

Ontario Jiu-Jitsu Association 6-01-2025 Annual (2004) AGM Meeting Minutes

In attendance:

Board of Directors:

Doug Knispel – President / Chairman – Japanese Jiu-Jitsu

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

Shawn Rodie – Secretary / Japanese Jiu-Jitsu

Mike Pisano – Director - Techn Support / Club Membership / Coaching Card – Japanese Jiu-Jitsu

Tony Isaacs – Director - Tournaments – Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

Roger Tang – Director - Officials, Referees, Tournaments - Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

This year the Annual AGM for 2024 was held at the Element Hotel, located at 6100 HWY7, Vaughn, Ontario, L4H 0R2 and was moderately attended with 13 people (Including OJA Board

The 2024 AGM was scheduled a bit late this year due to scheduling conflicts early in the year.

Members) in attendance both in person and via Zoom Link. The OJA takes its responsibility of serving its member base seriously, and the in-person increasing attendance by the member base is a direct reflection of this mandate.

Meeting called to order - by our Chairman Doug Knispel at 2:15 PM

Presidents Report – (Report attached) - Doug Knispel

Doug Knispel started the meeting by highlighting the AGENDA for the meeting and presented the Presidents report via projector for everyone in person and also on-line to see.

2024 was a very busy year for the OJA. Some of the highlights were:

The OJA is an open and inclusive organization, dedicated to serving its members and expanding the art of Jiu-Jitsu. We openly invite all qualifying Clubs to join.

During 2024 it was noted that the OJA has expanded to approximately 125 Clubs and 8,800 individual members.

The OJA continues to remain in compliance with the Government's Sport Recognition Policy – the OJA remains as the recognized Ontario Provincial Sport Organization for Jiu-Jitsu.

The Ontario Jiu-Jitsu Association is affiliated to the Canadian Jiu-Jitsu Association, which in turn is affiliated to the Jujitsu International Federation (JJIF) – the only Jiu-Jitsu federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee.

On Jan 1st, 2025 – the new Combat Sport Act came into effect. The OJA remains as a sanctioning body for Jiu-Jitsu competitions in Ontario. For our members, there is no change to our policies and our scheduled events will continue uninterrupted with no impact to our members.

Many Improvements were made to delivering our Tournament Officials Training remotely. Several courses were held with great success and over-all feedback has been quite positive.

Doug Knispel concluded the report by advising that the AGM Minutes would be posted for everyone to see on the OJA website and asked if anyone would like to join the OJA Board or form a committee to get in touch with him directly.

Finance Report – (Report attached) - Gary Pilon

Gary Pilon shared the OJA Financial Report with the attending members and took everyone through the report.

Some of the highlights from the report were:

The OJA continues to send annual funding to the CJA in order to provide them with operational support.

During 2024 the OJA continued to work closely with our Insurance Company re insurance cost.

The cost to the OJA for insurance coverage is based on the overall number of our members.

There was an avid discussion amongst the people in attendance concerning how the OJA Insurance Coverages worked and what was and what was not, covered for Clubs, Coaches and members. It was noted, and confirmed by the members in attendance, that the OJA Insurance coverages are considered to be “best in class” and offered many coverages that were usually not found in many Clubs individual out-side party packages.

A motion to accept the Financial Report was made: Seconded by 1. Tony Isaacs, and 2. Roger Tang, followed by all hands – unanimous.

Safety and Insurance Report – (Report attached) – Gary Pilon

Concerning Safety and Insurance, Gary Pilon was pleased to advise that during 2024 the OJA experienced very few, minor injury claims. This is a testament to how well the Tournaments and various events are run.

Gary Pilon also reminded us that all OJA member clubs and individual participants who are paid members in good standing have insurance coverages only applicable to activities that are formally sanctioned by the Ontario Jiu Jitsu Association. IF OJA members and Clubs compete in non-sanctioned events they do not have the protections normally provided by the OJA. To be clear, engaging in unsanctioned events or activities may result in a loss of insurance protection.

Although our insurance costs are going up, the OJA will maintain the nominal cost of \$150.00 for Clubs to join the OJA for 2024 and 2025.

Education / OJA News Report – (Report attached) - David Doucette

David Doucette advised the marketing slogans connected to **Long Term Athletic Development (LTAD)** goals of the Ontario government were noted and well-received during the day-long visit to our nationals in December by our Ontario Sports Consultant - and former 3-time Canadian Olympian.

The potential exists to produce high-quality educational videos to help standardize OJA instructional methods and share 'best practices' with OJA club owners and OJA members. As our events continue to increase in frequency and size there will be an immediate need to more video reporters.

This is particularly helpful to clubs outside of high-density areas, where access to combative training methods can be limited. Keeping our clubs up-to-date is a powerful way to keep them thriving. To this end Roger Tang and David Doucette have collaborated while awaiting a window of time to move forward.

Dave attended the *OJA 2024 Nationals* and produced a video of the complete match between Suriya Desai and Julianna Wong.

The Board purchased a professional copy of **Davinci Studio** (one-time licence fee, with lifetime free upgrades). This version is packed with AI software features that drastically reduce post-production time for videos, while offering unlimited production potential. To fully utilize these features the OJA is looking at purchasing a more robust computer with an approximate (~\$5000.00) cost.

David Doucette advised the Board that he also attended a pre-grading/grading session – plus subsequent training seminar - in the fall and was able to edit and produce videos for distribution to the Grading Board and grading seminar instructors. These videos will add value to our members who can use this detail to assist them with training / performance related issues in the future.

Tournament Report– (Report attached) - Tony Isaacs

Tony Isaacs started off by advising the group that 2024 was a good year for the OJA and also stated the 2025 year is going to be an even busier year for us with 28 events planned for the year.

Some of the highlights from the report were:

The Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu group has partnered with Wrestling Ontario for 3 “Take Down” events in 2025. For these events ones opponent needs to hold you on the matt for 3 seconds in order to score a point and this type of event is getting increasingly more popular.

It is important to the OJA that we maintain both strong and experienced referees at Tournaments and to this point Tony Isaacs spoke at length about the value of bringing in Instructors from out of town to assist with training and possibly providing out of town guest seminars.

Sport Jiu-Jitsu Report – (Report attached) – Mike Pisano

The 2024 Sport Jiu-Jitsu season was a milestone year for Canadian Sport Jiu-Jitsu, driven by the Ontario Sport Jiu-Jitsu League (OSJL) under the sanctioning of the Ontario Jiu-Jitsu Association (OJA) and the Canadian Jiu-Jitsu Association (CJA).

Three provincial-level tournaments were successfully hosted as well as the National Championships, all using standardized JJIF rules and formats. Participation grew throughout the year, laying the groundwork for the development of a National Team as well as expanded athlete opportunities.

Most notably, 2024 marked the return of Team Canada to international JJIF competition. Three athletes were selected to represent the country at the JJIF World Jiu-Jitsu Championships in Greece, bringing home a bronze medal in Head Impact Free (HIF) Contact Jiu-Jitsu Fighting.

OJA Membership– (Report attached) – Mike Pisano

Mike Pisano presented some interested data surrounding the 2024 membership base.

Some of the highlights from the report were:

During 2024 the OJA had approximately 4165 Youth members under 18 yrs), 3954 Adult members (over 18 yrs) and 659 Coach members which totals 8778. It was noted that that during 2023 that the membership base was 8395 members. These numbers reflect the growth of the organization over a two year period and is a strong indicator of the value added services that the Jiu-Jitsu community at large comes to depend on with the OJA.

The gender breakdown for 2024 was 78% male and 22 % female members. Female membership as well as female competitors, is an area that seems to be continually growing and is a testament to the OJA’s efforts in this area.

Canadian Jiu-Jitsu Association Report – Tony Issacs (CJA President)

Tony Isaacs (Canadian Jiu-Jitsu Association President) began his report with a discussion concerning the ever-increasing costs of sending Canadian Teams over-seas to compete and he is always looking for effective ways to cut costs. Tony Isaacs spoke about the annual funding the CJA continues to enjoy from the OJA and that currently is the main source of funding they have.

Although other avenues of funding are being investigated, the OJA funding is critical to providing the CJA with operational expenses.

Tony Isaacs is also working towards getting other Provinces to develop their own Jiu-Jitsu PSO's and this could also be another source of revenue for the CJA as PSO's provide financial support for the CJA in the way of a paid \$5.00 fee per member.

New Business (OPEN) – Doug Knispel

Doug Knispel opened the floor for discussion surrounding new business.

****OJA Policy and Governance Director Position** – Roger Tang made a motion to induct Rebecca Dempster as a Director to the Board in the capacity of Policy and Governance Director. In this capacity, Rebecca Dempster will provide support to the Board in these areas.

**** Rebecca Dempster **** accepted the position. This was followed by an all hands – unanimous approval.

OJA Rate Increase for 2024 – (to begin during October 2025). Doug Knispel advised the members that the OJA has been operating for many years without a rate increase, despite the struggles with increasing operational costs. This is a topic that has come up at the last few AGM meetings and it has been decided that it time for the OJA to increase rates in certain areas. Doug Knispel illustrated the current costs with the members present and invited their thoughts concerning the individual rate increases and it was decided, after much deliberation by the members, there was a unanimous approval for the following fee increases:

1. Sanctioning Fees to increase from \$300 - \$500 per event.
2. Super Fight Shows to increase from \$150.00 - \$250 per event.
3. Individual Club Fee to remain the same at \$150.00 Per year.
4. Coaches fee to increase to \$40.00 Per Year.
5. Adults fee to increase from \$30.00 to \$35.00 per year.
6. Childrens fee to increase from \$25.00 - \$30.00 per year.

Adjournment – by our Chairman Doug Knispel at 5.00 PM.