

# A Champion is Crowned at NFC Jiu-Jitsu #11 at District Atlanta

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By Juan Jimenez

A Champion is Crowned at NFC Jiu Jitsu #11 at District Atlanta on Saturday, September 17, 2022.

Josh Bowlin of Gracie Barra Columbus defeated Walnan Constantino of Team Lua in the final bout for the National Fighting Championship (NFC) Jiu-Jitsu Masters Heavyweight championship. Both are experienced black belts who've competed in grand tournaments hosted by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation, a for-profit company that hosts several of the biggest Brazilian jiu-jitsu tournaments in the world, including the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship, World No-Gi Championship, Pan Jiu-Jitsu Championship, and European Open Jiu-Jitsu Championship.

The undercard included 13 other contests with fighters competing in Gi, traditional Japanese uniforms, and no Gi. Gi Matches are technical fights, while no Gi is dynamic and fast-paced. Among the regular bouts was a tag team style competition in which Team Octopus defeated SBG Atlanta.

Another unique match was an international bout pitting the United States against Brazil. Four high-level competitors representing the U.S. faced and defeated four representatives of Brazil. It was one of the more spirited battles, eliciting patriotic "U.S.A." chants from spectators as well as heated frustrations from team Brazil's corner. NFC has been an active promotion since 2002, hosting both professional and amateur Mixed Martial Arts, Muay Thai, and Jiu Jitsu fights. The Jiu Jitsu events are a relatively new addition, starting around June 2018 by Clay Bennet. Bennet is NFC's Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) matchmaker and Head Referee. He is also a black belt and competitor. "Hosting Jiu-Jitsu events was my idea," Bennet said, "It used to be that we would hold one Jiu-Jitsu match during MMA fights."

When asked how the matchmaking process for their Jiu-Jitsu events works, Bennet's response was that he would talk among his peers to set up "good matches".

The fights were two rounds that lasted six minutes, and all competitors filled out google forms. Blue belts were the lowest belts allowed, as for black belts "we [had] to approach the black belts and ask if they wanted to compete," said Bennet, then pairs fought one time. The matches took place in District Atlanta, a premier two-story nightclub and venue that hosts a variety of events. The locale is best known for its unique floating orb kinetic light system, state-of-the-art laser show, LED walls, and the best-in-class audio system. The district was also the first to re-open and host NFC Jiu-Jitsu after the COVID-19 lockdowns.