

FULL CONTACT – K1 RULES – LOW KICK – KICK LIGHT  
POINT FIGHTING – LIGHT CONTACT – MUSICAL FORMS

AFRICA | ASIA | EUROPE | OCEANIA | PANAMERICA



International Federation  
recognised by the



INTERNATIONAL  
OLYMPIC  
COMMITTEE



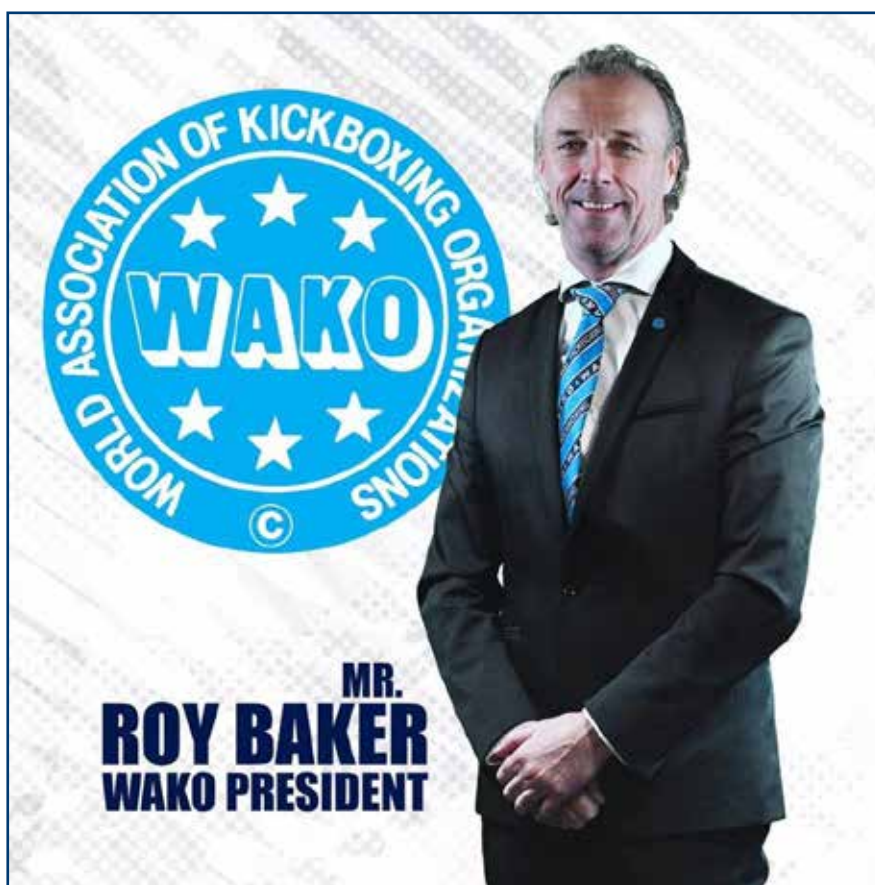


# Words from the president

**Dear reader,** this publication will give you an introduction to WAKO as the world governing body that you can then use for promotion and for information to your members, showing a positive and credible picture of the sport of Kickboxing, building up the profile of Kickboxing worldwide.

WAKO ended 2018 with a massive boost within credibility – IOC Provisional Recognition. As President I want to materialize this, using this recognition to inspire the organization to develop, improve and to grow. It is my goal to continue to build WAKO into the future starting from the successes of the past. To develop and deliver better services to each region and continent improving the quality of our sport. Whether it is through education, coaching, judging or by leadership. Always focusing on our members needs and requirements. Where applicable, to offer support to countries in their internal relevance and development in regard to achieving government recognition and financial support from government and or Olympic institutions. To really focus on the development of all Continents to be equally strong. To also help our already strong regions to become stronger and better.

As leaders we need to stay in front creating transparency and accountability at all levels in the organisation. To give everybody an opportunity to be involved in the implementation and growth of our sport. Our role as leaders in WAKO is to be aware of the present, while building out the future for the next generation of Kickboxers in particular our youth.



As newly elected President I have highlighted that I will focus over the next four years and beyond, to get the sport of kickboxing in to the various Continental Games. To expand our presence in the IWGA and to be a part of the FISU Universiade. But, it should be obvious that our ultimate long term goal is to reach for the Olympic Games. Building the international platforms for our athletes to be inspired, grow, engage, retain and develop for generations to come.

*Roy Baker*

# WAKO Essential Purpose

The purpose of WAKO is to foster, develop, promote and regulate the participation, competition and officiating of the sport of Kickboxing worldwide. WAKO provides national organizations and Continental Federations with appropriate guidance and clearly defined, detailed rules while empowering and developing the NOC's athletes, coaches and officials so they can perform at their best. WAKO's core values are: Safety, Fairness, Transparency, Ethical Conduct and Accountability.

WAKO is responsible for the overall development of the sport of Kickboxing, from the grassroots to the high performance competition on a worldwide basis.

**Kickboxing is a physical Sport and it is for everyone!** Children, youth and adults enjoy sport activities



ranging from beginners to the competitive level on national and international level. WAKO's well-structured environment ensures a high level of quality for everyone participating. Physical activities in combined with mental strength, individually or in a team environment, ensure fun and good health for life-long learning and participation.



The multi cultural mix, over decades in Kickboxing's history in the Martial Arts world provides a basis for a culture of respect, honor and self-esteem.

**Recreational Sport/Competition.** Each athlete decides individually to what intensity level he/she participates. Besides the obvious advantage of keeping your body healthy with the variety of martial art exercises the sport also offers weight loss, muscle strengthening and endurance opportunity. Additionally, some see it as great place to meet new and old friends and have a good time while getting a great, healthy workout.

For those who are competitive in nature – WAKO's kickboxing programs let you chose from a variety of options. Children like our beginners programs in Point Fighting and Light Contact and in addition, our Musical Forms division is very popular. Those who become more serious about the sport advance to a complete environment, participating in Club tournaments, regional and national tournaments. And for our top athletes WAKO offers Continental and World Championships. The "Best of the Best" earn the opportunity to participate in the "World Combat Games" and the "IWGA World Games", the largest and most prestigious Martial Arts events in the world.

# WAKO HISTORY

WAKO's History is tightly connected with the history of Kickboxing in the western world. Already in 1970, WAKO's legend Joe Lewis had his first "Kickboxing fight" against Greg Baines in the USA. This was the first fight where boxing gloves were used and the name Kickboxing was mentioned in the announcement.

But it was not until 1974 that the first official "World Championship in Full Contact" took place in Los Angeles. Joe Lewis and Mike Anderson were the main organizers at that time. WAKO legends Bill Wallace, Jeff Smith and Joe Lewis were the first Full Contact World Champions.

Creating a new, lasting and strong World Organization was not easy during those turbulent times in the martial art world. It was primarily George Brueckner and Mike Anderson who had the vision and the initiative to create a new "World All-Style Karate Organization" – in short "WAKO".

WAKO was founded in Berlin, Germany on February 26 1977. Thirteen founding members out of 8 countries were present. The first WAKO President elected was Mike Anderson from the USA. Anderson presided as President until 1985.

On 5 November 1978, it was George Brueckner who promoted the first WAKO World Championship in Berlin where 110 competitors representing 18 countries competed in the "Semi Contact" and "Full Contact" disciplines.

From that point on WAKO's success story developed exponentially. From beginning with only European Championships and World Championships and developing into organizing tournaments in all continents of the world.

In 1985 Ennio Falsoni followed WAKO founder Mike Anderson as the new WAKO President. Falsoni brought WAKO to a new professional level for combat sports and his hard work brought WAKO into its "second generation" development phase. During his years as President, WAKO grew not only in size to cover all continents but also grew in recognition at GAISE, Olympic Council of Asia and in the large jungle of the martial art world. Unfortunately Falsoni's Presidency came to a sudden stop after he became ill in 2013 whereby Espen Lund, Salim Kayici and Roy Baker followed as "Acting President". Today Mr. Roy Baker from Ireland is the current President of WAKO after Borislav Pelevic tragic and sudden death in October 2018. Pelevic was President from 2015 to 2018.



*The legend Bill "Superfoot" Wallace makes a beautiful kick to Ennio Falsoni's head during a seminar in 1977.*



*Historical picture: Mike Anderson in a beautiful jumping kick*



*Borislav Pelevic  
Former President*



*Honorary President  
Ennio Falsoni*

# ABOUT WAKO KICKBOXING

KICKBOXING is an umbrella name under which WAKO has created different fighting styles: Point Fighting, Light-Contact, Kick-Light, Full-Contact, K1-Rules, Low-kick and Musical Forms. These options are great selections for all interested martial artists. Our young participants have the chance to compete in our Cadet and Junior divisions, and for all those who focus on fitness, WAKO offers a Musical Forms discipline.

WAKO's fighting styles are divided into two categories; RING SPORTS and TATAMI SPORTS.

## Ring sports (Men & Women):

- Full-contact
- Low-kick
- K1- Rules

## Tatami sports (Men & Women)

- Point Fighting
- Light-contact
- Kick-Light
- Musical Forms



## About WAKO kickboxing

WAKO is a not-for-profit Sports Organization registered in Zug, Switzerland. Its statutes; by-laws and annual General Assembly ( for all member countries) provide a stable platform for democratic and vibrant development. WAKO has 129 Member-countries with millions of practitioners all over the world. 98 member countries are recognized either by their NOC or by their national sports authority in 2019.

WAKO has signed the World Anti-Doping Code and is in full compliance with the Code and enforces all WADA regulations in the WAKO tournaments.





# WAKO WORLD AND CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

WAKO's seven Kickboxing styles and its divisions of Women and Men as well as Juniors and Cadets require a solid and well thought out process and organization. WAKO has been organizing World Championships since 1977 for seniors and Cadets and Junior Championships since 1997.

Therefore WAKO holds multiple events to cover Continental and World Championships for all these styles and divisions. All championships are joint promotions with the hosting WAKO member and their country (or) member and in their country.

Our largest Championships as of today was Senior World Championships in Budapest

Hungary 2017 with over 1.378 entries from 60 countries.

Our largest Cadets and Junior Championship organized to this day was in Jesolo, Italy 2018 with 2.354 entries from 65 countries.



*Reading WAKO Oath*

All championships are usually televised by national televisions and have coverage by national newspapers.

**Tournaments.** Our international calendar shows over 40 large international tournaments annually.

## **Yearly Championship activities:**

- Bi annual – World Senior Championships
- Bi annual – Continental Championships
- Bi annual – World and Continental Cadets and Junior Championships
- Annual – various National Championships
- Annual – various National and International Cups and Championships

## **International Games:**

WAKO takes part in:

- OCA Asian Indoor Games
- SportAccord Combat Games
- World Games
- Southeast Asian Games



Since 1990, SAP is a leading company in kickboxing equipment (both in **light contact** and **full contact**), producing new concept items, with higher standards in terms of quality, comfort and protection, perfectly combining technology and design. From gloves, foot protectors, boxing bags and headguards, SAP expands its product range following the continuous increase in demand to a full set of articles including clothing wear for competition and leisure (all of which **Made in Italy**). Now, with nearly 30 years in the business and still growing, SAP Fighting becomes Style: a brand internationally known all over the combat World and now exporting in over 20 countries, offering a wide range of choices from the amateur to complete professional, all with high quality and completely unique designs.

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PH by GIORGIO CERAVOLO

## FROM THE CONCEPT TO THE DISTRIBUTION

SAP is an outstanding producer of protection and technical clothing for combat sports - particularly in the disciplines of kickboxing, thai boxing and boxing - and distributes all over the world. Each article is conceived and designed in Italy, with great attention to new fashion trends, to the innovation of materials and comfort during sporting performance. SAP is the **official technical sponsor of the National F.I.K.B.M.S** (Italian Kickboxing Federation - MuayThai - Savate - Shoot Boxing - Sambo) and **main sponsor WAKO**.

Official brand of many of the most prestigious combat sports gyms in Italy, SAP is present as official sponsor at national and international martial arts events, tournaments, galas and technical stages, and is actively involved in various charitable initiatives aimed at promoting the values of sport in the worldwide. All the initiatives find great visibility and positive feedback through social networks, the press and our website [www.sapfighting.com](http://www.sapfighting.com)

SAP is also approved by  
**WAKO,**  
**FIKBS**





# WAKO MILESTONES

Yes, WAKO did it. On 30 november 2018 we got IOC provisionally recognition. A long term goal we have had since we started the process in 2007. It took us 11 years, but what a development we have been through. From this day, WAKO raised the bars to seek the next goals.

WAKO has had a rapid development in the official recognised world of sport. Here below a list of WAKO's main achievements:

- » **2005** In line with WADA anti-doping code and still is in compliance
- » **2006** Merging between WAKO and IAKSA
- » **2006** GAISF recognition
- » **2007** WAKO Asia Member of OCA
- » **2012** Member of AIMS and one of the initiators of the establishment
- » **2014** Member of IWGA
- » **2016** Member of Fair Play
- » **2016** Partnership with Peace and Sport
- » **2017** FISU recognized
- » **2017** Partnership with International working group for women in sport
- » **2017** FICS partnerships
- » **2018** IOC provisionally recognized
- » **2019** ARISF recognised

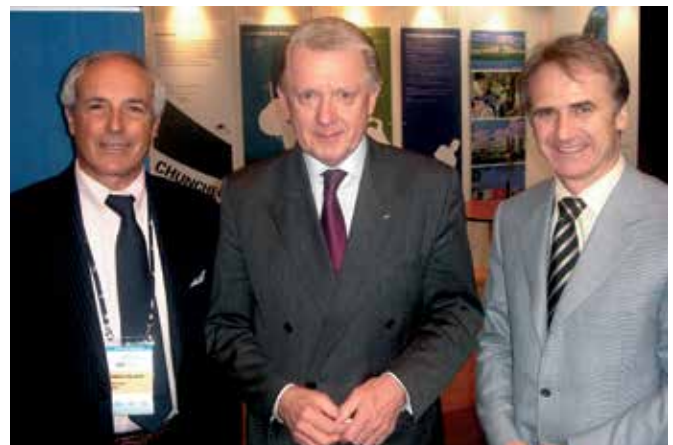
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*WAKO President Roy Baker congratulated in 7 May 2019 by IOC President Thomas Bach.*



*WAKO President Ennio Falsoni, SportAccord President Hein Verbruggen and IAKSA president Horst Prelog after signing the merging agreement and celebrating victory of SportAccord membership for WAKO, Seoul April 2006*





# SPORTACCORD WORLD COMBAT GAMES

Under the patronage of the IOC

The SportAccord World Combat Games are a multidiscipline event for all combat sports members of GAISF. These games celebrate, involve and show the world our fantastic sport and all the action and enthusiasm they bring. Only the best of the best athletes participate from each International Martial Art Federation so everyone can enjoy our top athletes' performances and achievements.

WAKO is the only governing body for "Kickboxing" in the world and a proud member of GAISF.

WAKO is one of the original combat sports participants in these games with other combat sports who are already a part of the Olympic programs as Boxing, Judo, Taekwondo and Wrestling.

The first SportAccord World Combat Games took place in Beijing, China in 2010. The second games took place in St. Petersburg, Russia in 2013.

WAKO is one of the 15 martial arts and combat sports members of GAISF to participate in these Games. Other participants include: Aikido, Boxing, Fencing, Judo, Ju-jitsu, Karate, Kendo, Muaythai, Sambo, Savate, Sumo, Taekwondo, Wrestling and Wushu. The SportAccord World Combat games are held under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee.



# International World Games Association | Under the patronage of the IOC



During the IWGA General Assembly 7th April 2014, WAKO was accepted as an official member of IWGA. This was another huge step for WAKO increasing its worldwide status and recognition.

As a result WAKO participated in the World Games in Wrocław 2017 as an invitational sport, with full sport hall and TV coverage. WAKO will participate as a full sport in the program of the next World Games in Birmingham, USA in 2021.

## WAKO Asia in Games

WAKO Asia participated in 2nd Asian Indoor Games held in Macau, China 2007 - 1st Asian Martial Art Games held in Bangkok, Thailand 2009 - 3rd Asian Indoor Games held in Hanoi, Vietnam 2009 - 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Art

Games, Korea 2013 – 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Art Games, Turkmenistan 2017. WAKO also took part in the 9th African Games held in Alger, Algeria in 2007. Kickboxing is also included in the 31st SEA Games in Hanoi, Vietnam 2021.

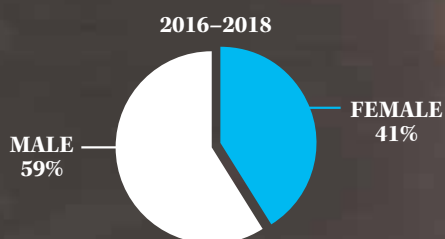


# IT'S ALL ABOUT FOCUS OUR INITIATIVES

**EDUCATION.** Education of both referees and coaches is important in order to streamline our services for those we serve – The athletes. Separately we have several initiatives towards the athletes and one of those initiatives are the Athlete Corner.

**GENDER EQUALITY.** For years we have focused on reaching higher participation of women in all parts of our organization, in the board, in the committees, and encouraged our national federations to build programmes to ensure more targeted inclusion. Today WAKO has strong women in important functions of the organizations.

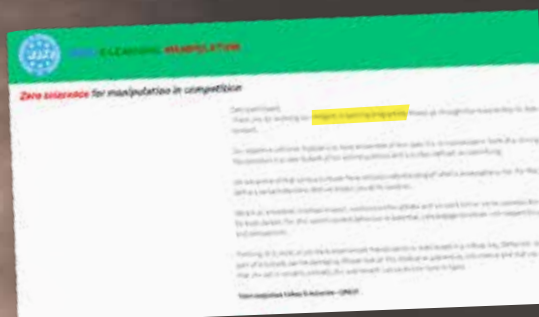
Not to say, we have raised the participation of women in competition and we have increased the average percentage of females from 32% in 2013/2015 to are 41 % today. That's incredible!



## HIGH INTEGRITY – FAIR PLAY – MORAL

No to match fixing of any kind, no to manipulation of any kind. We have our own tool to minimize this problem and we have today no-tolerance whatsoever.

E-learning, education, awareness, responsibility, whistleblowing, actions are tools we practice in our daily activity. Secondly stimulating good behavior, best practice is something we do and that's why we focus on prevention and all principles related to Fair Play in all parts of the organization.



**CLEAN SPORT.** Of course we focus on how to make our sport clean. We have simply zero tolerance for cheating through doping. E-learning as mandatory







# ATHLETE CORNER

Our Learn and Share program. We want to inspire, to educate, to enlighten and to ensure commitment. Anti-doping education, athlete career programme, fair play, committee engagement, academy information are all part of our program. We interact, we lecture and we motivate. Our partnership with the Chiropractic organization FICS has a highly popular service at both our Juniors as well as for our Seniors.

Our Athlete Committee, Coach Committee and our Entourage Committee are our driving force in order to plan, adapt and implement all aspects of our educational program, fitted to serve the athletes and the entourage.





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BEAT  
TRADITION!**



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# Kickboxing creates hope

Development happens locally and continentally. Control, development, inspiration are important in the continental divisions, and continental support adapting local needs is important. WAKO adjusts its programme in order to raise the quality in all continents. We stimulate to understand, communicate, exchange, to learn and share and to mobilize forces.

## Social inclusion

WAKO cares on an international basis and our national federations cares locally. We have a massive mobilization in order to ensure kickboxing as a tool implemented in the society. One of the most important tasks we have is to use our sport to give hope to those who need it most. One of our partnerships is with Peace and Sport and the programme Live Together, where we offer our service in the Za'atary refugee camp to Syrian refugees.

We educate coaches to implement aggression management for kids and we implement self defence programme for women. Simply educating Syrians to help fellow Syrians using sport as a tool to transmit positive values and to foster self-esteem and confidence.

WAKO has established a social and humanitarian solidarity programme, Because We Care, and we do hope we can make a difference for creating hope, inclusion, pride and a sense of dignity in a critical phase of life.





# FUTURE GOALS

We want to strengthen all parts of the organization and especially educative programs that focus on Integrity, anti-doping and equality. Athletes' representation in all parts of our organization and to respect the real need is something essential going forward.

WAKO aims for more continental engagement for our athletes and we need to initiate and support programs in continents that needs development. We aim for FISU participation and ultimately, we want to focus on full membership in the Olympic Movement and by that participation in Youth Olympic Games and Olympic Games – It's a long way ahead, but of course we can do it. Above all, we are going to learn, share and be inspired by tools already established in the olympic movement.

# Kickboxing

Passion Team Fun Top Sport  
Family Friends Respect Future  
Integrity Diversity Fair Play

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#BecauseWeCare



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In partnership with:



## WAKO

WAKO World Association of Kickboxing Organizations

HQ: Via A. Manzoni 18, 20900 Monza (MB), Italy

Tel.: +39 3450135521 Fax: +39 039 2328901

[administration@wakoweb.com](mailto:administration@wakoweb.com)

[www.wakoweb.com](http://www.wakoweb.com)