



INTERNATIONAL JUDO FEDERATION FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE JUDO FEDERACION INTERNACIONAL DE JUDO

ASSOCIATION UNDER HUNGARIAN LAW - ASSOCIATION DE DROIT HONGROIS - ASOCIACION HUNGARA

IJF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

(2023 – N° 2)

Wednesday May 3rd, 2023

Doha, QATAR

MINUTES

Present:

EC members: Mr. VIZER, Mr. AL TAMIMI, Mr. ROUGÉ, Mr. AL ANZI, Dr. TOTH, Mr. ZEGARRA PRESSER, Mr. MARINESCU, Dr. ALLAN, Mr. BARTA, Mr. BAGDASAROV, Mr. CASSINERIO, Dr. CORAK, Mr. HACHICHA, Mr. JEON, Mrs. KHISHIGBAT, Mr. LASCAU, Mr. MERIDJA, Mr. SISSOKO, Mrs. SOUAKRI, Mr. TAMURA, Mr. UEMURA, Mr. YAMASHITA.

Excused: Mr. DAVIO, Mr. RANDRIANASOLONIAIKO, Mr. ABDULLAYEV, Ms. FILZMOSER, Mr. ZHOU.

Guest: Mr. BARCOS (IJF Director for Foreign Affairs).

Presidential Office: Ms. KISS (International Relations Manager), Mr. KUN (Financial Director), Ms. STEJERAN (Assistant to the President), Mr. POP (IJF Project Manager).

Assistants: Mr. AZZOUG (Assistant to Mr. MERIDJA), Mr. IMAGAWA (Assistant to Mr. YAMASHITA), Mr. KARIYA (Assistant to Mr. UEMURA), Mr. HUET (Assistant to Mr. ROUGÉ), Mr. CSABA (Assistant to Dr. TOTH).

IT department: Mr. FISCHER.

Media department: Mr. MESSNER, Mrs. MURGEANU-SABAU.

Protocol department: Mr. YILMAZ.

General Secretary Office: Ms. STROOBANTS, Ms. PARUSOVA.

Start of the meeting 10:00.

1. Welcome word and opening remarks

Mr. VIZER

President Mr. VIZER welcomes all the members of the Executive Committee in Doha and says it is great pleasure to meet everybody on the occasion of the World Judo Championships 2023. He excuses the absent members.

2. President's matters

Mr. VIZER

2.1. Non-discrimination matters

Mr. VIZER starts by mentioning the international situation in the sport and the consequences of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine which are reflected in the sport. He thinks that Governments and politicians should debate their controversies in the political field, but not in sport. We have to live in this reality.

According to the Olympic Charter, the values and the principles of the sport, the IJF has accepted the participation of Russian and Belorussian teams.

The Russian delegation has been approved. Some members were not allowed to participate. Regarding the Belorussian delegation, no delegate could qualify for the World Judo Championships 2023 in Doha.



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Mr. VIZER proposes to approve two Wild Cards for young Belorussian athletes and to approve the participation of a coach.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

2.2. World Championships in 2024

Mr. VIZER informs that regarding the next World Championships in 2024, the IJF is waiting for the confirmation from the Georgian Judo Federation.

2.3. Audit for the financial year of 2022

Mr. VIZER explains that the IJF appointed Price Water House Coopers (PwC) to audit the IJF financial statements. The results will be sent the Executive Committee members and the National Federations as soon as they are finalized.

2.4 Votes by EC members

Mr. VIZER asks the Executive Committee members to be more reactive during urgent electronic consultations. He informs that in the future, late answers will not be tolerated.

Moreover, the absence of Executive Committee members during the meetings will be treated seriously. Mr. VIZER reminds that according to the IJF Statutes, if a member is repeatedly absent at EC Meetings, the EC may impeach that member. He mentions the case of Mr. Rovnag ABDULLAYEV, IJF Development Manager, who has been absent during the last period live meetings and video conferences.

For this reason, Mr. VIZER proposes to remove Mr. ABDULLAYEV from his position in the Executive Committee member.

Decision: Unanimously approved.

2.5. World Judo Championships 2023 in Doha

Mr. VIZER informs about some difficulties in collaboration with the local organising committee members despite their huge experience. Fortunately, most of the problems were solved and a good synergy was found. Mr. VIZER hopes to have successful championships and asks the concentration and vigilance of everybody involved in the organisation of this event.

2.6. Elections during the IJF Congress 2023

Mr. VIZER reminds that the elections for the position of IJF General Secretary and General Treasurer will take place during the Congress.

He informs that Dr. Lisa ALLAN, IJF Events Director, is the only candidate for the position of IJF General Secretary. Mr. VIZER takes this opportunity to thank Dr. ALLAN for her involvement in the successful organisation of IJF events during all these years. He wishes her good luck for her next challenge as IJF General Secretary.

Mr. VIZER informs that Mr. Naser AL TAMIMI, current IJF General Treasurer, is the only candidate for the re-election as IJF General Treasurer. He congratulates him for successful management of IJF financial matters.

Mr. VIZER thanks Mr. Jean-Luc ROUGÉ, IJF General Secretary, one of the IJF pillars, who has been involved in main activities of the IJF for several years. Mr. VIZER explains that Mr. ROUGÉ will continue as Executive Committee member, helping IJF Education, Sport, Referee Commissions and promoting judo culture.

Mr. VIZER reminds that Mr. Vlad MARINESCU, IJF Director General, was appointed as a new Executive member.

He thanks everybody and wishes good luck for these new challenges.



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3. General Secretary's matters

Mr. ROUGÉ

Mr. ROUGÉ starts by saying that it was a pleasure for him to be IJF General Secretary during all these years and wishes good luck to Dr. ALLAN.

3.1. Approval of the minutes of the 2022 EC meeting of 4 October 2022 in Tashkent

Decision: Unanimously approved.

3.2. Approval of the minutes of the 2023 EC meeting of 22 February 2023 (by video conference)

Decision: Unanimously approved.

3.3. Summary of the electronic votes by EC members since the last EC meeting

Decision: Unanimously approved.

3.4. Information about the IJF Congress Doha 2023

Mr. ROUGÉ asks his colleagues to make concise presentations of 10 minutes maximum during the Congress.

He reminds that the registration of the delegates for the Congress will take place on May 3rd 2023, from 16:00 to 19:00. As Mr. DAVIO, IJF Vice-President and Oceania Judo Union President is not present in Doha, Mr. ROUGÉ asks Mr. ZEGARRA PRESSER, IJF Vice-President and the Panamerican Judo Confederation President to manage the registration of the OJU delegates.

Mr. ROUGÉ asks the Continental Union Presidents to nominate scrutineers to be part of the Election Commission.

Mr. ROUGÉ reminds that the amendments to the Statutes must be approved by a minimum of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Member National Federations present or represented at the Congress from at least three (3) different Continental Unions.

4. Financial matters

Mr. AL TAMIMI

Mr. AL TAMIMI explains that the financial report as well as the provisional budget will be presented during the Congress.

5. General Director's matters

Mr. MARINESCU

Mr. MARINESCU starts by saying that it is a great pleasure for him to become a member of the IJF Executive Committee. He presents a brief overview of IT, marketing and media matters whose final goal is to bring more members and grow our judo family.

5.1. Judo TV / IT

The IJF launched Judo TV as its own proprietary platform to watch all the live events and the full archive of historical events. It can be viewed via free access or with premium gold access and all information and coverage is loaded on to IJF IT system, owned by the IJF and shared with the Continental Unions and National Federations. Judo is moving into the list of top sports for viewing. The New Technologies and High-Performance Commission has helped to innovate and make this all possible.

There are now 600,000 members with IJF accounts, and we expect substantial growth from this point, during the remainder of 2023.

In the "No Borders" programme, there are 196 clubs involved, with clubs offering free judo to refugees around the world.

This successful programme allows us to share our values with those in need.

At the base of the pyramid, we are sharing our values with children and inviting them to participate in judo.

The IJF established the Minecraft game with 2.5 million individual users accessing the first incarnation. The second edition, the Mystery of the Kodokan, has 500,000 users already, inviting children to understand our values and then join



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our family.

The IJF also produced the Judo Legends comic book. 5,000 copies have been distributed, giving anecdotes and moral lessons from our judo heroes.

5.2. Judo promotion media

The IJF media team continues to work to spread all the values and news through a year plan and strategy of workflow. This included a first judo media session which took place with 81 delegates present, aimed at unifying our approach and supporting smaller nations in the media arena.

More than 1,000 articles have been written and published in this period. There are 2.9 million followers across all platforms with 10 million being logged during the Tashkent World Championships. Consistent hard work to always send the message of judo around the world is proving to be successful.

At the World Judo Tour (WJT) events, the Golden Score show has gone live, bringing new content and discussion with and around our athletes.

3D TV graphics have been introduced and there is now a live referee supervisor feed with explanations of refereeing decisions in real time, offering full transparency. This all aligns with creating more and more heroes to drive growth.

5.3. TV rights

The WJT events are broadcasted on 103 channels. The TV rights are managed in-house. Judo is watched in more than 190 countries with live, highlights and news.

5.4. Sponsorship

The partnerships with IJF main sponsors have been renewed and new partners have been onboarded thanks to the hard work and negotiation of our IJF President Mr. VIZER.

5.5. JudoSkills

The IJF is developing and customizing equipment for the police. Many IJF National Federations will be involved in this project.

5.6. World Judo Day

The theme of 2023 World Judo Day is "Bring a friend".

5.7. Popularising judo in future Olympic host countries

The Olympic Games always provide a platform for increased promotion and this Paris Olympic Games cycle is no different and is being promoted heavily. With one year to go the IJF is promoting each weight category among other projects, but at the same time the IJF continues to look forward to the subsequent Games, to Los Angeles 2028 and beyond.

6. Continental Unions Presidents matters

6.1. African Judo Union (AJU)

Mr. Siteny RANDRIANASOLONIAIKO IJF Vice-President and AJU President, is excused.

Mr. VIZER informs that Mr. RANDRIANASOLONIAIKO is currently working on the campaign for State Presidential elections in Madagascar.

6.2. Judo Union of Asia (JUA)

Mr. Obaid AL-ANZI, IJF Vice-President and JUA President informs that the JUA report will be presented at the IJF Congress. Mr. AL-ANZI adds that the JUA Ordinary Congress 2023 took place in Kuwait on 26th of April 2023 during which he was re-elected for a new term. Mr. VIZER congratulates Mr. AL-ANZI on his reelection and wishes him good luck and many achievements during the next four years.



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6.3. European Judo Union (EJU)

Dr. Laszlo TOTH, IJF Vice-President and EJU President, informs that some European National Federations would like to participate in the forthcoming World Championships. They are waiting for the approval by their Ministries of Sport. This shows that our sport is over politics. Athletes are ready and hope that they will be authorized to compete.

Mr. VIZER adds that we are one family and one united team. The world of politics cannot separate us.

Dr. TOTH informs that all the EJU National Federations leaders and athletes understood and accepted the IJF decision.

6.4. Panamerican Judo Confederation (PJC)

Mr. Carlos ZEGARRA PRESSER informs that the second edition of bi-continental Championships will be organised together with the Oceania Judo Union in Calgary, Canada on 15th – 17th September 2023. He underlines a good collaboration with the OJU.

6.5. Oceania Judo Union (OJU)

Mr. Rehia DAVIO is excused. Mr. VIZER explains that due to the controversial situation within the OJU, Mr. DAVIO preferred not to attend the event.

7. Sports matters

Mr. BARTA

7.1. World Championships 2023 information, programme

Mr. BARTA, IJF Head Sport Director, presents the statistics and the programme of the World Judo Championships 2023:

- Total athletes: 670 (321 women and 349 men)
- Total countries: 99
- Total mixed teams: 18

7.2. Olympic Qualification current situation

Starting from the 2022 Ulaanbaatar Grand Slam, 50% of the points towards qualification have been counted.

Currently, in total we have had 10 Grand Slam, 2 Grand Prix, 1 Masters, 24 Continental Opens, 1 World Championships Individuals and Mixed teams.

The remaining 50% of the points towards Olympic Qualification will be earned in upcoming events. These events include the Doha World Championships Individuals and Mixed teams, 1 Grand Slam, 2 Grand Prix and 5 Continental Opens.

100% of the points towards qualification will count starting from the 2023 Ulaanbaatar Grand Slam until the 23rd of June 2024.

During this time, there will be 1 Masters, 3 Grand Slam, 1 Grand Prix and 15 Continental Opens. Additionally, the Continental Championships will exceptionally count 100% twice.

The 100% qualification counting will continue until the 23rd of June 2024.

7.3. Calendar 2024 draft

Mr. BARTA presented the draft of the calendar 2024.

7.4. World Combat Games

Mr. BARTA informs that the World Combat Games will take place on the 23rd of October 2023 in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Mr. POP is the IJF technical delegate for this event.

This competition will bring together 14 teams from 5 different Continents. Quarter Final Repechage System will be used.

The organizer will finance tickets and hospitality for a total of 120 participants per sport.

The final nomination, including reserves, will be published after the World Judo Championships 2023, Mixed Teams. Nomination letters will be sent out no later than May 17th, 2023.



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7.5. Sport Commission documents update

Dr ALLAN informs about the update of the IJF Sport and Organisation Rules (SOR). The current version dated 24th April 2023 is published in English. The French and Spanish versions are in progress.

7.6. IJF Refugee Project update

Dr. ALLAN explains that the IJF Refugee Project was launched in 2019. In 2023 the IJF supports a team of 7 refugees (3 women and 4 men), as well as the coach.

Dr. ALLAN thanks the coach, Mr. Vahid SARLAK, Ms. Marine STROOBANTS, Ms. Larisa KISS and Mr. Nicolas MESSNER for their hard work and contribution to this project.

Mr. VIZER adds that a meeting with the members of the Refugee team was recently organised at the Presidential office in Budapest.

8. Refereeing matters

Mr. LASCAU / Mr. JEON / Mr. BAGDASAROV

8.1. Maximum ages for IJF Continental and IJF International Examinations

Mr. LASCAU, IJF Head Refereeing Director, informs that currently the maximum age for the IJF International examination is 55 years. He thinks that it is too late for a referee and asks to lower this age to 50 years.

For the Continental examinations, Mr. LASCAU proposes to lower the age from 50 to 45 years. A period of transition is planned for the next years. Exception for certain cases will be accepted.

8.2. Osaekomi time in Golden Score

Mr. LASCAU proposes that in Golden Score, after 10 seconds of Osaekomi, Tori is awarded Waza-ari and the referee announces Waza-ari Sore made.

Mr. UEMURA, IJF World Promotion Director, reminds that the main goal in judo is Ippon. According to judo philosophy, all athletes have to try to get Ippon even in Osaekomi Waza. The principle of Osaekomi Waza is to finish by Ippon. Mr. UEMURA suggests giving the athlete the chance to finish by Ippon.

Abstention: Mr. YAMASHITA, IJF World Promotion Director

Against: Mr. UEMURA

Decision: Approved by the majority of the EC members.

Mr. VIZER informs that the implementation will start with the Grand Prix Upper Austria 2023 in Linz.

Mr. VIZER asks to inform all National Federations, athletes, coaches and referees in due time.

9. Education and Coaching matters

Mr. MERIDJA

9.1. Application of new Judogi Rules after the World Judo Championships 2023

Mr. MERIDJA, IJF Education and Coaching Director, informs that the new judogi rules decided in January 2021, will strictly apply and without any tolerance, after the World Judo Championships in Doha. Spare judogi will only be provided in the event of a judogi being torn, or blood stains appearing on a competitor's judogi during a contest.

If the judogi does not comply with the current judogi rules, no reserve judogi will be provided and the athlete will be disqualified from his contest.

More than 1,400 notifications were sent to athletes through their federations to give them the opportunity to have a judogi adapted to the new rules.

9.2. IJF Master Coach holders need to pass an online test by the end of 2023

To date, 102 applications have been examined and 100 Master Coach licences were awarded. All Master Coach



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licensees will take an online examination before the end of 2023. The IJF Academy will be in charge of the implementation of the examination which will cover several judo related subjects.

9.3. Proposal: Academy Kata Experts need to get an IJF recognized qualification

Mr. MERIDJA proposes that the Kata experts who supervise the various courses and training activities, under the umbrella of the Academy, should have an IJF certification. A recognition from the International Judo Federation will give them more credit in the exercise of their coaching and training missions.

To conclude, Mr. MERIDJA thanks all the EC members as well as the General Secretary and his office for all the assistance.

10. Gender Equality Commission (GEC)

Dr. CORAK

Dr. CORAK, IJF Education Director, explains that the new version of IJF Strategy on Gender equality in judo was launched at the end of 2022. The main idea is to put in place a strategy for the IJF and framework for National Judo Federations. Main goals are to raise the number of female competitors and women in judo in other positions: a big potential in many countries. The IOC expectations are to raise the share of women in judo to 30%. The IJF is a leader for combat sports.

The IJF GEC implements this strategy at the National Federations level through series of round tables. The first one was held on the 8th of March 2023, second one - on the 29th of March 2023 (published on web). 10-12 National Federations were invited with the guest speakers on the best cases and progress achieved.

Dr. CORAK presents the action plan of the GEC 2022-2024 as follows:

- Research and communication activities:
 - Collecting gender statistics (Judobase) on the position of women (active athletes and coaches, referees, NFs general secretaries and presidents)
 - Continuation of holding on-line round tables with feedback from National Federations on obstacles and ideas (proposals) for improvement
- Promotional activities and publications:
 - IJF Media: portrayal of female athletes and women in judo in different positions – in continuation
 - Publication that will serve National Federations to attract more girls and women to judo
 - Information for former judoka about the possibilities for their active career in judo on different positions (with Athletes Commission)
- Educational activities:
 - „Women in Judo Leadership Program”, similar to IOC program, for 2024
 - Free participation at the IJF Academy courses for women candidates - coaches and referees proposed by Continental Unions.

11. Miscellaneous

Mr. MARINESCU gives the information regarding the voting process during the IJF Congress 2023.

Mr. MARINESCU explains that regarding the Belarussian delegation, the IJF commissioned independent background checks. The Executive Committee members as well as the concerned members of the delegation will be informed



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as soon as possible. Mr. MARINESCU asks the Executive Committee members the confidentiality regarding the identity of the company making the background checks.

Mr. BARCOS, Director for Foreign Affairs, expresses his worries about the strategy of coaches and competitors that he could observe while watching judo events. He realizes that competitors only fight for negative decisions without any real attacks. He suggests that the IJF Referee Commission should be stricter and eliminate both athletes in such cases. He hopes that the IJF can change the strategy for the future.

Mr. VIZER suggests that the IJF Referee Commission and the IJF Sport Commission should lead a reflection on this subject to promote active judo.

Mr. VIZER proposes that after the Paris 2024 Olympic Games the IJF should think on how to make judogi softer. A hard judogi is very difficult to grip. With a better grip, there are more actions and less injuries. Many athletes have injuries on their fingers.

Mr. VIZER asks his colleagues to lead a reflection on this matter and to come back with proposals.

Mr. VIZER thanks the Executive Committee members for their contribution.

End of the meeting: 11:10.