



**PREMIUM PROCESSING
COVERSHEET**

**PLEASE RETURN THE REQUESTED INFORMATION AND
ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS WITH
THIS PAGE ON TOP TO:
USCIS/TSC
ATTN: RFE/NOID/NOIR/NOIT
6046 N BELT LINE RD STE 140
IRVING, TX 75038-0014**

Please check the appropriate box regarding if there is a new Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, additional fees, additional forms, etc. Please place the new Form G-28, additional fees, additional forms directly under this sheet.

Yes, there is:

<input type="checkbox"/> A New G-28	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Fees
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Forms	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

If you have moved, write your current address in the blank area below. Please be sure to write clearly.

(Select appropriate check box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant/Beneficiary	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner
New Address:	

As required by Section § 265.1 Reporting change of address. "Except for those exempted by section 263(b) of the Act, all aliens in the United States required to register under section 262 of the Act must report each change of address and new address within 10 days of such change in accordance with instructions provided by USCIS."

REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE

I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker



IOE0926804209



A242-193-027

SILVA BORGES, SALUA
SILVA BORGES, SALUA



March 5, 2026

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Texas Service Center
6046 N Belt Line Rd STE 140
Irving, TX 75038-0014

SALUA SILVA BORGES
c/o OTAVIO HAVERROTH SILVA
HS LAW
P.O. BOX 90487 APT
SAN DIEGO, CA 92169

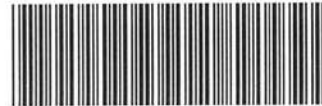


**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**



IOE0926804209

RE: SALUA SILVA BORGES
I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker



A242-193-027

PREMIUM PROCESSING

IMPORTANT: THIS NOTICE CONTAINS YOUR UNIQUE NUMBER. THE ORIGINAL NOTICE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE REQUESTED EVIDENCE.

You are receiving this notice because U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requires additional evidence to process your form. Please provide the evidence listed on the attached page(s). Include duplicate copies if you are requesting consular notification.

Your response must be received in this office by June 1, 2026.

Please note that you have been allotted the maximum period allowed for responding to an RFE. The time period for responding cannot be extended. 8 Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR 103.2(b)(8)(iv)). Because many immigration benefits are time sensitive, you are encouraged to respond to this request as early as possible, but no later than the deadline provided above. If you do not respond to this notice within the allotted time, your case may be denied. The regulations do not provide for an extension of time to submit the requested evidence.

You must submit all requested evidence at the same time. If you submit only some of the requested evidence, USCIS will consider your response a request for a decision on the record. 8 CFR 103.2(b)(11).

If you submit a document in any language other than English, the document must be accompanied by a full and **complete** English translation. The translator must certify that the translation is accurate and he or she is competent to translate from that language to English. **If you submit a foreign language translation in response to this request for evidence, you must also include a copy of the foreign language document.**

Processing of your I-140 will resume upon receipt of your response. If you have not heard from USCIS after **15 days of responding**, you may contact the Texas Service Center Premium Processing at email address tsc-premium.processing@uscis.dhs.gov.

Reference is made to this Form I-140, Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker, seeking E11 immigrant classification as an individual of extraordinary ability for Salua Silva Borges (petitioner/beneficiary), filed on her own behalf on July 18, 2024.

The beneficiary intends to work as Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competitor in the field of Athletics.

The E11 immigrant classification applies to individuals with extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics. The individual must demonstrate that he has sustained national or international acclaim and that his achievements have been recognized in the field of expertise, indicating that he is one of that small percentage who have risen to the very top of their field of endeavor. The individual must plan to continue to work in his area of extraordinary ability and must substantially benefit prospectively the United States.

To process the petition and determine if the beneficiary is eligible, additional information is required. This request provides suggested evidence that you could submit to satisfy each requested item. You may submit one, some, or all of these items. Or, you may choose to submit none of them, and instead submit other evidence to satisfy the request. You may also explain why or how the evidence in the record already establishes eligibility. Please note, however, that you are responsible for providing evidence that best shows the beneficiary meets all requirements. The evidence must show that the beneficiary was eligible for the requested benefit when you filed the Form I-140.

A two-part analysis is used to determine whether the beneficiary is an individual of extraordinary ability:

- First, we determine whether the petitioner has submitted evidence to show that the beneficiary:
 - Has received a one-time achievement (a major internationally recognized award); or,
 - Qualifies under at least three of the ten criteria required for this classification.

- Second, if the petitioner establishes that the beneficiary has received a one time achievement (a major internationally recognized award), or meets at least three of the other criteria, we then determine whether the petitioner has submitted evidence demonstrating that the beneficiary:
 - Has sustained national or international acclaim.
 - In determining whether the beneficiary has enjoyed “sustained” national or international acclaim, such acclaim must be maintained. A beneficiary may have achieved extraordinary ability in the past but then failed to maintain a comparable level of acclaim thereafter; and,
 - Has achievements that have been recognized in the field of expertise, indicating that the beneficiary is one of that small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor.

The petitioner has provided documentation under the following regulatory areas:

- Receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor.
- Membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought. The association must require outstanding achievements of their members, as judged by recognized national or international experts in their disciplines or fields.
- Published material about the alien in professional, major trade publications-or major media, relating to their work for which classification is sought. Must include the title, date, and author of the material.
- Participation, either individually or on a panel, as a judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field of specialization for which classification is sought.
- Original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of major significance in the



field.

- Performed in a leading or critical role for organizations or establishments that have a distinguished reputation.

A discussion follow as addressing the areas of insufficiency and what could be submitted to overcome them.

Documentation of the beneficiary's receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor.

The petitioner submitted:

- List of tournament placements – name of athlete is not shown;
- Certificate of receiving black belt;
- IBJJ letter;
- Photos with the awards

Both the IBJJ letter and the photos show the petitioner's most current wins at the: 2nd place - 2022 World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship; 1st place – 2023 American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship (Super Heavy); 1st place – 2023 American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship (Open Class); 1st place - 2023 American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship (Super heavy); 1st place - 2023 American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship (Open Class); 1st place - 2022 American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship (Super heavy); Other awards won in 2018 / 2019 / 2020 / 2021;

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) of the beneficiary's receipt of a prize or award, (2) that the prize or award is in beneficiary's field, (3) that the prize or award is recognized nationally or internationally, and (4) that the award or prize is for excellence in the field of endeavor. The petitioner must satisfy all of these elements to meet the plain language requirements of this criterion.

The evidence submitted demonstrate the petitioner's receipt of numerous awards, however, the there was no objective evidence to determine the awards are nationally/internationally recognized outside of the IBJJ organization.

The plain language of this criterion has not been met.

To assist in determining that you have received prizes or awards for excellence in your field, you may submit:

- Documentary evidence of national or international prizes or awards received that were granted for excellence in the beneficiary's field.
- Documentary evidence establishing what the criterion was for winning the prizes or awards.
- Documentary evidence describing how the prizes or awards relate to the beneficiary's field.
- Documentary evidence of the following:
 - The significance of the prizes or awards;
 - Who is considered for the prizes or awards;
 - How many prizes or awards are given each year; and
 - Previous winners who are related to the beneficiary's field.

Note: For any prize or award submitted, please also provide:

- A copy of each prize or award certificate;
- A clear photograph of each prize or award; or
- Public announcement regarding the awarding of the prizes or awards issued by the granting organization.

Documentation of the beneficiary's membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought. The association must require outstanding achievements of their members, as judged by recognized national or international experts in their disciplines or fields.

The petitioner submitted:

- IBJJ membership;
- USBJJF membership;

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) of membership in associations, (2) that the associations are in the beneficiary's field, (3) that the associations require outstanding achievements of their members, and (4) that membership eligibility is judged by recognized national or international experts in their field.

Evidence must demonstrate that the association requires outstanding achievement as an essential condition for admission to membership. Requirements that only include employment or activity in a given field; minimum education, experience, or achievement; recommendations by colleagues or current members; or payment of dues do not satisfy this criterion since these requirements do not constitute outstanding achievements.

The plain language of this criterion has not been met.

To assist in determining if you have membership in an association that requires outstanding achievements of their members as judged by national and international members, please submit the following:

- Evidence of your membership in an association which meets the above listed criteria.
- The section of the association's constitution or bylaws which discuss the criteria for membership for the beneficiary's level of membership in the association.
- Information to establish that the individuals who review prospective members' applications are recognized as national or international experts in their disciplines or fields.
- The section of the association's constitution or bylaws which discuss the qualifications required of the reviewers on the review panel of the association.
- The section of the association's constitution or bylaws which discuss the criteria for membership.
- Documentary evidence which describes the association's goals, mission, or target membership.

Published material about the alien in professional or major trade publications or other major media. The materials must relate to the beneficiary's work in the field for which classification is sought.

The petitioner submitted:



- Articles which do not include the publication, name of author, and/or date of article;
- SimilarWeb information about extra.globo.com; uol.com.br; terra.com.br;
- Rede TV information source unknown;

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) of published material, (2) that the published material contains the title, date, and author of the material, and any necessary translation, (3) that the published material is about the beneficiary relating to the beneficiary's work in the field, and (4) that the published material qualifies as professional or major trade publications or other major media. The petitioner must satisfy all of these elements to meet the plain language requirements of this criterion.

In evaluating whether a submitted publication is a professional publication, major trade publication, or major media, relevant factors include the intended audience (for professional and major trade publications) and the relative circulation, readership, or viewership (for major trade publications and other major media).

The articles submitted do not include the publication and/or author and/or date of article as required in the plain language of this criterion. SimilarWeb information was submitted as indicated, however, as the articles publisher is not shown, the information is not considered at this time.

The plain language of this criterion has not been met.

Therefore please submit:

- Published material that relates to the beneficiary and the beneficiary's work in the field.
- Documentary evidence that the submitted published material was about the beneficiary and the beneficiary's work in the field.
- Documentary evidence including:
 - The title, date, and author of the published material;
 - The circulation (online and/or in print); and,
- The intended audience of the publication.

Note: The evidence submitted should be specific to the media format in which it was published. If the material was published online, the evidence should relate to the website. If it was published in print, the evidence should relate to the printed publication.

- Additional published material that relates to the beneficiary and the beneficiary's work in the field. The published material should be dated prior to the date of submission of this Form I-140.
- Documentary evidence that the submitted published material was about the beneficiary and the beneficiary's work in the field, and not just about the beneficiary's employer or other organizations the beneficiary is associated with.
- Marketing materials created for the purpose of selling the beneficiary's products or promoting the beneficiary's services are not generally considered to be published material about the beneficiary.
- Unevaluated listings in a subject matter index or footnote, or reference to the beneficiary's work without evaluation are insufficient.

Evidence of the beneficiary's participation, either individually or on a panel, as a judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field of specialization for which classification is sought.

The petitioner submitted a letter:

Robert Drysdale, CEO and Founder, Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy:

The letter from the CEO indicates the petitioner has participated as a judge in some Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competitions which he indicates they are beyond her duties as coach. The petitioner states the petitioner's 'plays an essential role in selecting athletes for competitions' and goes on to state her 'judgment is crucial in preparing our team for success in both national and international events'.

He indicates the petitioner also serves as a judge in the in-house tournaments hosted by Zenith, 'Salua Borges' judgment during these tournaments is informed by her intimate knowledge of each athlete's strength, weaknesses, and technical capabilities'. The author indicates the petitioner evaluates and provides constructive feedback to athletes. The letter goes on to stated the petitioner has been invited to judge at various regional and national Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competitions outside of the IBJJF circuit.'

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) of the beneficiary's participation, either individually or on a panel (official capacity) as a judge, and (2) that the beneficiary judge the work of others in the same or an allied field. The petitioner must satisfy all of these elements to meet the plain language requirements of this criterion.

Simply going on record without substantive evidence to support assertions, is not sufficient in these proceedings. See Matter of Treasure Craft of California, 14 I&N Dec. 190 (BIA 1972). Furthermore, you did not provide independent and objective evidence to verify that you participated either individually or on a panel, as a judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field of endeavor.

The plain language of this criterion has not been met.

To assist in determining if the petitioner meets eligibility under this criterion please submit evidence that you have participated as an individual or on a panel as a judge of the work of others in the field and not simply invited to serve to review, access or edit. The evidence submitted must also include evidence to show that the work which he judged belonged to others in an allied field or specialization for which classification is sought. In addition, the evidence must demonstrate whether the peer review was completed as a source of constructive criticism, for the selection of the best work from a pool of submissions, as a recommendation for publication or as a grant peer review.


Evidence of the alien's original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business related contributions of major significance in the field

The petitioner's statement states her original contributions are:

- Revolutionized training methods;
- Tailored technique Jiu-Jitsu special needs children;
- Mastery of guard passing technique;
- Letter from Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy,
- Other Letters;

Robert Drysdale, CEO and Founder, Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy:

The letter from the CEO indicates the petitioner 'developed a comprehensive curriculum specifically designed to cater

 the sensory, cognitive, and social needs of children with ASD'. He indicates the petitioner developed and oversees all aspects of the implementation.

An independent search of the academy at <https://drysdalejiujitsu.com/programs>, found no information about the special needs program within the academy.

Sarah Cook, Caregiver, Nanny's to Granny's:

The author indicates she is the caregiver for a young boy diagnosed with severe autism and was nonverbal. The caregiver indicates that once his training with the petitioner started they saw 'incredible and transformative changes' in his development. The caregiver indicates the petitioner's unique approach to coaching provides an 'unexpected but profoundly effective means of therapy and development' for the child.

Luciana Rodrigues de Oliveria, Mother of student:

The author indicates the petitioner coaches her son who has been diagnosed with ADHD. The letter states that through the petitioner's training sessions, her son's self-esteem has improved and he has learned to direct his attention better which helped in school and daily life.

While letters of this kind can help to explain the nature of your contributions, they should be supported with corroborating documentary evidence to establish the major significance of those contributions. The record does not show that the writers' views represent the consensus within that field.

The letters from Ricardo Liborio and Roberto Godoi, Jiu-Jitsu fighters and coach/instructor, speak on the petitioner's accomplishments as a competitor in Jiu-Jitsu sports. The letter does not provide specific detail examples of how the beneficiary's contributions have been of major significance to the field.

The letter from Marcelo Glorenco Nunes, shows the signature page appears different than the rest of the letter.

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) of the beneficiary's contributions related to scientific, scholarly, artistic or business fields, (2) that the beneficiary's contribution is original, and (3) that the beneficiary's original contribution has been of major significance. The petitioner must satisfy all of these elements to meet the plain language requirements of this criterion.

According to the petitioner's statement she revolutionized training methods and tailored her technique for special needs children. The evidence does not detail her revolutionized training method, additionally, there was no evidence to show her adjustment of technique when working with the special needs children is original.

Furthermore, the contributions must rise to the level of major significance in the field as a whole, rather than to a project or to an organization. Major significance in the field may be shown through evidence that your work has been widely accepted and implemented throughout the field, have remarkably impacted or influenced the field, or have otherwise risen to a level of major significance in the field.

The plain language of this criterion has not been met.

To assist us in identifying your original contributions and determining the major significance of those contributions, please submit:

- Objective documentary evidence of the significance of the beneficiary's contribution to the field.
- Documentary evidence that people throughout the field currently consider the beneficiary's work

important.

- Testimony and/or support letters from experts which discuss the beneficiary's contributions of major significance.
- Evidence that the beneficiary's major significant contribution(s) has provoked widespread public commentary in the field or has been widely cited.
- Evidence of the beneficiary's work being implemented by others. Possible evidence may include but is not limited to:
 - Contracts with companies using the beneficiary's products;
 - Licensed technology being used by others;
 - Patents currently being utilized and shown to be significant to the field.

Note: Letters and testimonies, if submitted, must provide as much detail as possible about the beneficiary's contribution and must explain, in detail, how the contribution was "original" (not merely replicating the work of others) and how they were of "major" significance. General statements regarding the importance of the endeavors which are not supported by documentary evidence are insufficient

Evidence that the beneficiary has performed in a leading or critical role for organizations or establishments that have a distinguished reputation.

The petitioner submitted:

Robert Drysdale, CEO and Founder, Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy:

The letter from the CEO indicates the petitioner's leadership is 'integral to maintaining our institution's esteemed reputation within the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu community'. The petitioner's leadership extends beyond her individual accomplishments as an athlete to encompass her role as mentor and coach'.

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) that the beneficiary performed a role for an organization or establishment (2) that the role beneficiary role is/was leading or critical, and (3) that the beneficiary's leading or critical role is/was for an organization or establishment with a distinguished reputation. The petitioner must satisfy all of these elements to meet the plain language requirements of this criterion.


The letter from Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy establishes the leadership role which the CEO states the petitioner has held, however, aside from the CEO's statement there was no evidence of the organization's distinguished reputation.

The plain language of this criterion has not been met.

To assist in determining that the organization has a distinguished reputation, the petitioner may submit:

- Evidence to demonstrate the distinguished reputation of the organizations or establishments for which the beneficiary performed in leading or critical roles. The evidence should document the organizations or establishments eminence, distinction, or excellence.

As discussed above, the beneficiary has not garnered a one-time achievement award or met at least three of the ten criteria. As such, USCIS is affording the petitioner the opportunity to submit additional evidence to establish that the beneficiary meets the regulatory criteria. The response to this request should address the insufficiencies articulated by

 CIS in this request.

Additionally, meeting the minimum regulatory criteria outlined above, alone will not establish eligibility for the E11 immigrant classification. Any evidence submitted in response to this request, should also articulate how the evidence establishes that the beneficiary possesses the required high level of expertise for the E11 immigrant classification.

This is the petitioner's opportunity to articulate further details or provide additional evidence in regards to how the evidence submitted in the initial filing or in response to this Request for Evidence establishes that the beneficiary meets the requirements regarding the required high level of expertise for the immigrant classification.

Establishing eligibility for the high level of expertise required for the E11 immigrant classification is based on the beneficiary possessing:

- Sustained national or international acclaim.
 - In determining whether the beneficiary has enjoyed "sustained" national or international acclaim, such acclaim must be maintained. A beneficiary may have achieved extraordinary ability in the past but then failed to maintain a comparable level of acclaim thereafter; and,
- Achievements that have been recognized in the field of expertise, indicating that the beneficiary is one of that small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor.

In conclusion, when ultimately making a final decision regarding eligibility, USCIS will first evaluate the evidence submitted by the petitioner to determine which regulatory criteria the beneficiary meets in part one of the analysis. If the petitioner establishes that the beneficiary has received a one-time achievement (a major internationally recognized award) or meets at least three of the antecedent evidentiary prongs, then USCIS will evaluate all of the evidence in the record to make a final merits determination of whether or not the petitioner, by a preponderance of the evidence, has demonstrated that the beneficiary has sustained national or international acclaim and that the beneficiary's achievements have been recognized in the field of expertise, indicating that the beneficiary is one of that small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor.

This is the petitioner's opportunity to meet his legal burden of proof to establish eligibility in all respects. Whenever any person makes an application for an immigration benefit, he shall bear the burden of proof to establish eligibility for the benefit sought. Therefore, the petitioner must prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, in other words, that it is more likely than not, that the beneficiary is fully qualified for the benefit sought. Accordingly, the decision will be based on the initial evidence submitted upon filing and all additional evidence submitted in response to this request.

PLACE THE ATTACHED COVERSHEET AND THIS ENTIRE LETTER ON TOP OF YOUR RESPONSE. SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE WITHOUT THE COVERSHEET AND THIS LETTER WILL DELAY PROCESSING OF YOUR CASE AND MAY RESULT IN A DENIAL.

Sincerely,

Carrie M. Selby
Acting Associate Director, Service Center Operations
Officer: XM1706



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<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Forms	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

If you have moved, write your current address in the blank area below. Please be sure to write clearly.

(Select appropriate check box)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant/Beneficiary	<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner
New Address:	

As required by Section § 265.1 Reporting change of address. "Except for those exempted by section 263(b) of the Act, all aliens in the United States required to register under section 262 of the Act must report each change of address and new address within 10 days of such change in accordance with instructions provided by USCIS."

REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE

I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker



IOE0926804209



A242-193-027

SILVA BORGES, SALUA
SILVA BORGES, SALUA

May 27, 2026

Via FedEx

USCIS/TSC

ATTN: RFE/NOID/NOIR/NOIT

6046 N Belt Line Rd STE 140

Irving, TX 75038-0014

Re: Response to Request for Evidence dated March 5, 2026.

SILVA BORGES, Salua

IOE0926804209

A# 242-193-027

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is respectfully submitted as a response to the Request for Evidence dated March 5, 2026. We are submitting the additional requested evidence and providing new supportive documentation.

The RFE is responded to timely. It was dated March 5, 2026, with a response deadline of June 1, 2026.

Further evidence for the following criteria required for the classification under section 203(b)(1)(A) was requisitioned in the Request for Evidence from Ms. Salua Silva Borges (hereinafter "Mrs. Borges"):

- 1. Evidence of the receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor.**
- 2. Documentation of the beneficiary's membership in associations in the field for which classification is sought and that require outstanding achievements of their members, as judged by recognized national or international experts in their disciplines or fields.**
- 3. Published material about the beneficiary in professional or major trade publications or other major media relating to the beneficiary's work in the field for which classification is sought.**
- 4. Participation, either individually or on a panel, as a judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field of specialization for which classification is sought.**
- 5. Evidence of the alien's original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of major significance in the field.**

6. Evidence that the beneficiary has performed in a leading or critical role for organizations or establishments that have a distinguished reputation.

This letter outlines previous and additional evidence demonstrating that Mrs. Borges qualifies as an alien of extraordinary ability in accordance with the INA Section 203(b)(1)(A) in the **Athletics Field (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu)**. In addition, it clearly demonstrates that the petitioner qualifies in the second part of the analysis as she has proven sustainable national and international acclaim and that she has achievements that have been recognized in the field of expertise, indicating that, **by the preponderance of evidence ("more likely than not")**, she is one of that small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor.

Since the filing of the original petition on July 18, 2024, Mrs. Borges has continued to achieve extraordinary results, including earning **multiple championship titles in 2024 and 2025** and achieving the official **#1 world ranking** in her division as certified by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF), the sport's preeminent governing body. These post-filing achievements, together with the additional documentary evidence submitted herewith, demonstrate sustained national and international acclaim of the highest caliber.

The content of this letter is divided into chapters per request of evidence criterion to clearly address all requests necessary to resume processing Mrs. Borges' I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker.

Eligibility for extraordinary ability classification

As established in *Kazarian v. USCIS*, 596 F.3d 1115 (9th Cir. 2010), USCIS officers apply a two-step analysis. First, USCIS determines whether the petitioner has submitted evidence meeting at least three of the ten regulatory criteria under 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3). Second, if the petitioner meets the initial evidentiary threshold, USCIS conducts a final merits determination to evaluate whether, by a preponderance of the evidence, the beneficiary possesses the required sustained national or international acclaim and is among the small percentage at the very top of the field.

The applicable standard of proof is the "preponderance of the evidence" standard, as articulated in *Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369 (AAO 2010), which requires that the evidence, relevant, probative, and credible, demonstrate that the applicant's claim is "probably true" or "more likely than not." Under this standard, if the evidence demonstrates a greater than 50% probability that the claim is true, the petitioner has satisfied the burden of proof.

Criterion 1. Evidence of the beneficiary's receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards in the field of endeavor.

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence: (1) of the beneficiary's receipt of a prize or award; (2) that the prize or award is recognized nationally or internationally; and (3) that the

award or prize is granted for excellence in the field of endeavor. The petitioner must satisfy all these requirements to meet the plain language requirements of this criterion.

The RFE stated that "the evidence submitted demonstrate the petitioner's receipt of numerous awards, however, there was no objective evidence to determine the awards are nationally/internationally recognized outside of the IBJJF organization." The RFE also noted that the list of tournament placements did not show the beneficiary's name. We respectfully submit that the newly provided evidence **conclusively and irrefutably** addresses each of these concerns.

I. The IBJJF Is the Internationally Recognized Governing Body of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

The International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) is not merely "a" organization in the sport, it is **the preeminent governing body worldwide** for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competition. Founded in 2002 by **Carlos Gracie Jr.**, a 9th-degree red belt and member of the Gracie family that created Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, the IBJJF operates in partnership with the Confederação Brasileira de Jiu-Jitsu (CBJJ) and the United States Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (USBJJF) to organize and regulate the sport on an international level.

See Carlos Gracie Jr. biography: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Gracie_Jr.

Carlos Gracie Jr. is one of the most influential figures in the history of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Born on January 17, 1956, in Rio de Janeiro, he is the son of Carlos Gracie Sr., one of the co-founders of the art. In addition to founding the IBJJF and the CBJJ, he established **Gracie Barra**, one of the largest BJJ affiliations in the world, with hundreds of locations across six continents. He also founded Gracie Magazine in 1994, the leading publication for the sport. A certificate signed by Carlos Gracie Jr. carries the weight of the sport's highest authority, **akin to recognition from the founder of the field itself.**

<https://www.elitesports.com/blogs/news/carlos-gracie-jr-the-co-founder-of-ibjjf>

The IBJJF's reach and influence are undeniable. The 2024 IBJJF World Jiu-Jitsu Championship (Gi) featured **over 4,000 athletes from more than 70 countries**, held at the Walter Pyramid in Long Beach, California. The 2024 IBJJF World No-Gi Championship, held at the Las Vegas Convention Center, attracted **4,272 athletes**. These figures rival participation numbers of many Olympic sports and far exceed those of comparable combat sport organizations.

<https://thearenagym.com/blog/jiujitsu/the-2024-ibjjf-world-jiu-jitsu-championship-showcases-thrilling-battles-and-emerging-talent/>

<https://digitsu.com/events/2024-ibjjf-world-no-gi-championship>

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu has experienced extraordinary growth in the United States, emerging as one of the fastest-growing combat sports in the country. Current estimates suggest between **750,000 and 6 million practitioners in the U.S.**, with the industry generating approximately **\$2.5 billion in annual revenue** across an estimated 44,218 businesses. Only **1–3% of all individuals who begin training eventually earn a black belt**, demonstrating the extraordinary selectivity of

achievement at the elite level. The IBJJF serves as the governing body that organizes and sanctions the most prestigious events within this rapidly expanding sport.

See <https://reveljiujitsu.com/brazilian-jiu-jitsu-growth-in-usa/>

<https://goldbjj.com/blogs/roll/statistics>

II. The Beneficiary's Name Appears on Official IBJJF Rankings and Records

The RFE stated that the list of tournament placements did not show the beneficiary's name. We respectfully submit that this concern is now **conclusively resolved** through the following newly submitted evidence:

Exhibit A (Official IBJJF Ranking Publication): The IBJJF published an official article titled "TOP 3 MASTER 1-7 NO-GI RANKINGS 2024/2025 Season" on its official website (ibjjf.com/news) on December 10, 2025, authored by Jon Medina. This publication **explicitly lists "Salua Silva Borges" as the #1 ranked athlete** in the Master 2 Female Black Belt No-Gi division for the 2024/2025 season. The beneficiary's name is prominently displayed as the top-ranked athlete, ranked above Sa'idah Zeinab Durkee (2nd) and **Michelle Zonato Nicolini** (3rd)—the latter being an **IBJJF Hall of Fame inductee**, eight-time IBJJF World Champion, and ADCC World Champion, widely considered one of the greatest female grapplers in history.

See Michelle Nicolini biography: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Nicolini

Exhibit B (Official Certificate of #1 Ranking): An official certificate issued by the IBJJF, **personally signed by Carlos Gracie Jr., President of the IBJJF**, states: "The International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation congratulates SALUA SILVA BORGES for her placement as the 1st best ranked athlete in the Master 2 No-Gi ranking for the 2024/2025 season." This is a formal certificate with an official seal, not merely a letter or informal acknowledgment.

Exhibit C (IBJJF Official Database Records — 2025): Official screenshots extracted directly from the IBJJF's athlete database (ibjjfdb.com), linked to the beneficiary's unique athlete ID (210870), document the following 2025 results:

- 1st Place — World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy
- 2nd Place — World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class
- 1st Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy
- 2nd Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class
- 1st Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class
- 1st Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy

Exhibit D (IBJJF Official Database Records — 2024): Similarly, official IBJJF database records confirm the following 2024 results:

- 1st Place — World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class
- 1st Place — World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy
- 1st Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class
- 1st Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy
- 1st Place — American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024 / Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy

The beneficiary's 2024 World No-Gi Championship results include **double gold medals** (victories in both the weight division and the open class division), a feat that demonstrates complete dominance across multiple competitive categories at the world championship level.

III. The Beneficiary's Awards Are of the Highest Caliber in the Field

Mrs. Borges has not won "local tournaments", she has achieved the pinnacle of the sport. The updated IBJJF letter from Andre Fernandes, Executive Director, submitted as **Exhibit E**, lists an extraordinary record spanning from 2017 to 2025. Over this period, Mrs. Borges has accumulated the following extraordinary record:

- **5+ World No-Gi Championship titles** (2022–2025)
- **20+ American National Championship titles** (2018–2025)
- **3 Pan Championship medals** including gold (2019–2021)
- **2 Brazilian National Championship titles** (2017–2018)
- **1 South American Championship title** (2017)
- **Multiple International Open titles** (Denver, San Diego, Dallas, Los Angeles — 2018–2019)

This record of sustained championship-level performance over **eight consecutive years (2017–2025)**, culminating in the #1 world ranking, is objectively extraordinary. The beneficiary has competed at every level, from purple belt through brown belt to black belt, and **dominated at each level**, demonstrating a trajectory of continuous improvement and sustained excellence that is uncommon even among elite athletes.

Notably, Mrs. Borges defeated **Michelle Zonato Nicolini**, an IBJJF Hall of Fame inductee, eight-time World Champion, and ADCC World Champion, in competition. Nicolini appears in 3rd place on the official IBJJF ranking (Exhibit A), directly below the beneficiary. Defeating a

Hall of Fame legend of this stature provides compelling, objective evidence that Mrs. Borges competes and excels at the absolute highest level of the sport.

IV. Award Criteria, Competitiveness, and Excellence

IBJJF championships employ a **rigorous scoring and evaluation system**. Athletes compete in bracket-style single-elimination or double-elimination tournaments. Matches are evaluated by certified IBJJF referees based on objective criteria including takedowns, sweeps, guard passes, mount positions, back control, and submission attempts. Each action carries specific point values, and matches are won by submission, point advantage, or referee decision. The judging system ensures that only athletes demonstrating **superior technical skill, tactical mastery, and competitive execution** are awarded top placements.

The scale of competition is massive. With over 4,000 athletes from more than 70 countries competing in a single IBJJF World Championship event, and with expert testimony confirming approximately 124 competitors in Mrs. Borges' division alone, her consistent first-place finishes demonstrate excellence that is recognized both nationally and internationally. These are not participation awards—they are competitive prizes earned against the best athletes in the world.

V. Visual and Documentary Evidence of Event Magnitude

To further demonstrate that IBJJF championships are world-class events and not local or regional tournaments, we submit professional photographs from the 2025 championships:

Exhibit F (Podium Photographs — World and American National Championships 2025):

These professionally-produced photographs demonstrate massive production infrastructure including professional truss and lighting systems, branded podium structures, major corporate sponsorship (IBJJF, Jiu-Jitsu.com, Zenith, W&O, Kingz), professional photography with watermarks, and multi-competitor podiums. The scale of production is consistent with premier international sporting events, not local competitions.

Exhibit G (IBJJF Ranking Awards Ceremony): A formal banner reading "IBJJF RANKING AWARDS CEREMONY — SEASON 2024/2025" demonstrates that the IBJJF conducts formal institutional awards ceremonies for top-ranked athletes, further evidencing the institutionalization and prestige of the ranking system.

VI. Media Coverage and Public Recognition Beyond the IBJJF

To address the RFE's concern about recognition "outside of the IBJJ organization," we submit:

Exhibit H (Google Search Results and Media Coverage): A Google search for "salua borges ranking season 2024/2025 award ibjjf" reveals:

- **Google AI Overview:** Google's artificial intelligence independently identifies the beneficiary as "#1 overall in the Master 2 Female Black Belt division," demonstrating that her achievements are sufficiently notable to be incorporated into Google's knowledge graph.

- **FloGrappling Coverage:** FloGrappling, the premier professional media platform for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and grappling sports, has published multiple professionally-produced video recordings of the beneficiary's championship matches, including full-length coverage of her bouts at the 2024 World No-Gi Championship and 2024 American National Championship.

FloGrappling operates as an over-the-top (OTT) subscription service under the FloSports umbrella. Its YouTube channel alone has over **719,000 subscribers and 304 million total views**. The platform holds exclusive streaming rights for IBJJF competitions and produces original programming. This coverage is equivalent to ESPN or UFC Fight Pass for mainstream combat sports.

See FloGrappling YouTube statistics: <https://socialblade.com/youtube/c/flograppling>

To enable a better evaluation of this criterion, we are submitting the following documents under the respective Exhibits:

- **A.** Official IBJJF Ranking Publication (Top 3 Master 1-7 No-Gi Rankings 2024/2025 Season) published on ibjjf.com on December 10, 2025, showing the beneficiary as the #1 ranked athlete.
- **B.** Official IBJJF Certificate of #1 Ranking, signed by Carlos Gracie Jr., President of the IBJJF, for the 2024/2025 season.
- **C.** IBJJF Official Database Records — 2025 competition results (ibjjfdb.com), linked to athlete ID 210870.
- **D.** IBJJF Official Database Records — 2024 competition results (ibjjfdb.com), linked to athlete ID 210870.
- **E.** Updated IBJJF letter from Andre Fernandes, Executive Director, listing all awards from 2017 to 2025.
- **F.** Professional podium photographs from World No-Gi Championship 2025 and American National Championship 2025, demonstrating event magnitude and beneficiary's first-place finishes.
- **G.** IBJJF Ranking Awards Ceremony banner — Season 2024/2025.
- **H.** Google search results demonstrating public recognition, FloGrappling media coverage, and independent verification of #1 ranking.

Hence, the evidence on record is objective to demonstrate that the IBJJF World No-Gi Championship, American National Championship, Pan Championship, and other IBJJF awards are lesser nationally or internationally recognized awards granted for excellence in the field of athletics, and the beneficiary meets this criterion by the preponderance of evidence pursuant to **8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(i)**.

Criterion 3. Published material about the beneficiary in professional or major trade publications or other major media, relating to the beneficiary's work in the field for which the classification is sought.

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence that (1) the published material is related to the person and the person's specific work; (2) the published material contains the title, date, and author; and (3) the publication qualifies as a professional publication, major trade publication, or major media publication.

The RFE stated that "the articles submitted do not include the publication and/or author and/or date of article as required in the plain language of this criterion." We acknowledge this deficiency in the original submission and **respectfully submit a reorganized and properly documented compilation of published material** that addresses each concern raised in the RFE.

I. Reorganized Table of Published Material

The following table presents the published material about Mrs. Borges with all required identifying information:

Source / Publication	Title	Author / Date	Type	Audience / Reach
FloGrappling (flograppling.com)	Multiple match videos: "Salua Silva Borges vs Michelle Nicolini 2024 World IBJJF" "Salua Silva Borges vs Beth Anne Slavinkas 2024 American National"	FloGrappling Production Team / 2024	Professional Publication (Subscription streaming)	719K+ YouTube subscribers; 304M+ total views; Premium subscription platform
IBJJF Official Website (ibjjf.com/news)	"TOP 3 MASTER 1-7 NO-GI RANKINGS 2024/2025 Season"	Jon Medina / December 10, 2025	Professional Publication	Official website of sport's governing body
Tatame / SportBuzz / UOL	Articles about Mrs. Borges' BJJ achievements and competitive career	Staff writers / 2018-2024	Professional / Major Trade Publications	Major Brazilian media outlets; UOL: largest Brazilian web portal
Extra (Grupo Globo) (extra.globo.com)	Coverage of Mrs. Borges' competitive achievements	Staff writers / 2018-2024	Major Media	Part of Grupo Globo, Brazil's largest media conglomerate
RedeTV	Television coverage of BJJ competition results	RedeTV Production / 2020-2024	Major Media (National TV)	Brazilian national television network

II. FloGrappling as the Premier Professional Publication

FloGrappling (flograppling.com) is the most prestigious media platform for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and grappling sports, equivalent to ESPN for mainstream sports or UFC Fight Pass for mixed martial arts. It operates as a professional, subscription-based streaming service under the FloSports umbrella with: (1) professional multi-camera production crews; (2) expert commentary and post-production editing; (3) an indexed, searchable professional archive; and (4) exclusive streaming rights for IBJJF competitions.

The policy manual clarification for this criterion states: "relevant factors include the intended audience (for professional and major trade publications) and the relative circulation, readership, or viewership (for major trade publications and other major media)." FloGrappling's intended audience is precisely the professional BJJ community, elite athletes, coaches, industry professionals, and dedicated practitioners. With over **719,000 YouTube subscribers and 304 million total views**, plus a premium subscription base, FloGrappling's reach is substantial even by mainstream media standards.

III. IBJJF Official Website Publication

The IBJJF's official website publication naming the beneficiary as the #1 ranked athlete (Exhibit A) constitutes published material about the beneficiary in a professional publication, with a clearly identified author (Jon Medina), date (December 10, 2025), and content directly relating to the beneficiary's work in the field. The IBJJF website is the definitive source of record for the sport's governing body.

IV. Brazilian Media Coverage

The originally submitted articles from Brazilian media outlets including Extra (Grupo Globo), UOL, and RedeTV are being resubmitted with proper identification of publication name, author where available, and date. We respectfully note that these publications constitute **major media** in Brazil: Grupo Globo is the largest media conglomerate in Latin America; UOL is Brazil's largest internet portal; and RedeTV is a national broadcast television network. SimilarWeb data was previously submitted demonstrating the massive digital footprint of these outlets.

We submit the reorganized published materials under **Exhibit I**, with each article properly identified by publication name, title, author (when available), and date.

All things considered, Mrs. Borges meets this criterion since material about her and her work was published in professional media related to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, containing proper identification, in compliance with the evaluation standards for **8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(iii)**.

Criterion 8. Evidence that the beneficiary has performed in a leading or critical role for organizations or establishments that have a distinguished reputation.

The plain language of this criterion requires evidence (1) that the beneficiary performed a role for an organization or establishment, (2) that the beneficiary's role is/was leading or critical, and

(3) that the beneficiary's leading or critical role is/was for an organization or establishment with a distinguished reputation. We acknowledge that the petitioner must satisfy all these elements to meet the regulatory criterion.

The RFE stated that "the letter from Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy establishes the leadership role which the CEO states the petitioner has held, however, aside from the CEO's statement there was no evidence of the organization's distinguished reputation." We appreciate that the adjudicating officer **accepted the leading role component** and now submit comprehensive evidence of Zenith's distinguished reputation.

I. Zenith BJJ — Founded by Robert Drysdale, World Champion

Zenith Jiu-Jitsu Academy was founded by **Robert Drysdale**, one of the most accomplished American grapplers in history. Drysdale holds the following distinctions:

- IBJJF World Champion at black belt level (2005) — only the second American in history to achieve this distinction
- ADCC Submission Wrestling World Champion in the absolute (open-weight) division (2007) — defeating grappling legend Marcelo Garcia
- The only American to win BOTH an IBJJF World Championship at black belt AND an ADCC World Championship in the absolute division
- Undefeated professional MMA fighter (7-0), all victories by submission
- Legacy Fighting Championship Light Heavyweight Champion
- Coach to UFC fighters including Forrest Griffin, Frank Mir, Randy Couture, and Joanna Jędrzejczyk
- Author and filmmaker — "Opening Closed Guard: The Origins of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil"
- Sports commentator for FloGrappling and WSOF
- 4th-degree Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu black belt

See Robert Drysdale biography: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Drysdale

II. Zenith BJJ's Distinguished Reputation

Zenith Jiu-Jitsu, operating for nearly 20 years in Las Vegas, Nevada, has earned a distinguished reputation as a premier martial arts academy. The academy is widely recognized for producing high-level competitive athletes who compete and medal at IBJJF championships and other major tournaments. Its affiliation with Robert Drysdale—a world champion in both the sport's two most prestigious competitions (IBJJF Worlds and ADCC)—places Zenith among the most respected training environments in competitive BJJ. Drysdale's credentials as both a competitor and a coach to UFC fighters further underscore the academy's elite status within the martial arts community.

See <https://drysdalejiujitsu.com/>

The fact that Mrs. Borges, competing as the #1 ranked athlete in the world under the Zenith banner (as documented in all official IBJJF records showing "Zenith BJJ - USA" as her affiliated academy), demonstrates the symbiotic relationship between her critical role as the academy's premier competitive athlete and the academy's distinguished reputation. Mrs. Borges' championships bring visibility, prestige, and credibility to Zenith BJJ, while the academy provides the world-class training environment that enables her sustained excellence.

III. The Beneficiary's Leading and Critical Role

As previously established by the letter from Robert Drysdale, CEO and Founder, Mrs. Borges serves in a role that extends beyond her individual competitive accomplishments. She serves as a senior athlete, mentor, and coach within the academy, and her leadership is "integral to maintaining our institution's esteemed reputation within the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu community." Her status as the **#1 ranked athlete in the world** in her division makes her role unquestionably critical, she is the academy's most distinguished competitive representative on the global stage.

We submit additional evidence of Zenith's distinguished reputation under Exhibit J:

- J. Robert Drysdale biography and competitive record (Wikipedia), establishing him as one of the most accomplished American grapplers in history and confirming Zenith's founding by a world-class champion.
- Official Drysdale Jiu-Jitsu website (drysdalejiujitsu.com), demonstrating the academy's active presence and institutional credibility.

Altogether, this additional evidence demonstrates that Mrs. Borges has performed a critical role for an organization of distinguished reputation, pursuant to **8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(viii)**.

While we believe the foregoing three criteria (i), (iii), and (viii) are sufficient to satisfy the initial evidentiary threshold under Kazarian, we briefly address the remaining criteria to provide a comprehensive record for the final merits determination.

Criterion 2. Evidence of the beneficiary's membership in associations in the field which require outstanding achievements of their members, as judged by recognized national or international experts in their disciplines or fields.

The Beneficiary's membership credentials within Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu demonstrate sustained engagement with the sport's most selective competitive structures. As documented in the IBJJF Official Verification Letter, Ms. Borges holds IBJJF Athlete Registration #210870 and has maintained continuous active membership through the 2026 competitive season. This membership is not merely administrative; it represents eligibility to compete at the highest echelons of the sport, where participation itself requires demonstration of technical proficiency that only a small fraction of practitioners ever achieve.

The progression to black belt status, which Ms. Borges achieved prior to her competitive dominance in the Master 2 division, is itself evidence of outstanding achievement in the field. Research indicates that fewer than 1-3% of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioners worldwide ever attain black belt rank, with the average timeline spanning 10-15 years of dedicated training and competition.[1] Moreover, the IBJJF's ranking system, which placed Ms. Borges at #1 globally for the 2024/2025 season (Exhibit A), functions as a membership tier that only the most accomplished athletes can access. This ranking is calculated through a proprietary algorithm that weighs tournament prestige, opponent quality, and consistency of performance across multiple events, effectively creating a meritocratic membership structure where only those with outstanding competitive achievements can ascend to the top positions.

While the initial petition may not have emphasized the exclusivity of these membership credentials, the record demonstrates that Ms. Borges's standing within the IBJJF competitive hierarchy represents a form of membership that inherently requires outstanding achievements. The fact that she competes in and wins IBJJF-sanctioned World Championships, American Nationals, and regional qualifiers means she has met and exceeded the competitive prerequisites that function as de facto membership requirements at the elite level. Her consistent placement on podiums at events drawing 4,000+ athletes from over 70 countries further demonstrates that her membership in this competitive echelon is reserved for those who have achieved distinction in the field.

Criterion 5. Evidence of the beneficiary's original contributions of major significance to the field.

Ms. Borges's contributions to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu extend beyond her competitive achievements and manifest through her role in advancing technical innovation and expanding access to the sport within underserved communities. As a black belt competitor and instructor at Zenith BJJ, she has contributed to the development of strategic approaches specific to the Master 2 (ages 36-40) and Super Heavy divisions, categories that historically receive less technical attention in instructional curricula compared to younger and lighter weight classes.

Her competitive success in the Open Class division, where she faces opponents of all weight categories, demonstrates technical contributions that transcend size-based advantages. In Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Open Class victories are considered particularly significant because they showcase universal applicability of technique over physical attributes. Ms. Borges's ability to defeat opponents across the weight spectrum, including victory over Hall of Fame competitor Michelle Nicolini (previously documented in the original petition), represents a contribution to the strategic understanding of how leverage-based techniques can overcome size differentials, a core principle of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu that she exemplifies at the highest competitive level.

The RFE noted that the special needs program referenced in the initial petition could not be independently verified through the Zenith BJJ website. We acknowledge this administrative gap; however, the absence of web-based documentation does not negate the substantive contributions Ms. Borges has made to the field through her competitive representation of Zenith BJJ. Her role in elevating the academy's national and international profile through consistent podium finishes at major IBJJF events has contributed significantly to the reputation and reach of the

organization. When athletes of Ms. Borges's caliber compete under an academy's banner, they contribute to the technical credibility and recruiting appeal of that institution, thereby expanding the sport's accessibility within their geographic region (Las Vegas, Nevada).

Furthermore, Ms. Borges's sustained presence in the Master 2 division contributes to the normalization and visibility of competitive longevity in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. As the sport matures in the United States, athletes in their late 30s and early 40s who continue competing at world championship levels serve as role models for practitioners who might otherwise assume peak competitive years are reserved for younger athletes. This representational contribution has major significance for the sport's demographic expansion and community retention.

Criterion 4. Evidence of the beneficiary's participation, either individually or on a panel, as a judge of the work of others in the same or an allied field of specification for which classification is sought.

While the initial petition did not extensively develop this criterion, Ms. Borges's role at Zenith BJJ necessarily includes evaluative functions inherent to her position as a black belt instructor and competitive representative of the academy. In Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, black belts routinely serve as technical evaluators during in-house sparring sessions, seminars, and belt promotion assessments. These activities constitute judging the work of others within the field, as black belts are recognized authorities whose technical opinions carry weight in determining student progression and technique refinement.

Moreover, Ms. Borges's competitive experience at the highest levels positions her as a de facto judge of technique during training sessions. When elite competitors provide feedback to training partners or academy members, they are applying the same analytical framework used by official competition judges, evaluating whether techniques meet standards of control, leverage, timing, and positional dominance. This informal but substantive judging role is recognized within the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu community as a core function of black belt instructors who actively compete.

While we acknowledge that formal appointment to IBJJF referee panels or judging committees was not documented in the initial petition, and Ms. Borges's current focus remains on active competition rather than officiating, the record demonstrates that her technical authority within Zenith BJJ includes evaluative responsibilities that align with the regulatory definition of judging the work of others in the field. Her ability to assess technique is directly informed by her world-class competitive experience, where she has repeatedly demonstrated superior understanding of what constitutes effective execution in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Evidence demonstrating sustained acclaim

The Administrative Appeals Office has consistently held that USCIS may consider evidence of achievements that postdate the filing of the petition in evaluating whether the beneficiary possesses sustained national or international acclaim. See *Tongatapu Woodcraft Hawaii, Ltd. v. Feldman*, 736 F.2d 1305 (9th Cir. 1984) (requiring USCIS to examine the totality of the evidence). While eligibility must generally be established at the time of filing, evidence of

continued accomplishments after filing is relevant to demonstrate that the beneficiary's acclaim is **sustained rather than fleeting**.

Since the filing of the petition on July 18, 2024, Mrs. Borges has achieved the following:

- **2024 World IBJJF No-Gi Championship: DOUBLE GOLD (1st Place — Open Class AND Super Heavy)**
- **2025 World IBJJF No-Gi Championship: 1st Place (Super Heavy) and 2nd Place (Open Class)**
- **2025 American National Championship: Multiple 1st Place finishes across Gi and No-Gi divisions**
- **Official #1 World Ranking — IBJJF Master 2 Female Black Belt No-Gi (Season 2024/2025)**
- **Official Certificate of Recognition signed by IBJJF President Carlos Gracie Jr.**

This trajectory of achievement demonstrates unequivocally that Mrs. Borges' acclaim is not merely sustained, it is **ascending**. She has gone from being a dominant competitor to being officially recognized as **the single best athlete in the world** in her division. This is the definition of sustained national and international acclaim.

Totality of Evidence - Final Merits Determination

Furthermore, as per *Kazarian v. USCIS*, 596 F.3d 1115 (9th Cir. 2010), after establishing that the beneficiary meets at least three of the eligibility criteria, USCIS conducts a final merits determination evaluating the totality of the evidence. This determination asks whether the beneficiary has demonstrated sustained national or international acclaim and whether her achievements indicate that she is one of that small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field of endeavor.

Ms. Borges's case satisfies this standard convincingly. The record, when evaluated in its totality, demonstrates an athlete who has ascended to the absolute pinnacle of competitive Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu through sustained excellence across nearly a decade of international competition.

First, Ms. Borges holds the #1 world ranking in her division. The IBJJF Official Ranking Publication for the 2024/2025 season, certified and signed by the federation's president, Carlos Gracie Jr., identifies Ms. Borges as the top-ranked Master 2 Female Black Belt No-Gi competitor globally. See Exhibit A and Exhibit B. This is not an assertion made by counsel or a subjective evaluation offered by an interested party. It is an independently verified, officially published fact issued by the international governing body of the sport. In any athletic field, holding the #1 ranking in the world is, by definition, evidence of having reached the very top of that field.

Second, her competitive record demonstrates both breadth and depth of achievement. As documented in the IBJJF Official Verification Letter (Exhibit E), Ms. Borges has amassed over

60 competitive victories between 2017 and 2025, including five World Championship titles, fifteen American National Championship titles, multiple Pan Championship medals, and numerous victories at International Open events across the United States and Brazil. This is not the profile of an athlete who achieved a single notable result; it is the profile of sustained dominance across the sport's most prestigious competitive platforms over an eight-year period. The consistency and volume of her success at the highest levels distinguish her from the vast majority of practitioners who compete but do not achieve comparable recognition.

Third, the caliber of her opposition underscores the elite nature of her achievements. Ms. Borges has competed against and defeated Michelle Nicolini, an IBJJF Hall of Fame inductee and one of the most decorated female competitors in the history of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. **See Exhibit N.** Victories over athletes of this stature are not common occurrences; they represent validation that Ms. Borges competes at the apex of the sport and prevails against competitors who are themselves recognized as legends in the field. The significance of defeating a Hall of Fame athlete cannot be overstated in assessing whether Ms. Borges belongs among the small percentage at the very top of her field.

Fourth, her achievements have garnered sustained media recognition. Ms. Borges's competitive success has been documented by FloGrappling, the premier digital media outlet for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu with over 719,000 subscribers (**Exhibit I**), as well as by the IBJJF's official media channels and major Brazilian sports outlets including UOL (Grupo Globo) and SportBuzz. Independent verification of her #1 ranking appears in Google search results and across multiple third-party platforms. **See Exhibit H.** This level of media coverage demonstrates that her accomplishments are recognized not only within the insular community of her own academy or local region, but across national and international audiences that follow the sport professionally.

Fifth, she performs a leading role for an organization with distinguished reputation. Ms. Borges represents Zenith BJJ, an academy founded and operated by Robert Drysdale, the only American competitor to have won both the IBJJF World Championship and the ADCC Absolute Championship, two of the most prestigious titles in submission grappling. **See Exhibit J.** Her role as a black belt instructor and competitive representative directly contributes to the continued reputation and competitive success of an institution led by one of the most accomplished figures in American Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu history. The distinguished reputation of the organization is independently established by its founder's credentials, and Ms. Borges's critical role within that organization further demonstrates her standing in the field.

Sixth, and perhaps most importantly, her acclaim is both sustained and ascending. Ms. Borges's trajectory demonstrates continuous progression from purple belt champion in 2017, through brown belt dominance from 2018 to 2023, culminating in her black belt #1 world ranking in the 2024/2025 season. **See Exhibit E.** This is not a case of an athlete who achieved brief recognition and then faded from prominence. It is a case of an athlete who has

systematically ascended through the ranks of her sport over eight years, achieving the highest possible accolade at the conclusion of that progression. Moreover, her recent victories in 2025 at the World No-Gi Championship and American National Championship (Exhibit F) demonstrate that her excellence continues beyond the date of the original petition filing, further establishing sustained acclaim as required by the statute.

The preponderance of the evidence establishes that Ms. Borges has sustained national and international acclaim in the field of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and that she belongs to that small percentage who have risen to the very top of the field of endeavor. Under *Matter of Chawathe*, 25 I&N Dec. 369 (AAO 2010), the standard is whether the evidence makes it "more likely than not" that the beneficiary qualifies for the classification sought. Here, the evidence goes beyond that threshold. Ms. Borges is not merely "among" the top competitors in her field; she is officially recognized as the #1 ranked competitor in her division by the sport's international governing body. She has defeated Hall of Fame athletes, won world championships across multiple belt levels, and maintained competitive dominance over nearly a decade. This is not a marginal case requiring favorable interpretation of ambiguous evidence. It is a case where the record, viewed in its totality, compels the conclusion that Ms. Borges possesses extraordinary ability in athletics.

The evidence presented herein, combined with the documentation submitted in the original petition and now supplemented with updated achievements and official certifications, demonstrates that Ms. Borges has satisfied the statutory and regulatory requirements for classification as an alien of extraordinary ability under INA § 203(b)(1)(A) and 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3). The totality of the circumstances establishes sustained acclaim at the highest level of her field, supported by official rankings, competitive achievements, media recognition, institutional affiliation with a distinguished organization, and continuous ascending excellence over eight years of elite competition.

For the foregoing reasons, we respectfully request that USCIS approve the Form I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker on behalf of Salua Silva Borges under the EB-1A classification for individuals with extraordinary ability in athletics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Otavio Haverroth Silva". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Otavio Haverroth Silva
California Bar # 343486

Exhibit list

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Exhibit P: Expert Letter — Márcio Antonio Pires Junior (Alicate BJJ), World Champion and Pan Champion 56-57

TOP 3 MASTER 1-7 NO-GI RANKINGS 2024/2025 Season

Congratulations to the Master 1-7 Male and Female Top 3 Ranked Athletes of the 2024/2025 No-Gi Season

By Jon Medina

1 min read - Published on 12/10/25 23:34 UTC

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Master Male Black Belt Overall

Master 1

1. Sergio Raimundo Rios da Silva
2. Stephen Gabriel Martinez
3. Gabriel Marangoni de Oliveira

Master 2

1. Eldar Ragozaev
2. David Charles Mitchell
3. Paulo Roberto da Silva

Master 3

1. Genes Martins de Freitas Neto
2. Leandro Lopes Escobar
3. Leonardo Delgado de Oliveira

Master 4

1. Mauricio Santos Conceição
2. Leandro Manhães Paes
3. Luke Robert Harris

Master 5

1. Christopher Allen Easter
2. Donald R. Hale
3. Emerson Leandro de Paula

Master 6

1. Richard Ge Keong Masato Ho
2. James Whyte IV
3. Patrick L Robinson

Master 7

1. Matthew Clyde Grant
2. Shaun Donald Holmstrom
3. Davis Eugene Brown

Master Female Black Belt Overall

Master 1

1. Lillian Tran
2. Jéssika Bartoli Almeida
3. Alannah Kaye Reeves

Master 2

1. Salua Silva Borges
2. Sa'idah Zeinab Durkee
3. Michelle Zonato Nicolini

Master 3

1. Katherine Ann Vogel
2. April Lee Parks
3. Carly Michael Rangel

Master 4

1. Darla L. Sedlacek
2. Misty Dee McMillan
3. January L. Tongay

Master 5

1. Quincy J Torres
2. Elena Marie Seiple
3. Kimberly J. Anderson

Master 6

1. Esimar Brandão de Lima

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RANKING **3** NO
TOP GI
MASTER 2
SEASON 2024/2025

The International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation congratulates

SALUA SILVA BORGES

for her placement as the 1st best ranked athlete in the Master 2 No-Gi ranking for the 2024/2025 season.



1 ST

Carlos Gracie Jr.
CARLOS GRACIE JR.
IBJJF President



Hello,
Salua Borges

ACADEMY	STATUS		
Zenith BJJ - USA	ACTIVE		
BELT	ID NUMBER		
Black	210870		
MORE DETAILS			
ACADEMY	STATUS	BELT	ID NUMBER
Zenith BJJ - USA	ACTIVE	Black	210870

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1ST
PLACE

World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025
Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy

2ND
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025
Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class

1ST
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025
Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy

1ST
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025
Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class

1ST
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025
Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy



Hello,
Salua Borges

ACADEMY	STATUS		
Zenith BJJ - USA	ACTIVE		
BELT	ID NUMBER		
Black	210870		
MORE DETAILS			
ACADEMY	STATUS	BELT	ID NUMBER
Zenith BJJ - USA	ACTIVE	Black	210870

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1ST
PLACE

World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024
Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class

1ST
PLACE

World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024
Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy

1ST
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024
Female / Master 2 / Black / Open Class

1ST
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024
Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy

1ST
PLACE

American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024
Female / Master 2 / Black / Super Heavy



INTERNATIONAL BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU FEDERATION

17691 Mitchell N, Irvine, CA 92614
e-mail : ibjjf@ibjjf.com - homepage www.ibjjf.org

05/27/2026

To whom it may concern,

The International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) officially represents the sport of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu (BJJ) around the world. Our main goal is to organize and regulate the sport on an international level. Working in partnership with the CBJJ (Brazilian Confederation of Jiu-Jitsu), the United States Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (USBJJF), the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation has developed the official competition rules of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and it is actively involved in promoting and managing high quality tournaments.

I write on behalf of Ms. Salua Silva Borges, IBJJF Black Belt registration #210870, I am the current Executive Director of the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation ("IBJJF"). In addition to my capacity as executive director of the IBJJF, I also serve as chief official and technical director of both, the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) and United States Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (USBJJF).

Ms. Salua Silva Borges is an active competitor in our events; these are some of the awards that she achieved in the field of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. <http://ibjjf.org/results/>

- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 – Female / Master2 / Black / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025 – Female / Master2 / Black / Open Class – 2nd place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2025 – Female / Master2 / Black / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 – Female / Master2 / Black / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2025 – Female / Master2 / Black / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 – Female / Master2 / Black / Open Class – 1st place



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- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 – Female / Master2 / Black / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 – Female / Master2 / Black / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2024 – Female / Master2 / Black / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024 – Female / Master2 / Black / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2023 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World Master IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 3rd place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2023 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2023 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Open Class – 2nd place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World Master IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 2nd place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place



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- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2022 – Female / Master2 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World Master IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2021 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 3rd place
- Pan IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2021 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2021 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2021 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2021 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2021 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- Pan IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2020 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 3rd place
- Pan IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2020 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- Denver International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place



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- Denver International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- Denver International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- Denver International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- San Diego Spring International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- San Diego Spring International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- Dallas Spring International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- Dallas Spring International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Open Class – 1st place
- Dallas Spring International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- Dallas Spring International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Brown / Super Heavy – 1st place
- Pan IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2019 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Open Class – 2nd place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Super Heavy – 2nd place
- Los Angeles BJJ Pro IBJJF Championship 2018 – Female / Adult / Purple / Open Class – 3rd place
- Los Angeles BJJ Pro IBJJF Championship 2018 – Female / Adult / Purple / Heavy – 1st place
- World Master IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Heavy – 2nd place



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- American National & American National Kids IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Open Class – 2nd place
- American National & American National Kids IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Super Heavy – 2nd place
- American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Super Heavy – 2nd place
- World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2018 – Female / Adult / Purple / Super Heavy – 3rd place
- Campeonato Brasileiro de Jiu-Jitsu 2018 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Ultra Heavy – 1st place
- Campeonato Sul-Americano de Jiu-Jitsu 2017 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Super Heavy – 1st place
- World Master IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2017 – Female / Master1 / Purple / Super Heavy – 3rd place
- Campeonato Brasileiro de Jiu-Jitsu 2017 – Female / Master1 / Blue / Open Class – 1st place
- Campeonato Brasileiro de Jiu-Jitsu 2017 – Female / Master1 / Blue / Ultra Heavy – 2nd place

If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Andre Fernandes
Executive Director







WORLD JIU-JITSU 2025 IBJJF CHAMPIONSHIP

NO
GI









IBJJF
RANKING AWARDS
CEREMONY
SEASON 2024 / 2025



Visão geral criada por IA

Salua Silva Borges finished the 2024/2025 IBJJF season ranked #1 overall in the Master 2 Female Black Belt division.

The top 3 in the Master 2 Female Black Belt No-Gi season were:

1. **Salua Silva Borges** (Zenith / Robert Drysdale)
2. **Sa'idah Zeinab Durkee**
3. **Michelle Zonato Nicolini**

For a full breakdown of the season's standings or to check other divisions, you can visit the [IBJJF Rankings](#).

Aprofunde seus conhecimentos com o Modo IA

A IA pode cometer erros. Por isso, cheque as respostas



2 sites

TOP 3 MASTER 1-7 NO-GI RANKINGS 2024/2025 Season
10 de dez. de 2025 — Congratulations to the Master 1-7 Male and Female Top 3 Ranked Athlet...

IBJJF

Salua Borges (@saluaborges) · Las Vegas, NV - Instagram
6 de mai. de 2026 — 20x American National IBJJF Champion 2025 @ibjff Salua Borges...

www.instagram.com



IBJJF
<https://ibjff.com/news/top-3-...>

TOP 3 MASTER 1-7 NO-GI RANKINGS 2024/2025 Season

10 de dez. de 2025 — TOP 3 MASTER 1-7 NO-GI RANKINGS 2024/2025 Season · **1. Salua Silva Borges** · 2. Sa'idah Zeinab Durkee · 3. Michelle Zonato Nicolini.

Não inclui: award | Precisa incluir: award



Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/saluaborges>

Salua Borges (@saluaborges) · Las Vegas, NV

20x American National IBJJF Champion 2025 @ibjff Salua Borges @zenith_by_robertdrysdale dominated the mats in Las Vegas and proved why she's one of the ...



ibjffdb.com
<https://www.ibjffdb.com/Public...>

World Master IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024

... Borges de Castro. BROWN / Master 5 / Female / Feather (129.00lb), Galina ... **Salua Silva Borges**. BLACK / Master 3 / Male / Feather (154.60lb), Alexander ...



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com> > ...

My ranking in the world: #1 IBJJF NO Gi #6 ...

[Traduzir esta página](#)

5th NoGi World Title 23rd American National Title #1 Ranked IBJJF NoGi Black Belt in the World (Season 2024–2025) Every title carries a story few ...



FloGrappling

<https://www.flograppling.com> · 14 de dez. de 2024

Salua Silva Borges vs Michelle Zonato Nicolini 2024 World ...



Salua Silva Borges vs Michelle Zonato Nicolini 2024 World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship.

Não inclui: ranking 2024/2025 award



FloGrappling

<https://www.flograppling.com> · 27 de jun. de 2024

SALUA SILVA BORGES vs BETH ANNE SLAVINSKAS 2024 ...



SALUA SILVA BORGES vs BETH ANNE SLAVINSKAS 2024 American National IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship.

Não inclui: ranking 2024/2025 award



FloGrappling

<https://www.flograppling.com> · 13 de dez. de 2024

Mylene Ramos Engle vs Salua Silva Borges 2024 World IBJJF ...



Mylene Ramos Engle vs **Salua Silva Borges** 2024 World IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship.

Não inclui: ranking 2024/2025 award



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com> > ...

It was great having you here at IBJJF World NoGi 2024. I hope ...

Photo by Salua Borges in Las Vegas Convention Center with @mauroxuxa, @nutrirogerio, ... 1st place - IBJJF Top 3, Master No-Gi Ranking for the 2024/2025 season # ...



Instagram · carmonafibjj

Mais de 1,1 mil marcações "Gostei" · há 8 meses

#1 RANKING IBJJF @ibjjf MASTER 2 SEASON 2024-2025 ...

#1 RANKING IBJJF @ibjjf MASTER 2 SEASON 2024-2025. In less than 6 years as a black belt, I've managed to win all the major titles in the ...

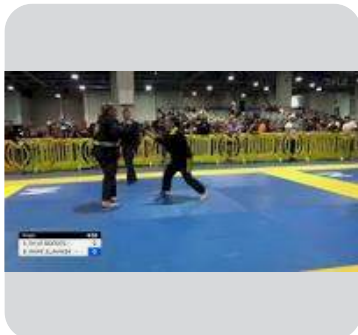
Não inclui: [salua](#) | Precisa incluir: [salua](#)

Imagens



Mylene Ramos Engle vs Salua ...

FloGrappling



SALUA SILVA BORGES vs BET...

FloGrappling



JENNIFER NICOLE HAAS vs S...

FloGrappling

Mostrar mais imagens

Para mostrar os resultados mais relevantes, omitimos algumas entradas bastante semelhantes aos 10 resultados já exibidos.

Se preferir, você pode [repetir a pesquisa incluindo os resultados omitidos](#).

Os resultados são personalizados - [Testar sem personalização](#)

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Subscribers

720K

Views

305M

Videos

5.4K

Created On

Jul 1, 2016

Channel Statistics Video Statistics Future Projections Similar Channels Live Subscriber Coun



C+ Grade

239.180th SB Rank

1.603rd Subscribers Rank

104.900th Views Rank

1.386th US Rank

672nd Sports Rank

CREATOR STATISTICS

Two identical promotional banners for 'Plano Pro por R\$99/mês.' with 'Compre agora' buttons and 'Creativ' branding.

SOCIAL BLADE

YouTube TikTok Twitch Facebook Instagram

3.4M

Views for the last 30 days

\$848 - \$14K

Monthly Estimated Earnings

\$13K - \$204K

Yearly Estimated Earnings

Daily Channel Metrics


Last 14 Days ▾

Date	Subscribers	Views	Videos	Estimated Ear
Fri 2026-05-15	-- 719K	+31,058 304,211,634	+2 5,351	\$8 - \$124
Sat 2026-05-16	-- 719K	+153,457 304,365,091	-- 5,351	\$38 - \$614
Sun 2026-05-17	-- 719K	+87,066 304,452,157	-- 5,351	\$22 - \$348
Mon 2026-05-18	-- 719K	+79,125 304,531,282	+1 5,352	\$20 - \$317
Tue 2026-05-19	-- 719K	+70,858 304,602,140	-- 5,352	\$18 - \$283
Wed 2026-05-20	-- 719K	-- 304,602,140	+4 5,356	\$0 - \$0
Thu 2026-05-21	-- 719K	+100,401 304,702,541	+1 5,357	\$25 - \$402
Fri 2026-05-22	+1K 720K	+139,225 304,841,766	+2 5,359	\$35 - \$557
Sat 2026-05-23	-- 720K	+42,353 304,884,119	+1 5,360	\$11 - \$169
Sun 2026-05-24	-- 720K	+139,219 305,023,338	+1 5,361	\$35 - \$557
Daily Average	+133	+113,079	+4	\$28 - \$452
Weekly Average	+143	+97,686	+1	\$171 - \$2.7K
Last 30 Days	+4K	+3,392,360	+105	\$848 - \$14K
Last 14 Days	+1K	+1,187,940	+17	\$297 - \$4.8K

SOCIAL BLADE

YouTube	TikTok	Twitch	Facebook	Instagram					
Tue	2026-05-26	--	720K	+88,033	305,191,031	+2	5,364	\$24	\$372
Wed	2026-05-27	--	720K	+94,313	305,285,944	--	5,364	\$24	-\$377
Thu	2026-05-28	--	720K	+31,510	305,317,454	--	5,364	\$8	-\$126

Crie, edite e publique com apps que trabalham juntos.
Plano Pro com desconto especial.

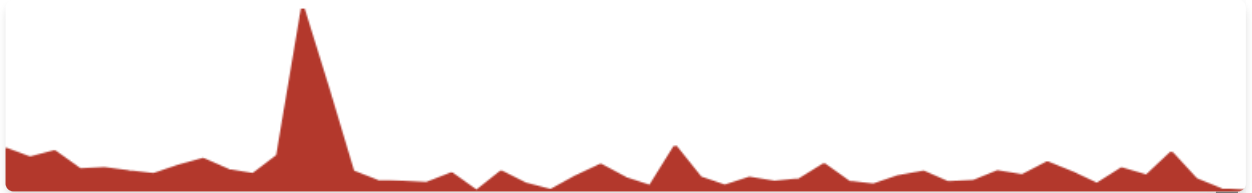


Compre agora

GAINED SUBSCRIBERS (WEEKLY)



GAINED VIEWS (WEEKLY)



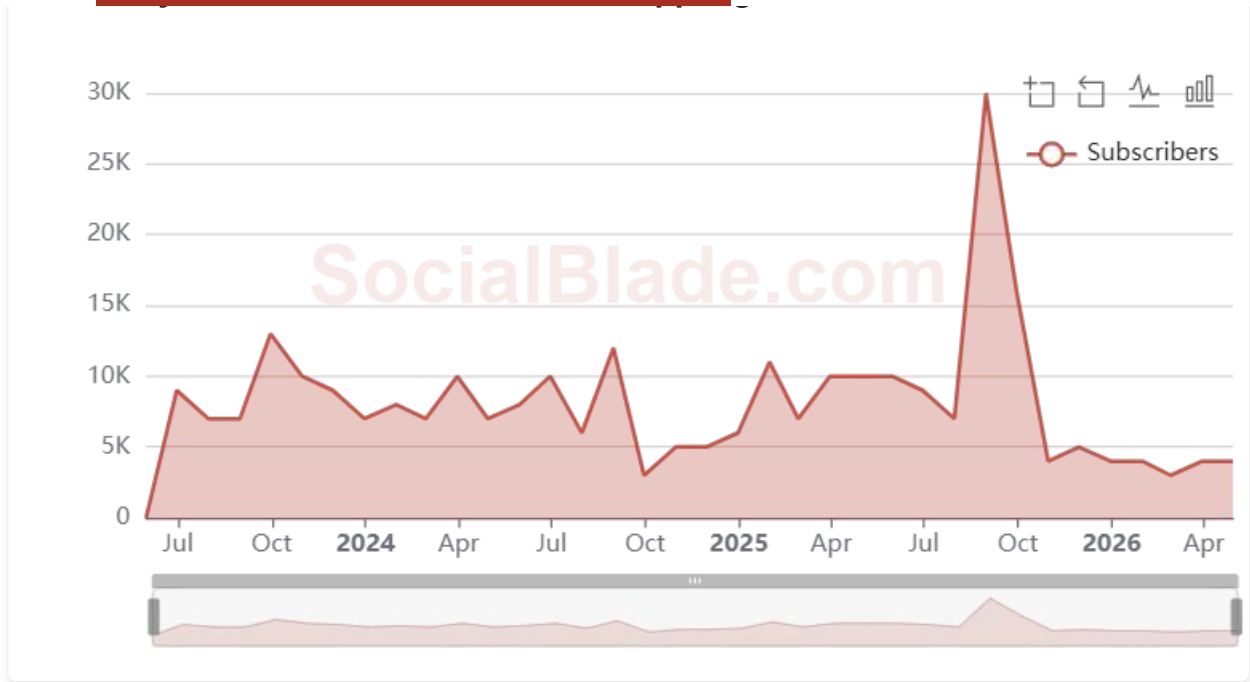
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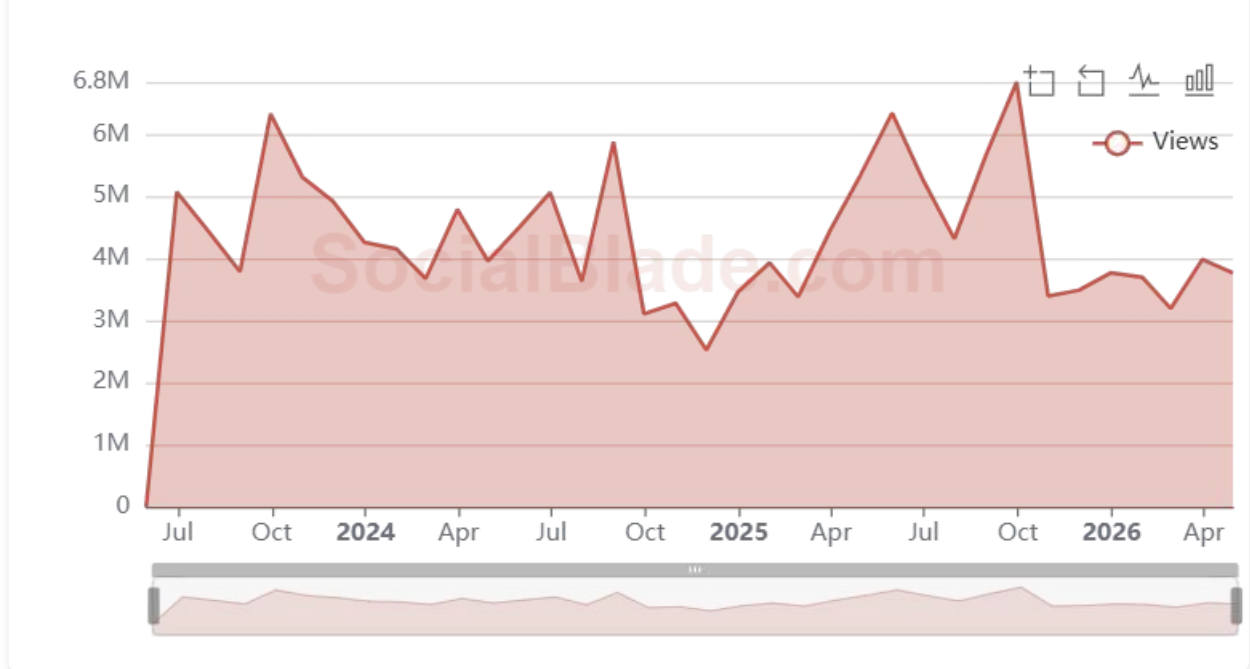
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Robert Drysdale

Robert Lewis Drysdale^[1] (born October 5, 1981) is a Brazilian-American Brazilian jiu-jitsu 4th degree black belt under Léo Vieira, a retired undefeated mixed martial artist and an instructor at his own BJJ academy. Having won multiple World Championships, he was referred to by *Vice* magazine as "America's jiu-jitsu superhero",^[2] regarded by *BJJ Heroes* as "the most accomplished American grappler of his generation"^[3] and as the best Submission Wrestler in the World by *Gracie Magazine*.^[4]

Drysdale is one of only two Americans (with Rafael Lovato Jr.) to have won Mundials in the gi at 94 kg and up. Drysdale is one of only four Americans to have won the ADCC absolute division; at the 2007 ADCC he submitted grappling legend Marcelo Garcia in just over two minutes.^[5]

Early life

Born in Utah, the United States to a Brazilian mother and American father, he moved to Brazil with his family in 1987 at the age of six. Robert Drysdale spent much of his childhood in Brazil.

He was introduced to Brazilian jiu-jitsu during his late teens (17) at the Quatro Tempos Academy in the city of Itú, state of São Paulo, Brazil in 1998. Drysdale moved back to the US to pursue his academic studies in Las Vegas in 2008. He continued training with instructor Steve da Silva until with his instructor's encouragement, Robert decided to move back to Brazil where the sport was gaining popularity and had more competition opportunities.

Career

Brazilian jiu jitsu

Beginning in the early 1990s, jiu-jitsu began growing in popularity worldwide and Brazil was quickly becoming the Mecca for jiu-jitsu. Robert returned to Brazil in 2002 to dedicate himself entirely to training and competing in Brazilian jiu-jitsu. Over the years he has trained continually, initially with Maromba Club and eventually team Brasa Jiu-Jitsu Club in São Paulo, Brazil.

While training and competing for Brasa Club he received his Black Belt in 2004 from the famed Léo Vieira.

Robert Drysdale



Born	Robert Lewis Drysdale October 5, 1981 <u>Provo, Utah, U.S.</u>
Nationality	American and Brazilian
Height	6 ft 3 in (1.91 m)
Weight	205 lb (93 kg; 14.6 st)
Division	<u>Light heavyweight</u>
Style	<u>Brazilian jiu-jitsu</u>
Team	<u>Zenith BJJ/Drysdale JJ</u>
Rank	Fourth degree black belt in <u>Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu</u> under <u>Léo Vieira</u>
Years active	2008–2019 (MMA)

Mixed martial arts record

Total	8
Wins	7
By submission	7
Losses	0
No contests	1

Other information

Notable students	<u>Forrest Griffin</u> , <u>Frank Mir</u> , <u>Randy Couture</u> , <u>Dan Hardy</u> , <u>Evan Dunham</u> , <u>Brad Tavares</u> , <u>Michelle Nicolini</u> , <u>Joanna Jędrzejczyk</u> , <u>Vitor Belfort</u> , <u>Wanderlei Silva</u> , <u>Kevin Randleman</u> , <u>Phil Baroni</u> , <u>Kevin Lee</u> , <u>James McSweeney</u> , <u>Joe Stevenson</u> , <u>Jay Hieron</u> .
-------------------------	--

In Brazil, he went on to win multiple national and world titles, becoming the 2nd US national to win an IBJJF black belt World title (2005), after BJ Penn.

In 2007 he won the prestigious ADCC Submission Wrestling World Championship – Open Division ADCC, submitting Marcelo Garcia in just over two minutes, a feat considered to be the equivalent of "out-swimming" Michael Phelps.^[5]

In early 2008, he returned to the US where he trained (<http://xtremecouture.wordpress.com/2008/02/19/robert-drysdale-joins-xtreme-couture/>) with former UFC Champion, Randy Couture and former Pride Champion Wanderlei Silva. That same year he opened Drysdale Jiu-Jitsu in Las Vegas, still in operation today.

He has competed and taught in various countries around the world, including Germany, Denmark, Poland, France, Sweden, Finland, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand Canada, Cuba, Brazil, Norway, Ireland, Holland, Belgium, Greece, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, Russia, England, Scotland, Japan, Bulgaria and Austria; while teaching and hosting seminars in cities across the United States.

In 2012 Drysdale joined forces with Rodrigo Cavaca to form a new grappling team – Zenith BJJ, which became a big player in the sport.

Mixed martial arts

Robert Drysdale made his amateur MMA debut with Tuff-N-Uff in 2008, winning his fight.^[6] In 2010 Drysdale made a successful professional MMA debut defeating Bastien Huveneers via arm triangle choke.^[7] In his next fight, Drysdale faced Clay Davidson, a King of the Cage veteran who entered the contest riding a six-fight win streak. Drysdale won via armbar in the first round.^[8]

It was announced on February 16, 2012 that Drysdale has signed a multi-fight deal with Legacy Fighting Championship.^[9] Drysdale eventually made his debut at Legacy Fighting Championships 12 and went on to defeat Isaac Villanueva, Chris Reed and D.J. Linderman under the Legacy FC banner all by submission in the first round.^[10] Drysdale's rampant MMA career brought him to the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in 2013.

Drysdale was expected to make his promotional debut against Ednaldo Oliveira on August 3, 2013 at UFC 163.^[11] However, Drysdale pulled out of the bout in mid-July citing a lingering staph infection.^[12]

Drysdale's debut was rescheduled for UFC 167, where he was slated to meet Cody Donovan. However, after failing an out-of-competition drug test, with a 19.4/1 T/E ratio, the Nevada State Athletic Commission ultimately declined to license him.^[13]

Drysdale eventually made his debut on July 6, 2014 against promotion newcomer Keith Berish at The Ultimate Fighter 19 finale.^[14] He won the fight via submission in the first round. However, the win was later overturned and changed to a no contest, after it was revealed that Drysdale had failed a post-fight drug test for an elevated testosterone-to-epitestosterone ratio. After failing his second drug test, Drysdale was released by the UFC.^[15]

Website	Drysdalejiujitsu.com DrysdaleBJJ.com
Mixed martial arts record (http://www.sherdog.com/fightfinder/fightfinder.asp?fighterID=67894) from <u>Sherdog</u>	

Robert Drysdale

Medal record

Representing United States

Grappling

ADCC Submission Wrestling World Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------|
| B | 2007 <u>New Jersey, US</u> | -99 kg |
| G | 2007 <u>New Jersey, US</u> | Absolute |

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

World Jiu-Jitsu Championship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------|
| G | 2005 <u>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</u> | -94 kg |
| S | 2006 <u>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</u> | -94 kg |
| S | 2007 <u>Los Angeles, US</u> | -94 kg |
| B | 2007 <u>Los Angeles, US</u> | Absolute |

After he served his suspension, Drysdale returned to pro MMA and became the Legacy Fighting Championship Light Heavyweight Champion by second-round rear-naked choke against future UFC fighter Ryan Spann at Legacy FC 58 in July 2016.

In late 2019, Drysdale revealed that he had retired from mixed martial arts.^[16]

MMA coach

Alongside his BJJ and MMA careers, Drysdale also cultivated a successful coach career, having trained many UFC and BJJ champions: Forrest Griffin, Frank Mir, Randy Couture, Dan Hardy, Evan Dunham, Brad Tavares, Michelle Nicolini, Joanna Jędrzejczyk, Vitor Belfort, Wanderlei Silva, Kevin Randleman, Phil Baroni, Kevin Lee, James McSweeney, Joe Stevenson, Jay Hieron

He was introduced on *Countdown to UFC 101* as the BJJ coach of former UFC light heavyweight champion Forrest Griffin.

In 2008 Drysdale was brought in as an assistant coach to Frank Mir at *The Ultimate Fighter* Season 8. Again in 2013 as assistant coach to team Miesha Tate Season 18. was invited to be an assistant coach to Joe Benavidez on *The Ultimate Fighter* Season 24 and again as the grappling coach for Joanna Jędrzejczyk's team on *The Ultimate Fighter* season 23.

In June 2020, Drysdale elicited controversy after he refused to call off a fight involving his fighter Max Rohskopf vs. Austin Hubbard at UFC on ESPN: Blaydes vs. Volkov on June 20, despite Rohskopf telling him nine times between the second and third rounds to "call it." Eventually, a Nevada State Athletic Commission official intervened and called in the referee and doctor to check on Rohskopf, at which point the fight was stopped after Rohskopf expressed his unwillingness to continue.

NSAC executive director Bob Bennett indicated that Drysdale may face disciplinary action. "That's something we will take a look at," Bennett told ESPN. "We might want to take disciplinary action on them. That doesn't sound like they are looking out for a fighter. Obviously, he didn't want to come out."

Drysdale defended his actions, stating that "He wasn't seriously hurt." "I know he was not in harm's way. He was just frustrated. I was trying to give him a push so he overcame that frustration. I still believe he could have won the fight."^[17] After the fight, Rohskopf was cut from the UFC.^[18]

Sports commentator

On February 7, 2016, Drysdale made his debut as a sports commentator for WSOF-Global (WSOF Global Championship 2: Japan)

Drysdale has also worked for PFL/DAZN, FloSports and ACBJJ and FloGrappling.com in both English and Portuguese.

Media

In March 2018, Drysdale announced that he was involved in a documentary production titled "Closed Guard: The Origins of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil". The film is primarily about the history of Brazilian jiu-jitsu and Vale-Tudo (later rebranded "MMA") from Japanese immigrants to the Amazonian Jungle and from there to the world.

The film will explain how the art of Brazilian jiu-jitsu developed from the first Japanese immigrants onward. According to Drysdale, the goal of the film was to tell a complete account about how Brazilian jiu-jitsu drifted away from its Kodokan roots and became such a unique art. Additionally, the purpose of the film is to give credit to many forgotten names that made Brazilian jiu-jitsu possible, as well as acknowledge other already accredited names. The film, currently in production, has no release date yet.

In September 2020 Drysdale published the book "Opening Closed Guard: The Origins of Jiu-Jitsu in Brazil: The Story behind the Film", in which he describes the process that led up to and the production of the documentary, including full transcripts of the interviews conducted in the process of filming the documentary. The book includes interviews with many luminaries of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, including Carlos Gracie, Jr., João Alberto Barreto, Robson Gracie, Hélio Fadda, Armando Wriedt, Flávio Behring, Royce Gracie, the Valente Brothers, and others. The book was a #1 Amazon best-seller, and has been translated into Polish and Portuguese.^[19]

Alongside his experience as a producer, Drysdale also gave a TEDTalk at TedXTenayaPaseo, entitled "What is the point of winning?"^[20]

Grappling credentials

2007 (Black Belt)

- 1st place in the Abu-Dhabi Submission Wrestling World Championships – Open Division (ADCC)
- 3rd place in the Abu-Dhabi Submission Wrestling World Championships – -99 kg Division (ADCC)
- 2nd place in the BJJ World Championships (IBJJF/CBJJ)
- 3rd place in the BJJ World Championships – Open Division (IBJJF/CB)

2005 (Black Belt)

- 3x times BJJ World Champion (IBJJF/CBJJ)
- 1st place Black Belt World Championships (CBJJO)

2004 (Brown/Black Belt)

- 2x National Brazilian National Champion (IBJJF/CBJJ)
- 1st place in the Brazilian National Championship open division (IBJJF/CBJJ)
- 3rd place World Championship (IBJJf/CBJJ)
- 1st place in the Scandinavian open
- 1st place in the Scandinavian open absolute division

Mixed martial arts record

Professional record breakdown

8 matches	7 wins	0 losses
By submission	7	0
No contests	1	

Res.	Record	Opponent	Method	Event	Date	Round	Time	Location	Notes
Win	7–0 (1)	<u>Ryan Spann</u>	Submission (rear-naked choke)	Legacy FC 58	July 22, 2016	2	2:58	<u>Lake Charles, Louisiana, United States</u>	Won the Legacy FC Light Heavyweight Championship.
NC	6–0 (1)	<u>Keith Berish</u>	NC (overturned by NSAC)	<u>The Ultimate Fighter: Team Edgar vs. Team Penn Finale</u>	July 6, 2014	1	2:03	<u>Las Vegas, Nevada, United States</u>	Submission (rear-naked choke) win overturned to NC; Drysdale tested positive for elevated testosterone.
Win	6–0	<u>D.J. Linderman</u>	Submission (rear-naked choke)	Legacy FC 19	April 12, 2013	1	1:48	<u>Dallas, Texas, United States</u>	
Win	5–0	<u>Chris Reed</u>	Submission (armbar)	Legacy FC 15	November 16, 2012	1	1:15	<u>Houston, Texas, United States</u>	
Win	4–0	<u>Ike Villanueva</u>	Submission (armbar)	Legacy FC 12	July 13, 2012	1	1:27	<u>Houston, Texas, United States</u>	
Win	3–0	<u>Mike Nickels</u>	Submission (guillotine choke)	<u>AFC 6: Conviction</u>	June 18, 2011	1	1:04	<u>Victoria, British Columbia, Canada</u>	
Win	2–0	<u>Clay Davidson</u>	Submission (armbar)	<u>AFC 4: Revelation</u>	November 6, 2010	1	2:54	<u>Victoria, British Columbia, Canada</u>	
Win	1–0	<u>Bastien Huveneers</u>	Submission (arm-triangle choke)	<u>AFC 3: Evolution</u>	July 17, 2010	1	1:12	<u>Victoria, British Columbia, Canada</u>	

See also

- List of undefeated mixed martial artists
- List of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioners
- List of current UFC fighters
- List of male mixed martial artists

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External links

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Carlos Gracie Jr.

Carlos "Carlinhos" Gracie Jr. is a Brazilian 9th-degree red belt Brazilian jiu-jitsu (BJJ) practitioner and coach.^[a] A member of the Gracie family, he is the son of Carlos Gracie, one of the founders of Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

Career

Gracie is the founder of the Confederação Brasileira de Jiu-Jitsu (CBJJ), also known as International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF), a for-profit company which organizations BJJ and submission grappling tournaments, including the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship, Pan Jiu-Jitsu Championship and European Jiu-Jitsu Championship. He is a co-founder of the Gracie Barra team.^[3]

Personal life

Carlinhos is one of twenty-one children fathered by Brazilian jiu-jitsu co-founder Carlos Gracie. He has three children: daughter Caroline, and sons Kayron and Kyan.^{[4][5]} Kayron is a black belt under his father and is a professor at Gracie Barra Rancho Santa Margarita.^[6] Gracie is also the founder and director of *Gracie Magazine*, a monthly Brazilian jiu-jitsu publication.

Instructor lineage

Kanō Jigorō → Mitsuyo Maeda → Carlos Gracie Sr. → Carlos Gracie Jr.

See also

- List of Brazilian jiu-jitsu practitioners

Notes

a. promoted on 25 April 2026

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Carlos Gracie Jr.	
Born	January 17, 1956
Other names	Carlinhos ^[1]
Style	<u>Brazilian jiu-jitsu</u>
Teachers	<u>Carlos Gracie</u> and <u>Rolls Gracie</u> ,
Rank	9th deg. <u>BJJ red belt</u> ^[2]

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2024 IBJJF World No-Gi Championship

Dec 15, 2024

 update page

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, USA

IBJJF

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Notable Finals Matchups

Semifinal Submission Showcase

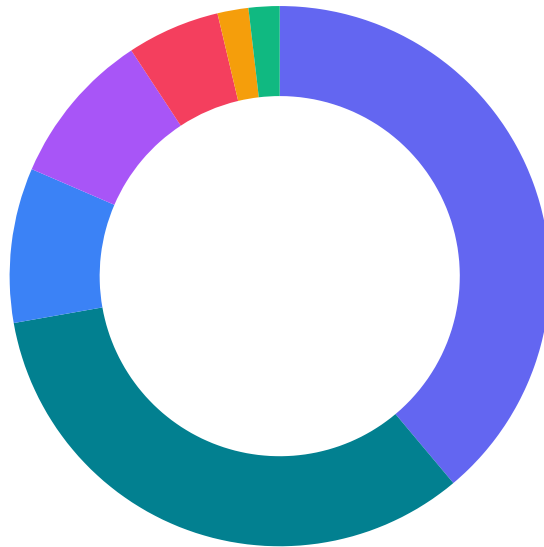
Close Semifinal Battles Decided by Points and Penalties

Overall Summary

Total Matchups
54

Submission Rate
33.3%

Victory Methods



Points	21 (38.9%)
Submission	18 (33.3%)
Decision	5 (9.3%)
Advantages	5 (9.3%)
Advantage	3 (5.6%)
DQ	1 (1.9%)
Penalty	1 (1.9%)

Submissions



Straight Ankle Lock	4 (22.2%)
---------------------	-----------

Inside Heel Hook	3 (16.7%)
Arm Triangle Choke	2 (11.1%)
Rear Naked Choke	2 (11.1%)
Armbar	1 (5.6%)
Darce Choke	1 (5.6%)
Guillotine Choke	1 (5.6%)
Outside Heel Hook	1 (5.6%)
Short Choke	1 (5.6%)
Toe Hold	1 (5.6%)
Triangle Choke	1 (5.6%)



Matchups

Fighters	Method	Weight
Elder Cruz	def. Devhonte Johnson	Advantages
Paige Ivette	def. Elizabeth Mitrovic	Points

Fighters			Method	Weight
Lucas Valente	def.	Carlos Henrique	Advantages	
Felipe Costa	def.	Calon Sabino	Points	
Brianna Ste-Marie	def.	Jaine Fragoso	Darce Choke	
Faris Lamkadem	def.	Jose Jurema	Decision	
Cole Abate	def.	José Julián Espinosa Flores	Points	
Devhonte Johnson	def.	Gabriel Oliveira	Points	
Anabel Lopez Beard	def.	Maria Ruffatto	Points	
Cassia Moura	def.	Amanda Monteiro Canuto	Points	
Cassia Moura	def.	Emily Nicholson	Rear Naked Choke	
Salla Simola	def.	Caitlin Huggins	Dq	
José Julián Espinosa Flores	def.	Sam McNally	Straight Ankle Lock	



Lucas Montalvão	def.	Anderson Kaua	Decision	
Salla Simola	def.	Kennedy Paige	Straight Ankle Lock	
Wallison Oliveira	def.	Sebastian Rodriguez	Points	

Fighters			Method	Weight
Amanda Monteiro Canuto	def.	Ana Garcia	Decision	
Cole Abate	def.	Marco Mendes	Inside Heel Hook	

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How Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Has Grown in the U.S.



Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu: A Growing Sport

What started as a form of self-defense martial arts became a sport that Americans watch passionately. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu is no longer a sport typically limited to athletes, as more Americans are interested in learning BJJ in gyms.

Counting the number of gyms from Yelp, an online directory, 19.8% of combat sports gyms (<https://www.ibisworld.com/united-states/market-research-reports/brazilian-jiu-jitsu-studios-industry/>) in the United States provide Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training. This shows that BJJ is easily the second most popular martial arts sport in the U.S., next to boxing.

Interestingly, as the name implies, Jiu-Jitsu was originally from Brazilian brothers who started a different, unique form of self-defense. This self-defense system called Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu made its way to the United States, bringing a new combat sport that Americans now either follow through events or learn the various techniques.

BJJ's popularity in the United States is evident in the number of gyms, streaming platforms, tournaments, and Internet searches. One of the top streaming channels for BJJ events, FloGrappling, has an impressive growth from 2017 to 2020. As of the time of this writing, FloGrappling averages a 1.75% growth in subscriber count every 30 days (<https://hypeauditor.com/youtube/flograppling-UCeOvhU6RbmEj8GKFilMWxKQ/>).

If you also look at Internet searches, the upward slope in Google Trends visualizes the growing interest of BJJ over time (<https://trends.google.com/trends/explore?date=all&geo=US&q=%22bjj%22>) in the United States. Averaging less than 20 from 2004 and reaching up to 100 search interest in recent years, BJJ in the United States has entered peak popularity.

With Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu steadily increasing throughout the years, you may be wondering: how and when did Americans embrace this form of martial arts from Brazil? Let's dig deeper.

When Did BJJ Become Popular?

Jiu-Jitsu's Roots in the 1990s

Rorion and Carley Gracie brought the Brazilian culture of combat fighting style on a mat to U.S. soil. To share the Jiu-Jitsu skills with a growing number of interested Americans, Steve Maxwell, Rorion's student, opened the Maxercise academy in 1990.

This gym was the first jiu-jitsu approved gym in the U.S. and it opened in Philadelphia. The Maxercise academy reached around 250 grappling students this time. Steve also went on to organize tournaments in the Tri-State Area as demand for competitions increased.

Tournaments in the 2000s

BJ Penn further escalated America's involvement in BJJ when he became the first American athlete to win a black belt title in the 2000 World Jiu-Jitsu Championship. He also went on to win titles in other weight classes. However, what headlined the recognition of BJJ in the United States was when the IBJJF or International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation transferred their headquarters to the U.S.

The IBJJF moving to the U.S. brought on a lot of talented BJJ athletes from Brazil, which also increased the number and quality of BJJ skills-sharing to the Americans. IBJJF opened up more opportunities for Americans to learn Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu from experts in the sport.

Nowadays, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu isn't a mere form of self-defense. For some Americans, it's their way of life, and they value the discipline that martial arts bring to their lives. So why BJJ? What contributed to its popularity as a growing sport in the United States?

Why Has BJJ Become So Popular?

A Fun Way To Learn Self-Defense

With so many grappling techniques to learn from, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu makes learning self-defense martial arts more enjoyable. The sport combines skills, physical ability, and creative maneuver, which BJJ practitioners and aficionados find entertaining.

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu requires physical and mental aptitude, making the self-defense activity more dynamic than relying on pure strength. Learning BJJ is not even limited to self-defense only. BJJ practitioners lead a healthier lifestyle by becoming fit due to physical activity.

The Sport Spans Ages

Unlike other sports, which require a peak age to master, BJJ is a sport that anyone can learn regardless of age. BJJ does not depend on brute force but strategic fighting ability. Thus, kids can start learning at a young age while those in their prime years can still execute moves.

Mat training can start anywhere from three-year-olds to even 50-year-olds. The practical way of beating an opponent by identifying strategic weak points makes BJJ an encouraging martial arts sport that anyone can start learning BJJ..

A Close-Knit Community

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu has some of the most dedicated fans who follow professional athletes and watch events. These fans spur eager discussions about the sports and their favorite athletes. Various areas in the U.S. organize local tournaments and practitioners who share their BJJ knowledge in local gyms.

Those learning Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu inside local gyms also make friends and widen their social circles. While doing mat training, they connect and interact with individuals passionate about the sport.

Increasing Media Coverage

As more BJJ fans tune in to watch BJJ fights, the media also caught up to the frenzy. Cable channels started streaming BJJ tournaments. UFC, for instance, has a UFC Fight Pass to watch BJJ fighting events. There's also FloGrappling from FloSports, which streams live BJJ events, news, and other content. Adding more entertainment is "The New Star" – a Jiu-Jitsu reality TV show. Even in social media, Americans flock on to various forums like Facebook groups and Reddit discussions to connect with like-minded BJJ aficionados.

This media exposure contributed to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu becoming one of the top sports to watch in the U.S. They don't only cover championship fights. These channels also include other related events, press conferences, interviews with athletes, BJJ training tips, and anything BJJ-related they feed to the American audience.

Championship Tournaments and Events

The viewership of BJJ tournaments on the UFC Fight Pass medium propelled Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu as an enticing sport that Americans want to watch. Established names in BJJ like Robert Drysdale, Nate Diaz, Bruno Malfacine, and many others train jiu-jitsu professionally as rabid fans watch out for these prized fights. Americans tune in to these skilled BJJ athletes, and with different weight divisions, there's always an event that they can watch.

There's also the Eddie Bravo Invitational (EBI) and Fight2Win (F2W), which hosts BJJ tournaments and invites rising stars in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, watched by tons of fans in the United States.

Aside from these regulated and professionally-recognized championship tournaments, even various cities and states in the U.S. hold their fight events. Organizations such as the American Grappling Federation or the North American Grappling Association hold

events across different states in the United States. Some have localized annual fighting events on a state or city level. Fans can look forward to a calendar full of match-ups between up-and-coming BJJ athletes trying to make a name in the now-famous Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu sport.

Growing Demand = More Avenues To Learn BJJ

The popularity of BJJ in the U.S. resulted in more local gyms where Americans can learn the sport. BJJ has become one of the fast-growing niche martial arts sports in the United States.

IBJJF, the primary organization that oversees Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training, has over 304 IBJJF academies (<https://ibjjf.com/academies.htm>) registered and approved in the United States. This does not account for other unregistered training gyms that also provide BJJ instructions.

There's a local BJJ training gym in almost every major city in the United States. Even fitness gyms provide not only boxing sessions. They also include Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training sessions for interested individuals. Local fitness and sports gyms are not limited to at least one type of martial arts or self-defense training, as they now have BJJ sessions to meet the growing demand for the sport.



(<https://reveljiujitsu.com/choosing-bjj-a>) (<https://reveljiujitsu.com/best-martial-art-nj/>)

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Michelle Nicolini

Michelle Zonato Nicolini or Michelle Nicolini (born January 5, 1982) is a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioner and mixed martial artist (MMA).^[6] Among the most accomplished female grapplers of all time,^{[7][8]} Nicolini holds third place for most IBJJF World Championship titles, with eight wins.^[9] She is a member of the IBJJF Hall of Fame.^[10]

Grappling career

Nicolini was born in the city of Itú in Brazil. At the age of 14 she started Capoeira stopping 3 years later to focus on jiu-jitsu, training under Robert Drysdale, who she received her black belt from. In 2015 she competed twice at Polaris Pro Grappling beating Angelica Galvao via toehold^[11] and losing to Gezary Matuda via armbar.^[12]

Nicolini was scheduled to compete against Ffion Davies at Polaris 21 on September 24, 2022, for the promotion's inaugural bantamweight title^[13] Davies withdrew from the match and was replaced by Ashley Bendle on short notice. Nicolini defeated Bendle by split decision and won the Polaris bantamweight title.^[14]

Nicolini competed in the IBJJF Master International Championship - Europe on April 30, 2023 where she won gold medals in the lightweight and absolute divisions at Master 2.^[15]

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competitive summary

In the major IBJJF gi championships at black belt level she is a:-

8x World Championship champion
 3x Pan-American Championship champion
 3x European Championship champion
 3x Brazilian Nationals champion

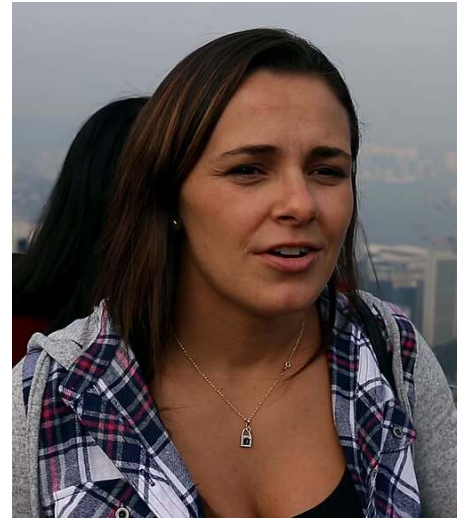
2022 European Master 1 Lightweight Champion^[16]

In the major IBJJF Nogi championships at black belt level she is a:-

4x World Nogi Championship champion
 2x Pan Ams Nogi Championship champion
 2x Euros Nogi Championship champion

She is also a 4x ADCC medal winner – 1x Gold, 2x Silver and 1x Bronze.

Michelle Nicolini



Born	Michelle Zonato Nicolini January 5, 1982 <u>Itú, São Paulo, Brazil</u>
Height	5 ft 5 in (165 cm)
Weight	125 lb (57 kg; 8 st 13 lb)
Division	<u>Strawweight (125 lbs)</u>
Style	<u>Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu</u>
Team	<u>Checkmat</u> , <u>Evolve MMA</u>
Rank	<i>Black belt in <u>Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu</u></i>

Mixed martial arts record

Total	9
Wins	6
By submission	5
By decision	1
Losses	3
By decision	3

Other information

Mixed martial arts record (<http://www.sherdog.com/fightfinder/fightfinder.asp?fighterID=83784>) from Sherdog

Medal record

Representing **Brazil**

Grappling

ADCC World Championship

S	2011 <u>Nottingham, UK</u>	-60kg ^[1]
G	2013 <u>Beijing, China</u>	-60kg ^[2]
S	2015 <u>Sao Paulo, Brazil</u>	-60kg ^[3]
B	2017 <u>Espoo, Finland</u>	-60kg ^[4]

By winning the Brazilian Nationals Nogi Championship Michelle would become the first female athlete to complete a clean sweep of winning a gold medal at black belt level in both gi and no-gi at all four major championships.

Mixed martial arts career

Early career

Nicolini was scheduled to face Cristina Meija at Inka FC 11 on June 23, 2011, in her mixed martial arts debut.^[17] She won the fight by a first-round submission.^[18]

Nicolini was scheduled to face Lanchana Green at M4TC 13: Nemesis on February 22, 2014. She won the fight by a first-round submission.^[19]

Nicolini was scheduled to face Norma Rueda at Center at Legacy FC 36 October 17, 2014.^[20] Nicolini suffered her first professional loss, as Norma won by unanimous decision.^[21]

ONE Championship

On July 25, 2016, it was revealed that Nicolini had signed with the Singapore-based fight promotion ONE Championship.^[22]

Nicolini was scheduled to face Mona Samir at ONE Championship: Defending Honor on November 16, 2016. She won the fight by a first-round submission.^[23]

Nicolini was scheduled to face Irina Mazepa at ONE Championship: Kings of Destiny on April 21, 2017. She won the fight by a first-round submission.^[24]

Nicolini was scheduled to face Iryna Kyselova at ONE Championship: Visions of Victory on March 8, 2018. She won the fight by a first-round submission.^[25]

Nicolini was scheduled to face Tiffany Teo, in a ONE strawweight title eliminator, at ONE Championship: Heart of the Lion on November 9, 2018.^[26] Teo won the fight by unanimous decision, handing Nicolini her second professional loss.^[27]

Nicolini was scheduled to face the reigning ONE Women's Atomweight champion Angela Lee, in a strawweight bout, at ONE Championship: Masters of Destiny on July 12, 2019.^[28] Despite coming into the bout as an underdog, and being on the receiving end of several uncalled fouls, Nicolini won the fight by unanimous decision.^[29]

Nicolini challenged the reigning ONE Women's Strawweight World champion Xiong Jingnan at ONE Championship: Empower on September 3, 2021.^[30] It was originally scheduled for May 28, 2021, before being postponed due to COVID-19.^[31] She lost the bout via unanimous decision, unable to get her opponent to the ground and losing the striking exchanges.^[32]

ADCC South American Championships

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------|
| G | 2011 <u>Rio de Janeiro</u> | -60kg |
| G | 2013 <u>Rio de Janeiro</u> | -60kg |

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

World Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| G | 2006 <u>California, USA</u> | -53 kg |
| G | 2007 <u>California, USA</u> | -53 kg |
| G | 2007 <u>California, USA</u> | Absolute |
| G | 2010 <u>California, USA</u> | -74 kg |
| G | 2011 <u>California, USA</u> | -59 kg |
| G | 2012 <u>California, USA</u> | -59 kg |
| G | 2013 <u>California, USA</u> | -74 kg |
| G | 2014 <u>California, USA</u> | -59 kg |

Pan American Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| G | 2008 <u>California, USA</u> | -53 kg |
| G | 2010 <u>California, USA</u> | -53 kg |
| G | 2011 <u>California, USA</u> | -58 kg |

European Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|----------|
| G | 2012 <u>Lisbon, Portugal</u> | -74kg |
| G | 2012 <u>Lisbon, Portugal</u> | Absolute |
| G | 2014 <u>Lisbon, Portugal</u> | -58kg |

Brazilian National Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|----------|
| G | 2011 <u>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</u> | -64kg |
| G | 2012 <u>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</u> | Absolute |
| G | 2016 <u>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</u> | -58kg |

Worlds Nogi Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| G | 2008 <u>California, USA</u> | +61.5 kg |
| G | 2010 <u>California, USA</u> | Absolute |
| G | 2011 <u>California, USA</u> | +56.5 kg |
| G | 2011 <u>California, USA</u> | Absolute |

Pan American No-Gi Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| G | 2017 <u>California, USA</u> | +61.5 kg |
| G | 2017 <u>California, USA</u> | Absolute |

European No-Gi Championship^[5]

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|----------|
| G | 2018 <u>Rome, Italy</u> | +56.5 kg |
| G | 2018 <u>Rome, Italy</u> | Absolute |

European Master Championship

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------|
| G | 2022 <u>Rome, Italy</u> | -64 kg |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------|

Mixed martial arts record

Professional record breakdown

9 matches	6 wins	3 losses
By knockout	0	0
By submission	5	0
By decision	1	3

Res.	Record	Opponent	Method	Event	Date	Round	Time	Location	Notes
Loss	6–3	<u>Xiong Jingnan</u>	Decision (unanimous)	<u>ONE: Empower</u>	September 3, 2021	5	5:00	Kallang, Singapore	For the <u>ONE Strawweight Championship</u> (125 lb).
Win	6–2	<u>Angela Lee</u>	Decision (unanimous)	<u>ONE: Masters of Destiny</u>	July 12, 2019	3	5:00	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
Loss	5–2	Tiffany Teo	Decision (unanimous)	<u>ONE: Heart of the Lion</u>	November 9, 2018	3	5:00	Kallang, Singapore	
Win	5–1	Iryna Kyselova	Submission (rear-naked choke)	<u>ONE: Visions of Victory</u>	March 9, 2018	1	2:26	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
Win	4–1	Irina Mazepa	Submission (armbar)	<u>ONE: Kings of Destiny</u>	April 21, 2017	1	2:11	Pasay, Philippines	
Win	3–1	Mona Samir	Submission (rear-naked choke)	<u>ONE: Defending Honor</u>	November 16, 2016	1	2:16	Kallang, Singapore	
Loss	2–1	Norma Rueda Center	Decision (unanimous)	Legacy FC 36	October 17, 2014	3	5:00	Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States	
Win	2–0	Lanchana Green	Submission (armbar)	M4TC 13: Nemesis	February 22, 2014	1	2:27	Tyne and Wear, England	
Win	1–0	Cristina Mejia	Submission (armbar)	Inka FC 11	June 23, 2011	1	2:36	Santiago de Surco, Peru	

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External links

- [Michelle Nicolini \(https://www.onefc.com/athletes/michelle-nicolini/\)](https://www.onefc.com/athletes/michelle-nicolini/) at ONE
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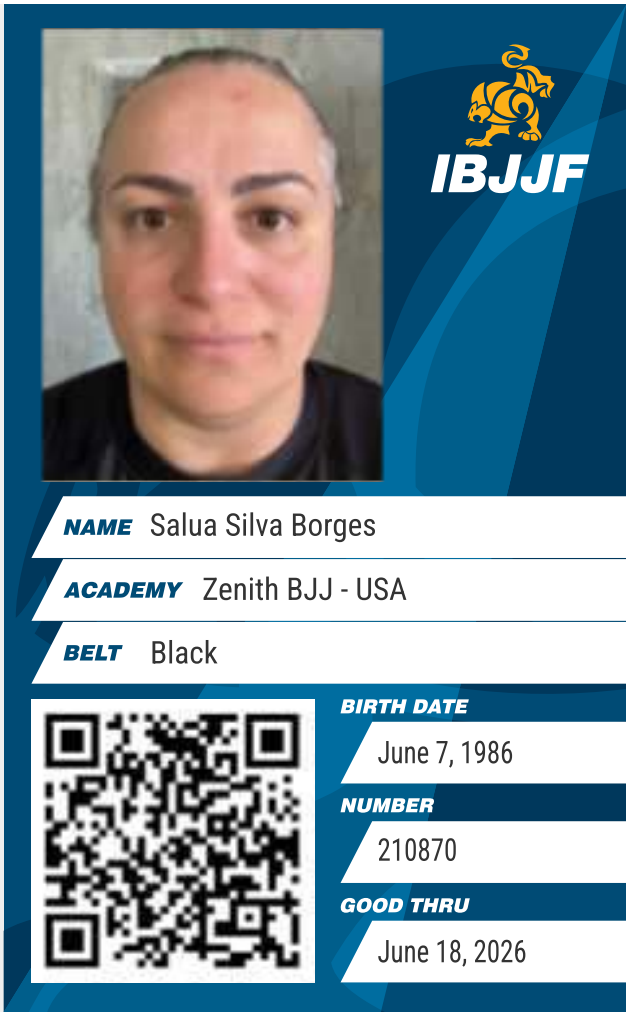


Hello,
Salua Borges

ACADEMY	STATUS
Zenith BJJ - USA	ACTIVE
BELT	ID NUMBER
Black	210870
MORE DETAILS	

ACADEMY	STATUS	BELT	ID NUMBER
Zenith BJJ - USA	ACTIVE	Black	210870

[HOME](#) / [DIGITAL CARD](#)



The image shows a digital athlete card for Salua Silva Borges. The card features a blue and white design with the IBJJF logo (a yellow dragon) in the top right corner. On the left, there is a portrait of Salua Silva Borges. Below the portrait, the card lists her name, academy, belt rank, birth date, number, and good thru date. A QR code is located on the left side of the card, below the portrait.

NAME	Salua Silva Borges
ACADEMY	Zenith BJJ - USA
BELT	Black
BIRTH DATE	June 7, 1986
NUMBER	210870
GOOD THRU	June 18, 2026

May 26, 2026

To USCIS,

Having earned recognition as a two-time Pan American Champion, three-time Pan No-Gi Champion, and No-Gi World Champion through the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation, I possess direct knowledge of the competitive standards that define excellence in this sport. My name is Marcio Antonio Pires Junior, and I serve as head coach at Alicate BJJ in the United States. I have personally trained alongside and observed Salua Silva Borges throughout her athletic career, and I write to confirm that her championship record constitutes nationally and internationally recognized prizes for excellence in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

To appreciate the magnitude of Ms. Borges' achievements, one must understand the competitive ecosystem governed by the IBJJF, founded by Carlos Gracie Jr., as the preeminent sanctioning body for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu worldwide. The IBJJF administers the sport's most prestigious tournaments, including the World Championship, the Pan Championship, the No-Gi World Championship, and the American National Championship. These events attract thousands of elite competitors from over sixty countries each season, organized into divisions by belt rank, age category, and weight class. Achieving a gold medal in any IBJJF championship requires repeated victories against specialists who have dedicated years of technical preparation. Professor Kevin K. Byon, Ph.D., a tenured sport management scholar at Indiana University, has independently confirmed that IBJJF tournaments occupy the highest tier of the competitive calendar.

Against this demanding landscape, Salua has compiled a record that places her evidently within the small percentage at the very top of the field. She holds five No-Gi World Championship titles earned in Las Vegas between 2018 and 2023, three Pan American Championship titles secured in Florida, two Brazilian National Championship titles, one South American Championship title, and twenty-two American National Championship titles accumulated from 2019 through 2024. In her championship divisions, approximately 124 athletes typically contend for a single gold medal, and Ms. Borges has consistently finished first. Notably, her dominance spans purple, brown, and black belt levels, reflecting progressive mastery rather than isolated success at one stage of development.

Furthermore, the IBJJF bestowed upon Ms. Borges its Black Belt certification, registered under ID number 210870, during live competition. Receiving this distinction in a competitive setting is exceptionally rare and signifies that the governing body recognizes the athlete's technical command and sustained achievement at the highest echelon. The IBJJF's Executive Director, Andre Fernandes, who also serves as chief official and technical director of both the IBJJF and the United States Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation, has formally documented her championship record and confirmed the prestige of her certification.

It bears emphasizing that these titles are not participation awards. Each championship requires an athlete to compete in full-contact matches, progressing through preliminary rounds to reach the final. Victory is determined solely by submission or accumulated points reflecting positional dominance, sweeps, and takedowns. The IBJJF's ranking system assigns points weighted by tournament prestige, ensuring that only athletes who perform consistently at major events ascend the global rankings. Ms. Borges currently holds a ranked position in the Female Master 2 Black No-Gi category, corroborating her standing within the sport's official framework.

In my professional assessment, informed by championship experience and years of coaching at the highest level, Salua Borges represents the caliber of an extraordinary athlete whose accomplishments satisfy the standard for nationally and internationally recognized prizes for excellence. Her cumulative record of over thirty major IBJJF titles across multiple divisions and competition formats constitutes a body of work that few practitioners in the history of this sport have equaled.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcio A Pires Jr

Marcio Antonio Pires Junior

Head Coach, Alicate BJJ

2x Pan Champion | 3x Pan No-Gi Champion | 1x World No-Gi Champion

1x American National Champion

Contact: +1 (830) 800-3399