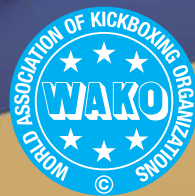


No. 7 / The second half of 2017

WAKO

KICKBOXING

MAGAZINE



THE WAKO ANNIVERSARY
1977-2017 40 YEARS





WAKO KICKBOXING



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20. Oman
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13. Mauretania
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IN THE WORLD



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39. Russia
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46. Turkey
47. Ukraine

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No. 7

The second half of 2017

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IN MEMORIAM



FLAVIO BRIVIO, WAKO PIONEER AND ONE OF THE FIRST WAKO REFEREES HAS PASSED AWAY

Flavio Brivio, the honorary member of the WAKO Referee Committee passed away on October 8, 2017, after a long and severe illness, aged 71.

Flavio was born on November 2, 1947, in Gallarate (Varese), close to Milan in Italy. He was one of the first Italian kickboxing referees and first chairman of the WAKO Referee Committee. He was the chief referee on many WAKO championships before 2001. During the WAKO World Championships in Belgrade 2001, he had his last international referee duty.

His kickboxing biography is linked to Ennio Falsoni, who was the President of the FIAM (Italian Martial Arts Federation) at that time. Ennio and Flavio were close friends.

In his early ages Flavio was affiliated to the club ASD Atletico Kickboxing Lainate (Milan), where Ennio used to teach. Flavio was one of his students and later on became one of the pioneers of kickboxing as a referee and a judge in the FIAM around mid-70's (1974/75).

Once Ennio became the new WAKO President in 1984, he introduced Flavio on the international level, he started to travel a lot with the Italian team. He held referee seminars and was a mentor to many referees, deserving a title as an honorary member of the WAKO Referee Committee.

Flavio Brivio was a great man and really an expert as a kickboxing referee. When he was on tatami or in the ring as a chief referee, everyone knew that all decisions were accurate, fair and honest. He helped many today's judges, referees and chief referees and officials to become the best.

Now when Flavio has left us, the WAKO has lost a great man, a great referee, a teacher and a master and a big friend, a fan and supporter of kickboxing, who has made a huge contribution to the development of kickboxing Italy and the World.

On behalf of the WAKO and its members, we express the condolences to the Flavio's family and to the Italian Kickboxing Federation.

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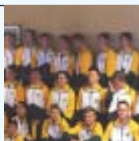
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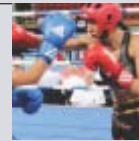
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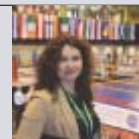
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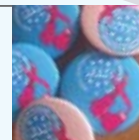
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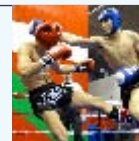
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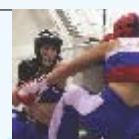
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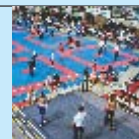
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IOC Athlete Career Programme

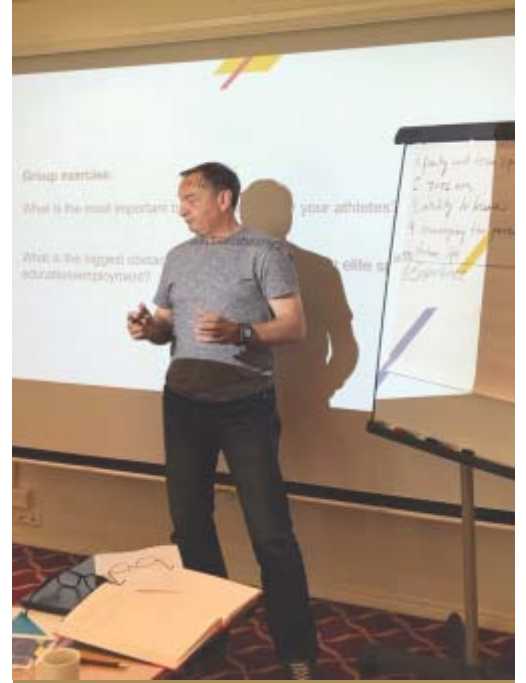
In cooperation with The Adecco Group

IOC Athlete Career Program (ACP) in WAKO

With support from the IOC, WAKO has conducted its first Train the Trainer session within the IOC ACP, a pilot in order for WAKO staff to deliver parts of the ACP outreach program for athletes or coaching them in a right direction.

A mix of delegates from WAKO Athlete Committee, Coach Committee, and Women Committee participated in this pilot and it was conducted as a workshop. The delegates were introduced to the ACP program and tested various tasks and tools as a part of the ACP program. The objective is to give WAKO staff the possibility during the coming championships to organize small workshops and seminars for our athletes.

ACP as a service should become important in the WAKO, and our objective is to develop a mechanism that can educate athletes in career planning, raising awareness of the importance of combining an athletic career with preparation/transition for life after sport. The IOC ACP is based on three pillars; education, employment, and life skills.



WAKO coach committee representative Miodrag Jotic during the discussion



Welcoming of the delegates from Norway NOC



Delegates working during the seminar

The session was organized in Oslo 25 June by invitation from WAKO Norway and WAKO Vice-President Espen Lund. Mrs. Tonje Hinze who is the ACP manager within the Norway NOC and a part of the IOC ACP Steering Committee was a responsible coach.

During the next World Championships we plan an Athletes Corner, a Learn & Share area where WAKO will inspire, engage, share, learn - For athletes, with athletes. IOC ACP program will be one of our pillars in that program.

WAKO will report this seminar to IOC Sports Department but we use the opportunity to thank Chantal Buchser, Senior Project Manager - Athlete support in the IOC Sports Department for all kind help and assistance. Also a huge thank you to Tonje Hinze for her knowledge, inspiration, and dedication.



WAKO HAS RECEIVED THE FISU RECOGNITION

WAKO has reached a new milestone in international status by being recognized by FISU (International University Sports Federation).

We already have an extended student and university activity and on behalf of all WAKO members and kickboxing lovers, we are proud that WAKO has become recognized by FISU. This has been a long process with two years of work.

WAKO has to structure its documentation, have had meetings, have executed two surveys and got documentation to prove the work within this field.

FISU (International University Sports Federation) is an IOC recognized organization and this recognition simply manifests WAKO as a robust organization worldwide.

Students are the important target group for WAKO. Energetic, goal targeted activities for this young group are important and WAKO has to develop organization and keep great athletes who are students to stay inside our great sport. The door is now opened for more national federations to develop activities nationally inside the WAKO and FISU umbrella.

WAKO is sure this recognition will strengthen organization within the field of students population, an important market for our sport.

Not to say that we develop in line with the Olympic Movement. Thank you to all national federations working with us for the surveys, for the papers provided, for the support given and of course thank you for the activities you already organize for students.

Last but not least, WAKO President and the Board of Directors send out deep gratitude to FISU and their President Oleg Matytsin and his team for accepting WAKO under FISU umbrella.

Next goal for 2017 - IOC recognition!

M.P.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: NEW RULES

For anyone doing forms in the WAKO European or World championships this year, there are some new rules regarding length of forms and presentation.

PRESENTATIONS / LENGTH / TIME

There are no time limits for any musical forms categories, the competitor starts his / her form after their presentation from their first movement after their presentation, this can be a Trick, Gymnastic or Martial arts technique.

Please Note: If a Competitor performs any Gymnastic techniques or Weapon Releases in their Presentation these will be counted as part of their form.



WAKO and International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG) partnership



Mrs. Kate Kocziowska, Ms. Kristina Thuree, Mr. Borislav Pelevic, Mrs. Marijana Pelevic after signing the Brighton PLUS Helsinki declaration



Ms Thuree and Mr. Pelevic on signing ceremony



RIGHT TO LEFT: Mr. Borislav Pelevic, WAKO President, representative of ISPCC, Irish Society for the protection of Children, where every year Irish Open Kickboxing tournament donates money, Ms. Iris Vlachoutsicos,P&S, Ms. Kristina Thuree, Mr. Roy Baker, Irish Open promoter and WAKO Vice President.

SIGN FOR THE FUTURE

WAKO became a partner of one more International organization which deals with Women in sport issue.

International Working Group on Women and Sport IWG is International organization from Gaborone, Botswana, dealing with gender equality and women presence in sport in all levels, forcing initiatives to promote physical activity, offering men and women equal opportunities in the sport arena and enlisting men as allies in the fight for gender equality.

On 4th March 2017 during Irish Open International for Peace and Sport WAKO Cup, it was organized the ceremony of signing the agreement between two parties, which means that WAKO has signed and adopted Brighton Plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport.

Declaration was signed by Ms. Kristina Thuree, IWG European representative and by WAKO President, Mr. Borislav Pelevic, witnessed by WAKO Women Committee chairman Ms. Kate Kocziowska and WAKO Women Committee member Ms. Marijana Pelevic.

International Working Group on Women and Sport is International organization from Gaborone, Botswana, dealing with gender equality and women presence in sport in all levels.

Every four year IWG has Conferences which are "milestone events, which every four years focus global attention on specific goals and action steps aimed at offering men and women equal opportunities in the sport arena.

The economic, social and cultural impact of the many hundreds of delegates representing nations from all continents is significant and has resulted in concrete benefits for the previous host countries."

The list of the Conferences:

1994 Brighton, UK. 1998. Windhoek, Namibia. 2002. Montreal Canada. 2006. Kumamoto, Japan. 2010. Sidney, Australia. 2014. Helsinki, Finland.

The last Conference held in Finland they find most important because of the Declaration: "Helsinki calls the world of sport to Lead the Change and Be the Change.", where they had about 830 people from almost 100 countries, who took part in the groundbreaking event that laid down the updated principles for advancing women's and girls' sport and physical activity globally.

What is IWG?

"The IWG is a critical link between representatives of international, regional and national organizations interested in women and sport issues, making the IWG World Conferences important opportunities for interaction and discussion.

The main aim is working towards gender equality and equal participation of women and girls in sport at all levels and roles."

IWG International relations

The 441 various organizations have notified the International Working Group on Women and Sport (IWG) that they have endorsed the Brighton Declaration on Women and Sport (1994). Among them is WAKO.

The presence of Ms. Kristina Thuree on the WAKO Cup was the great occasion to introduce our sport kickboxing and to arrange a meeting with WAKO Women Committee, where important issues of implementing principles of the Declaration were discussed.

The most important highlight of this partnership for WAKO is to clearly step forward in work towards gender equality and equal participation of women and girls in kickboxing sport at all levels and roles: as athletes, coaches, referees and executive officials. For the WAKO, the goal is clear: we already reached the number of 35% female athletes in WAKO, but we have to focus on including more women in executive bodies of the organization.



Mr. Roy Baker, WAKO Vice President and WAKO Europe President, Mr. Joel Bouzou, Peace & Sport President, Mr. Borislav Pelevic, WAKO President, Mr. Espen Lund, WAKO Vice President, Mr. Tibor Kozsla, representative of E-learning Academy, Mr. Mike Joyce, IOC representative, Mrs. Marijana Pelevic, WAKO Women committee member, Ms. Kristina Thuree, IWG European representative, Ms. Iris Vlachoutsicos, Peace&Sport representative, Mrs. Kate Kocziwska, WAKO Women Committee President.



WAKO members are in recognition campaign of their National Olympic Committees



WAKO Poland recognized by the Polish Olympic Committee

On 26th September 2017 Polish Kickboxing Federation (WAKO Poland) became officially a member of the Polish Olympic Committee.

Mr. Piotr Siegoczynski, President of the Polish Kickboxing Federation, comments: "Our long-term aspirations to gain

membership of POC have become a reality. Polish Kickboxing Federation has been recognized by Polish Ministry of Sport since 1989. It took a long time to gain a change in perception of non-Olympic sports in Poland and join the Olympic family. To achieve this goal we have organized many activities in Poland and internationally."



WAKO Venezuela officially recognized by its NOC

One more WAKO member reached ambitious goal.

Federacion Venezolana de Kick Boxing (F.V.K.B) led by its Chairman, Mr. Ydre Ortega, was officially recognized by the Comité Olimpico Venezolano on September 14th, 2017.

Mr. Paulo Zorello, WAKO PANAM President, comments:

"A further step forward for WAKO and WAKO PANAM Continental Division, we all are working very hard to support our members and help them in the development of kickboxing at national level. Mr. Ydre Ortega did really a very good job, my personal congratulations to him and to the entire Federacion Venezolana for a brilliant future in the name of kickboxing!"

WAKO Mexico reached official government recognition

"National Federation of Kick Boxing Mexico, A.C." led by Chairman Mr. Fernando Granados Leon has obtained the official recognition as National Sports Association from the Mexican Government, through the National Commission of Physical Culture and Sport (CONADE).





Irish Open International for Peace & Sport Cup

Dublin,
2nd March - 5th March 2017

THE CROWD IN DUBLIN



For more than twenty years, the beginning of March is the time when the world kickboxing checkpoint is in Dublin. The 2017 edition of the Irish Open International Cup extended its name with: Peace and Sport (Irish Open International Cup for Peace and Sport). This was the sign of a new era of the WAKO, starting an active cooperation with the World's organization Peace&Sport. It was good opportunity to host high ranked guests from international sport organizations during the Irish Open. The WAKO had the opportunity to host Mr. Joel Bouzou, Peace&Sport President with his closest colleague Ms. Iris Vlachoutsicos, a representative of the ISPC, Irish Society for the protection of Children, where every year Irish Open Kickboxing tournament donates money, Ms. Kristina Thuree from the European sector of the IWG, Mr. Tibor Kozsla, a representative of the E-learning Academy, Mr. Mike Joyce, the IOC representative, and as every year, the highest representatives of Irish government and representatives of Irish sports organizations and the Ministry of sport.

Beside the diplomats and politicians, we had in Dublin gathered the best fighters from around the globe gathered in Dublin as well as the youngest at the earliest age. It was a fantastic display of knowledge, experience, skill mixed with children's laughter, sometimes tears, and their spirit for the fight at the earliest stage. They were fighting at the close areas sending the precious message to the world: in sport, people are better than they even think they are. Sport brings the best of us.

The main issue the WAKO had during Irish Open was the meeting with Mr. Mike Joyce, the IOC representative, in which the WAKO had a brief retrospective of the IOC application for the recognition, all with the prospect of upcoming IOC Executive Board Meeting where new sports in the recognition process are to be discussed.

The second important issue was the signing of the Brighton Plus Helsinki 2014 Declaration on Women and Sport. During the ceremony, a Memorandum of



Ms. Iris Vlachoutsicos, Borislav Pelevic, Espen Lund, Mike Joyce, Joel Bouzou and Roy Baker

An interesting fact is that there were three categories with the numerous registered number of fighters:

1. Point fighting senior male - 74kg: 65 competitors
2. Point fighting junior male - 63kg: 59 competitors
3. Point fighting younger cadets -37kg: 58 competitors.





The World Association of Kickboxing Organizations WAKO and Peace and Sport successfully promote peace through sport

More than 4,000 athletes committed to social change gathered from 2-5 March in Dublin for the 2017 Irish Open International, an event organized by the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) in collaboration of Peace and Sport.

This year, once again, athletes, referees and the martial arts community participating in the Europe's largest kickboxing tournament accepted to donate the event's profits to the ISPCC, Ireland's national child protection charity. In the last three years alone this event has raised over €46,000 for the Children's Charity

During this edition, WAKO representatives and fighters also got mobilized around the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace taking place on April 6 and accepted to participate in a massive way in the #white card campaign. The WhiteCard, a Peace and Sport digital campaign, is a symbol of commitment to peace efforts worldwide through sports.

Joël Bouzou, President-Founder of Peace and Sport declared during the event: "Peace and Sport sets itself the objective to further the progress of Peace through Sport. We are today very happy and proud to work with WAKO in this noble vent and hope that many new athletes and beneficiaries will learn from kickboxing values."

Roy Baker, Chairman Irish Open Organizing Committee affirmed that "Peace and Sport is a strategic partner with WAKO IF and something we believe aligns itself with our chosen charity and the unique nature of the Irish Open contributing annually to society in support of vulnerable children"



E-learning presentation

Understanding as well as a declaration were signed between the IWG representative Ms. Kristina Thuree and Dr. Borislav Pelevic, the WAKO President. The WAKO Women Committee representatives had a separate meeting with Ms. Thuree, where they discussed about practical ways of implementing the Declaration and making it transparent in the WAKO.

As it was said, the Peace&Sport and the WAKO started very intensive cooperation on many issues, so Mr. Bouzou had a fantastic opportunity to promote The White Card Campaign during the competition. The sports hall was full of energy while all the participants in the competition raised their hands with a white card in it, showing solidarity to peace and tolerance. The Peace&Sport has launched a campaign which has brought together a group of



Revision of WAKO Application for IOC Recognition with Mr. Mike Joyce from IOC

over 90 high-level sportsmen who have committed themselves to promote the peace through a sports movement, "Champions for Peace". They work together to make sport a tool for dialogue and social cohesion, and they are very active in the White Card campaign.

This competition was also a good opportunity to make an initial contact with presentation with Mr. Tibor Kozsla and E-learning Academy, as the WAKO has plans to introduce long-distance learning and e-learning in many fields.

Fighting at the Irish Open was full of surprises like every year. The fights in the qualifications were as spectacular as in the finals. It were registered 300 clubs from all around the world and in total there were 3972 entries.



Lifetime achievement award to Daz Ellis



Presentation award to the members of Kickboxing Ireland

The best teams senior male and female are:

male team:

1. Kiraly Team (Hun)
2. Top Ten team Germany
3. Top Ten team UK
3. Barrus team (Rus)

female team:

1. Europe sport karate (Ger)
2. Aikya team (Ita)
3. Fighter sport Norway
3. Kiraly team (Hun)

The most interesting fights were for sure Grand Champion open weight senior fights.

male team:

1. Zsolt Morady (Hun)
2. Felton Jack (USA)
3. Veres Roland (Hun)
3. Raymond Daniels (USA)

female division:

1. Evelyn Neyens (Ger)
2. Gullotti Luisa (Ita)
3. Rast Cheyenne (Swi)
3. Sturzaker Bev (UK)

One of the most interesting fights between a young champion Everil Elijah (UK) and a fantastic champion Felton Jack, PF senior male -74kg, where the spectators enjoyed in a rarely seen a good fight, good combination of youth and experience. Roman Brundl took gold in PF senior male -89kg, but he couldn't defeat Raymond Daniels PF SM -94kg. Gullotti Luisa was standardly perfect and got gold in PF SF -60kg and her club mate, Pantaleo Elena, won gold in -65kg.

These are just some of the numerous fantastic fights which were seen during the competition. As always, everything can be seen on the Sportdata.org archive.

Let photos speak instead of the words.

M.P.



The Austrian Classics WAKO World Cup Innsbruck, 21st-23rd April 2017

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUCCESS

20th Anniversary for great kickboxing tournament this year was a celebration of sport and fair play. 32 nations represented with 2176 entries in the event from 242 clubs made this Austrian Classics special again.

K1, Full contact, kick light, light contact and point fighting were disciplined on the schedule.

Even the host had one of the numerous teams - 326 athletes, the most numerous were Italian team: a record of 398 athletes confirmed Italy as one of the best kickboxing nations in WAKO.

Even Iraq (2) and the United States (7) had its representatives, what makes this tournament even more prestigious.

Italy, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Czech Republic were five the best nations in the medals statistics.

In the ranking order the best teams/clubs are:

1. Czech full contact union (Cze),
2. Kiralyteam Kickboxing Academy (Hun) and
3. Kickboxing zveza Slovenie (Slo).

Grand Champion in Junior male division was Everill Eliah, Team Top Ten UK and Grand Champion open weight senior male again this year was Roman Brundl.

Grand Champion junior female trophy went to Angelino Domenica, Team Barrus Italy and in the senior division, the best lady was Nagy Henrietta Kiralyteam Kickboxing Academy.

Point Fighting Grand Champion Open Weight Seniors male was the category with the highest number of entries: 38 in total and behind goes category point fighting senior men -79 kg with the 34 entries.

WAKO President was present at the Cup as well as the mayor of the Innsbruck, who was extremely interested in WAKO disciplines and competitions.

M.P.





TIME TABLE of the Tournament:

Friday, April 21st, 2017 4 pm started Full contact, K1 5 pm started Team fight, under green belts and beginners Point fighting

Saturday, April 22nd, 2017 9.00 am started Grand champion, juniors, and seniors, Point fighting all categories and ring sports, semi-finals and finals, Light contact and Kick light: from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Sunday, April 23rd, 2017 9.00 am started Light contact, Kick-Light and Ring sports finals.

The organizers and hosts of this event, Peter and Michael Kruckenhouser were satisfied with the competition and the fights, trying their best to make the stay of all teams unforgettable.





WAKO SOUTH AFRICA
FANTASTIC EXAMPLE OF A GOOD
PRACTICE IN DEVELOPING KICKBOXING

HUGE STEPS TO THE FUTURE

A fantastic example of a good practice in the WAKO member country South Africa can stand as a standard how to develop a sport. Integrity, hard work, discipline with the right organization could help you achieve quality goals.

Over the past 15 years it has been 11 times that teams from Canada were spending time in South Africa for duo-team events.

The competitions have always been amazing but the incredible hospitality offered by the South African Kickboxing Association was memorable and remarkable.

In July 2017 was the last time that another WAKO Canadian Kickboxing team had been to South Africa. This has become a tradition of the good practice exchanging the experiences in training.

The United Martial Arts International Dojo in Benoni, South Africa was particularly active in organizing a development kickboxing seminar with the WAKO Canadian team.

The seminar was conducted by the Canadian Kickboxing team president Mr. Muzammal Nawaz and his student Mr Jeff Blake, also a coach.

"This is not the first time Canadians are visiting friends in South Africa. The athletes had a wonderful experience in this duo-team event. Not only did they get a chance to compete against their South African counterparts in both Thabazimbi and Kempton Park but they got to experience many amazing adventures," said Mr. Nawaz. "The two competitions were tough for our young team that had athletes making their first international trip. Despite the lack of international experience each member of the team fought with incredible heart and skills beyond their years. As one of the coaches of the team I was incredibly proud

Aslam Mahomed enjoying Q&A at the Forum



The WAKO National Executive Members with Deputy Mayor Honorable Mrs. Fawzia Peer

of each athlete. I believe that each of these athletes will take this experience and have many more great opportunities in the sport of kickboxing. I also believe that they will see similarities between people living in different parts of the world."

"Training with these athletes and coaches was astonishing," said Mr. Aslam Mahomed, a multiple world martial arts champion and the president of the United Martial Arts International. "Many high ranking kickboxing instructors attended the seminar including the **President of the WAKO Kickboxing South Africa Organization Mr. Pat Carney**, the President of Kickboxing KwaZulu-Natal Mr. Allan Mahomed, **Mrs Marie Carney a National Executive member & Women in Sport** and our special guest **Mr. Gideon Sam, the President of South African Sports Confederation and the Olympic Committee (SASCOC)**. Mr. Gideon Sam attended the seminar, watched our Benoni kickboxing athletes in training and really enjoyed the seminar. He wasn't hiding his satisfaction about development of kickboxing in South Africa. We are sure that he supports the WAKO kickboxing 100%", added Mr. Aslam Mahomed.

According to the plan adopted in the WAKO South Africa, the most important aim of the organization is to continue to uplift women and the young in South Africa to join sports, especially in the rural areas.

The President of the South African Kickboxing Association - Mr Pat Carney - is firm when the SAKA (South African Kickboxing Association) is planning projects like this for children, not because of accomplishing the goals in sport but more because of making friendships, developing various opportunities in life, learning to respect and to be proud of achievements, learning to take care of their health.

These activities were not invisible to the Government.

The Deputy Mayor of KwaZulu Natal Ms. Fawzia Peer visited the Kickboxing National Championships held in Durban in April 2017 and conducted the opening ceremony. The Deputy Mayor Ms Fawzia Peer also visited the Champions at the Durban Gym and very often spends time with them. Let's say - good example of responsible government.

Furthermore, there is intense cooperation between the SAKA and the SASCOC concerning joining programs for the developing sport, especially exchanging the knowledge and experience about the coaching systems. A fantastic opportunity for action was the SAKA executive member Mr Aslam Mahomed joining the conference "10th



Junior Males from nine different provinces throughout South Africa at the WAKO South African National Championships 2017, held in Durban & hosted by Mr Aslam Mahomed. This is what we call the Rainbow Nation



WAKO Juniors & Cadets World Championships 2016 Ireland

International Forum of Elite Sport and High Performance" held in Durban, South Africa. Among plenary sessions, discussions and lecturing, Mr. Mahomed had a very constructive meeting with senior management of the SASCOC Coaches System, Ms. Desiree Vardhan and joined the Women in Sport & Voice of the Athlete discussion, which was followed by the session of answering the questions to the public. Not to mention good cooperation of the SAKA with the President of SASCOC Mr Gideon Sam, who had an exceptional presentation of sports in South Africa & the African Continent, stressing that the future of sports for the African Continent is bright.

Furthermore the IOC member Mr Sam Ramsamy met Mr Aslam Mahomed at this conference.

There is an ongoing cooperation between the WAKO South Africa (SAKA) and the WAKO Turkey, where the two presidents signed a Memorandum of Understanding which opened the doors to organize various new events. There was already organized a Gala match South Africa vs. Turkey in amateur kick boxing, ring disciplines was also organized.

Mr Josh Cloete hosted the WAKO Turkey Team and the WAKO Mauritius Team in Cape Town in 2017.

Along the yearly schedule, South Africa holds National championships every year and this year the SAKA SA



Preparations for the WAKO Senior World Championships Hungary 2017, Male National Team led by Mr Pat Carney (WAKO South African Chairman)



The WAKO South Africa promotes the development of children via Kickboxing and we cater for our Tiny Tots at our Championships



Aslam Mahomed with Mr. Gideon Sam from OC South Africa

Kickboxing National Championships was held in Durban on the 28th, 29th & 30th of April 2017 and hosted by Mr Aslam Mahomed.

The short term goal for the end of the year is to focus on the team South Africa to thoroughly prepare for the WAKO World Championships in Budapest.

The Champs from Africa are pushing strenuous training sessions in order to bring the World Titles back to beautiful African Continent.

M.P.



The winners of both Males and Females on the WAKO South African Top Ten Team Challenge 2017 - The Dream Team



The winners of the WAKO South African Top Ten Team Challenge 2017 The Dream Team Males with Canadian Team Leader Mr Muzzammal



The WAKO South African National Team at the Turkish Open 2017



INTERVIEW WITH JULIE SOLWOLD

Vice president and PR of Lifestyle Sports for John Paul Mitchell Systems in the United States

THE SECRET OF SUCCESS



Julie Solwold with Mike Sawyer, ISKA President

1. What is the main thing that you are doing with John Paul Mitchell systems team?

-We have been doing this for 30 years now, and when we started we were primarily a fighting team. In the past 30 years, as Forms and Weapons have grown in popularity with the younger generation. We realized that kids like to be challenged by something creative, which is why we expanded so greatly into Forms. You have to keep the integrity of the martial arts in every discipline, but you have to be open to change to be relevant to a new generation.

2. What is the background of the Musical forms?

-It's a form that is choreographed to music. Different disciplines can allow flips, spins, kicks, aerials and very difficult gymnastic-type moves, but the routine must always be rooted in the fundamentals of the martial arts. It is not a dance performance, it is always based on solid martial arts moves.

3. Do Paul Mitchell competitors compete as regular kick boxers in the ring or on the tatami, or just as the musical forms?

-In general, most of the Forms competitors don't fight very often. It takes a different skill set to be a Forms competitor than a Fighter because there are so many creative moves to showcase. You're in the ring by yourself – the judges are scoring you on how you move, not how you hit an opponent. Like any sport, the better you want to be, the more you have to specialize. The fundamentals of Fighting and Forms are the same – the manner of expressing them are very different.

4. How do you manage to do all the work that you have to do? Considering that the United States is huge, and you have to do a lot of traveling from one state to another, isn't it tiring?

-I don't run the team by myself. I have an excellent 5-person executive team that handles the entire Karate Team for the company. They scout for years and select the team members after careful consideration. They are looking for the best competitors from all over the world, and don't just look for the best talent, but for the best character. We will sometimes choose a person who may not be at the top of their division, but they have great character and integrity. We can teach them to be a better competitor. It is important to my company our Team members have a good hearts and always give back.

My Team and I regularly visit children's hospitals and teach the kids there about martial arts. Not only do we teach them, but they teach us. They teach us that we should be grateful for what we have and for the opportunities that have been offered to us.

5. What are your plans for now and for the near future?

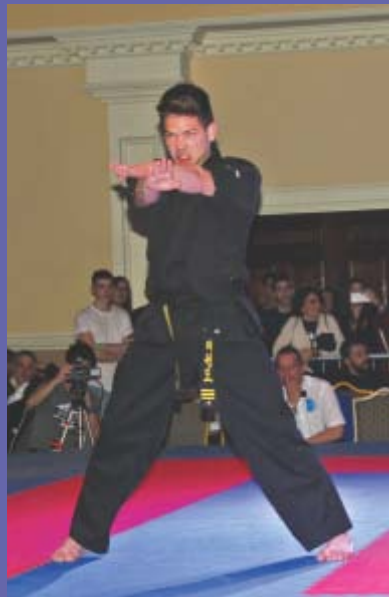
- The sport is evolving quickly in the US, and our goal is to grow the Forms and Weapons divisions as quickly internationally, with uniform and universally recognized judging criteria. We must adapt to the changing tastes of the new generations if we want to grow. You need to keep it fresh if you want to attract more people into our sport. The new, creative disciplines offer the opportunity to bring new customers in who might not have wanted to do only traditional martial arts. A completely new revenue stream bringing more money into the sport. We want to be a role model to others. We want to encourage other countries to think outside traditional martial arts and get creative with opportunities for new customers. Adapt to the changing market.

6. How do you finance your work?

-It is tough, especially because we live in the USA, where not many sports are funded by the government. My company is privately owned, and the owner, John Paul De Joria, deeply believes in the values that the martial arts were

Julie Solwold with WAKO President and Vice President





Team Paul Mitchell Sports engages in a wide variety of lifestyle sports and events and sponsors a full roster of professional athletes.

Some 27 years ago, Paul Mitchell® Co-founder and CEO John Paul DeJoria offered head coach Don Rodrigues a corporate sponsorship of his karate team, believing that the founding principles of the martial arts were the same as those of DeJoria's young company: Respect, Honor, Integrity, Discipline. With that simple vision Team Paul Mitchell Karate was formed, and since then, our Team members have won more World Championships than any other team in the history of sport karate.

Team boasts some of the world's leading martial artists, including Caitlin Dechelle, Tyler Weaver, Jackson Rudolph and Justin Ortiz.

Every year Paul Mitchell team participates at Irish Open International, where we have the opportunity to see the perfect level of their performance.

founded upon: Honor, Integrity, Discipline and Respect. These are the very same principles he built John Paul Mitchell Systems upon, which is why he has continued to support the martial arts for 30 years

7. Can we see any of your fighters fighting on international tournaments?

-We had seen that there was an amazing amount of fighting talent internationally, so when we lost a few of our US fighters to injury, we looked overseas for their

replacements. We picked up team members from Hungary, so once again had a full, strong team to fight in the US. When fighting internationally, you will see the Americans in Team Paul Mitchell uniforms, fighting with their Hungarian partners on Team Kiraly. The American Fighters will fight individually as well, and fight their Team Kiraly teammates in their weight divisions. That is true international Team Fighting!

M.P.

SAP
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PASSIONE E STILE
PASSION AND STYLE

CRISTINACARUSO

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2nd BOLIVARIAN KICKBOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Organizer: WAKO Ecuador with the support of WAKO PANAM

200 athletes from 4 countries gathered in the city of Santo Domingo de los Colorados in the Republic of Ecuador, for the 2nd Bolivian Kickboxing Championship. The event was part of the agenda for the 50 Years of Cantonizing the city of Santo Domingo. The competition was held in the synthetic arena of the Arena Sport Complex, on June 16, 17 and 18, 2017. Friday 16th was reserved for the weighing of the fighters. On Saturday 17th, 82 fights were on the tatami, in the disciplines: Point Fight, Light Contact, Kick Light and on Sunday there were 28 matches in the Ring Full Contact, Low Kick, K1 - Rules, as well as competition in Musical Forms with Weapons and without Weapons.

The participating countries were Peru, Colombia, Venezuela and the host Ecuador and competitors were in the divisions: Children, Youth and Senior.

Once the event has ended, there was a positive balance of 0 injuries and the official results of the competition are:

1. Peru (Gold 43, Silver 08, Bronze 01) Total = 52 Medals
2. Ecuador (Gold 28, Silver 24, Bronze 12) Total = 64 Medals
3. Venezuela (Gold 10, Silver 01, Bronze 01) Total = 12 Medals
4. Colombia (Gold 03, Silver 04, Bronze 00) Total = 07 Medals

During the closing ceremony, the authorities from WAKO Pan Am were present: Darío Alvarado and Rafael Moreira, President of WAKO PERU Dr. Wilmer Rojas Flores, Secretary General Ruben Lara, President of WAKO RING ECUADOR Efrén González Cabezas, The Mayor of Santo Domingo Of the Tsachilas Mr. Víctor Quirola.



M.P.





WAKO referee camp in Bansko Bulgaria 27th-30th July

REFEREES TAKING ACTION



July was reserved for the first WAKO training camp for referees for tatami styles. The event was initiated by WAKO referee committee for tatami styles as an integral part of the complex program for WAKO referee development.

The event was focused on rules teaching and practical training, critical analysis, team building and improvement of WAKO referee status. More than 60 referees from 13 countries participated in this memorable event, including members of WAKO referee committee for tatami sports.

The event was hosted by WAKO Bulgaria, who organized it with passion, devotion, experience and professionalism and who sponsored most of the organization costs - provision of free conference rooms, sports hall for practical training, but also entertainment, and teambuilding parties.

All 60 referees enjoyed the three days program, specially prepared by The Chairman of WAKO referee committee for tatami sports Mr. Brian and WAKO Bulgaria. No one noticed how fast the first day passed – lot of emotions,

discussions, opinions exchange – theoretical part with rules explanation, correct rules applying, analysis of critical situations etc. The impressive teambuilding and ice breaking exercises used by Gina Engelhardt motivated all participants to do their best during the second day of practical training..

Committee members Peter Markland from Great Britain, Ivo Vodopivec from Slovenia and Gina Engelhardt from Netherlands who run the practical part of the camp

on three tatamis did excellent work leading the scenarios fights, all referees have got lot of good experience.

The third last day of the camp was not less intensive, with final referee exam .

An other memorable event took place in Bansko – a meeting between WAKO referee committee for tatami sports and top WAKO coaches which participated in WAKO Bulgaria national training summer camp in Bansko: Gianfranco Rizzi, Tomas Barada, Manuel Nordio, Andrey Kotov, Ivan Georgiev. In a friendly and open discussion all of them focused on different rules problems. All of them unanimously agreed and accepted a proposal for WAKO rules improving to ensure progress and attractivity of all tatami styles kickboxing.

The brief summary of the feelings of all referee camp participants after the camp finished : great, useful, progressive, professional.





Balkan Open 2017

BALKAN OPEN 2017
Tešanj, Bosnia and Herzegovina
5th-6th May 2017



The participating number of entries 501, the number of competitors 354.

The number of clubs 71, the number of countries 10.

The WAKO supervisor was Mr. Srđan Bugarčić from Serbia.

The delegate from the Kickboxing Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina was Mr. Salko Zildžić.

The chief judge was Neđo Bratić, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The competition was held on 4 tatamis and 1 ring.

Balkan Open was attended by the President WAKO Balkan Kickboxing Union Vladimir Sitar, The President of the Kickboxing Federation Slovakia Peter Onušćak, the President of the Kickboxing Federation Croatia Tomislav Bilandžić, the Vice President Kickboxing Federation Lithuania Vadim Vadia, the General secretary of the Kickboxing

Federation of Serbia, Petar Petrović. The minister of Sport and the Minister of economy of Zenica-Doboj Canton, Mayor of the town of Tesanj and the Vice President WAKO Kickboxing Balkan Union Alija Ogrić were also present at the Cup.

The Balkan Open had competitors from Slovenia, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatian, Serbia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The best team in the ring disciplines was the team Flek Tom-Cat Tuzla/ Bosnia and Herzegovina and the best was in tatami discipline the Team Masaru/ Bulgaria.

The official results of the Balkan Open 2017 are at www.balkanopentesanj.com.





The 2nd International Open Kick Boxing Tournament
06-09 April 2017, Turkey, Antalya
Organizer: WAKO Turkey

WAKO in Antalya

700 athletes from 14 countries participated in the event in 1200 categories. The tournament was held at the WOW Kremline Palace, one of the best hotels in the world famous tourist city of Antalya.

The tournament was appreciated by the participating local and foreign teams, they thanked the organizer for the hospitality and the quality of the organization. The 3-day competition was held on 6 Tatami 4 rings.



TURKISH OPEN IN WAKO Kickboxing World Series

The International Turkish Open Kick Boxing Tournament was included in the WAKO Kick Boxing World Series, joining the 7 largest International Kickboxing organizations in the world.

The Kickboxing World Series is the biggest competition circuit within the WAKO, which is a series of world-class competitions. The purpose of the competition is to unite the world-class competitors in one place.

The best kick boxers in the senior categories participate in a series of tournaments throughout the year to determine the results, through certain, transparent and clear ratings achieved at every Kickboxing World Series event.

With the overall winner of the Grand Prix, annually crowned and received the coveted title of the Kickboxing World Series 2017 Champion and the share of the money prize, which is estimated at 15,000 Euros. Initially, the project consisted of seven competitions a year, all of which senior fights in Point Fighting and Ring Sports, and it is going beyond with the inclusion of International Turkish Open.

Other Kickboxing World Series events are: Athens Challenge (Greece), Irish Open (Ireland), Yokoso Dutch Open (Netherlands), Austrian Classics (Austria), Hungarian Kickboxing World Cup (Hungary), Best Fighter World Cup (Italy).

M.P.





23rd Hungarian Kickboxing
World Cup
18th-21st May 2017
Budapest, Hungary

KICKBOXING EARTHQUAKE



*Great opening ceremony
with TV live stream*

This year edition of Hungarian kickboxing World Cup was a total earthquake of kickboxing during three days of the competition.

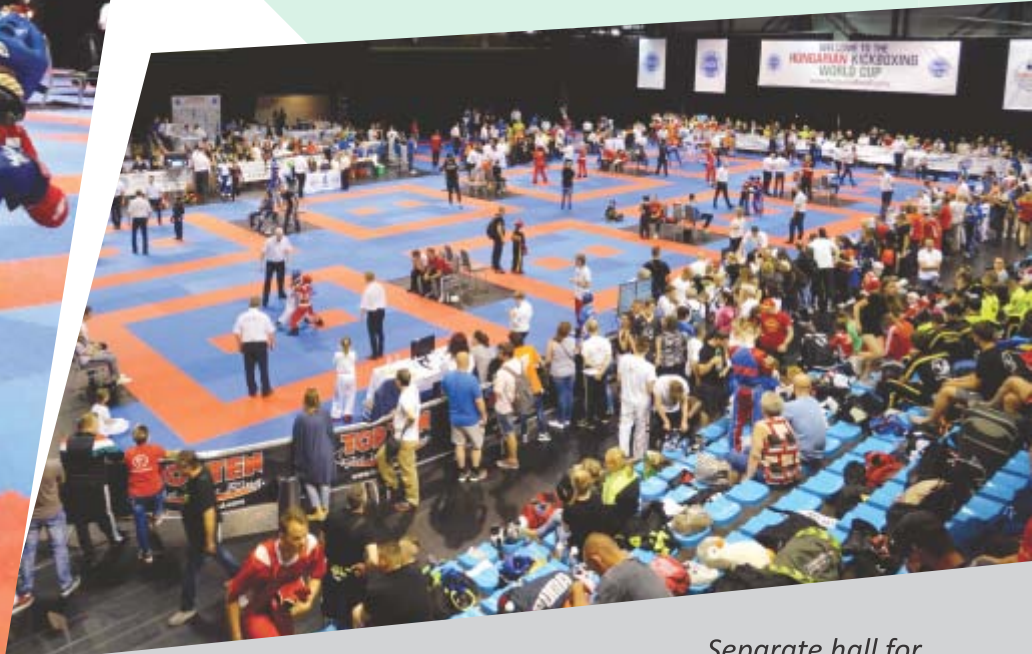
"Those ones who visited the Budapest WAKO Kickboxing World Cup in 2016 know very well that this is not only a kickboxing competition with the best athletes of the world but even more because of the beautiful Hungarian capital and wonderful surroundings. The real

quality of a world class event is even more emphasized by its organization in a metropolis", stressed Mr. Peter Galambosh, WAKO Hungary President.

Organizing team consisted of Peter Galambos - President of WAKO Hungary, Istvan Kiraly - Vice President of WAKO Hungary, Gabor Juhasz - Vice President of WAKO Hungary, Krisztian Jaroszkievicz - 7x WAKO World Champion and Zsolt Moradi - 8x WAKO World Champion did the best to raise the quality of all facilities connected to the competition.

Fantastic venue reserved only for tatami and separate hotel hall with three rings gave a full joy for participants as well as the audience, offering them to choose which part of the competition will join in.

The whole three days were fulfilled with the schedule knowing that there **was a record of 2692 entries of 1447 participants** of all ages from beginners, juniors to seniors, female and male, from 249 clubs from 38 nations from WAKO Africa, WAKO Asia, WAKO America and WAKO Europe.



*Separate hall for
tatami competition*



K-1 Rules competition was with best fighters in the World

Sign for the Championships

During the World Cup in Budapest there was a signing of the Contract between WAKO and Kick boxing organization of Bosnia and Hercegovina about organizing the World Championships in disciplines: K1, low kick and light contact 2019 in Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Signing was between Dr. Borislav Pelević, WAKO President and Mr. Alija Ogrić, VicePresident of Kick boxing Organization of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

Mr. Ogrić enclosed written support of Government of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Ministry of sport and the whole project documentation.

The exact dates and official call will be announced later on.





It can be said that gold medal of the winners of these categories is the medal with the strongest shine. The **best five nations** were: Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Ireland and the Czech Republic.

Ranking of the **three best clubs** is:
 1. Kiralyteam Kickboxing Academy
 2. Kickboxing zveza Slovenie
 3. HMD Italy

The best point fighting team junior is **CSKA Moscow (Russia)**, the best PF team younger cadets are a Debretzeni team (Hungary), the best PF older cadets team is **HMD 1 (Italy)**, the best point fighting team senior is **Kiralyteam (Hungary)**. Grand champion of Hungarian Cup 2017 in the junior male division is McGlinchey Conor (Ireland), in senior division is Veres Richard (Hungary).

As always, the toughest concurrency with **the numerous number of fighters** was in the following categories:

- Point fighting grand champion senior male: total 32 fighters
- Point fighting grand champion senior female: 23 fighters
- PF younger cadets male -37 kg: 31 fighter
- PF older cadets male -63kg: 24 fighter
- PF junior male -63kg: 21 fighters
- PF senior male -74kg: 24 fighters
- Light contact younger cadets male -37kg: 20 fighters
- Kick Light younger cadets male -37kg: 20 fighters
- Kick Light older cadets male -52kg: 20 fighters
- K-1 rules senior male -81kg: 14 fighters.

The most numerous team was Hungarian, with **719 participants** from **49 kickboxing clubs**. There we had **Italy** with 213 participants from 21 club, **Ukraine** with 155 participants, **Bulgaria** with 143 participants, **Austria** with 125, the **United Kingdom** with 117, **Greece** with 108, **Poland** with 103, and **Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Russian Federation** with almost a 100 participants per a team.

WAKO can be proud with these great numbers.



Referees and judges seminar was mandatory for all WAKO judges



Characteristic of this edition of event was massive number of youngest fighters

Interesting fact is that WAKO Guatemala team was present at the Cup with 25 competitors and won second place in point fighting older cadets team fight, Letona Enrike won gold medal in point fighting older cadets male -69kg and bronze medal in point fighting grand champion, Mendez Rafael won silver medal

in point fighting younger cadets male -37 kg and gold medal in point fighting younger cadets white and yellow -42kg, Garcia Nicholas won bronze in light contact older cadets male -57 kg, Garcia Andres won bronze in light contact senior male -69kg and bronze in kick light senior male -69 kg, Safieh Christopher

won third place in kick light older cadets male -47 kg. Congratulations WAKO Guatemala, for a great success of its young team! Don't forget that the shortest distance from Guatemala to Budapest (bird fly) is

10,228 km= 6,355 miles!

In female junior division the grand champion is Rossi Martina (Italy) and in the senior female division is Pantaleo Elena (Greece).

Characteristic of this edition of event was massive number of youngest fighters. They were the real star of this Cup, so disciplined, focused and motivated for competition. This has to be pointed as the great admire for their coaches in the clubs.

M.P.



KICKBOXING
EARTHQUAKE



European Championships for cadets and juniors

Skoplje, FYR Macedonia
2-10th September 2017

SHINE OF THE YOUTH AND SPORT

After 3 inspiring days of competition at the WAKO European Championships in the beautiful city of Skopje, we have reached the final result. A busy week first started with the actual the WAKO Board meeting and the Ordinary WAKO Europe General Assembly, where the WAKO had ordinary election process of the President and the new Board of directors. The elections confirmed the acting president of the WAKO Europe, Roy Baker to become the

new President of the WAKO Europe. This position became vacant (run by the acting President until the elections) when Borislav Pelevic, the former WAKO Europe President was elected as the WAKO IF President in 2015 and resigned from the European position. The news is that it was established a vacant position among Vice Presidents, where we have now the 1st Vice President and two Vice Presidents, with 9 more Board members.

After the official draw was finished, regularly scheduled referee seminars were held for tatami and ring and September 5 was reserved for the opening ceremony and the start of the competition.

In total 1,563 athletes from 37 nations took part, fighting in all 7 disciplines of all age groups (the youngest cadets, younger cadet, older cadets, and juniors).

Russia had the most numerous team with 176 athletes, followed



Final result of the championships stands like this: the best country

	gold	silver	bronze
1. Russia	57	45	33
2. Hungary	20	22	30
3. Italy	18	17	25
4. Ireland	14	11	13
5. UK	12	11	24
6. Serbia	11	4	8
7. Croatia	10	10	24
8. Bulgaria	10	10	23
9. Turkey	9	14	18
10. Poland	9	11	46



by Poland (150), Hungary (138), Italy (112) and Greece (111).

FYRO Macedonia has experience in hosting major events already having held senior World and European championships in the past in 2011 and 2006 respectively, but this was the first time for the President of the FYROM WAKO Federation Mr. Dejan Mitrovski Urko who has excelled in bringing a world class event back to the "Boris Trajkovski Sport Centre", which is named after the former FYRO Macedonian President.

M.P.

General Assembly of the WAKO Europe **THE NEW PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The WAKO EUROPE held its Ordinary General Assembly on Monday, September 4, 2017 in Skopje, FYROM. The delegates representing 35 countries, members of the WAKO Europe were present.

In his opening words the WAKO Europe Acting President, Mr. Roy Baker has welcomed all the delegates and congratulated them on their hard work in the development of kickboxing in their own countries. Mr. Roy Baker presented his annual report of activities and future plans which were approved unanimously. Such as Acting President's report, Financial Statement 2016, Budget 2017 and Draft Budget 2018 were also approved unanimously.

The Chairman of various WAKO Europe Committees presented their reports of the activities in their committees of the WAKO Europe Assembly Delegates and reports were then approved unanimously as well.

It is on this WAKO Europe General Assembly that the process of elections for the position of the WAKO Europe President and WAKO Europe Board Members started.

The delegates elected Mr. Roy Baker from Ireland the new WAKO Europe President by unanimous decision.

For the new WAKO Europe Board, Delegates elected:

- 1. Mr. Istvan Kiraly (Hungary) - the First Vice President**
- 2. Mr Salim Kayici (Turkey) - the Vice President**
- 3. Mrs Francesca Falsoni (Italy) - the Vice President**
- 4. Mr. Yury Filimonov (Russia) - a member**
- 5. Mr Nikolaus Gstattner (Austria) - member**
- 6. Mrs Katarzyna Kocisewska (Poland) - a member**
- 7. Ms. Olga Pavlenko (Ukraine) - a member**
- 8. Mr. Daimi Akin (Norway) - a member**
- 9. Mr. Romeo Desa (Croatia) - a member**
- 10. Mr. Tomaz Barada (Slovenia) - a member**
- 11. Ms Michaela Kovacova (Slovakia) - a member**
- 12. Michail Trantafillou (Greece) - a member**

Congratulations to the new WAKO Europe President Mr. Roy Baker and to all the new WAKO Europe Board members on their election on these important and responsible positions. We are sure that with them kickboxing and the WAKO Europe are in safe hands.





Extraordinary General Assembly of National Kickboxing Federation WAKO India

11th June 2017, Conference Hall, Maharishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, HARYANA, INDIA

NEW ELECTED PRESIDENT AND GOVERNING COUNCIL OF WAKO INDIA



National Kickboxing Federation WAKO India held its Extraordinary General Assembly for elections and constitution of permanent Governing Council of WAKO India.

The General Assembly and the elections were held in the free, fair and democratic atmosphere, in the accordance with the Statutes of WAKO IF.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Devender Singh Dhull, Director of Sports department– Maharish Dayanand University, Rohatak, Haryana, and the Chairman of Recognition Committee of 'Association of

Indian Universities (AIU)' . He was elected to be Election Presiding Officer (EPO).

After approving that all participating members are familiar with Agenda of the General Assembly and with the announced elections, and when was the nominated list of their representatives in the elections approved, they gave the written consent to the elections.

Among 29 participating India's states at the Assembly, 26 voted for the new President.

The newly elected President of WAKO India is Mr. Santosh Kumar Agrawal.

Mr. Santosh Agrawal expressed his gratitude and thanked the members who participated and voted for him, thanked the Election Presiding Officer for the transparent, free and democratic procedure of the elections which were conducted in accordance with the WAKO IF Statutes, WAKO India Statutes, as well as the law of India.

Mr. Agrawal confirmed his deep conviction that his further activities shall be undertaken for the benefit of WAKO India, WAKO IF and the benefit and prosperity of kickboxing sport, in the true manner of sportsmanship and fair play.

After electing the new President, EPO declared the results of the elections, announced the elected President and closed the elections procedure.

The organization under Mr. Santosh Agrawal proceed with the legal registration with the new name: "WAKO India Kickboxing Federation" and they already have received the confirmation letter from Ministry of Corporate Affairs Government of India.



WAKO INDIA Referee Seminar 2017

WAKO if would like to congratulate WAKO India on organisation of the official WAKO referee seminar, approved by WAKO ring and tatami refereeing committees and WAKO President.

It was held in India during 3rd- 6th august, 2017.

There was 165 referees & 20 officials participating from all over the country (27 states).

The seminar was held by Mr. Yury lakhtikov, Chairman of referee committee, ring sports, and WAKO Chief Referee for tatami, Mr. Brian William Beck.

On the seminar there were also WAKO India governing council members - Mr. Santosh K. Agrawal, President, Mr. Anil Kalyan, General secretary, Mr. Wasim Ahmad, Sr. Vice President & Mr. Harsh Dahiya, Treasurer in traditional way by the WAKO Maharashtra state President Mr. Santosh Mhatre.



165 referees and 20 officials participating from all over the country



WAKO Asian Kickboxing Confederation Championships 2016 2017

Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
24th- 30th April 2017.

After the successful organization of K1 Rules Asian Championships during September 2016, Asian Kickboxing Confederation (WAKO ASIA) organized the Asian Kickboxing Confederation Championships from the 24th – 30th of April in the “Pearl of Central Asia” Ashgabat capital of Turkmenistan.

15 Countries from the 5 different zones of the Asian Continent (East, South East, South, Central and West Asia) with their best fighters competed in Full Contact, Low Kick, K1 Rules (in selected categories which were excluded in Korea in September 2016), Light Contact, Kick Light, Point Fighting and Musical forms.

However, this is the first time that Asian Kickboxing Confederation organized WAKO ASIA Championships 2016/2017 with complete Olympic Standard at the occasion of “Inspiring Ashgabat” the Test Event series of competition used for the 5th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games at the boasting of the most advanced facilities in the region, the Ashgabat Olympic Complex with the collaboration of the Executive Committee of 5th Asian Indoor & martial Arts Games.

Dr. Borislav Pelevic, WAKO President was present at the event during the two days of the finals and had the opportunity to visit the Olympic Complex. Many officials from the political establishment visited the competition, including the different Ambassadors in duty in Ashgabat such as Islamic Republic of Iran Ambassador His Excellency Seyed Mohammad Ahmadi.



Mr. Nasser Nassiri, President of Asian Kickboxing Confederation (WAKO Asia) opened the event with his speech:

“We, Asian Kickboxing Confederation and its Board of Directors express our deepest gratitude to the President of Turkmenistan for granting us the organization of Asian Championships in such a wonderful venue. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the great success of this event. This is a historic occasion, and we're proud to be here in this great country.”

Auditorium of the completely new built Martial Arts Arena in Ashgabat - the capacity of 5000 people - was almost fully booked during the Opening Ceremony on 26th April, Wednesday. The Chairman of the Sports Committee Turkmenistan greeted WAKO Asia, hundreds of dancers and musicians entered the sports hall and presented a great show combining Turkmenistan's traditions with modern art.

KICKBOXING IN WHITE CITY ASHGABAT



Beautiful sport hall full of the audience

323 registered athletes from 15 countries were competing during 5 days of competition.

The highlights were the ring sports fights and the fighters, Hallyyev Shohrat (Turkmenistan), Ali Aday (Jordan), Khoshkalam Soleiman Seyed Amir (Iran) Begmatov Chyngyz (Kyrgyz Republic) and many others dazzled the auditorium with world-class performances. Following this great event, the next step is moving forward to the Asian Indoor & Martial Art Games, which is announced for September 2017 in Ashgabat.





INTERVIEW WITH OLGA PAVLENKO, THE WAKO UKRAINA PRESIDENT

CHARM AND DETERMINATION

It is sure that there is no person in WAKO who doesn't know Olga, who didn't hear her laugh, saw her tender face and her sparkling eyes. But as much as one thinks that knows Olga, he will be as much surprised how the strong, dedicated and willing person she is.

Under a gentle cover, inside there is a smart woman who loves the sport, former competitor who is familiar with all athletes tricks, today WAKO Ukraine President, who runs one of the biggest and most successful WAKO nation.

Here is a small part of her profile, just to know better this fantastic woman.

kickboxing federation. When I was younger, I had a chance to choose between having a career in sports or having a career in the jobs that I had previously studied. I chose sports over my 3 degrees, and I think I made the right choice.

→ **2. How do you manage to be a President, considering the fact that the Ukrainian federation is so big? Also, do you get support from the Ukrainian government?**

- Yes, we do get support from the government, and I am also the Vice-president of the Ukrainian sports committee. I created a very good team in the Ukrainian kickboxing federation, when I first came there, I changed the entire system. It was hard, but it had to be done.

→ **3. Do you have fighters in all of the WAKO disciplines?**

-Yes, we do. The most popular WAKO disciplines in Ukraine are K1 and tatami disciplines.

→ **4. What is the main thing we should focus on in the WAKO future?**

-WAKO has a very good perspective. I think that we should focus on joining the Olympic games. We are



With WAKO President and Vice President



With Ennio Falsoni

→ **1. From when is Olga in kickboxing and how did you join kickboxing? Tell us about your history in kickboxing.**

-I started dancing at the age of 7, and I decided to stop at the age of 14. When I stopped dancing, I took up kickboxing, and I really liked it. I wanted to do it professionally. I won my first championship as a junior when I was 15, and after that, I made a proposal to be a judge. Quickly after becoming a judge, I started working in the kickboxing federation as a lawyer. Now I'm a kickboxing coach, and I train a lot of people who are also interested in kickboxing. I have three college degrees, and I use all of them to do my best in the

doing our best to make that happen, and we have high hopes.

→ **5. How come that woman are interested in kickboxing when it is considered as a "Mens' sport"? Do people have anything against the fact that a woman is a president of WAKO Ukraine?**

-Anyone can be interested in this beautiful sport that we are involved in. No one really minded me being the President as a woman and that's because I'm really doing my best, and I really try to make this federation better every day. So far, we didn't have any problems with discrimination whatsoever.



→ **6. How do you train your coaches and judges?**

-Our team provides lessons for future coaches and judges. I am in charge of those lessons. We make sure that everybody gets the training and education that they need because it is really important to have highly educated judges and coaches.

→ **7. How many kickboxing clubs does the Ukrainian federation have?**

-We have around 15 clubs in each part of Kiev, the capital city of Ukraine. When they are all combined together, we have around 150 clubs, and approximately 50,000 participants in all of them together.

→ **8. Is it hard to work in such a big environment? How do you manage to make championships?**

-We have a huge and an amazing team, which helps us do all the work that we have to do. It is sometimes hard to work in a big environment, but we always get around. The biggest competition that we organized had over 1500 personnel, and it was enormous. It was very hard to organize, but my team and I never even thought about giving up. It's work, it will get tough and hard from time to time, but you cannot give up.

→ **9. What are your plans for the future of the Ukrainian federation?**

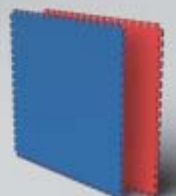
-My personal goal is to learn the English language because it will open a lot more doors for the Ukrainian federation because the President has to get around on their own. Also, I am planning to become a candidate for the Vice-president of WAKO Europe, and hopefully win.

→ **10. Where do you find the energy to do all the work that you have to do? Are you training kickboxing at the moment?**

-I have to be strong, I cannot be weak. Yes, I do train, every morning before I go to work, I do my training. I do the right exercises for me, and I encourage everyone to do the same.

M.P.

WAKO Tatami Official Supplier





THE WORLD GAMES 2017
19-31 JULY 2017, WROCLAW, POLAND



THE WORLD GAMES
WROCLAW 2017

WAKO WAS WRITING THE PAGES OF HISTORY



For the first time in its history, the WAKO has participated as an invitational sport in the IWGA WORLD GAMES that took place in the city of Wrocław, Poland, from 24th to 28th July 2017.

Wrocław is the city of the region Lower Silesia. It has 640 000 inhabitants, plus 150 000 students who live and study in this University town.

It has a long tradition of organizing prestigious international events: UEFA European Football Championship, Theatre Olympics, The Gala of European Film Awards, Volleyball World Championship, European Handball Championship, and Wrocław was the UNESCO World Book Capital as well as European Capital of Culture.

For this occasion, an Olympic Swimming pool, a roller-skating track and Olympic Stadium has been renovated.

Polish President Andrzej Duda was a honorary patron of The World Games, the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, Polish Olympic Committee and numerous partners, educational institutions and sponsors were included in to the organization of The World Games 2017.

The real star of the event was an army of volunteers, young, 1900 students who were at service to all the participants 24 hours a day. They received a special thanks from Dr. Thomas Bach, the IOC president during the closing ceremony.

The World Games take place every four years in the year following the Olympic Games. The event showcases more than 25 sports, for example Dance Sport, Squash, Tug of War, Sumo and Karate.

Approximately 4,500 athletes and officials from more than 100 countries take part in The World Games.

Athletes compete for the gold medals in almost 180 disciplines during the event.

Here is the official report of the final results of the WAKO participation during The World Games:

The WAKO had 31 participating countries, in total 95 athletes (64 male and 31 female) fighting in 12 categories (8 male and 4 female).

WAKO competition was divided into two days with 172 persons representing it. The only WAKO discipline was K-1 Rules.

WAKO total quota for all officials is 172 persons.

Mr. Srdjan Bugarcic was appointed as a Technical Delegate and the WAKO Competition manager and the key person for communication with The World Games headquarters.

The final score of the competition of the best fighters in the World is:

Poland won the first place, Serbia on the second place and Russia is the third at the medal table.



THE WORLD GAMES
WROCLAW 2017

*More than 40.000 spectators
on the opening ceremony*



THE OPENING CEREMONY

On Thursday 20th July the IOC President Dr. Thomas Bach declared the 10th edition of The World Games 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland Open. He addressed to the organizer, volunteers, athletes and the audience greeting all sport lovers, between the welcome speeches of Jose Perurena, the President of the International World Games and Rafał Dutkiewicz, the Mayor of the city of Wroclaw.

The impressive opening ceremony at the sold out Wroclaw Stadium was a perfect start for the biggest sport event ever held in Poland. After that, it's up to the athletes to dazzle, showcasing their sports in an outstanding and thrilling way.

At the march of the participants, one could see that the most numerous teams were Polish (218) and French team (193).

During ten days, 3,250 athletes from 111 countries competed in 31 sports (27 official sports and four invitational sports) to become the World Games Champion in one of 218 medal events.

The World Games is considered to be a stepping stone towards becoming part of the Olympic Games. In a Press Conference held before the Opening Ceremony for The World Games, the President of the International Olympic Committee Thomas Bach said that the IOC is "working very closely with The World Games" to help the organizing committees of future Olympic Games decide which sports to include in their programme.

The 10th edition of The World Games, in Wroclaw





provides the opportunity for sports to demonstrate that they are worthy of being in the Olympics.

Dr Bach explained: "We have a team here of observers who will look at all the sports and all the disciplines and then we will continue talking".

During the spectacular show, we saw fantastic performance of the singers and dancers, and a fantastic defile of the countries participating.

TWO TIMES KICKBOXERS WERE SELECTED AS THE ATHLETES OF THE DAY

Every day the International World Games Association awards prizes for male and female IWGA Athlete of the Day - powered by Tissot!

The WAKO was privileged two times during The World Games to take this award!

Among 31 sport present, we can be very proud.

The first day of the competition a Polish kick boxer Roza Gumienna was awarded as the female athlete of the day as she was the oath taker on behalf of all athletes during the Opening ceremony of the Games.

The jury of experts has selected Kick boxer Slobodan Mijajlovic (SRB) as Athlete of Day 7.

With Waterskier Natallia Berdnikava (BLR), Slobodan Mijajlović was awarded by the Vice President of IWGA Mr. Max Bishop.

The day of the kickboxing finals was at 27th July in the fully booked Orbita hall.

Fantastic atmosphere at the finals. Perfect organization, great fights, NO 1 audience.

The Olympic Channel was broadcasting live the event and according their evaluations, this was the most popular show during TWG.

WAKO kickboxing had many VIP guests at the competition: delegates from the Evaluation Commission of The World Games, a CEO from The World Games, delegates from Dutch Olympic Committee, Jordan Olympic Committee, the President of AIMS Mr. Stephan Fox, the chairman of Birmingham Organizing Committee of The World Games 2021. We spent a pleasant time with them, briefing them, explaining the K-1 rules, the scoring system and the

WAKO competition plan, as well as all other information they were interested in.

The closing ceremony of The World Games 2017 - Wrocław

It was as a fantastic event, as great as the competition during 10 days. Fantastic show, thanking speeches of the Major of Wrocław and IWGA president Mr. Perurena and passing the flag of the competition to the Major of Birmingham. Next edition 2021 will be in the USA. The WAKO is proud that has been part of the international sports history.

KICKBOXING ON THE POLISH POSTAGE STAMP

In the occasion that Poland will be the host country of the planetary sports event The World Games, the Polish post has issued a postage stamp with the motives of sports which will be seen at The World Games in Wrocław.

The WAKO President Borislav Pelevic congratulated everybody involved for a successful experience in the World Games, especially a big THANKS for their hard work in preparation and for the management of the event to:

Srdjan Bugarcic (Serbia), WAKO Competition Manager for the World Games;

Kate Kocizewska (Poland), main referent for the World Games in Poland;

Roy Baker (Ireland), Chairman of WAKO Organizing Committee;

Alexander Engelhardt (The Netherlands), IT referent and member of WAKO Org. Committee;

Romeo Desa (Croatia), member of WAKO Org. Committee;

Nicola Traina (Italy), member of WAKO Org. Committee;

Giorgio Ceravolo (Italy), member of WAKO Org. Committee;

THANKS to all WAKO referees and judges on duty during the World Games;

THANKS also to all other WAKO staff involved for media and administrative issues.

THANKS a lot also to all participating Athletes, Coaches and Extra Officials coming from 31 different countries!

OFFICIAL MEDALS TABLE

7 K1 044 S M -63,5 kg

1 Sananzade Orfan	UKR
2 Kononov Aleksandar	SRB
3 Deskaj Muhamet	CRO
4 Kalicki Aleksandar	POL
5 Moradi Iraj	IRI
5 Ibrahim Sailane Mohamed	MAR
5 Fedoseev Aleksei	KGZ
5 Aceves Martinez David	MEX

7 K1 045 S M -67 kg

1 Mijajlović Slobodan	SRB
2 Hinds Jason	CAN
3 Kaziyczko Wojciech	POL
4 Peretiatko Yurii	UKR
5 Eymur Burak	TUR
5 Ukrainets Vladislav	RUS
5 Andrulli Danilo	ITA
5 Amni Hamid	IRI

7 K1 046 S M -71 kg

1 Dubina Vitalii	UKR
2 Shumarov Bogdan	BUL
3 Gershon Itay	ISR
4 Gazani Bruno	BRA
5 Ali Khalaf Hamad	JOR
5 Kret Marcin	POL
5 Quabissi Saad	MAR
5 Smolar Mirosław	SVK

7 K1 047 S M -75 kg

1 Zakaria Laaoutni	FRA
2 Ronkiewicz Michal	POL
3 Datsiev Datsi	RUS
4 Lopes Wallace	BRA
5 Lazrak Mohamed	MAR
5 Bejenaru Alexandru	MDA
5 Jalovi Ljubo	SRB
5 Khoshkalam Soleimandarabi	IRI

7 K1 048 S M -81 kg

1 Menkovic Aleksandar	SRB
2 Petrov Alexandar	BUL
3 Boyd Omari	USA
4 Kaszuba Arkadiusz	POL
5 Telesman Denis	MDA
5 Khanjari Ali	IRI
5 Agathe Veejaye	MRI
5 Dmitrenko Aleksandr	RUS

7 K1 049 S M -86 kg

1 Kasperski Dawid	POL
2 Selimovic Mesud	BIH
3 Nosrati Omid	IRI
4 Piatnica Roman	RUS
5 Cuklin Ivan	CRO
5 Ward Jerome	USA
5 Gologan Adrian	MDA
5 Fallak Aziz	MAR

7 K1 050 S M -91 kg

1 Darmeskhin Igor	RU
2 Pluta Mateusz	POL
3 Voronin Pavel	MDA
4 Alves Willer	BRA
5 El Yacoubi Tawfik	MAR
5 Kares Petr	CZE
5 Stanic Ivan	CRO
5 Bartlett Scott	CAN

7 K1 051 S M +91 kg

1 Inocente Guto	BRA
2 Saygili Hamdi	TUR
3 Holovatiuk Roman	UKR
4 Turynski Michal	POL
5 Verunica Ante	CRO
5 Darkaoui Mohamed	MAR
5 Bekenov Yersultan	KAZ
5 Polugic Sasa	SRB

7 K1 053 S F -52 kg

1 Poskrebysheva Anna	RUS
2 Chochlikova Monika	SVK
3 Si Long Tam	CHINA
4 Ahlam Elghoul	TUN
5 Markowska Monika	GBR
5 Kholova Zuhro	TJK
5 Winkelman Myra	AUT
5 Acord Ashley	USA

7 K1 054 S F -56 kg

1 Maskova Sandra	CZE
2 Duygu Aygun	TUR
3 Dymus Malgorzata	POL
4 Fiedler Christin	AUT
5 Whaby Amal	ITA
5 Assis Pamela	BRA
5 Alizadehsharaf Fatemah	IRI

7 K1 055 S F -60 kg

1 Waliczek Marta	POL
2 Aceves Martinez Melissa	MEX
3 Tabit Nabila	MAR
4 Martiukhina Natalia	UKR
5 Djelassi Zina	SWE
5 Khamzina Shara	KAZ
5 Ponomareva Tatiana	RUS
5 Cmarova Lucia	SVK

7 K1 056 S F -65 kg

1 De Jong Sarel	NED
2 Manic Teodora	SRB
3 Cmarova Veronika	SVK
4 Young Kaitlin	USA
5 Naili Soukaine	MAR
5 Gumienna Roza	POL
5 Caruso Cristina	ITA
5 Al Absi Baraah	JOR



The full sport hall during the kickboxing final



Rosa Gumienna, athlete of the day 1



Slobodan Mijajlovic, athlete of the day 7

A post stamps worth PLN 5,00 was issued 9th June, under the name "10th World Sports Games of the World Games Wroclaw 2017" with a print run of 160.000 pieces.

The author of this project and the designer of the stamp, Karol Tabaka, caught three sportsmen on the move: Kickboxer, Motorcyclist, and an American football player.

We are proud that Kickboxing is recognized as one of the most attractive sports which found its place on the Polish postage *M.P.* stamp!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF CAC 2017

WAKO Trinidad and Tobago, TATAMI Division, officially announces the postponement of the CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN OPEN (CAC OPEN).

The world is following the size of the devastation that the recent hurricanes Jose, Irma, Maria, have caused throughout the Caribbean region and for the reason many countries that were already confirmed for the event cancel their participation, and even the Organization, taking

into consideration the safety of the athletes and accompanying persons.

Initially scheduled for September 28– October 1, it will be then rescheduled to the first quarter of 2018, on a date to be confirmed very soon.

Pan Am President Master Paulo Zorello gave us a statement about the conformation of the cancelling:

“ It was a good decision and they can count on my support. Above all we have to prioritize life. There will be no shortage of opportunities to do the CAC in 2018, and in much better conditions, for sure WAKO TT has our support to be able to grow and train in the near future, and not only them, but all the countries of that region which is very important for our continent.”

Martin Mc Clashie



WAKO women against cancer

TOGETHER WE CAN!

Exactly one year ago WAKO has designed the social campaign “WAKO WOMEN AGAINST CANCER” which has started in occasion of POINT FIGHTING CUP Tournament, in Castellanza (VA), Italy, on 1st and 2nd April 2017 and went on during Yokoso Duch Open in Amsterdam and continued during Best Fighter cup in Italy, to promote PREVENTION against breast cancer and to support the clinical researches and projects of the Italian Foundation FONDAZIONE IEO – CCM.

During the events some merchandising like bracelets, t-shirts and foulard, were sold with the only purpose to donate the funds collected from the sale of the products to support the project WOMEN'S CANCER CENTER run by the Foundation IEO – CCM. A great special thanks to the Italian referee Giulio Zucchetti who created and gifted WAKO nice pins to our campaign!



Two Doctors of IEO (European Oncological Institute) were present during the events, and explained the activities of Women's Cancer Center to the audience.

Gazzetta della Sport (the most important Italian sport newspapers) on 31. march 2017 had a very important text about the campaign, which WAKO is very proud of.

At the end of Point fighting Cup 2017 WAKO is very pleased to announce the great success of the campaign: the fundraising campaign was great: 2.114,00 €

(twotousandonehundredfourteen) have been collected and transferred to the Foundation.

One year of hard job but great satisfactions came: we help research in fighting cancer. Thanks to all WAKO members support! Together we can!

The initiative has started and realized thanks to Ms. Benedetta Teruzzi and Gina Engelhardt, WAKO referees.

M.P.





INFORMATION OF THE WAKO PRESIDENT

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ADVISER



Dear Colleagues,
 By the present to inform you of my decision that Mr. Romeo Desa from Croatia will become my adviser. For his work, he will not get any money compensation or salary, nor any cost covered by WAKO (travel, accommodation etc). Mr. Romeo Desa is well known as expert for tatami and ring disciplines in WAKO, expert for WAKO history and one of the best statisticians WAKO had ever had.

Here is his short biography concerning his work in WAKO:

Mr. Romeo Desa was born 1957, living in Omišalj, Croatia. He has been engaged in WAKO kickboxing on multiple levels for more than 20 years,

where he has reached the highest positions concerning WAKO organizing, refereeing and technical issues. Moreover, he is in charge for all statistics WAKO has, concerning competition activities, what gives him credibility as the best informed personality about WAKO history. For his credits given in area of fair play spirit on the WAKO tournaments, competitions and internal relations, he was awarded by International Fair Play Committee during the Junior

Championships 2016 in Dublin. Mr. Desa was in charge in the standardizing and completing basic documents of WAKO federation concerning kickboxing rules, defining disciplines, protecting gear, all procedures and protocols, as well as other documents concerning technical issues in organizing competitions. From now on, Mr. Romeo Desa will be at President's disposal for any consultation needed and will put his knowledge to the service of WAKO.

M.P.



manus

NEW

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WAKO Advertising Flyer Published for The World Games



The short introduction of the **KICKBOXING SPORT**



WAKO Kickboxing Championships



History facts:

In America 1974. Mike Anderson and his partners invented the new sport, "full contact karate" and that was the cornerstone of the sport later named KICKBOXING.

WAKO was initially called WORLD ASSOCIATION OF ALL STYLE KARATE ORGANIZATIONS and started its activity in Europe in 1976. The founder was Georg Bruckner from Berlin. The new rules and regulations were immediately created for the new contact fighting sport, including punches (hand

techniques) and kicks (leg techniques) for amateur fights with maximum use of protective equipment.

The new term KICKBOXING was used to define the sport and also WAKO name was changed into WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS and acted, since the very beginning, as the authentic Kickboxing Federation in the World.

From 1984, WAKO was led by Italian Ennio Falsoni, a former WUKO World Karate champion. As a very much open minded person, he laid the foundations of the Organization and gave a huge contribution for consolidating WAKO as respectable International Sports Organization.

Now, after decades of passionate work, Ennio Falsoni is honorable President of WAKO.





Kickboxing event with 15000 spectators at the football stadium in serbia

Kickboxing today:

Kickboxing is a modern contact fighting sport created on the basis of many traditional combat sports and martial arts. Kickboxing is a unique Western response to many Eastern martial arts.

Today WAKO kickboxing organization counts on 128 affiliated nations in the 5 continents, which are officially recognized by either their National Olympic Committees or by their relevant Government Sports Authorities.

Actual WAKO President is Prof. Dr. Borislav Pelević (Serbia).



Low kick discipline



Kick light discipline



Point fighting discipline



Full contact discipline

WAKO is officially recognized by: GAISF - former SportAccord (Global Association of International Sports Federations), OCA (Olympic Council of Asia), WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency), IWGA (International World Games Association), Peace and Sport, International Fair Play Organization, AIMS (Alliance of International Recognized Members of Sport) IWG (International Working Group of Women in Sport).

WAKO organizational plan:

WAKO's main executive body is Board of Directors. WAKO has 20 experts Committees which are consisted of experts in each field, proposed by all WAKO members and approved by the Board of Directors.



Knee kick in K-1 rules

WAKO kickboxing disciplines (styles):

WAKO has 7 different kickboxing disciplines:

Tatami disciplines: Point fighting, Light contact, Kick light, and Musical forms.

Ring disciplines: Full contact, Low kick, K-1 Rules.

For the first time, kickboxing is at The World Games in Wroclaw 2017, competing in K-1 Rules discipline.

K-1 RULES - SHORT INTRODUCTION

Definition:

K-1 Rules is a kickboxing discipline where the intention of a kickboxer is to beat an opponent using legal techniques with full power and strength. Strikes must be delivered to legal target areas with focus, speed, and determination, creating solid contact. A win can be reached either by points (collecting more points than the opponent) or by knockout.

K-1 Rules safety equipment:

Kickboxer wear protection equipment from tested, approved and licensed manufacturers which consist of:

hand wraps (bandages), gloves, head gear, mouth guard, groin protection (male), breast protection (female), shin guard - only sock's type, covering the instep.

The kickboxer is wearing shorts (length: knees must be visible and naked) with kickboxing emblem, naked body. Female kickboxer wears breast protection under a sports top.

The Committees are: Executive Com., Organizing Com., Referee Com., Technical Com., Health Com., Athlete Com., Coaching Com., Women Com., Sponsorship Com., Media Com., Development Com., Education & Student Com., Sport for All and Solidarity Com., Entourage Com., Integrity and Fair Play Com., Ethical Com., Legal Com., Disciplinary Com., International Relations Com., Arbitration Com.

WAKO Championships organizational plan:

WAKO is growing steadily all over the World promoting regularly Continental and World Championships (in all seven disciplines) and organizes World and Continental Cups and Open tournaments.

WAKO World Championships are NOT open competitions where everybody can participate. In WAKO Championships, only National teams are accepted. Each member country can present only 1 competitor in each weight class. Each kickboxer has gone through a long selection on National championships and qualifications in his country before competing at WAKO tournaments.



K-1 rules discipline





Blocked high kick to a head



Low kick with punches

Short rules of kickboxing discipline K-1 Rules:

It is allowed to perform punches and kicks (arm and leg techniques, including knee).

Legal target areas:

- head (front - face and forehead), side and top.
- legs (any part except front side of thighs and a knee)
- foot (for sweeps ankle level only).

Legal techniques:

- hand:
 - all boxing punches, back fist and spinning back fist, holding the head and shoulders for the only one knee kick, immediately.
 - leg:
 - front, side, roundhouse, heel, crescent, axe, jump kick; shin kick to any part of the leg (except knee), body, and head; knee kick is allowed to the leg (except front side of the thigh and knee), body and head; foot sweeps.
- sl 13,19

Prohibited techniques:

- elbow techniques are forbidden
- grabbing and holding the opponent's leg and performing the punch and kick at the same time
- any wrestling techniques and performance of the fight on the floor.

All punching and kicking techniques have the same judging value.

Age of the kickboxers in discipline K-1 Rules:

The kickboxers in K-1 Rules can be from 19 - 40 ages old (male) and from 19-35 (female).

M.P.

SUMMARY:

As the World Kickboxing governing body responsible for creating, interpretation, managing, coordinating, improving and organizing activities in all 5 Continents, WAKO (World Association of Kickboxing Organizations) has the huge responsibility on both National and International level.

To fulfill the goal of hundred thousands kickboxers in the World, to be recognized by the International Olympic Committee and integrated into the IOC movement, WAKO ensured development in-line with the Olympic Movement and its various Charters, whose principles are integrated into all documents of WAKO organization.



WAKO referees

IVAN IVANOV

RESPECT EVERYBODY AND KEEP THE FOCUS

1. Who is Ivan Ivanov? Introduce yourself please.

I'm 53 years old, married, two children. I graduated the High Economic school in Prague –Czech Republic – international economic relationships. My main job is international trade and international business project management. I have been active for years in Bulgarian kickboxing. Actually I'm vice-president of the biggest kickboxing club in Bulgaria – Ikken, chief referee for tatami sports in Bulgarian kickboxing and muay-thay federation, and since November 2016 member of WAKO referee committee for tatami sports.

2. When and how you get involved in kickboxing?

I have been involved in kickboxing since 2005, when my son started training kickboxing. Myself I trained karate 8 years and reached blackbelt 2nd DAN in karate do.

3. What were your choices when we talk about practicing the sport? Which sports you tried out and trained? Are you still active in sport?

I'm sportive nature in general. I tried many sports with my school team – football, basketball, karate.. For sure karate was my favorite, unfortunately I had to stop training and practicing a long time ago because of a complicated injury. I still play tennis in my free time.

In WAKO I'm refereeing all tatami styles – pointfighting, lightcontact, kick light.

4. We have seen you refereeing fights among children in the smallest age. What is the main challenge when you are a judge in the fight between two little girls?

Always safety and health of the fighters are on first place. I'm more than careful when we have children on

tatami. Very often the fighters in this age are applying not enough clear and correct techniques. In these fights it is a real challenge to keep the balance between the correct rules applying and the fighter's motivation support.

5. Who is more emotional: girls or boys when they lose the fight? Who cries more?

It is hard to define, boys are crying, girls too. Any age is crying—it depends on the character. Crying - this is some kind of emotional output, I have seen crying even multiple world champions after they have lost....

6. Have you experienced the flood of emotions after the fighter loses the fight?

Oh yes, for sure – every time. And I experienced it by various ways – fair, not fair...

7. Who is more aggressive on the tatami- girls or boys?

I think boys are more aggressive in fight, but they are some cases we can see some fights with unexpected girl's aggression, as I said question of character and fighter's level.

8. What is the main characteristic of a good judge?

All requirements to the referees and judges are well settled in WAKO rules. I think beyond the perfect knowledge of the rules what's absolutely obligatory, the main characteristic of the good judge is the respect. Respect to the fighters, coaches and their work. But as well respect to himself and to the other judges in the team, because refereeing is always team work. If you are lead by the respect to everybody on the tatami you are able to keep the focus, to apply the rules correctly, to sort out any critical situation during the fight.

9. Speaking about education of the referees: is this level of education in WAKO enough for judges or referees or do we need to change something?

WAKO has always been focused on progress. Any progress is a result of improvement, and improvement needs changes. We in WAKO referee committee for tatami sports are working continuously on improving the referee work, analyzing every WAKO event passed. Actually we are working on some changes focused on more clear and comprehensive rules. We initiated new activities, which are to lead to a higher quality of referee work. Anyhow I consider these committee initiatives should bring better result if they are a part of a complex WAKO program for referee body development and if they are obligatory supported by and with the participation of the national federations. We are to help national federations to put up the level of national referees, then it will be easier to educate more qualified international referees/judges. This summer will take place the 1st WAKO referee training camp for tatami sports, Bulgaria is honored to host this memorable event.

10. What WAKO disciplines Bulgarian loves the most? Is there a difference what people like to train and what people like to watch?



I think Bulgarian like to train and to watch both ring and tatami styles. It is a big pleasure to see the fast growing popularity of kickboxing in Bulgaria.

11. Tell us something about current situation in WAKO Bulgaria. You are improving you ratings on medal lists? What is the secret?

Last four years our federation made a huge progress. We reorganized the budgets and put up the efficiency of using of all resources we have. We set up new programs for development of both ring and tatami directions. We started successfully national professional ring events. We improved the national sport calendar, we stimulated the clubs for a larger participation in WAKO world cups. We have the support of Bulgarian Ministry of sport and are in very good communication with all national media. The logical result is –kickboxing grew up in Bulgaria, we improved our position in WAKO medal list and we reached impressing success.

12. After such a long time in refereeing, what is the essence of the kickboxing sport according to your observations?

I will try to define what the essence of the kickboxing is for me : character and strength, spirit and moral, devotion and friendship.

13. What are the most memorable moments you had during your career in WAKO?

I had lot of wonderful moments during my carrier in WAKO, but it is always very precious for me to feel people respect – colleagues referees, fighters, coaches, officials, parents and spectators, it means for me – I did well the job I love. One moment is especially memorable for me : In 2015 I have been prized as Best referee of the National



Point fighting Championship of Russia. After I have got the prize, coaches were coming and saying to me : „Thank you, I voted for you!“ Unforgettable!

14. Is your family happy with your job?

I have never asked them about this, but they are happy with me, so I'm sure they are happy with my main job, as well with my kickboxing job! Maybe if I find the way to spend a bit more time at home, they will be happier.

15. From the point of view of your main profession, how do you comment the place of sport in the World?

The philosophy of the company I work for is „bring people health“. From this point of view, my main job has much common with the sport. Sport is to bring people health and spirit. And with your permission I shall add to this the famous logo of Bulgarian national team shirts: PEACE, LOVE, KICKBOXING!

M.P.



8th July, Praia, Cape Verde

WAKO and Sport 4 life initiative



The main program was demonstration and practicing martial arts, among them Kickboxing, to show how children can learn to spend a spare time practicing sports, to strengthen the body and the mind and to learn how to act in society productively.

The WAKO representative was Mr. Leonardo Cunha, former WAKO Portugal official now living in this African country, still tirelessly spreading his love to kickboxing to the society.

The White Card campaign has touched this distant part of the Globe confirming its universal values.

M.P.

The event was a #WhiteCard Peace&Sport organization initiative organized by the “Capelinha de Tira-Chapeu Association” in Praia, Cape Verde in 8th of July.

This was a Sports4Life event that the main focus is to bring up the local community in "Tira-chapeu - Praia City" to a event ,where the

focus was the practice of Sports (in this case Martial Arts) to prevent criminality in this neighborhood.

There was about 400 children engaged in the event where was also present the French Ambassador, the Directorate of Sports and also the Cape-Verdean Olympic and Paralympics Committee Presidents.



1st WAKO Oceania continental championships
17th-19th March 2017
Melbourne Exhibition center
Southbank Melbourne

GREAT SUCCESS FOR WAKO OCEANIA



For the first time in its history, the WAKO Oceania managed to organize Continental Championships. After getting the NOC recognitions and registering the organization, activities started and the first continental championships gathered the best fighters from Australia, New Zealand, Samoa and some guest countries such as Singapore.

Enthusiastic organizers from WAKO Australia did a great job making this championship as the part of a great sporting event Arnold Classics, which is the popular sports fair with many martial sports at the stage. The audience was engaged not only in one event but the whole time while the fair was going on, so kickboxing was one of the most popular sports for watching..

impressed he was with the WAKO Kickboxing and in particular with the younger participants whom he encouraged to continue in their training and competition.

The exposure WAKO received during this event was tremendous, with the Arnold Classics Australia host to over 10,000 competitors and visitors from around the world the spectator numbers for the WAKO events was huge and generated a lot of excitement in the Convention Centre. It was great to fly the WAKO flag during this event!

Over 170 fighters competed in this event across all WAKO disciplines and fighters from across the Oceania region enjoyed 2 days of exciting competition in the Melbourne Convention Centre. The quality of fights was tremendous and visiting spectators were impressed with the WAKO style of Kickboxing.

The WAKO Oceania President Mr. Pete Thompson said: "This event has generated considerable interest in the WAKO in Oceania and we hope to leverage some of this interest into the further expansion of the WAKO across the Pacific. This Championships, the first of its kind in Oceania, provides us a lot of promise for the future of Kickboxing in this part of the World".

During the course of the event, the competition area was visited by Mr. Arnold Schwarzenegger who sat and watched a demonstration by the WAKO Australia Kickboxing club Martial Energy. WAKO Australia Official Vanessa Jenkins and WAKO Oceania President Pete Thompson were lucky enough to get up close and personal with Mr. Schwarzenegger who expressed how

The WAKO Australia thanks to all the countries that came competed and supported, it was an honor to host. With some World Class fighting on Display, the WAKO was very well represented during the event.

M.P.





WAKO Panam and WAKO Peru keep working to include the Kickboxing in the next PanAm Games

8th September 2017
WAKO Peru representatives had an important meeting with several Congressmen and the highest government representatives about the possibility of including Kickboxing in the next Pan American Games to be held in Lima, Peru, in 2019. The meeting was very constructive and all implications are that kickboxing and the WAKO are becoming more visible in the international activities at all levels.



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KICKBOXING BRAND



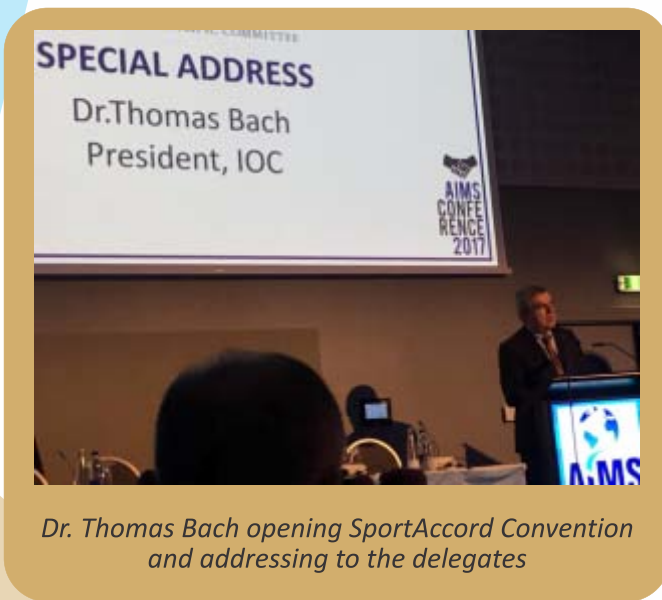
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WAKO participation at
SportAccord Convention Aarhus Denmark
2-7 April 2017

IMPORTANT WEEK FOR WAKO



Dr. Thomas Bach opening SportAccord Convention and addressing to the delegates

The first week of April 2017 was a very important week for the WAKO and the kickboxing sport.

On the SportAccord convention there were 96 International Sport Organizations and ten associated members. 1620 delegates from all sports which are recognized by the SportAccord were present.

The WAKO delegation included: Prof. Dr. Borislav Pelevic, the WAKO President, Espen Lund, the WAKO Vice President and the Chairman of The WAKO International Relations Committee and Roy Baker, the WAKO Vice President and the WAKO Europe President.

The WAKO delegates took all the advantages of this opportunity to have the meetings with representatives of many international organizations:

SPORTACCORD CONVENTION

SportAccord Convention is the world's premier and most exclusive annual event at the service of sport.

It is focused on driving positive change internationally and dedicated to engaging and connecting: International Sports Federations, rights holders, organising committees, cities, press and media, businesses and other organisations involved in the development of sport.

IOC, SportAccord, AIMS, IWGA, FISU, ARISF, IWG, Peace&Sport... and with many persons representing IOC: Mike Joyce, IOC Sport Department, Dr Ugur ERDENERIOC IOC Vice President, Mr. Ching-Kuo Wu who is an IOC Executive Board member, Nenad Lalovic, an IOC member and Mr. Jose Perurena an IOC member, Patrick Baumann, an IOC member, as well as many other sport officials.

Dr. Thomas Bah, the IOC President has opened the SportAccord Convention and the AIMS General Assembly during the SportAccord Convention.

GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF PARTICIPATING SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

SPORTACCORD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The SportAccord held its General Assembly during the event, where the main issue was changing the name of the organization in to the GAISF (Global Association of International Sport Federations), as well as the recognition of four new members of the SportAccord (now GAISF) (37 other applicants are denied).

IWGA (INTERNATIONAL WORLD GAMES ASSOCIATION) - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IWGA has its General Assembly on April 4 during the event, and the main decisions were:

- The best global media coverage ever for The World Games In July 2017 in Wroclaw, Poland.
- No new members to the IWGA.
- Strong IOC & IWGA cooperation.



WAKO at the convention

AIMS (ALLIANCE OF THE RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENT MEMBERS SPORT) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The AIMS also held its General Assembly also and the main issue was the social responsibility and cooperation of sporting federations.

WAKO DELEGATION MEETING WITH IOC REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOYCE

Regarding the WAKO IOC Application, there was a meeting between the WAKO delegates: Borislav Pelevic, Roy Baker and Espen Lund and the IOC Sport Department representative Mr. Mike Joyce. The main issue of the meeting was the WAKO Application for the recognition.

The third, filled in and completed WAKO Application was submitted, together with the new WAKO promotional video.

The IOC representative Mr. Mike Joyce was satisfied with how the things are going on with the WAKO and expressed his sincere hope in the positive outcome of the process by the end of 2017.

WAKO DELEGATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE PEACE & SPORT

6th April was the date dedicated to peace through sport. The WAKO is fully committed to the 6th April Peace & Sport initiative and delegates joined the P&S campaign during the Convention.

MEETING WITH SPORTACCORD (now GAISF) PRESIDENT PATRICK BAUMANN

A separate meeting was held with Mr. Patrick Baumann, the SportAccord President (now GAISF) which the WAKO saw as an opportunity to establish good relations between the WAKO and the SportAccord, discuss the IOC application for the recognition and analyze the problems of the international sport today.



With Mr. Patrick Baumann, SportAccord (now GAISF) President

MEETING WITH IWGA (WORLD GAMES) PRESIDENT

The WAKO delegates meeting with the IWGA (The World Games) President Mr. Jose Perurena, was one of the most important meetings during the SportAccord

Convention. Since Mr. Perurena is also IOC Member, it was a perfect opportunity to discuss the WAKO Application for the IOC recognition.

Very interested in the ongoing process, Mr. Perurena was presented with the third, revised WAKO Application and went through the main documents. He was very pleased with how the WAKO is structured and organized.

He promised full support for the WAKO in the process of recognition. The recognition of the new IOC members is upon the IOC Sports Department so he suggested soon conversation with colleagues from the IOC Sports Department about the WAKO.

Mr. Perurena also stressed the importance of the WAKO participation on The World Games since the IOC recognized IWGA The World Games as a partner and Olympic Channel will broadcast The World games in Wroclaw.



WAKO President Borislav Pelevic with Mr. Jose Perurena

MEETING WITH MR. RAFFAELE CHIULLI PRESIDENT OF THE ARISF (ASSOCIATION OF THE IOC RECOGNIZED SPORT FEDERATIONS)

The WAKO - ARISF meeting at SportAccord Convention was one of the biggest challenges for the WAKO Delegates, to establish good relations with the ARISF. This association gathers the IOC recognized sport federations.

ARISF (Association of Recognized International Sport Federations) President Dr. Raffaele Chiulli, despite his informal character and very friendly approach to all

delegates to the Convention, was very interested in a meeting with WAKO delegates to be informed about latest WAKO situation concerning number of member nations, number of practitioners, WAKO structure, IOC application for the recognition, etc.



WAKO delegates with ARISF President Mr. Raffaele Chiulli

WAKO - FISU MEETING AT SPORTACCORD CONVENTION

Very important outcome of the participation in the Convention was the meeting with FISU (International University Sports Federation) representatives.

WAKO President Borislav Pelevic had a pleasure to shake hands with FISU President Oleg Matytsin, as the confirmation of the positive outcome of WAKO Application for the membership in FISU.



Borislav Pelevic and Oleg Matytsin, FISU President

WAKO – IWG MEETING

Mr. Borislav Pelevic, WAKO President and Ms. Game Gyneth Mothibi, IWG General secretary, discussed about WAKO membership in IWG organization. Ms. Game Mothibi congratulated WAKO President membership.



WAKO President with Ms. Game Mothibi, IWG General secretary

MEETING WITH IOC VICE-PRESIDENT DR. UGUR ERDENER

Among all high-level meetings, the very important was the one with the IOC Vice President Dr. Ugur ERDENER. The most important issue on the meeting was WAKO Application and process of the IOC recognition. He promised his full support.

CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW HOST CITY OF GAISF CONVENTION 2018

WAKO delegates were present at the meeting with Stephan Fox, AIMS President and H.E. General Tanasak Patimapragorn Ph. D. Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand during the Opening Ceremony of SportAccord Convention 4th April, where was confirmed Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, as the host city for the 2018 edition of SportAccord Convention.

M.P.



Bangkok will be the next host city of GAISF Convention



Diamond Cup, Anapa, Russia

19th September - 24th September

DIAMOND CUP 2017



In Anapa, South Russian Krasnodarsk Region on the Black Sea, from September 19 to 24, 2017, the 8th Diamond WAKO World Cup was held. The executive organizers were Mr. Rishat Sayapov with his team and the Kickboxing Federation of Russia.

The Diamond World Cup was attended by 877 competitors from 12 countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ukraine, Finland, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Russian Federation, Uzbekistan. The fighting took place in all Kickboxing disciplines and in all the age categories, from children, younger and older cadets, younger and older juniors to seniors and the master class.

The fights that took place during the competition were the last significant check for most competitors for the upcoming participation at the next WAKO World Championships for seniors in Budapest.



Particularly interesting were the excellent fights of older juniors and senior men and women in all three ring disciplines, and the best fights were on a special gala evening.

The most successful nation was Russia with 188 gold medals, while the most successful club was Dagestan which won 22 gold medals.

The supervisor of the World Cup was Mr. Romeo Deša from the WAKO Organizing Committee, and the referee team was led by Mr. Yuri Lakhtikov (Est) and Mr. Sami Savo (Fin) for ring disciplines and Mr. Brian Beck (GB) for tatami disciplines. The members of the Sportdata - Nikita Ivanov (Rus) and Sabrina Weiss (Ger), with the participation of the Secretary General of the Russian Kickboxing Federation Dmitriy Belous, were very successful in the registration and the complete computer support and thanks to them, the whole competition went smoothly and without any delay.

The special guest at the World Cup was prof.dr. Borislav Pelevic, the WAKO President. The President, Borislav Pelevic and his special adviser Romeo Desa held a series of consultations and meetings with the organizer and representatives of the national federations who participated in the competition with the aim of being informed about the state of national federations and kickboxing activities carried out in those countries. There was also mention of the organization of World cups, as well as the necessity of equalizing all the WAKO World Cups. It was agreed that the two issues be discussed at the earliest.

R.D.





International cooperation Kick Boxing
Association of Serbia and Kick Boxing
Association of Norway

JOTIC TRAINED NORVEGIANS



Sport Director OF Kick Boxing Association of Serbia Miodrag Jotić continues the successful activity of the Serbian Federation on the international scene. In addition to the professional engagement of Serbian expert in Bulgaria, it continued with cooperation with Kick Boxing Federation of Norway . The presidents of the Norwegian and Serbian Kick Boxing Associations have determined the conditions under which Miodrag Jotić was engaged and concrete steps in cooperation have already been made: the assistance relates to training in the K1 combat system. In Norway, the kick boxing discipline Full contact is the most frequent and most popular to practice, this style of fighting is very successful, because Norway is the strongest WAKO

country in full contact, next to Russia. However, the K1 discipline will start to grow after WAKO participates at The World Games, as the WAKO Federation participates in the program of this year's World Games with K1 discipline so that the Norwegians were planning smart and making the road for the new champions. Club "BERSERK" from the suburbs of Oslo in which Jotić held seminars is the strongest club where K-1 style is practiced. Trainings with different age categories were held, where the trainers were introduced to the basic, advanced and competitive techniques of this style. The work is enhanced by the technique-tactical performance of techniques with a partner, on a hook, and focus. The seminar was also attended by Daimi Akin who was overwhelmed by the work and offered to hold the next seminar in the biggest club "FIGHTER" in Oslo. This club has 700 (seven hundred) members and operates at four locations in Oslo.

After completing the seminar, there was a visiting tour to the Norwegian Olympic Training Center.

M.P.



Zsolt Moradi Peace and Sport Ambassador

WAKO is proud to announce that ambassador for Peace&Sport is WAKO World Champion Zsolt Moradi (Hungary).

Nine new Champions for Peace are coming together for the International Day of Peace on 21 September to publicize the inspiring values of sport which have the capacity to push the boundaries of achievement, rise above poverty and exclusion, overcome marginalisation and test the very limits of personal endurance...

CHAMPIONS FOR PEACE 2017

- DROGBA Didier, Winner of UEFA Champions League, Football, Ivory Coast
- FOURNIER Laure, Vice-World Champion, Sambo, France
- JAZIRI Malek, ATP #47, Tennis, Tunisia
- KEITA Daba Modibo, 2x World Champion, Taekwondo, Mali
- LEIBOVITZ Tahl, Paralympic Champion, Table Tennis, USA
- MARE Adrien, World Champion, Baja, Monaco
- MORADI Zsolt, 8x World Champion, Kickboxing, Hungary
- OURAHMOUNE Sarah, World Champion, Boxing, France
- PIETRUS Florence, Olympian, European Champion, Basketball, France
- YACOUBOU Isabelle, Vice-Olympic Champion, Basketball, France

I AM A
#CHAMPIONFORPEACE





European kickboxing cup: Karlovac OPEN
Karlovac, Croatia, 12th-14th February 2017

ABOVE EXPECTATIONS

Rapidly growing as serious competition, this edition of Karlovac OPEN reached a record number of participating nations, clubs and entries: 28 countries, 187 clubs, and 2064 entries. Obviously, there is something magic in this beautiful Croatian city when we see that attending this WAKO cup is so popular.

Supported by the highest state authorities, even the President of Republic, Karlovac OPEN became a very important event in the internal schedule of sports activities of Croatia. Promoter Mr. Cicvara Zoran was very pleased with attendance and popularity of this cup.

The first day of the competition was reserved for Musical Formes and Point Fighting Grand Champion division and at the evening it was "Super Fight gala", where we had 8 fights in amateur kickboxing (full contact, low kick, and K-1 rules) The winners received prestigious belt.

List of the fights:

Sahand Lahafdoozian (Norway) - Nagy Larion (Hungary)
Full Contact -54 kg 3-0

Mihael Javorović (Croatia) - Lorenzo del Gaudio (Italia)
Full Contact - 67 kg 2-1

Scot Brewer (Wales) - Roman Lazukin (Russia)
Full Contact -71 kg 3-0

Ros Wilson (Great Britain) - Veronica Mangione (Italia)
Full Contact -56 kg 0-3

Nikica Radonic (Croatia) - Fesnik Gashi (Austria)
Full Contact -81 kg 3-0

Novak Radulovic (Serbia) - Roy Wischman (Norway)
Low Kick -71 kg 3-0

Isa Kartag (Turkey) - Petr Kares (Czech Republic)
Full Contact -91 kg 1-2

Loay Sakas (Israel) - Daniele Kabir Lovero (Italia)
K-1 Rues -71 kg 3-0



The special guest at the competition was legendary Branko Cikatić, world champion in pro kickboxing, who was awarded the winners. The best competitor of this evening was Serbian Novak Radulović.

The second day was reserved to whole day full contact and point fighting competition and the third day was reserved for a low kick and K-1 and on tatami light contact and kick light.

The most successful countries for winning gold medals are:

1. Hungary: 78,
2. Croatia: 75,
3. Slovenia: 38.

The most successful teams (won the gold medals):

1. WAKO national team Czech Republic: 29,
2. Kiraly team Hungary: 27,
3. Debrecen team Hungary: 18.

The entire competition was live streamed.

M.P.





World Cup "BestFighter"

Rimini, Italy,

15th June-18th June 2017

Who is The Best Fighter?



Fourth WAKO World Cup in the World Cups series this year has gathered the best fighters all around the world. Remembering the fantastic organization of the editions before, this year The Best Fighter was one of the best ever!

Among 1816 entries of the competitors from 29 countries, we saw on tatami and rings fantastic spirit of the kickboxers who competed in all seven WAKO disciplines.

Italia was the most numerous team: 689 Italians in fantastic conditions well prepared for the competition, and also there were 273 Russians and 107 Slovenians.

This was the order of the best nations on the competition: 1. Italy, 2. Russia, 3. Slovenia.

The competition was very tough, the toughest way to the gold medal was in Point fighting senior men -69 kg, where we had 21 competitors!

The best fighter winning a gold medal was White Jordan (Ireland), silver was Veres Alex (Hungary) and bronze was Lo Prete Antonio (Switzerland).

During the event, there was continued "WAKO women against cancer" campaign, held to promote PREVENTION against breast cancer and to support the clinical researches and projects of the Italian Foundation FONDAZIONE IEO – CCM.

The promoter of the Best Fighter World Cup, Mr.





Gianfranco Rizzi, offered his help to organize a fundraising campaign to collect some free donations with the only purpose to donate the funds to support the project. The representatives of the IEO Fondazione were present during the event and expressed their gratitude for the efforts of WAKO to give the contribution to a better environment for all.

Over the past few days of the competition, we had blood, tears, smiles, and cheers on the athlete's faces and that is what WAKO finds important: irrelevant if somebody won or lost, the teams supported each other like a family.

M.P.



WAKO Women Against Cancer at Bestfighter World Cup 2017

Promoter of the Bestfighter World Cup, Mr. Gianfranco Rizzi, offered his help to organize a fundraising campaign to collect some free donations with the only purpose to donate the funds to support the project WOMEN'S CANCER CENTER run by the Foundation IEO – CCM.

Following examples of the Point Fighting Cup with the selling of merchandising and Bestfighter World Cup by free donations, WAKO would like to invite other promoters of other WAKO events to get in contact with some other local institutions or Foundations on their national territories and take action on this very important social campaign "WAKO WOMEN AGAINST CANCER".

WAKO is proud to announce that also in occasion of the WAKO Bestfighter World Cup, that is held in Rimini, Italy, the "WAKO WOMEN AGAINST CANCER" campaign will be held to promote PREVENTION against breast cancer and to support the clinical researches and projects of the Italian Foundation FONDAZIONE IEO – CCM.





GEAR MASK: A PROTECTION OR A RISK?



Following the rule that kickboxing should be a safe sport, the improvement of producing the safety equipment is a undisputable challenge. What are martial sports essentials? What we need to wear to protect ourselves during practicing real martial sport but at the same time to save the essence of the sport- fight between two athletes?

The most common opinion is that equipment protects the wearer rather than the opponent. But there are studies which concluded that receiving hits to areas on the body covered with the gear hurts just as much as receiving a hit without it. Yes, it hurts but not produces injuries. This is important.

The researches has been done on many levels and physicians may wish to consider recommending martial arts to patients as a beneficial form of exercise. They are relatively safe compared to

many other sports, and most martial arts injuries are comparatively minor. Risks can possibly be reduced by limiting exposure of inexperienced fighters, as well as using protective equipment, including mouth guards, eye/face protection, headgear, and padding.

That is the never ending story particularly when we talk about kids in sport.

What are the common head injuries during kickboxing championships? On the first place, nasal septal fractures and other injuries affecting the nose in general, there are traumas of the temporomandibular joint, dental traumas, eye injuries can reach up to corneal abrasions. These accidents are the most common in relation to other injuries, which are in general, very rear at WAKO championships.

One indecently fatal injury during the competition or even on the

training can affect that we lose a talented and dedicated athlete, moreover if he is in the young age. That's why is the topic about safeties one of the most important in developing our sport.

One can say the best protection for a kickboxing athlete is the best possible physical and technical preparation, the strong body, smart tactics in the fighting field where an athlete is doing everything not only to make a point but to protect him from dangerous attacks and know to avoid or block the ones. That is the perfection we seek in our sport, that is what makes someone a champion.

But, the reality is totally different, particularly among the younger categories. Naturally, no one can expect perfection in sport skills among children of that age. Among younger cadets, children between 10 and 12 age, the most important is when they are on the fighting area, they should show their fighting skill and finish the fight without serious injuries. Injuries can be got not only from the good punch of the better opponent, but also from the bad and unallowed punch of the opponent

Statistics say that the worst injuries fighters are afraid of are face injuries. They are the most visible, but also there can be hidden injuries, fractures of the fine face bones which doctors can discover hours after the fight,





when the athlete got the strong hit, is over.

There we come to the story about plastic mask which is designed to be put on the helmet, specifically engineered accessories for kids. Plastic mask has to keep our little ones safe from harm when they're practicing kickboxing, as well as when they are in the fighting field on the competition. Special plastic mask allows them to be released from the fear of unexpected harmful punch and let them focus on presenting their martial arts technique during the fight.

The point is it is the idea that well produced and designed plastic mask has the purpose of necessary protective equipment, with which your child can learn the basics, enjoy their martial arts training, join the competitions free of fear of injuries and most importantly, stay safe.

The question arises: if the plastic mask gives TRUE protection from injuries or it gives feeling of secure, only psychological feeling of the safety when it is worn?

We are opening another dilemma: if the plastic mask itself can make an injury on the kid who wears it and on the opponent who made a strong high kick, hit the mask and injured the foot?

The producer and accredited WAKO supplier stands at the attitude the mask is safe but the consumers must be responsible to provide the personal mask for every competitor- fit to the size of the head and helmet. It was noticed many coaches use the same mask for many competitors, even they have different sizes of the head dimensions. Mask should fit, not to be bigger or smaller than the helmet. The coaches should learn to use face masks correctly (proper fixing), according to the size of the helmet, and we will never have problems that have been so far very common at the championships: they start with the mask on, and take it off during the fight due to the inconvenience it makes to the fighter.

The only issue producers are working on now concerning masks is to improve the bottom edge of the mask, to make it softer. It was noticed that the sponge or rubber protection of the bottom edge of the mask has been dropped or it

has been misguided, after a very short term of the usage.

Researches should be done before any radical decision pro or contra.

What is for sure, is that plastic mask become WAKO brand, symbol of our dedication for maximal safety and protection of our competitors.

Shall we keep face masks as a protection and safety equipment for younger cadets in point fighting discipline? Should we revoke the safety equipment if it has proved insufficient or we should find solutions with producers to upgrading it?

WAKO is opening the debate. The word of the coaches and athletes is waiting to be heard.

M.P.



GEAR MASK






adidas



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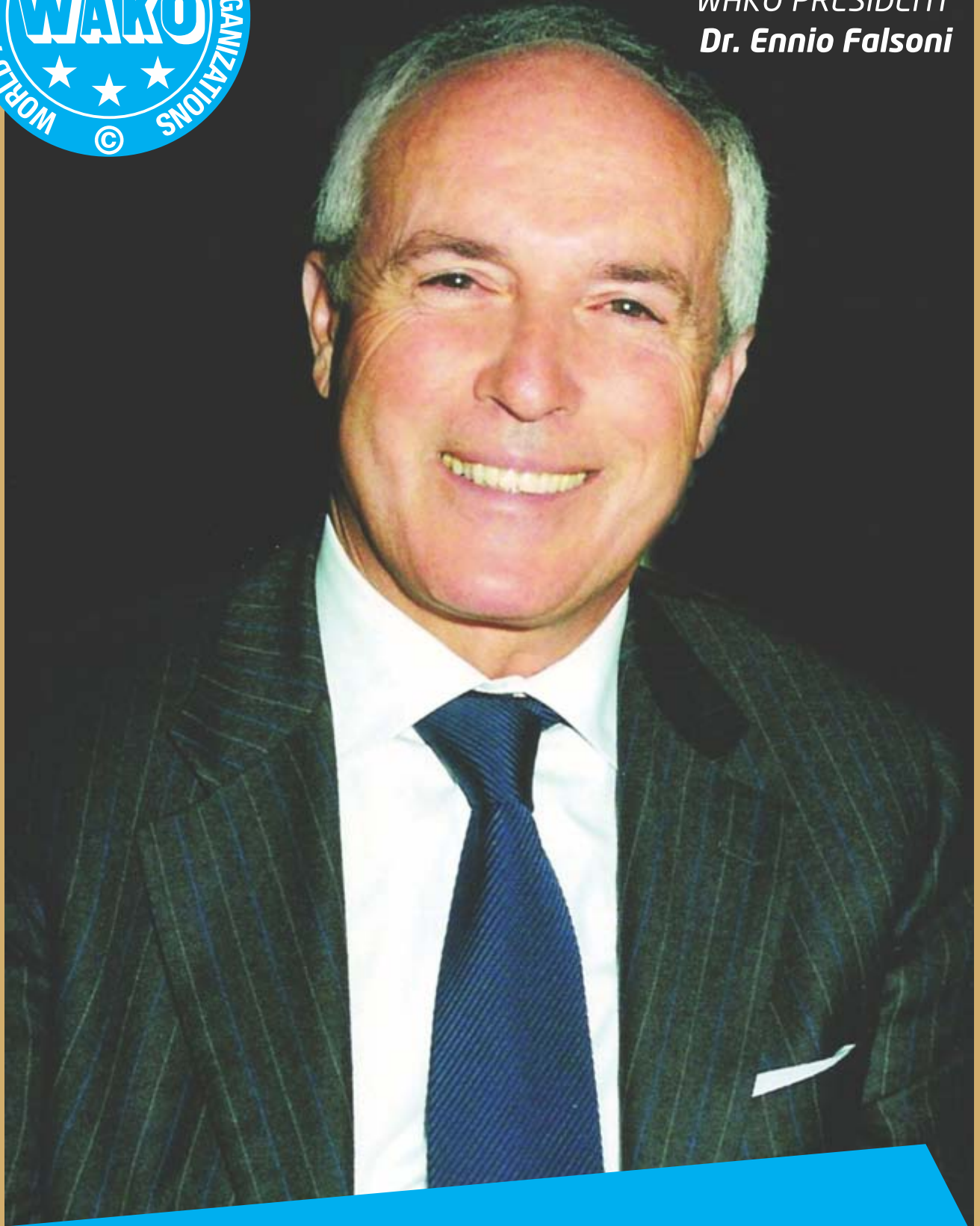
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*Honorary
WAKO PRESIDENT
Dr. Ennio Falsoni*



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