

Ontario Jiu-Jitsu Association 12-10-2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

Doug Knispel – President / Chairman

Gary Pilon – Vice-President / Treasurer / JJ Jiu-Jitsu

Shawn Rodie – Secretary / Harassment Committee / JJ Jiu-Jitsu

David Doucette – Director – Education / Marketing / Grant Committee

Tony Isaacs – Director – Tournaments / Tournament Committee / Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

Mike Pisano – Director – Information Technology / Membership and Harassment Committee / JJ Jiu-Jitsu

Patrick Barton – Director at large / JJ Jiu-Jitsu

Meeting called to order - by our Chairman Doug Knispel at 7:05 PM

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Element Hotel, located at 6170 Vaughan Southwest, Highway 7, Vaughan, Ontario, L4H 0R2

The Agenda for the evening was such:

1. Call to Order
2. 2020 / 2021 Reports
3. 2022 Tournament Schedule
4. Any New Business
5. Elections
6. Adjournment

This meeting has hosted via in-person attendance and Zoom meeting for outside attendees. It was noted that attendance to this AGM was up from the last one, perhaps due to the Zoom option.

Presidents Report (Attached) – Doug Knispel

Doug Knispel began the meeting by introducing the Board to the attendee's and thanking the Board for their hard work during 2020 - 2021.

Doug Knispel then presented his Report and took everyone thorough it.

It was noted that the OJA has experienced zero COVID related events at any of our sanctioned tournaments which is a testament to the Board and Tournament Promotors diligence during COVID.

Safety and Insurance Report (Attached) – Gary Pilon

Gary Pilon presented the report and took everyone through it. Of notable mention was that the OJA currently has 5 Million in insurance coverage and that we are strongly looking at increasing our coverage for 2022 to 10 Million in coverage.

Finance Report (Attached) – Gary Pilon

Gary Pilon addressed the attendees by presenting the reports and asked our accountant Tim Woolner – CPA / CGA to walk the members through the report as there were many differences verses our normal operation years, due to COVID, and Tim Woolner had finalized the report.

Tim Woolner reviewed the (Unaudited) OJA Statement of Operations and Statement of Financial Position as well as other various statements for our year ended March 31, 2021.

The review showed that although the Association went through a difficult time the past two years with COVID, that we were well positioned financially at our year end to manage the upcoming tournament season for 2022.

Membership Management – Mike Pisano

Mike Pisano was not asked to prepare a report, but was asked by the President to talk about some of the things that was being worked on by the Association.

Mike Pisano began by taking everyone through the OJA Membership breakdown for 2021. It was noted that the majority of our membership base is within the GTA / Golden Horse-shoe area. We also have some clubs as far north as Thunder Bay. The OJA has approximately 150 Clubs and just under 5,000 members.

Mike Pisano then spoke about Wild Apricot our newest Member Management System and explained to everyone what the system does and how it works. This system is amazing and will really help to manage our membership base and help to provide reports to Gary Pilon who handles the OJA Finances.

Mike Pisano then reviewed our new website at: ontariojiujitsuassociation.com. This is a very impressive website and has a modern look and feel to it. Attendees that have not yet seen the new site seemed impressed and Mike Pisano stated that the OJA was also moving towards an on-line payment system via the new site as well.

Mike Pisano spoke about Smooth-comp – our latest Tournament Competitor Registration System that will enable Competitors to easily sign up for Competitions and will work hand in hand with our Wild Apricot membership Management System.

Our new website, coupled with Wild Apricot and Smooth-comp, will allow the OJA to run its daily business in a more efficient and streamlined fashion and will now allow the Board more free time to devote towards growth of the Association.

Tournament Report (Attached) – Tony Isaacs

Tony Isaacs posted the 2022 Tournament Schedule for everyone to review and walked everyone through the Report and also spoke at length concerning some of challenges the OJA had during 2021 due predominantly to COVID.

We also had some wins, along with some exciting changes coming for 2022.

Of special note, Tony Isaacs was pleased to advise everyone that due to our hard work, the OJA now has obtained voting rights with the JJIF. This was no small feat and everyone in attendance was pleased to hear of this news, especially Clubs that have many competitors that hope to one day compete at a higher level – potentially at the Olympic Games.

Tony Isaacs spoke about the 2021 Tournament he attended in Abu Dabi and how awareness of the OJA is increasing there.

Tony Isaacs advised everyone that the Ontario Government is looking to increase Para – Competitor participation in Tournaments during 2022. As such, Tony Isaacs said that he would initiate this mandate and ensure that there was a Para-Competitor Division in all upcoming and beyond tournaments. Tony Isaacs asked that Tournament Promoters begin to ensure they have a Para-Division at all OJA sponsored Tournaments. Tournament Officials will also need to be trained for this.

Tony Isaacs stated that everyone is aware that we currently provide mats and barricades to Tournaments. The OJA currently rents the barricades that are functional, but not very pleasing to the eye. We are now looking to purchase our own barricades that will be used at Tournaments. These new barricades will give a more professional look to the site and also provide better security as they are of modern manufacture.

We should see these new barricades early 2022 and attendees were pleased to hear of this development and look forward to using them at their Tournament site.

END of REPORTS

New Business (OPEN) – Doug Knispel

Doug Knispel opened the floor for discussion surrounding new business.

Fernando Zulick (In person attendee) mentioned that it just came out that the Town of Markham, Ontario has now offered \$10,000.00 in support for Competition events to be held there during 2022. This is for profit and non-profit organizations.

It was noted that the OJA Provincials is held in Markham, Ontario each year so the OJA could take advantage of this funding to help cover costs.

The CJA Nationals is held during June in Brampton, Ontario and may be too late at this juncture to change venues.

Fernando Zulick offered to manage both Tournaments and the Board confirmed their approval with this as Fernando Zulick historically does a great job in managing and promoting the Tournaments.

Smooth-comp will be used to provide the Tournament results and Mike Pisano will have the results posted on our new OJA website for everyone to see.

Elections – Doug Knispel

Over the past year, as the association expands its Tournament capacity and brings on more Clubs, there has been much discussion surrounding bringing on Board some additional headcount to assist Tony Isaacs in managing these events. It was proposed to elect two new Directors to help with this, assisting Tony Isaacs who would maintain overall responsibility for the events.

As such, **Fernando Zulick** was nominated by Tony Isaacs as - Director of the BJJ Events.

Approved by (1) Doug Knispel and was seconded by (2) Patrick Barton followed by unanimous by the Board.

John Cole was nominated by Tony Isaacs as - Director of the No GI Events.

Approved by (1) Doug Knispel and was seconded by (2) David Doucette followed by unanimous by the Board.

Congratulations to our new Directors.

The AGM was adjourned – by our Chairman Doug Knispel at 8:30 PM.

*After the AGM the Board attended a Team dinner at a local restaurant to celebrate their contributions, hard work and to prepare for 2022.