President Cleiber Maia reports that 2018 had some challenges in relation to events overlapping with other events, however the support of the federation overall experienced growth and he still believes that it was a successful year. SJJSAF President shares that SJJSAF, SJJIF, and its other members have gained the confidence of the BJJ community in relation to its validity and commitment to the global BJJ community. Met objectives for 2018 were the continued growth of Adapted BJJ events and programs and live streaming of all events. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no further questions or comments from members.

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 for 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.

V. Discussion Topics

A. Mission & Direction of SJJIF

The President notes that in 2018 good relationships were built with other organizations, with objectives being realized in 2019 such as SJJIF's involvement in the World & Police Fire Games in Chengdu, China. With TAFISA, their event is structured differently with a focus in maximum participation and not competitive so SJJIF's involvement is still being determined. The president notes that the SJJIF and its continental and national members need to continue building alliances that will bring more opportunity to the BJJ community, noting the a good example is the work for the South American federation that has worked hard to develop an Adapted BJJ program as he sees that social inclusion

piece as a highlight attribute of that federation. The president notes that is also important for federations to send news to the SJJIF so that it can be shared with the international BJJ community as it is important to share and highlight with our members and supporters the hard work, good intent, and dedication that we have for the BJJ community. SJJSAF President Mr. Cleiber Maia adds that he has had small social projects that have grown in participation, support, and number of volunteers because of media coverage and exposure, affirming the importance of sharing our work to not only prove to the BJJ community our commitment, but also to inform people of the type of activities they can be part of and support through SJJIF. The discussion continues with the President noting that moving into 2019/2020 SJJIF wants to more intently develop projects that can be marketed and shared with larger sponsors with the goal that SJJIF projects have greater success and a wider impact for the BJJ community. The president cites an example with speaking to a Nike representative who communicated that Nike is looking to sponsor projects or organizations that are making a difference, story telling being a powerful tool that can be used today through modern outlets. Therefore, the goal is to become better storytellers, sharing the great work that we are doing, for example; the Africa Open was an inspiring event with many nations with history of rivalry coming together, singing songs of peace. The president notes that at this event free meals were provided to everyone present, a powerful story to tell with the history of famine in the African continent. SJJSAF President Mr. Cleiber Maia shares that there was a similar event hosted in South America in which the SJJIF President states that these are things that should be shared with the community because SJJIF's mission is to positively impact and change the world through BJJ, and these social pieces are important to share. With the collaborated work of all members, nearly 200 events are hosted per year, each one being improved on, with things added above the competition that should be shared and used as a marketing tool to continue promoting our overall growth, consequently empowering us to do even more for the BJJ community.

B. Member Duties & Annual Fees

The President notes that in today's climate the amount of BJJ events hosted is tremendous and growing. Many of these events hosted by event organizers who's commitment is solely to the growth of their events and not necessarily the growth or future of the sport. As federations working towards a bigger goal we work within a structure that may sometimes cost us clients because we have to maintain a level of professionalism consistent with our goals. It is important for our events to have growth and to find ways to stand out amongst these other events and organizations within the BJJ community. On the note of how we distinguish ourselves, the President shares that part of this is our online/social media presence and the professionalism of posts, in which NABJJF President Mr. Sam Aschimdamini adds that if we believe in the mission, our actions have to match that as part of the SJJIF team. Furthermore, national federations should be building relationship with their national sport committees, connecting with their own BJJ community and representing them in the GA meeting, as it is through the national federations that the SJJIF can understand needs and develop projects. Conversely, continental federations need to be working towards growing the number of national federations and efficiently manage and oversee their activity as that will help ensure the quality and growth of all our members. Continental federations should also

seek to develop international relationships and recognition so that they are supported in their growth through their members, governments and alliances. President closes this section with stating that the annual member fees are required as there is a cost to running SJJIF and everyone has to be a contributing member.

C. Competition Rules

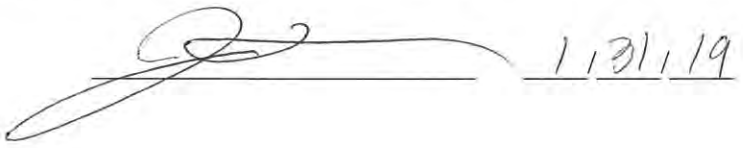
The president begins with confirming the translation of the SJJIF Competition Rules & Regulations in Portuguese and Japanese, the original document having been written in English. It is stressed that all national federations need to work on translations because it is key that their BJJ communities understand the rules of competition. Furthermore, changes to the rulebook will not be made until the translation project is further progressed, as all national federations should have a full understanding of the rules before they are voting on changes to the existing rules. It is noted that Mr. Jovany Varela will be responsible for the translation to Spanish and Mr. Heita Roura with collaboration of Mr. Jaunbocus Muhamad Tawfiq will be responsible for the translation to French. It is noted that in early 2018 one of the biggest challenges the NABJJF faced was the backlash to having changed the names of age divisions only, although there were no changes made to the long standing age divisions that has been used. It is noted that this was a powerful lesson on making changes in the future as something as minor as a change in name created so many problems with event registration for NABJJF and required an emergency vote for members to approve reversing the name change.

D. Open Topics

Discussion on the importance of the ranking system as it relates to the quality of SJJIF sanctioned events world-wide, with the understanding that to ensure the growth of loyal competitors who may travel to other countries as they pursue higher ranking, that a set standard must be established across events. If a set standard is not maintained it can adversely affect the growth of events and competitor willingness to travel to all SJJIF sanctioned events.

Discussion on an exchange of letters between SJJIF & JJIF as it relates to the strong tone of the last letter written by SJJIF, which was a response to unethical actions taken by JJIF and its member federations. Communication between organizations was initially intended to determine if there was a respectful manner in which both organizations could either work together or resolve the 'issue of rivalry' as labeled by GAISF/SportAccord. However, JJIF not only misrepresented the order of communication, but also dispersed their final letter to SJJIF to all of their national federations. This letter was then used as false evidence in other nations to attempt to close SJJIF national federations, which led to SJJIF having to respond to the action and disperse all communication to SJJIF national members. SJJIF believes that this is an unfortunate situation, however, the tone of the letter was necessary due to the false claims and unethical action JJIF national members were taking.

Discussion on SJJIF's growth and the acknowledgement that in a relatively short time SJJIF and its national members have grown tremendously. Some of the challenges that the organization has faced are expected, as all organizations have the learning and growth



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curve at the beginning. However, members of SJJIF believe that the organization authentically represents our sport; are committedly working to better our sport, and are committed to continue working for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

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: New Zealand and Hungary that have been approved and given provisional membership status as they await final approval from the general assembly. The federations are:

a. Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation New Zealand
b. Hungary Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation

The SJJIF notes that they have received applications from other federations whose documents have not been fully reviewed, and therefore have not acquired provisional membership status. President João Silva advises that there are no exceptions to the requirement that any federation application must be accompanied by a video that presents federation president, leadership team, activity and future objectives to be better able to vote on national federation's status. The assembly unanimously agrees.

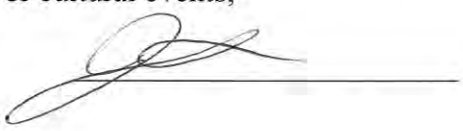
The floor is open for questions and comments. President João Silva provides background information on the Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation New Zealand and General Secretary provides background information on the Hungary Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation, noting that recent communication has been limited and a recent update is not readily available. SJJAF General Secretary provides background information on a member application from Union Arabe Sport Jiu-Jitsu Bresilien Gi No Gi, noting their very early stage of development. Consequently, SJJIF President João Silva proposes that the Hungary Sport Jiu-Jitsu Federation and Union Arabe Sport Jiu-Jitsu Bresilien Gi No Gi continue with provisional 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 Federation New Zealand.

VII. SJJIF 2019 Objectives

General Secretary Summer Casebere presents that the 2019 objectives will be a continuance of the hard work that the SJJIF has been doing. Specific areas are as follows:

a. Finalize & acquire international recognition of decided organizations;
b. Implement SJJIF software at the CF and NF level;
c. Continue to grow the number of national federation members, individual members, and supporter members;
d. Continue to grow number of SJJIF sanctioned events, including competition, social, & cultural events;



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e. Grow number of athletes participating in SJJIF sanctioned events;
f. Roll out the SJJIF additional rankings;
g. Finalize the SJJIF Anti-Doping Policy

Long-term objectives of the SJJIF are to organize and establish the minimum national federations required by the IOC and WADA within the next two years and abide the guidelines of transparency, integrity, democracy. Sport development & solidarity, and control mechanisms. The floor is open for questions and comments and SJJAF General Secretary inquired as to the development of the bidding process for the SJJIF World event. It is noted that the procedures will be developed in 2019; however, it requires a study of the finances, as the world event is a key component of SJJIF's financial stability throughout the year. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

VIII. 2018 SJJIF General Assembly

General Secretary Summer Casebere confirms that the 2019 SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu dates are already confirmed and the next Annual SJJIF Conference and General Assembly meeting will be scheduled according to the SJJIF World event. The General Assembly is informed that due to SJJIF's commitment to attend the 2019 TAFISA Convention scheduled for the week following the world event, the 2019 General Assembly meeting must be hosted before the 2019 SJJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. The floor is open for questions and comments; however, there are no questions or comments from members.

IX. Concluding Remarks and Closing of the General Assembly

The President thanks everyone for his or her participation in today's meeting, stating that he recognizes the commitment it takes to be present. He believes that working and voting together is key to ensuring the continued growth and betterment of the sport and federation. He wishes everyone a successful and productive 2019.

João Silva
Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation
President

Summer Casebere
Sport Jiu-Jitsu International Federation
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