

No. 8 / April 2018

WAKO

KICKBOXING

MAGAZINE



21 WAKO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN BUDAPEST

WAKO AT
PEACE&SPORT FORUM



WAKO KICKBOXING



WAKO President
Borislav Pelević



WAKO ASIA

President
Nasser Nassiri

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Barhain
4. China
5. Hong Kong
6. India
7. Iraq
8. I.R.Iran
9. Jordan
10. Kazakhstan
11. Kyrgyzstan
12. Korea
13. Kuwait
14. Lao PDR
15. Lebanon
16. Macau
17. Malaysia
18. Mongolia
19. Nepal
20. Oman
21. Palestine
22. Philippines
23. Saudia Arabia
24. Singapore
25. Syria
26. Tajikistan
27. Chinese Taipei
28. Thailand
29. Turkmenistan
30. UAE
31. Uzbekistan
32. Vietnam
33. Yemen



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President
Emmanuel Essessima

1. Algeria
2. Angola
3. Benin
4. Cameroon
5. Congo
6. Egypt
7. Gabon
8. Ghana
9. Isle Maurice
10. Kenya
11. Libya
12. Madagascar
13. Mauretania
14. Morocco
15. Namibia
16. Nigeria
17. Senegal
18. Sierra Leone
19. Somalia
20. South Africa
21. Tunisia
22. Zimbabwe

IN THE WORLD



WAKO PANAMERICA

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Paulo Zorello

1. Argentina
2. Barbados
3. Bermuda
4. Bolivia
5. Brazil
6. Canada
7. Colombia
8. Chile
9. Cuba
10. El Salvador
11. Ecuador
12. Guatemala
13. Mexico
14. Panama
15. Paraguay
16. Peru
17. Puerto Rico
18. Trinidad&Tobago
19. Uruguay
20. USA
21. Venezuela



WAKO OCEANIA

President

Peter Thompson

1. Australia
2. New Zealand
3. Samoa



WAKO EUROPE

President

Roy Baker

1. Austria
2. Armenia
3. Albania
4. Azerbaijan
5. Belarus
6. Belgium
7. Bosnia Herz
8. Bulgaria
9. Croatia
10. Cyprus
11. Czech Republ.
12. Denmark
13. Estonia
14. Finland
15. France
16. Georgia
17. Germany
18. Great Britain
19. Greece
20. Hungary
21. Ireland
22. Israel
23. Italy
24. Kosovo
25. Latvia
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27. Lithuania
28. Luxembourg
29. Malta
30. Macedonia
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43. Spain
44. Sweden
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46. Turkey
47. Ukraine

WAKO President's report: GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

WAKO Magazine

No. 8
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IMPRESSUM

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NOTICE:
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volunteers without payment. All lines
and photographs are free of charge.

The joint WAKO World Championships held in November 2017 was a good shot. All seven disciplines finished competition in the same term, and what seemed to be a problem, became a fantastic opportunity to force the limits and a real challenge.

Following the General Assembly (held during the championships) adoption of the new WAKO Statutes, the various committees within WAKO have a more defined role and they are all going about their work in a positive way.

WAKO commitment to social responsibility has stood out, the work undertaken in conjunction with Peace and Sport organization by WAKO Vice President Espen Lund and his team alongside the Jordan National Federation has been exceptional, to see the real tangible positive impact WAKO can have in difficult circumstances, shows the true power of sport.

The work undertaken in the development of the various kickboxing disciplines has also been very positive with development camps being organized in Spain, India, Romania, Finland and Palestine, again this is all around sustainable sport and WAKO IF is developing its member federations in a positive way.

Positive news from WAKO Europe Board in regard to the inclusion of Kickboxing in the European University Combat games in Zagreb, alongside three Olympic disciplines of (WTF (World taekwondo Federation) – WKF (World Karate Federation) – Judo (International Judo Federation) and Kickboxing inclusion on the 2020 European University Games in Belgrade, Serbia. Congratulation to all participants and organizers at the Asian Games recently held. Also, the level of activity in Pan America continues to increase in relation to numbers but also quality, well done. WAKO Oceania is continuing to work very hard in developing the sport kickboxing at the Continent. The 2nd Continental Championships has been held on 17-18th March, with a lot of positive changes due to the quality and quantity, a lot of energy to improve.

WAKO Africa still has the problems in organizing competition activities, as well as formal organization activities (General Assembly, meetings...). Already scheduled Continental Championships 2018 is postponed, the General Assembly also. Years back we didn't have either Continental championship nor General Assembly. In the last years we have a significant gap in the WAKO Africa activities, although we have very active and successful WAKO members from Africa.

Participation at the annual SportAccord (GAISF) Convention 2108 in April in Bangkok with a WAKO booth, will be a totally new marketing concept we adopted to increase and expand the presence in the International sport.

A lot of positive steps for our sport once again, but we must be restless in our pursuit to be better each day, to develop, govern, support and create positive activity within WAKO Worldwide. This is our job and that of the Board of Directors who are ultimately responsible to our members in delivering our strategic objectives tirelessly.

Dr. Borislav Pelevic, Ph.D.

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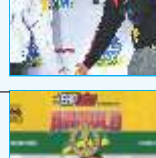
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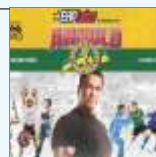
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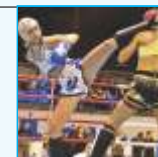
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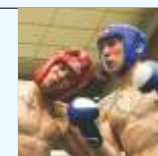


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SPORT FOR PEACE

Memorable days for the WAKO participation at the **Peace and Sport Forum** held in Monaco on 6th and 7th December 2017.

Following a year of fruitful cooperation with the **Peace&Sport** organization the WAKO gained visibility it could only dream of. It was such a great opportunity for the WAKO to showcase its sport and the genuine WAKO spirit.

Peace and Sport held a 10-year anniversary event with an interesting agenda and important personalities present at the Forum: HRS Prince Albert II of Monaco and Professor Mohammad Yunus, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

A two-part workshop "Sport with Champions for Peace" was scheduled for the first day. The first part was dedicated to measuring sport for development and peace in partnership with the Council of Europe (EPAS) and the second one to building effective and sustainable peace in partnership with the UNCHR.

A large number of constructive meetings were also held during the first day, as well as a press conference for the media coverage of the event.



ZSOLT MORADI CHAMPION FOR PEACE

A **WAKO Champion Zsolt Moradi (Hungary)** was earlier this year pronounced a CHAMPION FOR PEACE. However, for the WAKO his contribution started long before the event in Monaco. He was invited to be part of a friendly training session with other Champions for Peace present at the event. He did a great job engaging a lot of great athletes, including **Pedro Yang** (a former member of the IOC Athlete Committee), **Wilson Kipketer** (an Olympic medalist and a world champion in Athletics) and teams from Colombia and Venezuela. Moradi also attended several meetings during the Championships for Peace where future activities were discussed.



WAKO DIPLOMATIC EVENT



Whole day sessions and workshops were held during the second day on a number of interesting topics with inspiring speakers:

- Social innovation in challenging times
- Business investment for social goal
- Sport as driving force for creative expression
- Urban regeneration through sport
- The dawn of digital solutions

The most visible WAKO presence though was the **WAKO diplomatic event** in the convention area. It was a high profile event with carefully selected officials who had the opportunity to see a kickboxing presentation of a friendly match between Russia and Ukraine. Even though the WAKO tried various options, it finally got a very positive response from Russia and Ukraine.

4 athletes from both sides competed in two, a male and a female, matches in Full Contact.

The main idea of the diplomatic event was to demonstrate that sport should be practised between nations despite political conflicts or rivalry and to demonstrate the friendship and unity in sport. It was a success and the entire audience, composed of delegates from the Forum, sports officials, politicians and sport ambassadors was thrilled.

Besides the matches we had welcome speeches and Peace and Sport organized certificates and awards for both WAKO athletes and referees.



Participants of diplomatic kickboxing event with WAKO President and Peace&Sport President

NOMINATIONS FOR THE FEDERATION OF THE YEAR

A successful presentation and lots of praise for the presented spirit of kickboxing was a nice introduction to the prestigious **WAKO nomination for The Sport Federation of the Year**, because of the WAKO's engagement in the promotion of the Peace and Sport movement, especially now when the WAKO had White Card initiatives during 2017.

Federation of the Year is a reward for a national or international sports federation developing a programme which contributes to the development of social integration and peace through sport. The nomination comes for the overall policy towards sport for development and peace activities and the constant engagement to involve all kickboxing community in this cause.

Along with Badminton and Volleyball Federations, WAKO joined a good company in the race for the award. Badminton won the title of the Federation of the Year, and it was indeed well deserved. The WAKO was just happy to be a part of the list of nominees, mentioned many times during the Gala with its engagement and especially because of the Diplomatic event earlier that day and the importance such initiative brings.

We cannot ask for more "spotlight" for our sport than we got in Monaco, grabbing a great opportunity and thanking Mr. Joël Bouzou, P&S President. The WAKO also needs to extend its appreciation to Mr. Claude Pouget (WAKO Monaco President) for his great service and assistance helping us on the spot.



During the Forum, the amazing Trishan Das, a 9-year old boy from India, addressed the delegates reflecting on war through his drawing.

He wrote and prepared his speech alone as his talent and conviction were identified during the exposé 'Expression 2017'!

P&S Forum 2017

- 680 Participants
- 90 Non governmental organizations
- 40 Champions for Peace
- 90 Sport organizations
- 15 Ministers
- 10 High level dignitaries and ambassadors
- 3 Heads of state

The day ended with a cocktail and an official session for the Peace&Sport awards. The annual Peace and Sport Awards rewards organizations and individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to peace, dialogue and social stability in the world through sport.

Friday 8th December started actively, with "**I move for Peace Run**", a symbolic act for the support of sport contribution to the peace in the world.

Ministers' round table and field actors round table were the last activities of the final day of the event where social role of sport in the world, as well as instigation of peace actions in vulnerable parts through sport were discussed. All the conclusions of the discussion which give guidelines to the future activities are to be published in the traditional yearbook dedicated to this event.

The WAKO held meetings with Peace and Sport and other IFs in order to share ideas to engage in upcoming activities.

The WAKO President Borislav Pelevic commented:

"As President I understand the impact that Peace and Sport movement has got all over the world and I am inspired to get the WAKO even more engaged in creating a better society. I can only confirm that the WAKO is on the right track. I address my respect to the great and important work done in Peace and Sport by the founder Mr. Joël Bouzou. The WAKO is very happy to be a part of this great movement."

E.L.

CONVENTION FOR FUTURE OF THE SPORT



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; rights holders, organising committees, cities, press and media, businesses and other organisations involved in the development of sport.

The SportAccord Convention is a not-for-profit organisation which annually brings together representatives from **more than 100 International Sports Federations** affiliated with the following umbrella organisations that host their Annual General Assemblies at the SportAccord Convention.

GAISF (Global Association of International Sports Federations) **ASOIF** (Association of Summer Olympic International Federations), **AIOWF** (Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations), **ARISF** (Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations),

AIMS (Alliance of Independent Recognised Members of Sport) and **Associate Members**.

As a GAISF and AIMS member, WAKO will participate at the Convention in Bangkok, this time with the booth where will be held the main activities. With delegates and officials present at the Convention, WAKO has prepared plenty of activities which will have the main goal: to strengthen position in the international sports market.

IWGA ELECTIONS AND SPORTS PROGRAM ANNOUNCING

Ten candidates are seeking to join the International World Games Association Executive Committee. The elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting on 16 April in Bangkok, Thailand.

For the period 2018–2022 for the posts of President, Vice President and Treasurer there is only one candidate for each – José Perurena (Canoe), Max Bishop (Air Sports) and Lukas Hinder (Dance Sport) respectively, who all currently hold the position.

For 4 member seats there are six candidates: Anna Arzhanova (Underwater Sports), Volker Bernardi (Flying Disc), Antonio Espinos (Karate), Jan Fransoo (Korfball), Thomas Hollowell (Orienteering), John Liljelund (Floorball).

The meeting between IWGA President J. Perurena and IOC President T. Bach, 13th March 2018 in Lausanne, was a summary outcome of TWG 2017 in Wroclaw and a short brief of the ongoing preparations



*Espen Lund handling trophy to
WAKO Champion Herietta Nagy*

of The World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, USA 2021. What is important for WAKO is that the TWG 2021 Sports Program will be announced during the Annual General Meeting in Bangkok.

WAKO candidate for
The World Games Athlete of the Year 2017

SAREL IS A HERO



Finishing the active season in IWGA goes with the electing the Athlete of the Year. All IWGA members have to propose one athlete which will be the symbol of the Organization, and is chosen among the most successful athletes participated at the World Games 2017. **21 athletes, all of whom competed at The World Games last summer, waited for their fans to support them in the one competition they cannot win by themselves: the Athlete of the Year vote.**

WAKO is very proud to announce that **Ms. SAREL DE JONG, from The Netherlands**, has been proposed as candidate to be awarded as The World Games Athlete of the Year 2017.

She was the winner in K-1 (-65 kg) and on her hard way to the gold medal during the World Games 2017 held in Wrocław, Poland, on last July, she defeated the following strong champions:

1. Ms. Cristina Caruso from Italy - WAKO European Champion
2. Ms. Keitlin Young from USA - WAKO Pan American Champion
3. Ms. Teodora Manic from Serbia - WAKO World Champion

Sarel De Jong was chosen as candidate for her great energy, perseverance and passion supported by the enthusiasm of the Netherlands team during the World Games, which was really unforgettable, especially after her final fight.

The voting was during January 2018, and the race was very tough and close.

The winner was “the fastest man on earth, with the longest name on earth”, Speed Sport Climber Reza Alipourshenazandifar, the first ever Iranian winner at The World Games last summer, and he



WAKO was honored one more time to have an athlete of the Month in IWGA:

IWGA Athlete of the Month February 2017: Datsi Datsiev, Kickboxing World and European Champion

Datsi Datsiev is a kickboxer from Russia, honored Master of Sports, six-times K1 Champion of Russia, K1 World Champion and K1 European Champion.

currently holds the world record in Speed Climbing. Sarel de Jong has finished her race on the eight position.

Thank you to all who voted.



WAKO

40 YEARS



WAKO President Borislav Pelevic with Vice Presidents Espen Lund and Roy Baker behind Olympic rings in Innsbruck

On 5th November 1978 the first WAKO World Championships was promoted in Berlin with 110 competitors representing 18 countries.



WAKO Plaque 40 Years

The WAKO is honored to celebrate 40 years of existence.

Since its inception, in the passed 40 years the WAKO has enjoyed exceptional development and success.

Through the commitment of all members of the organization, we have reached this goal together.

The WAKO today plays an important role at the International sports scene.

As a member of **GAISF** (Global Association of International Sport Federations), **FISU** (International University Sport Federation), **IWGA** (International World Games Association) **AIMS** (Association of recognized members

of Sport), **WADA** (World Antidoping Agency), International Fair Play Committee, Peace&Sport Organization, **OCA** (Olympic Council of Asia) and **IWG** (International Working Group of Women in Sport), **IFCO** (International Federation of Chiropractors & Organizations) the WAKO has responsibility towards its athletes to care of and guide their future life and career.

Nurturing sports spirit, community, tolerance and care for life in general, the WAKO has been making plans for a bright future, in which some new young people will be celebrating the next 40 years which will definitely be even more successful than these ones.

SUCCESSFUL YEAR BEHIND



WAKO President Borislav Pelevic addressing to the delegates of General Assembly with the report about his activities



Awarding National Presidents with the plaque 40 YEARS WAKO

During the WAKO General Assembly, the President Dr. Borislav Pelevic gave an introductory speech in which he spoke about the complete schedule of activities during 2017 he and his colleagues from the WAKO Committee for the International relations were engaged in. The Chairman of the meeting laid out all the WAKO's activities during the past 2017, explaining that many diplomatic and important meetings were held throughout the year, in particular the ones with the IOC representatives for the revision and update of the WAKO's application for the recognition (the meetings were held in Lausanne in January 2017, in Dublin in March 2017 during the Irish Open, and in Aarhus, Denmark, in April 2017 during the SportAccord Convention 2017).

The President explained that everything that was in the WAKO's power had been done to fulfill all the criteria of the recognition process: the procedure and the update of the application were completed in April 2017 so now the IOC Executive Committee has to decide. We hope for the best.

President Dr. Borislav Pelevic reminded everyone that ongoing activities in the WAKO are getting national recognitions: Finland, Argentine, Poland, Venezuela, Palestine and Germany have obtained the official recognition

from their NOC. Kazakhstan has announced its official recognition during the Assembly later on. WAKO Europe has the best result in that field, all National WAKO Members are recognized except Belgium.

As of today the WAKO counts 126 members, of which 93 countries are officially recognized by their NOC or the Ministry of Sports.

The President reminded the members of all other successful activities held this year in all WAKO Divisions such as Continental Championships and international coach and referee seminars like the ones held in Bulgaria and India.

In addition, he emphasized great success the WAKO achieved during the IWGA World Games.

The WAKO has got the FISU recognition, and for the first time kickboxing will be officially added to the EUSA sport program for the European University Championships side by side with Olympic sports like Judo, Karate and Taekwondo. The first edition will be held in 2019 in Zagreb, Croatia.

From now on the WAKO has a new international tournament to participate in, so all WAKO members should be prepared.

Athens Challenge WAKO Cup
2-4th February 2018
Athens, Greece

SHINE OF THE NEW GLORY



Athens Challenge 2018 was the most successful so far. This was agreed not only among the organizers but also among participating athletes, coaches and audience.

Improving was not only in terms of organization, since this year the floor plan was divided in two different fighting areas of 6 tatamis each offering unencumbered access to everyone to all tatamis, but also in terms of number of participations and level of fighters.

What needs to be noticed in relation to this year's ATC, is that the musical forms that were part of ATC for

Foreign Athletes prefer ATC for several reasons:

- It is the first Wako World Series tournament for the season, right after Christmas vacation
 - Apart from the tournament, they have a chance to visit many archeological sites such as the Acropolis, Parthenon, etc.
- Athens is a low cost city for people abroad, offering great food and vivid nightlife for Sundays after the end of the fights.

CAMPAIGN
WAKO women against cancer

Athens Challenge is not only a sport kickboxing tournament, it is a social responsible event with aim of raising awareness that we all are not only competitors but humans who has to take care of each others. This year WAKO's campaign "WAKO Women against cancer" was successful in fund raising for the oncological unit of the charity organization "The smile of the child". Going forward, the plan is every year a percentage of the income from the registrations will be offered to the similar charity organizations.



Athens Challenge 2018 for the first time hosted the Musical forms competition, which has brought a new fresh image of the tournament.

the first time, really impressed athletes and spectators, since they were the opening event of Sunday the 4th of February.

Athlete's participation in the categories Younger Cadets, Older Cadets and Junior, reached impressive number of 1780.

During the last 2 -3 years, participating athlete's level has improved dramatically and reached again old highs, that we had lost for some years, due to the retirement of many famous and successful athletes.

Referee level is also improving the last years, as an increasing number of referees is participating in

international tournaments, gaining valuable experience, hence helping the smooth operation and organization of all tournaments.

All WAKO tournaments will be of great help to achieve long term WAKO goals- to standardize a quality, once they follow a common path in terms of structure and organization.

M.P.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE

LAST ROUND
Equipment

YOUR NEW WAKO
KICKBOXING BRAND



WWW.LASTROUND.ES



7th - 8th October, 2017
Beveren Waas, Belgium

Flanders International Kickboxing Cup 2017



Contact Karate Beveren club started with tournaments in 1976. Back then it was a Tae Kwondo Club and it was a TEAM EVENT with 4 participating countries. In time, new sports were added and the number of countries that take part has been increasing ever since. In 1980 we started with tournaments in karate, tae kwondo and kickboxing.

Getting the WAKO membership has opened doors to a new event with the old name to grow, get better and improve. Now, Flanders Cup is a part of the WAKO World Series Cups.

This year's tournament was in Point fighting and Open Division Forms.

It brought the largest number of participants, over 628 athletes and 57 clubs from 17 countries.





The main focus during the preparations was to provide the best referees with the aim of contributing to the quality of the tournament. So, there were 22 referees from 9 countries.

The 2018 event was a step further in our organization with Point fighting - Open Division Forms + 16 and - 16 years, and for the first time a **Light Contact** competition.

It is planned that the tournament expands the competition onto ring disciplines, too, in the future. An internal survey has shown that there is a growing interest in ring sports in this part of Europe, and a growing number of athletes are taking up ring disciplines.

On the first day there were children's divisions, which were the most massive in numbers, as always in the WAKO. We had a chance to see good fights leading to the finals in a spectacular Gala evening. It was an amazing evening and there were moments aplenty throughout the entire competition to warm the hearts of both athletes and their coaches.

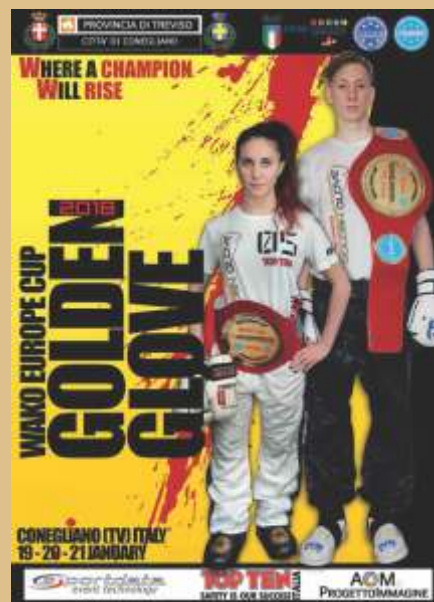
On the second day seniors were on the programme. Most participants were WAKO European and World Champions medalists which gives us hope that our tournament has a bright future.

De Block Marc



GOLDEN GLOVE CUP
Italy
20th - 21th January 2018

13 IS THE LUCKY NUMBER



The 13th edition of the Golden Glove, a must for kickboxing lovers, was held on 20 and 21 January in the new Zoppas Arena nearby Conegliano City.

A building set up with 8 squares and a giant screen that projected images of previous editions, was the stage for numerous competing fighters - about 85 clubs and 1000 entries - half of which were foreigners from over 12 countries: Austria, Belgium Holland, England, Czech Republic, France, Liechstein, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Ukraine.

The Golden Glove 2018, WAKO European Cup has been organized by the Europe Center One club together with Veneto Regional Committee FIKBMS (Italian Federation) and with the help of ASD ZenShin from Mareno di Piave.

The competition started on Saturday with K1 style, for the first time in this European Cup, 15 matches kicked off the day that continued with Light Contact and Kick Light divisions and in the evening Tag Team. Sunday was dedicated to

individual Point Fighting, Grand Champion and the amazing Top Ten KOMBATZONE tournament show.

Great emotion for the opening ceremony, with the drums and flag-wavers of the "Dama Castellana", who anticipated the entry of the children with the emblems of the participating nations (Italy, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Holland, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom) and referees.

The President of FIKBMS, Mr. Donato Milano, proudly expressed the importance of this type of fusion: "When sport is combined with culture and tradition - said the President - success is assured. Italy has a history that must be remembered and sport is part of it".

"What a show this Golden Glove is- said enthusiastically Raffaele Di Paolo, the promoter of the event - year after year it grows in numbers, awards, quality and styles – going on – The amazing staff of the Europe Center and a close-knit team in the management of the registrations have allowed to carry out the competition in the exact times giving serenity and concentration to fighters and coaches! "

It's to underline the winners of the TopTen Kombat Zone, a competition at the highest level that saw the knockout of top fighters from around Europe. After a stunning performance, the Italian fighter Albanese Riccardo (Team Fire Generation) and Martina Rossi (Team HMD Italy) won the belt and the original handmade trophy in Murano glass together with the prize money.

The men's Grand Champion was also spectacular and it saw a podium dominated by the Hungarian Kiraly Team composed of Veres brothers (Richard and Roland) and in third place the Slovenian Kolander Tadei and Albanese Riccardo.



Italy on the highest step for the Women's Grand Champion with Martina Rossi (Team HMD Italia), and the third place for Deborah De Vita (Team KBA).

At the end of these two days, the President of the Europe Center One, Luca Terrin, proud and satisfied with his staff told us: "We already have some new ideas in mind for next year. The competition is growing and we are confident that the National Federation is going to keep the attention on this event, which has for years attracted formidable fighters of the highest level in Italy. The confrontation between people always helps to improve, but surely it is right to thank first of all, the teams and referees on the participation and above all the main sponsor of the TOP TEN event that gave each winner a beautiful pair of gloves and furniture to set up a fantastic arena".

This concludes the 13th Wako European Cup but the new edition is already under development for the next Golden Glove 2019.

The competition was sponsored by CONI Veneto, the Province of Treviso and the Municipality of Conegliano.

All results on www.sportdata.org



European Cup "Karlovac Open" 2018
Croatia, Karlovac
9th - 11th February

GREAT SUCCESS AGAIN

European Cup Karlovac Open was held in Karlovac between 9 and 11 February, 2018 which gathered 1866 athletes from 28 countries and 177 clubs. It was sponsored by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Mrs. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, the Croatian Olympic Committee, the State Ministry of Sports, the city official Damir Jelic and the mayor Damir Mandic.

The competition was held in two sports halls to make sure that athletes get the best possible conditions. Tatami disciplines (Point Fighting, Light Contact, Kick Light and Musical Forms) were held in the big sports hall, whereas the venue for ring disciplines (Low Kick, Full Contact and K-1) was a smaller one.

The second day, February 10, saw fights in Point Fighting in the big hall, and simultaneously in the smaller one, in the School of Economics, qualification in ring disciplines were held.

Fights in Light Contact and Kick Light were held on the third day of the competition, Sunday, February 11, in the big hall, and in the small one there were the finals in all ring disciplines.

Robert Basara was brilliant throughout the competition and in the final fight the same where he won the amazing Polish fighter Bojarun in K-1. Another masterful performance was showcased by



RESULTS THE BEST TEN COUNTRIES

1. Hungary - 224
2. Croatia - 194
3. Italy - 72
4. Slovenia - 87
5. Bulgaria - 63
6. Great Britain - 43
7. Austria - 41
8. BiH - 31
9. Germany - 22
10. Israel - 17



ALL CLUBS total number of gold medals

1. Kiraly Team (HU.) 26
2. Team Lombardia (IT.) 18
3. Debreczeni Team (HU.) 15
4. Masaru (BG.) 14
5. Tigar Karlovac (HR.) 10
6. Team Epic (GB) 9
7. Proficiogroup Hwarang Maribor (SI) 8
8. ASD Euro Kickboxing (IT) 7
9. MAT TSV Rannungen (DE) 6
10. ASVO Roarbach (AT) 5



David Furdek who had previously won gold on the European Cup -51 in junior Low Kick.

Competitors from Italy, Hungary, Austria, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, BiH, Slovenia, Israel, Germany, Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, Denmark, Finland, Ukraine, Kirgizstan, Georgia, England, Wales, the USA, Tunisia, Armenia, Taiwan and the host country Croatia took part in the Cup.

FULL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The Croatian Kickboxing Association has been a full member of the WAKO since it was founded in 1992. Kickboxing in Croatia has a long and successful tradition, and is one of the most awarded sports in Croatia. Since the WAKO was admitted to the GAIFS in 2006, the CKA has become a full member of the Croatian Olympic Committee.

The Croatian Kickboxing Federation now counts 102 clubs - members and 5 country associated federations with a total of more than 5000 registered kickboxers. There are 230 licensed coaches and also 78 licensed judges with a national license and 10 with the WAKO international license.

2017 was a successful year for the Croatian kickboxers in every field - 16 national championships were held (PF-YC, OC, J, S; LC-OC, J,S, KL-OC,J,S; FC-J,S; LK-J,S; K1-J,S) and 85 clubs and 880 competitors of all age groups participated in these national championships.

In addition to regular state championships, a number of 11 International kickboxing tournaments were held in Croatia, with 4496 participating athletes.

Croatian kickboxers have participated at numerous WAKO International kickboxing competitions in Europe.

In addition to the WAKO championships, 4 Croatian kickboxers participated in The World Games at Wroclaw in Poland and won 1 bronze medal.

Licensing seminars were attended by 230 trainers and judges who received national licenses for 2017 and 2018. The expert part for the coaches was run by the best Point Fighting



coach in the World Mr. Istvan Kiraly from Hungary. A Summer camp for judges was also held, with 51 judges with national and international WAKO licenses.

On the Croatian Faculty of Kinesiology on Zagreb University, coach specialist seminars are held this year, which great attendance of 23 kickboxing coaches, and some of the specific topics were tackled by experts from HKBS Marko Žaja, Leo Komšić and Romeo Deša.

In early 2017, the Croatian kickboxing federation published THE KICKBOXING MANUAL prepared and written by Romeo Deša. All chapters are complemented with numerous documents and photographs from

the WAKO and Croatian kickboxing history. The handbook was given to each club - a member of the federation. A special Handbook for judges and referees was published and given to all licensed judges.

Representatives of the Croatian Kickboxing Association are very active in the bodies of the WAKO IF and WAKO Europe, and so Romeo Deša, in addition to numerous duties at various WAKO IF and WAKO Europe committees, was appointed as the WAKO President's special adviser and elected as a Board member of the WAKO Europe Board. International kickboxing referee Tomislav Novosel was elected to the WAKO Europe Ring Referee Committee.

M.P.

Croatian Kickboxing National Team at World Championships



10th Scandinavian Open
Oslo, 14th October, 2017
Norway

THE SCANDINAVIANS IN THE RING



Times have changed and new winds are blowing. What used to be an airplane hangar during World War II, today is a nice sports hall in Oslo, a perfect venue for martial sports competitions and the place where the WAKO had its 2017 edition of the Scandinavian Open.

Today Bjølsenhallen is a venue for many sports, such as football, basketball, handball, volleyball, table tennis, krav-maga, wrestling, tae kwon do, kali, karate and kickboxing.

The promoting club of the Scandinavian Open, Fighter Kickboxing club has daily trainings in this

arena, catering for the needs of all of its 800 members, aged 3-70.

This year at the Scandinavian Open 37 different clubs from Canada, Latvia, Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway took part in the following disciplines: FC, K1, PF, LC and KL in cadets, juniors and seniors divisions. There was a total of 226 entries.

It was such a fantastic competition with outburst of friendship and joy, among the public as well as among the athletes. It is an annual warm up before bigger international events, like the ones we had this year: joint World Championships in Budapest, Hungary, for all WAKO disciplines.

M.P.



KICKBOXING WELCOMED AT EUSA CHAMPIONSHIPS



Mr. Sinisa Jasnica President EUSA Serbia with WAKO Europe President Mr. Roy Baker

After gaining FISU recognition, WAKO has started fruitful cooperation with EUSA (European department of the Organization).

WAKO Europe President Mr. Roy Baker visited University sports organization of Serbia (EUSA Serbia) and its President Mr. Sinisa Jasnica, to discuss **incorporating Kickboxing into University games 2020** which will be held in Belgrade. From 11-23 July 2020, in Belgrade will be gathered 25 sports, above 6000 athletes from 500 Universities. After Olympic Games in Tokyo, this will be the biggest sports event for many nations over Europe and teams are already preparing.

Serbia is preparing to build multifunctional University Sports center in Belgrade as the key legacy of the Games, which will be serving students in the years to come.

European Universities Games (EUG) is a multi-sport university sports competition governed by the European University Sports Association (EUSA). Participants in these events are European university teams (participants represent Universities, but in FISU Championships, which are Worlds, participants are students, national teams). The Games are organized on a biannual basis, starting with 2012, with European Universities Championships being organized in even years. The Games as such represent the largest European multisport student event.

The first edition of the Games in 2012 attracted over 2500 participants, representing 154 universities from 32 countries and the second edition in 2014 witnessed over 2800 participants from 34 countries, representing 174 universities from 34 countries.

The **European Universities Games 2018** will be organized in Coimbra, Portugal under a slogan **"A winner's heartbeat!"**, a total of 13 sports will make the games, with the inclusion of student-athletes with disabilities, introducing also new demonstrative sports.

The first time kickboxing will be seen at EUSA event will be at **European University Combat Championships in Zagreb, Croatia** in 2019, along with Judo, Karate, and Taekwondo.



With WAKO Europe President at the meeting were present General secretary of Serbian kickboxing federation Mr. Petar Petrovic as well as Mr. Miodrag Jotic, sports Director of Serbian federation, member of WAKO Coaches Committee. It appeared that Mr. Jasnica was very well informed about the history of kickboxing and its position in the international sport today.

During the meeting, WAKO Europe President Roy Baker presented WAKO in details and the presentation was very successful. Mr. Jasnica was pleased with the productive meeting and once again stressed the importance of engaging Serbian Kickboxing federation into the organization of WAKO University Championships. The fact which stays opened was the data about disciplines and categories for this competition.

M.P.

BRISTOL OPEN 2017
14th-15th October 2017
Bristol, UK

KICKBOXING IN BRISTOL

The biggest tournament in the UK is the one in Bristol, which was the 9th annual event since the competition was restored in 2009 to its former glory it had in the 1990s. The event has grown and developed and in 2016 we witnessed over 1300 entries from 100 different clubs making it one of the UK's most prestigious sports martial arts competitions.

The tournament offers over 100 divisions in point fighting and light contact kickboxing in 2 days.

The competition attracts the very best competitors and teams



This man needs no introduction!

Peter Markland is the head referee for WAKO GB and one of the most familiar faces on the UK sport martial arts circuit. He has gone from an international competitor to a credible coach, a



from all over Europe and the USA.

Grand champions are one of the tournament's biggest assets, with some of the brightest kickboxing legends such as Krisztian Jaroszkiewicz (Hun), Andreas Angelopoulos (Gre), Gregorio Di Leo (Ita), Jadi Tention (USA), Robbie Lavoile (Can), Ryan Marlow (UK), Shauna Banon (Irl) etc. competing there.

The organizers always ensure to bring the finest selected referees from all over Europe and the venue is in a fantastic city center location, in an arena with 10 tatamies, and a Sport DATA technology. It is made sure that registration, scheduling, draws and communication are all user friendly and easily accessible for the participants. The prize money is 6500 pounds.

"We are very committed to providing a first class

**Registrations from
England, Scotland, Wales,
Ireland, the USA, Belgium,
Norway, Italy, Hungary,
Bulgaria, Spain, Croatia and
Switzerland.**

competition for starters to the very best athletes at all age ranges. Bristol is a beautiful city to visit and easily accessible, making travel costs very affordable from most European destinations," are the organizers' welcoming words (Sean Veira, Andy Cleeves and Shanon Gill).

**Gullotti Luisa (Ita) gained
trophy Ladies Grand Champion
PF OW.**

**Veres Richard (Hun) open
weight Grand Champion PF.**

family man and now has become the highest ranked referee. You will always be greeted with some fun, a smile and a joke but once he steps on the tatami he means business and professionalism is in abundance. This man truly has the x factor amongst referees and we are very grateful that he will be heading an area once again at Bristol Open 2017.



Top three nations:
 1. The UK
 2. Ireland
 3. Italy

Top teams:
 1. Team Epic GBR
 2. Team Bristol GBR
 3. Team Renegade GBR



AWARDING THE BEST ATHLETES IN 2017



Awarded athletes for the international success during the competitive 2017

Slovak Kickboxing Union (SKU) has been a WAKO member since 2005. It took a lot of time and hard work for the SKU to get high positioned fighters in the WAKO World League. Last year was an especially important for all federations, all members of the WAKO, because it was the first time that the WAKO was part of The World Games in Wroclaw (IWGA).

Slovakia Union had 4 athletes who represented the WAKO at the World Games.

Monika Chochlikova won a silver medal and Veronika

Cmarova won a bronze in K1-Rules discipline.

The middle of January was the time when Slovak Kickboxing Union organized an awarding ceremony for the best athletes in 2017!

This celebration was held in Trencin which was also the place where National 1st Open League cup of SZKB was organised.

9 juniors and cadets and 10 senior fighters who won medals during last year at TWG, WAKO World and European championships were awarded in Trencin.

Slovak Kickboxing Federation is proud to have such great athletes, who will represent the country this year on the WAKO tournaments especially on the Wako European Championship which will be held in Slovakia during October 2018!

1. Monika Chochlikova was awarded for winning the silver at TWG 2017.

2. Veronika Cmarova was awarded for the bronze medal at The World Games.

M.P.

SLOVAK OPEN 2018 International WAKO kickboxing tournament, memorial of Ladislav "Doky" Toth

REACHING A THOUSAND

The 19th anniversary of Slovak Open Cup 2018 organized by Slovak kickboxing Union, was a fantastic gathering of the best kickboxers from the region. The tournament was on 23rd-25th February in BRATISLAVA, Slovakia. This event lasted two days and successfully hosted a record number of fighters: 945 entries from 90 clubs and 11 countries!

The first day of Slovak Open on tatami hosted mainly all categories of cadets and juniors in KL, LC and PF disciplines and also to PF seniors. All fights were held on 7 tatamis. For a huge interest in K1-rules and Full contact, fights in the ring started also during Saturday, the first day of eliminations, and continued next day.

Sunday has been run on 4 tatamis with LC and KL seniors

categories, and on two rings were finals of FC and K1- rules. All teams supported their fighters with strong emotions and applause, what made great atmosphere during the tournament.

On behalf of Slovak kickboxing union, president Peter Onuščák and organizing committee, thanks to all teams, coaches, fighters who participated on Slovak OPEN 2018, from Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Poland, Austria, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Lithuania, Russia, and Slovakia. Huge Thank belong to also referees from Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Hungary and Slovakia for their great work! Also, a special thanks go to Romeo Deša from Croatia, who is a member of WAKO IF organizing committee and WAKO Europe Board member, for his precious help, advise and cooperation. Congratulations to all winners for their amazing fights, which moved SLOVAK OPEN again to a higher level!

M.P.

Peter Onuščák, the President of Slovak kickboxing Union:

"Our Slovak kickboxing union exists 30 years. We are still a small sport in Slovakia, nevertheless, we have reached a great success every year until now. The important time for our federation was last year when our fighters represented Slovak kickboxing union at IWGA The World Games in Wroclaw. It was the first time in the history, and we are very proud that our four fighters participated. Their success brought our country the biggest success of all non-Olympic sports. This year will be again important for us. We will

organize WAKO European championships in K1-rules, Low kick and Kick light during October 2018 in Bratislava. Our first time as the organizer of international WAKO event was in 2012 when we held WAKO World championships cadets and juniors. This event was a success, with an amazing number of participants: around 2200 athletes with supporters. Senior championships 2018 will be at the same place, so we are glad to show the same place, nowadays looks better after renovation. We hope that each participant will enjoy this time in Slovakia. Hope to see all of you soon".



10th WAKO Pan Am Championships
30th November – 3rd December 2017

NATURE AND SPORT TOGETHER IN GLORY

Kickboxing as a sport and a martial art discipline, as part of a natural process and internal competition of a human being with others, improving every day, trying to overcome any obstacles and personal issues, all this occurred in a magical and paradisiacal place, the most emblematic of the South American region where three countries and three borders converge: Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

The scenery reminds us of the majestic creation and that the laws of nature applied to sport and bring success. This was the collective feeling of 9 Nations that, according to the Annual Calendar of the WAKO IF and of the WAKO PANAM headed by its President Paulo Zorello, met at the 10th South American Kickboxing Championship in Foz de Iguazú also known as the Iguazú Falls between November 30 and December 03, 2017.

The WAKO PANAM in compliance with the demands of international organizations to provide sport management for our Olympic recognition and meet the standards of quality and organization, gathered the South American countries on November 30 for the celebration of nature and kickboxing in Foz de Iguazú. The very particular climate at this time of year was not different from the ones in other countries with temperatures between 40 and 45 degrees. The venue was Costa Cavalcante gym.

Nine countries: **Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela and**



Brazil participated with total attendance of more than **650 athletes**.

Registration and weighing were held in the facilities of the Hotel Rafain de Iguazú. The WAKO PANAM also carried out other activities such as promotion and sports outreach with arbitration seminars for the referees and judges from 9 countries. There was a total of **40 referees** and judges, among which was Mr. Jan Frana (the Czech Republic), a WAKO IF's authority for ring sports.

Belts review activities were also held, and the annual meeting of senior management of the WAKO PANAM was held with the presence of its President Paulo Zorello, its Vice Presidents Juan Corrales (Argentina); Hugo Lobo (Paraguay), Chip Post (USA) and Fernando Granados (Mexico) this last one attending via a video conference, with the purpose of planning activities in 2018 and the commitments that come in the immediate future.

The venue for the second day's competitions was the Costa Cavalcante gym with 4 tatamis and 2 rings, an electronic system to run the competitions and a Sportdata management which was introduced thanks to its representative Mr. Alexander Engelhardt (The Netherlands). The competitions started from the early morning with fights in musical forms, which concluded with a majestic opening ceremony; the Championship was officially opened by President Paulo Zorello in the presence of the WAKO PANAM officials, presidents of other countries and their





representatives; athletes and referees took their respective oath in honor of sport.

Later in the evening, a kickboxing party began in this encounter with nature in the modalities of tatami and ring developing successfully throughout Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 with more than 500 fights and zero accidents, thanks to the organization and the engagement of everyone present.

At the end of the day, following 4 days of competition, it was quite sentimental for both

those who had won and the ones who had lost. 4 days of pure emotions which ended with a spectacular closing ceremony.

Brazil conquered the first place with 109 gold, 67 silver and 45 bronze medals for a total of 221, followed by Argentina with 46 gold, 35 silver and 31 bronze, in total 112 medals and the third place went to Chile with 41 gold, 32 silver and 33 bronze, in total 106 medals.

This was a great way to close the Championship. So many factors contributed to the outcome. Firstly, the quality of the referees, an impeccable organization, the use of the technological standards such as the Sportdata system and a high level of competence that show a strong and active region in sports management. Everyone who was part of this event worked with the same aim-prosperity and growing of our sport.

P.Z.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Following the plan to improve and increase members around the Continent, Peru is the next step and maybe the most important place where PanAm will organize various seminars in 2018. Peru will host the next Pan American Games in 2019, and WAKO Pan Am is working very hard to include WAKO Kickboxing there.

In Lima, the WAKO PanAm will organize a Technical and Referee Seminar and the Sports Management Training and Event Organization



Seminars, very important to develop the WAKO Peru and Bolivarian region.

The Universidad Autónoma de Peru will be the place where the seminars will performed.

All necessary information coming soon in WAKO media.

WORLD COMBAT GAMES 2019

WAKO KICKBOXING AT WORLD COMBAT GAMES

Chinese Taipei will host the 2019 World Combat Games. An agreement was signed between the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and officials from Chinese Taipei. Taipei or Kaohsiung is expected to be the host city.

The event is due to be held in the second half of 2019.

The sports programme is also still to be confirmed, but at present, the 15 sports are expected to be on the programme:

Aikido, Boxing, Fencing, Judo, Ju-Jitsu, Karate, Kendo, Kickboxing, Muay Thai, Sambo, Savate, Sumo, Taekwondo, Wrestling and Wushu.

First held in 2010 in Beijing, the SportAccord organized World Combat Games, consisted of six Olympic and 10 non-Olympic sports, and a second edition was held in Saint Petersburg 2013. The third edition was supposed to be in Lima, Peru 2017, but it was canceled.

There is a separate agenda for a EUSA (European University Sport Federation) Combat Sports Games. It will be organized in Zagreb, Croatia 2019, with Kickboxing participation confirmed.

3rd Turkish Universities Kick Boxing Championships
Antalya, February 28 - March 5, 2017.



16 UNIVERSITIES IN THE KICKBOXING RING

Following profound activities in 2014 when Turkish Kickboxing Federation received recognition by Turkish University Sports Federation, a new competition league has started its journey.

Mr. Kemal Tamer, the President of Turkish University Sports Federation has confirmed his support for the WAKO Kickboxing and since 2015 Turkish Kickboxing Federation has been organizing University Championships. Capable and competent in organizing of kickboxing events, WAKO Turkey has included one more important competition on the list.

The third edition of this great event took place in Antalya, with more than 800 students and kickboxing athletes fighting in the league. A fantastic venue, 2 rings and 2 tatamis were the arena for great fights in Point fighting, Full Contact and Low Kick. There has been constant increase in attendance each year, with festive atmosphere and flawless organization, which has led this event to become a prestigious challenge for the best of the best among kickboxing competitors in Turkey.

A new wind has started to blow after the WAKO received FISU recognition in 2017, and this specific age group within kickboxing athletes has a chance to do their best.

M.P.



This is the list of participating Universities on this Championships:

1. İstanbul University
2. Adıyaman University
3. İstanbul Gedik University
3. Düzce University
4. Pamukkale University
5. Selçuk University
6. Çankaya University
7. Erciyes University
8. Fırat University
9. Çukurova University
10. Gazi University
11. Marmara University
12. Batman University
13. Mehmet AkifErsoy University
14. Adıyaman University
15. KaradenizTeknik University
16. BitlisEren University



University Championship in Poland



The middle of May in Poland is the time when students start to pack their bags with sports equipment to travel to Warsaw to attend the Polish University Kickboxing Championship.

The 6th edition of the Polish University Kickboxing Championships took place at the Warsaw University of Technology (WUT), on 18-19.05.2017. Besides this University, the organization was joined by Students Union of the WUT, the Department of Physical Education and Sport WUT.

The best University of the National Kickboxing Championship AZS was the **Lublin University of Technology** (3 gold medals; 3 silver medals; 1 bronze medal).

Patryk Kuryłek and **Agnieszka Osial** were the **best fighters** during 6th Polish University Kickboxing Championship.

The Polish Kickboxing Federation and the University Sports Association cooperate and patronage the Polish Kickboxing Championships. The University Sports Association (AZS – Akademicki Związek Sportowy) is the biggest sports students organization in Poland, that has

The 7th edition of Polish University Kickboxing Championships will take place in Lublin, on 17-18.05.2018.

Low-kick and light-contact will be the disciplines during the Championships.

existed since the beginning of the 20th century. The AZS is an active member of the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and the European University Sports Association (EUSA). At present the AZS has more than 42 000 members, associated in more than 250 clubs, that trains in about 3 000 sections.

In the 6th edition of the Championship, **68 students represented more than 30 Polish Universities:**

- Warsaw University of Technology
- Lublin University of Technology
- Gdansk University of Technology
- Military University of Technology in Warsaw
- Białystok University of Technology
- Medical University in Lodz
- University of Białystok

- University of Szczecin
- Uniwersytet of Zielona Gora
- Rzeszow University of Technology
- University of Rzeszow
- Czestochowa University of Technology
- Wroclaw University of Technology
- University of Physical Education in Warsaw
- UKW Bydgoszcz
- UTP Bydgoszcz
- Gdynia Maritime University
- Szczecin Maritime University
- UTH Warszawa
- PWSZ Kalisz
- WSSP Lublin
- UMCS Lublin
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences
- War Studies University
- Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
- PWSZ Nowy Sacz
- Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce
- Poznan University of Economics
- Lazarski University
- WSPiA Rzeszow
- Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University
- WSB University
- AFiB Vistula
- Radom College

K.K.

WAKO USA vs. WAKO Canada
friendly event
September 30, 2017
Nashville, TN, USA



OMARI BOYD SHOWCASED HIS SKILL



For the first time in many years, WAKO USA versed WAKO Canada, this time in the United States. On September 30, 2017 in Nashville, TN, WAKO USA went 4-1 against WAKO Canada. Featured in the event was native Nashvillian and hometown hero, **Omari Boyd**. Boyd, with a 72-4 record is a **2017 World Games Bronze Medalist** and the first American Kickboxer in history to receive a medal at the World Games. Boyd showcased his kickboxing skills against Adam Weber on the Canadian K1 National Team, knocking Weber out in the first few minutes of the first round! Also on the

fightcard were three male and one female K1 Kickboxing fights as Team USA took on Team Canada in the international event.

Shane Streater (USA) won by TKO against D'hiren D'Souza (Canada).

Ashley Accord (USA) won by unanimous decision against Isabelle Lacroix (Canada).

Brandon Leaman (Canada) won by KO against Steven Summers (USA)

Adam Poore (USA) won by unanimous decision against Teshay Gouthro (Canada).

Nashville **Mayor Megan Barry** was “thrilled



to welcome all of the fighters, their fans and coaching staff" to Nashville for this international event.

This event was nationally televised and was broadcasted in over 100 million homes. The event had the support of the entire city of Nashville.

"We were very excited about this first time ever WAKO Team USA live Kickboxing event in

Nashville USA. USA vs.. Canada. I was thrilled to announce that this exciting battle would also be a live streamed pay per view event followed by a delayed televised broadcast. This was hopefully the first of many Team versus Team events in the United States." says **Rob Zbilski**, President, WAKO Team USA Kickboxing.

A.Z.

manus

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WAKO Canada news

2018 YEAR of YOUTH



Our association continues to make young people a priority: WAKO Canada has pronounced 2018 as the Year of Youth!

This year will be kicked off with a developmental tournament focused on newer participants. Both new and experienced athletes will get a chance to enter **two new divisions** – TAG TEAM KICK-LIGHT divisions and a non-sparring CHOREOGRAPHED PAD DRILL division! These two new divisions are meant to provide an exciting and fun alternative to the traditional ring and tatami sports. Both new divisions are part of our National strategy to provide programs to our club members that meet our LTAD (Long term Athletes Development) program priorities.

For our elite level athletes there are many tournament format events throughout 2018. We have our **regular National and Provincial Championships** plus a number of additional tournaments.

There are two additional domestic events with opportunities for young WAKO Canada athletes in 2018. On April 14, WAKO Canada will host a team from **South Africa** in a duo team event in Oakville. It will also be hosted a **USA** Junior team in the fall (Sept-Oct) for an event in Toronto or Niagara Falls. In both events there

will be opportunities for young athletes to try out for team spots.

The incredible **Ontario Winter Games (OWG)** from March 1-4 this year gathered 70 selected young kickboxers who had the chance to be part of an incredible multisport event in Orillia, Ontario. WAKO Canada kick boxers are planned to stay in an Olympic style village with other athletes; be part of an massive televised Opening Ceremonies; and participate in their sport passion alongside 25 different sports: skiing, hockey, target shooting, pin bowling, curling, figure skating, wrestling, weightlifting, synchronized swimming, wushu, boxing, kickboxing, judo snowboarding, etc... These kick boxers had an experience of a lifetime!

The **Ontario Games Program** started in 1970 in Etobicoke as a showcase for amateur sport. It has now become Ontario's largest multi-sport event, including both team and individual sports, and it will feature more than 3000 athletes aged from 12-18.

The pinnacle youth event for 2018 will be the **WAKO World Junior/Cadet Championship** to be held in Italy September 15-22. Tryouts for the National Team include 5 training camps starting in February as well our National Championship May 12-13.

If you are a new kickboxing participant looking for a first competition or you are a seasoned athlete looking for a chance on the world stage – 2018 is your year!

WAKO Canada is also providing opportunities **for our coaches** to develop their skills and experiences in both domestic and international events. It will be selecting process for the National Team coaches to accompany





Two of Canadas finest senior athletes at the PANAM Championship in Mexico 2017. Both started off with WAKO Canada as Juniors!



the Canadian National Team to a number of international and national events for the 2018 competitive year.

WAKO Canada has planned 6 National Team training camps for 2018. These camps have two objectives: Qualify athletes for National team and to prepare National team athletes for success at International Championships.

WAKO Frosty Friends Development Tournament is set up and ready for over 60 young participants. For many this is their first competition! They will have a chance to try Kick Light competition.

"Our mission is to reimagine kickboxing by creating the world's safest and most admired combative sport", said Mr. Muzammal Nawaz, WAKO Canada President. "WAKO Canada is dedicated to the highest level of excellence. We involve our members in the planning and reviewing process and that is what makes our organization successful."

M.P.



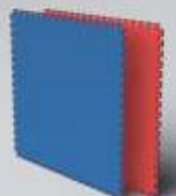
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21 WAKO World Championships all disciplines
Budapest, Hungary
2th -12th November 2017

ONE DATE - ONE PLACE ALL WAKO DISCIPLINES



November 2017 was a challenging month in WAKO history. For the first time on the schedule was joint championships in all seven WAKO disciplines. Not only number 7 was a challenge but moreover was a huge number of the athletes, coaches, referees, officials, and companions at one place, one time, at one championship.

1388 athletes

279 coaches

100 judges and referees

60 countries

5 continents

When the first part of the championships, which had to be in Brazil, was canceled due to the political issues in the country, it reflected all international sports and cultural events which were expected to be held in Brazil (Sao Paulo). WAKO couldn't avoid the consequences of the

issue and the Championships was canceled. No time left for the new destination and WAKO Hungary offered, strongly dedicated to the success, to add that championship to the already appointed championships in Budapest. After days of negotiations, the decision had been made: one World Championships, at one date at one place.

As much as that decision seems to be incredible, the organizers were more convinced that everything will be under control.

Hungarians are well known as fantastic organizers, they know how to handle huge numbers during the championships. But this time they have exceeded all expectations.

If we neglect the first day of the team arrivals when we have to admit, there were slowdowns with the accreditations, (it was necessary due to the strict safety checking of the identity of all participants) the competition went smoothly.



Magnificent sport hall

Opening ceremony: President's speech



The sports hall was impressive: SYMA Sports and Conference Centre is a sports facility in Budapest, Hungary, which was opened on 1st September 2006. SYMA has 3 halls: Hall 'A' is 8000 m², Hall 'B' is 5200 m², Hall 'C' is 2800 m². SYMA is used for sports events, concerts, conferences and exhibitions. Hall 'A' has a maximum capacity of 10,000 people. Concerts usually accommodate a crowd of 6,000.

There were many follow-up events which preceded the fighting days: WAKO IF General assembly, WAKO Europe general assembly, Coach and Athletes Committees meetings, WAKO Woman committee meeting with the representatives who were running the Athletes corner, as well as inevitable Referees meetings for the update of the rules for tatami and ring disciplines.

The drawing was on the schedule, and there was a presentation to explain how it works and how one can use Sportdata system on the spot.

The opening ceremony took two hours and it was more than festive: full of dance and nice speeches about the sport, about achievements of Hungarian WAKO federation, about city Budapest and sports motivation. We saw an amazing lineup of the delegates from all participating countries, who stood on tatami with their flags in the hands, with the smile on the faces and with hearts full of wishes before the Championships will start.

After a long hard week of fighting, from 3rd November till 11th November, the WAKO World Championships of 2017 in Budapest, Hungary was coming to close. Two rings and six tatamis were occupied in passed days.

The last evening gala was "a cherry on the top" of this fantastic event. The organizer was focused on quality and adopt to the global market, so



Attractive Musical forms



Explanation of the draw: Srdjan Bugarcic

made a fantastic show where some of the biggest stars of WAKO performed the best kickboxing fights. With a live TV broadcast and live streaming at, we have covered a huge number of spectators.

The list of the best fights at the Gala started with a low kick -67kg final between Georgian Cimpeanu of Italy and Andrei Khamionak of Belarus.

Karoly Berki of Hungary and Ivan Tkachenko of Ukraine followed them fighting for the +91kg full contact title.

After they have received their awards Angelina Kopytova of Russia and Tim Conkel of the USA performed their medal-winning musical forms.



WAKO Board members at gala dinner with Mr. Pal Schmitt, IOC member



Official drawing has started





Already having won 2 gold medals in kick light and light contact, Hungarian champion Roland Veres had a fight for his third gold at the Championships in the point fighting -57kg division against Rafael Alsov of Russia.

The -67kg full contact final was between Kazakhstan's Nursultan Khassanov facing off Hungary's Gabor Gorbics.

Anastasia Belyuchenko from Russia and Arturo Armendariz from Guatemala performed fantastic musical forms show.

The 3 last fights of the night made the crowd, starting with one of the longest-running rivalries in WAKO: Robbie McMenemy from Ireland faced Hungary's Zsolt Moradi in a repeat fight of the 2015 Irish Open finals in Dublin. McMenemy was beaten on home ground that time and is out for payback now in Moradi's town. It was an electricity in the atmosphere, the audience was thrilled.

David Martinez Aceves of Mexico faced Antoine Habash of Hungary in the -63.5 kg K1 finals, which was one of the best fights ever seen on WAKO World Championships. To close the night, Hungary faced Austria for the coveted WAKO World Team Championships finals.

After a night like this, the only place one can go after is to be at the Sayonara party at Kiosk in Budapest.



MEDALS STANDING COUNTRIES

	●	●	●	TOTAL
1. Russian Federation	27	22	14	63
2. Hungary	19	13	12	44
3. Italy	13	11	17	41
4. Poland	12	4	15	31
5. Serbia	7	2	4	13
6. Ireland	6	5	11	22
7. Germany	5	6	8	19
8. United Kingdom	5	4	8	17
9. Croatia	4	7	12	23
10. Ukraine	4	3	13	20
11. Kazakhstan	3	5	8	16
12. Slovenia	3	4	4	11
13. Bulgaria	3	3	4	10
14. Austria	3	2	2	7
15. United States	2	1	5	8
16. France	2	1	4	7
17. Finland	2	1	1	4
18. Turkey	1	8	33	42
19. Brazil	1	4	1	6
20. Argentina	1	3	2	6
21. Slovakia	1	2	5	8
22. Norway	1	2	4	7
23. Azerbaijan	1	1	3	5
24. Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	3	5
25. Morocco	1	1	1	3
25. Canada	1	1	1	3
27. Belgium	1	0	2	3
28. Mauritius	1	0	1	2
28. Denmark	1	0	1	2
28. Jordan	1	0	1	2
31. Belarus	0	5	6	11
32. Greece	0	2	4	6
32. Mexico	0	2	4	6
34. Guatemala	0	2	1	3
35. Portugal	0	2	0	2
36. Czech Republic	0	1	5	6
37. Netherlands	0	1	0	1
37. Iran	0	1	0	1
39. South Africa	0	0	10	10
40. Spain	0	0	8	8
41. Israel	0	0	2	2
41. Chile	0	0	2	2
41. Sweden	0	0	2	2
41. Switzerland	0	0	2	2
45. Montenegro	0	0	1	1
45. FYR Macedonia	0	0	1	1
45. Jamaica	0	0	1	1
45. Romania	0	0	1	1
45. Australia	0	0	1	1
45. Latvia	0	0	1	1

- 3 KL 049 V M +94 Kg**
1 Dvornikovich David Austria
2 Martins Candido Portugal
3 Theron Edgar South Africa
3 Podor Csaba Hungary
- 3 KL 051 V F -65 Kg**
1 Szuknai Zsuzsanna Hungary
2 Silva Cristiane Brazil
- 4 MF 033 S M HS**
1 Conkel Tim United States
2 Gonzalez Forastieri Villarreal Luis Felipe Mexico
3 Derunov Vadim Russian Federation
- 4 MF 034 S M SS**
1 Bagautdinov Linar Russian Federation
2 Gargoles Rommel United States
3 Aheyenko Philip Belarus
- 4 MF 035 S M HSW**
1 Conkel Tim United States
2 Armendariz Arturo Guatemala
3 Gavrillov Denis Russian Federation
- 4 MF 036 S M SSW**
1 Baev Ivan Russian Federation
2 Bagautdinov Linar Russian Federation
3 Gargoles Rommel United States
- 4 MF 037 S F HS**
1 Kopytova Angelina Russian Federation
2 Belyuchenko Anastasia Russian Federation
3 Karmalova Yuliia Ukraine
- 4 MF 038 S F SS**
1 Samygina Anna Russian Federation
2 Dambrouskaya Veranika Belarus
3 Mikhailava Viktoriya Belarus
- 4 MF 039 S F HSW**
1 Belyuchenko Anastasia Russian Federation
2 Kopytova Angelina Russian Federation
3 Gladka Kateryna Ukraine
- 4 MF 040 S F SSW**
1 Samygina Anna Russian Federation
2 Dambrouskaya Veranika Belarus
3 Smith Morgan United States
- 5 FC 040 S M -51 Kg**
1 Troiakov Daniil Russian Federation
2 Demir Sedat Turkey
3 Salimgerey Zhanali Kazakhstan
- 5 FC 041 S M -54 Kg**
1 Rakhimov Artem Russian Federation
2 Shagban Yerlan Kazakhstan
3 Mammadov Jamal Azerbaijan
3 Zilan Hasan Turkey
- 5 FC 042 S M -57 Kg**
1 Wolf Johannes Germany
2 Kanapyanov Arnal Kazakhstan
3 Panetta Daniele Italy
3 Cukadar Uzeyir Turkey
- 5 FC 043 S M -60 Kg**
1 Borsov Astemir Russian Federation
2 Dyussupov Abzal Kazakhstan
3 Cummins Tyrell United Kingdom
3 Garcia Sanchez Manuel Spain
- 5 FC 044 S M -63,5 Kg**
1 Abo Hasoah Uday Jordan
2 Tulebayev Didar Kazakhstan
3 Afonin Ilya Russian Federation
3 Yovnysh Robert Ukraine
- 5 FC 045 S M -67 Kg**
1 Khassanov Nursultan Kazakhstan
2 Gorbics Gabor Hungary
3 Fedorov Iurii Russian Federation
3 Mathisen Truls Norway
- 5 FC 046 S M -71 Kg**
1 Trusbekov Sayat Kazakhstan
2 Konikov Iurii Russian Federation
3 Pokusa Jakub Poland
3 Budesa Slavoljub Bosnia And Herzegovina
- 5 FC 047 S M -75 Kg**
1 Selianskii Nikita Russian Federation
2 Garaj Pavol Slovakia
3 Hasan Ali Jordan
3 Poletan Sandro Bosnia And Herzegovina
- 5 FC 048 S M -81 Kg**
1 Magomedbekov Iusup Russian Federation
2 Radonic Nikica Croatia
3 Karbownik Filip Poland
3 Kanavez Galymyan Kazakhstan
- 5 FC 049 S M -86 Kg**
1 Revutskii Vladislav Russian Federation
2 Miskovic Bojan Croatia
3 Danois Herbert France
3 Prykhodko Igor Ukraine
- 5 FC 050 S M -91 Kg**
1 Petrovich Ian Russian Federation
2 Abdrakhmanov Aidyn Kazakhstan
3 Pidnebesnyy Valeriy Ukraine
3 Eroglu Serdar Yigit Turkey
- 5 FC 051 S M +91 Kg**
1 Tkachenko Ivan Ukraine
2 Berki Karoly Hungary
3 Eaton Paul Victor Argentina
3 Izbaki Izim Kazakhstan
- 5 FC 052 S F -48 Kg**
1 Filatova Valentina Russian Federation
2 Ozturk Aylin Turkey
3 Mosko Karolina Poland
3 Gasperini Flavia Italy
- 5 FC 053 S F -52 Kg**
1 Lauslehto Hanne Finland Republic
2 Netusilova Tereza Czech Republic
3 Arslan Emine Turkey
3 Obermeier Tatjana Germany
- 5 FC 054 S F -56 Kg**
1 Vollstad Kristin Norway
2 Bashmakova Alena Russian Federation
3 Bordas Annamaria Hungary
3 Nauryzbayeva Akerke Kazakhstan
- 5 FC 055 S F -60 Kg**
1 Rinne Erika Finland
2 Naess Thea Therese Norway
3 Randall Tennessee United Kingdom
3 Ciglioglu Asuman Turkey
- 5 FC 056 S F -65 Kg**
1 Irmen Julia Germany
2 Miroschnichenko Kseniia Russian Federation
3 Rogala Pola Poland
3 Deniz Servet Turkey
- 5 FC 057 S F -70 Kg**
1 Dziedzic Karolina Poland
2 Reitan Oksnes Birgit Norway
3 Le Mee Cathy France
3 Ozcarar Beyza Fatma Turkey
- 5 FC 058 S F +70 Kg**
1 Lesnik Beata Poland
2 Khudiakova Anastasiia Russian Federation
3 Rootman Adele South Africa
3 Sahan Damla Turkey
- 6 LK 040 S M -51 Kg**
1 Salchak Anton Russian Federation
2 Ahmadisafa Omid Iran, Islamic Republic Of
3 Zorlu Gokhan Turkey
- 6 LK 041 S M -54 Kg**
1 Bauluck Fabrice Michel Mauritius
2 Spin Rafael Brazil
3 Ahmadzada Chingiz Azerbaijan
3 Karaca Emre Turkey
- 6 LK 042 S M -57 Kg**
1 Oorzhak Sergeg Russian Federation
2 Turan Nizam Turkey
3 Siarhei Skiba Belarus
3 Hyda Vladyslav Ukraine
- 6 LK 043 S M -60 Kg**
1 Pacetto Guglielmo Italy
3 Kupreshkin Aliaksandr Belarus
3 Manuilenko Vitalii Ukraine
- 6 LK 044 S M -63,5 Kg**
1 Konovalov Aleksandar Serbia
2 Santos Andre Portugal
3 Mameli Luca Italy
3 Dozdor Roko Croatia
- 6 LK 045 S M -67 Kg**
1 Cimpeanu Georgian Italy
2 Khamionak Andrei Belarus
3 Roscinski Kamil Poland
3 Sabar Yaroslav Ukraine
- 6 LK 046 S M -71 Kg**
1 Khezh Shamil Russian Federation
2 Aslanov Ramal Azerbaijan
3 Kaczmarczyk Lukasz Poland
3 Kondratov Pavlo Ukraine
- 6 LK 047 S M -75 Kg**
1 Zakharov Aleksandr Russian Federation
2 Bojilov Atanas Bulgaria
3 Karacakale Mert Turkey
3 Nani Mario Italy
- 6 LK 048 S M -81 Kg**
1 Bikmenov Ruslan Russian Federation
2 Stosic Nikola Serbia
3 Agathe Veejaye Mauritius
3 Shelest Pavel Belarus
- 6 LK 049 S M -86 Kg**
1 Cvjeticanin Milos Serbia
2 Yauhen Miahkou Belarus
3 Bagli Ibrahim Turkey
3 Aslanov Tamerlan Russian Federation
- 6 LK 052 S F -48 Kg**
1 Kubiak Karolina Poland
2 Sultanova Stefani Russian Federation
3 Kaya Binnur Turkey
3 Krejzlova Marketa Czech Republic
- 6 LK 053 S F -52 Kg**
1 Bukvic Saida Serbia
2 Ilham Bourakkadi Morocco
3 Filipovic Ana Croatia
3 Zsiga Melinda Hungary
- 6 LK 054 S F -56 Kg**
1 Nieroda Iwona Poland
2 Shianova Anastasiia Russian Federation
3 Osetska Antonina Ukraine
3 Makelja Karmela Croatia
- 6 LK 055 S F -60 Kg**
1 Keri Valentina Serbia
2 Kuznetcova Iuliia Russian Federation
3 Moser Jerome France
3 Lehota Krisztina Hungary
- 6 LK 056 S F -65 Kg**
1 Dabetic Diana Serbia
2 Akbulut Kubra Turkey
3 Nifantieva Diana Russian Federation
3 Sokol Albina Ukraine
- 6 LK 057 S F -70 Kg**
1 Jurisic Helena Croatia
2 Iurchenko Natalia Russian Federation
3 Basic Tamara Serbia
3 Filipova Alexandra Slovakia
- 6 LK 058 S F +70 Kg**
1 Stanski Valdirene Brazil
2 Shukeeva Dinara Russian Federation
3 Batir Mukadder Turkey
3 Fleming Stephanie Canada
- 7 K1 040 S M -51 Kg**
1 Serdiuk Oleksii Ukraine
2 Spirin Aleksei Russian Federation
3 Siliv Faysal Turkey
- 7 K1 041 S M -54 Kg**
1 Mongush Kezhik Russian Federation
2 Ivan Hanin Belarus
3 Dossymbay Azamat Kazakhstan
3 Issam Bougadir Morocco
- 7 K1 042 S M -57 Kg**
1 Nazarbekov Zhandos Kazakhstan
2 Duenhas Rafael Brazil
3 Sen Soner Turkey
3 Akyar Sadi Can Austria
- 7 K1 043 S M -60 Kg**
1 Nadrov Timur Russian Federation
2 Krolik Michal Poland
3 Unzue Casajus Andres Spain
3 Tadlenek Tomas Slovakia
- 7 K1 044 S M -63,5 Kg**
1 Habash Antoine Hungary
2 Martinez Aceves David Mexico
3 Zhukoucki Yury Belarus
3 Tlemissov Chingiskhan Kazakhstan
- 7 K1 045 S M -67 Kg**
1 Magomedov Said Russian Federation
2 Karabag Furkan Semih Turkey
3 Kazieczko Wojciech Poland
3 Ukrainets Oleksandr Ukraine
- 7 K1 046 S M -71 Kg**
1 Gielata Adam Poland
2 Shumarov Bogdan Bulgaria
3 Cornelissen Rodney South Africa
3 Oguz Yildirim Turkey
- 7 K1 047 S M -75 Kg**
1 Korunchev Kristiyan Bulgaria
2 Pecnik Ziga Slovenia
3 Kucukcelep Remzi Mert Turkey
3 Jalovi Ljubo Serbia
- 7 K1 048 S M -81 Kg**
1 Petrov Aleksandar Bulgaria
2 Zubchuk Iurii Ukraine
3 Dolbien Bartosz Poland
3 Cosic Gaj Croatia
- 7 K1 049 S M -86 Kg**
1 Bratkowicz Maksymilian Poland
2 Cordovil Fabio Alberto Brazil
3 Iskakov Chingiz Kazakhstan
3 Zednik Mario Croatia
- 7 K1 050 S M -91 Kg**
1 Shcherbatiuk Roman Ukraine
2 Krnjic Ahmed Bosnia And Herzegovina
3 Sokol Mateusz Poland
3 Catipovic Toni Croatia
- 7 K1 051 S M +91 Kg**
1 Rajabzadeh Bahram Azerbaijan
2 Blawdziewicz Michal Poland
3 Vujuvic Miroslav Montenegro
3 Filipovic Nikola Serbia
- 7 K1 052 S F -48 Kg**
1 Ramos Fanny France
2 Zhagupova Fatima Russian Federation
3 Zilan Esmer Turkey
3 Bos Ewa Poland
- 7 K1 053 S F -52 Kg**
1 Meriem El Moubarik Morocco
2 Poskrebsheva Anna Russian Federation
3 Raatesalmi Hanna Finland
3 Djedidi Myriame France
- 7 K1 054 S F -56 Kg**
1 Page Ielo France
2 Haverinen Piia Finland
3 Pietrzykowska Ewa Poland
3 Maskova Sandra Czech Republic
- 7 K1 055 S F -60 Kg**
1 Kalyoncu Nagihan Turkey
2 Martiukhina Nataliia Ukraine
3 Djelassi Zina Sweden
3 Cmarova Lucia Slovakia
- 7 K1 056 S F -65 Kg**
1 Manic Teodora Serbia
2 De Jong Sarel Netherlands
3 Kara Guluzar Turkey
3 Gumienna Roza Poland
- 7 K1 057 S F -70 Kg**
1 Krstic Aleksandra Serbia
2 Gismeeva Elina Russian Federation
3 Mlejnkova Lucie Czech Republic
3 Scampini Silvia Ludovica Italy
- 7 K1 058 S F +70 Kg**
1 Bilobrck Lucija Croatia
2 Akdeniz Rabia Turkey
3 Merdic Jasmina Bosnia And Herzegovina

ACTIVE IN AND AROUND THE RING



After WAKO signing an agreement with FICS (International Federation of Sports Chiropractics), during the Championships in Budapest we had 3 excellent chiropractors present all days, delivering service to our athletes in the warming up area. A great service for our athletes and a part of our Athlete Corner concept.

The first edition of WAKO's Learn& Share project during The World Championships in Budapest 2017 was a success. Over 1400 athletes from 60 countries were joined in to the project and experienced the learn and share concept. The feedback of the participants and the engagement of the partners made WAKO aware of the importance of sharing the good practices which will result with the benefit to the Organization as well as their members.

Strategically placed inside the venue and outside the Field of play, it was easy to discover and easy to visit.

Fully equipped, the booth attracted the attention of the participants where all the activities were inclusive, fun and educative, short in duration so participants were attracted at the best possible way. The concept attracted the curiosity and awareness, with no sudden quitting, the full process took place with all participants.

The main idea was to create a strengthen tool to build on the unity of cultures inside WAKO.

Action, Excellence, Respect, Friendship, Joy, Fair Play: a new Concept in WAKO, an area for education, fun and reflection.

The Athlete Corner was inspired by the IOC Learn & Share concept: to educate, engage and influence athletes and participants **to play an active role in their communities**, to adopt and to live by the Olympic values.

WAKO HEFOR SHE CAMPAIGN

- Let's achieve equality for all -

"This is not a women's issue. It is human rights issue".

These words are coming from HeforShe campaign, a campaign which invites people to create a visible force for gender equality. They are created by UN Women, the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women. HeforShe provides a systematic approach and targeted platform on which men and boys can engage and become change agents towards the achievement of gender equality.

It is a huge power in the fact what is possible when unique individuals stand together for the benefit of all.

As said by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka: "We need boys and men working with us. HeForShe is a global solidarity movement to end gender inequality by 2030. The goal is to engage men and boys as advocates and agents of change in the effort to achieve equality. When women are empowered, the whole of humanity benefits".

This is not something that is just a word on the paper, or some good commercial which people, and eventually a whole world, forget easily and move on with their life. This calls YOU to get involved - even in just one field that attracts you or which, in your opinion, needs help.

As HeForShe journey begins online with a simple affirmation that gender equality is not only a



women's issue, but a human rights issue that requires the participation and commitment of men.

WAKO organisation has decidedly engaged in defying stereotypes that women in combat sports are an exception and with this in mind it organised an interesting event with a strong message: **FEEL WHAT'S IT LIKE BEEING IN MY SHOES** during the World Championships in Budapest.

A pair of women's high-heeled shoes with the message on them was quite a challenge for many of the men swarming around the stand.

They were aimed at men who had an opportunity to literally and symbolically find themselves in women's shoes. To feel at least for a second what life looks like from a different perspective, from another angle, to be someone's place.

And the idea, put forward by the WAKO Women Committee, did have a great response. It had significant outreach in the sense that not only did we see a few bold ones but we witnessed a great number of young men who actually stopped to think about it for a while.

M.P.



2nd WAKO Oceania championships open event
 Date: March 17/18, 2018
 Venue - Melbourne exhibition centre
 Organizer: WAKO Australia



DEVELOPMENT IS A MAGIC WORD



WAKO New Zealand team with President Peter Thompson

Ring sports disciplines:
 K1 Kickboxing

Mat sports disciplines:
 Kick Light
 Light contact
 Point fighting



WAKO Australia is introducing many new sport platforms in Australia and look forward to working with many new clubs as it grows. We are known as the largest and the most recognized body for martial arts sports in the Continent. World leaders in martial arts sports have supported the vision of our refined organisation in Australia. Based on our efforts to make sports better in Australia, we have been honored to have a great members, hard working people and enthusiastic youth. One of the main reasons for WAKO Australia to have such strong growth at its early stages is the focus we put on qualified Referees, who we certify through an intense 8hr course. These credentials are constantly updated and developed, also giving our Referees the opportunity to travel and increase their levels and competency through International WAKO Championships.

Development is the magic word. WAKO Oceania is grabbing in big steps it's future. Fantastic performance of participating teams during Arnold's Classic sports fair, competing at **2nd Oceania Continental Championships**. This was also a testing competition for junior athletes. Those who have qualified, have been offered a position on the WAKO Australia Junior Team, who will be traveling to Italy for the Worlds for Cadets and Juniors in September 2018.

Participation of 140 competitors all over the continent with 240 entries is an amazing number. 24 martial arts schools across 5 countries of the Continent were a real success.

"Well done on a amazing performance from all teams, it is a great feeling how these kids bring a smile and support whether it's a win for a belt or a loss. A great sportsmanship makes running this event easy," said Mr. Francis McArdle, WAKO Aus President, addressing to all athletes. "Thanks for all the support from WAKO Oceania President, Pete Thompson and his team behind the scenes, also we would not pulled it off, without you guys".



WAKO Oceania & NZ President Peter Thompson with WAKO President Borislav Pelevic and WAKO Aus President Francis McArdle

WOMAN WITH THE GLOVES FOR THE RING

28-year-old **Pooja Harsha** has become the first South-Indian woman a national kickboxing coach. She has received the award among 200 coaches during WAKO India National Training Camp at the Sports Complex Maharshi Dayan and University, Rohtak, Haryana.

She is also the first woman who has gained WAKO International referee/judge license for ring sports in South India.

Pooja Harsha, a master of psychology, a WAKO international referee, a state coordinator of Indian Olympic Association, a chief instructor of Academy of Self Defense, a karateka with a Black Belt 4.DAN and a WAKO 2nd degree Black belt is moreover the first woman in South India to introduce Kickboxing into Indian elementary and secondary schools.

She has achieved all this not from the green table but from the dojo, training and sweating from an early age.

Today, Pooja is thinking not only about WAKO India kickboxing team, but also about improving refereeing among WAKO India referees and judges, promoting kickboxing in all parts of the society in Karnataka, where she lives: in schools, colleges, companies, organizing self-defense seminar programmes for women: **“Live without fear”** and **“DARE- Defense Against Rape and Eve teasing”** and for government school students.

But, her main job is to be a good mother to her 5-year old daughter. She is married to Harsha Shankar, her childhood friend and a karate class mate and a kickboxing trainer, a man who is, beside her father, her main inspiration figure in sport.

But, let's start from the beginning...

CHILDHOOD

“I started kickboxing in 2010. Before that I was in karate. My inspiration was my dad, Hari Das. When I was seven, he would walk with me for 2 km to take me to the dojo. He never told me to hinder my aspirations just because I was a girl. I was growing up with



Pooja Harsha

confidence, never to step back. I was raised if a man can do something, then I certainly can.. My family did not differentiate between a girl and a boy- they always treated me and my brother equally.

My dad was an ardent fan of martial arts. We used to enjoy watching together the martial art movies. I grew up watching Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan. My brother is a black belt karateka, too.

MARRIAGE

...The marriage time has come. My husband was my coach and was the one to introduce me to kickboxing in 2010. That was the milestone of my life. He is the founder of the Academy Of Self- Defense and is a WAKO Asia Bronze medalist. I fell in love with kickboxing, a new dynamic sport which fulfilled my needs 100%.

My husband's support and my father's motivation delivered a breakthrough kick in my career. I am truly blessed to have these two men in my life.

I found myself so many times in a situation when I had to leave my daughter for weeks and go on championships, seminars and meetings. My husband was a perfect father. He has always taken care of my daughter and made sure that I am tension- free so I can focus 100% on my work and achieve what I want....

WOMEN IN MARTIAL SPORTS

....Women in martial sports, is a never-ending story. I honestly think more women need to get involved. I support women 100% and know they can be as good as men. Women should never settle for less and “fight like



women". I encourage all my friends, but especially my female friends and young girls I know, to at least try martial arts. It's more beneficial than most women imagine.

Women in martial arts frequently receive some disparagement and distrust. Some of this comes from other women in the community, who think it is appalling for a woman to study a fighting method. Some of this comes from a casual observer. And a large part of it comes from chauvinistic males. Thinking that a woman may have a natural limitation, perhaps due to the lack of strength and size, could neglect any chances of one being able to overcome the odds, or the opponent. This can challenge countless concepts within many martial art systems. It would also seem that training teaches the martial artist to rely not only on

and then the child will also learn how to get back up. This will only make the child a stronger person, both physically and mentally. They will fail, learn from the failure and only then can they succeed.

WORKING IN THE FIELD....

... I introduced kickboxing into over 10 schools in 2016 and right now I am training over 3600 fighters. My motto now is to introduce kickboxing into government schools for those children who cannot afford high class training classes and the children there miss out on honing their skills. I want to train all the girls who desire to excel in the field of kickboxing for free, which I have just recently put into action.

But the main problem I am facing is unsupportive families of the girls who may initially allow them to practice but tend to stop it as soon as the prospect of



strength and speed, but also upon accuracy, flexibility, discipline, perseverance, and intelligence.

Women have strong intuition, easily retain proper balance, and can generate immense power too. Speaking of intuition, a woman is quick to sense weakness in her opponent so women in training must explore their own inner worth and follow a path of their own, without being distracted by the path of their male peers. Women should not forsake those arts that can benefit a smaller person versus a larger without an attitude that she has something to prove. As with a mindset, if a man can do it, so can they. A woman should not train to become like a man, she should train to become what she is...

CHILDREN IN KICKBOXING

....It is a known fact that kickboxing provides children with a dose of self-respect and self-esteem. Besides increasing their self-worth, kickboxing training will also help children to learn important lessons in life. The advent of the Internet and the increased popularity of smart phones, means that a child always has one foot inside the virtual world. They forget the benefits of silence and stillness.

Kickboxing involves taking hits from your opponent. One hard thing in life is to take a hit and then regain composure to get up and fight again. The problem is that many children do not learn this lesson, and lose hope at every failure they face. They give up easily. The practice of kickboxing means that a child will fail a lot-

them participating in a championship crops up. And many think that kickboxing is a sport for men only.

I try my hardest to make them understand that their girls deserve the same opportunities in life. My ultimate aim or mission is to get all the girls inside kickboxing ring.

KICKBOXING IN INDIA

....in India apart from cricket there is rarely any sports that is celebrated as much. The attention, the resources that are needed, are not duly provided. In other countries that's not the case and in my opinion that's sad. We have the skills and the talent to shine but not the needed resources to ease our way.

As for our organization, I can say that the WAKO is a wonderfully supportive federation and I can confidently say that bad experiences or hurdles have never been a part of my life with the WAKO. Never limited by gender but always motivated like anyone to do their best....

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the WAKO (IF) for all the support and encouragement, WAKO INDIA President Mr. Santosh K. Agrawal, General Secretary Mr. Shihan Anil Kalyan, Treasurer Mr. Harsh Dahiya, Vice President Mr. Montu Das, South India Chief Mr. Anand Ballu, Naveen Chaudhar, Mr. Yuri Lakhtikov, WAKO Chairman Referee Committee-Ring Sport, Mr. Brian Beck, Chairman Referee Committee-Tatami Sports, Vadim Ukraintsev, Manuel Nordio, and Ferrarese Marco. Thank you for all the guidance which are the reason of my success!!

WAKO European Cup K1 2017
27th - 30th September 2017
Prague, the Czech Republic

ROPES WERE SHAKING

WAKO Czech was the host of the biggest K1 tournament in Europe with 21 participating countries and more than 300 fighters in only one division K-1 Rules (cadets, juniors, seniors, men and women).

One cannot find a larger kickboxing tournament in Europe which can outnumber the number of fighters in K1 during one week, gathered in one arena, dreaming about victory not because of the prize money they get, but because of getting into the hall of fame which doors opened for everybody who won the prestigious tournament.

Only WAKO A class referees and judges were responsible for the justice in the ring and that was one of the best moves of the organizers to get both the athletes' and spectators' acclaim. It is also worth mentioning that all costs for the referees were covered.

The most numerous division was men - 75kg. with 23 fighters. In other divisions we could see many times more than 16 fighters in a category and this was a very good result for the organizer.

The competition was really tight due to the fact that top fighters took part in it. All the fighters could count on very good prize money. Male winners in every category got 1.500 EUR plus a leather Champion belt and other trophies, medals and gifts for 2nd and 3rd place.

During the first day there were more than 100 fights in 3 rings. We could see different quality level of the fighters but approaching the second day it was clear that we were about to see some great fights in the finals. The last day of the competition showcased some excellent fights of some of the most experienced fighters.

The finals led to a spectacular GALA evening. It was broadcast on 2 professional TV stations and there was a live stream coverage on the Czech Sport TV. More than 100 VIP tables were booked and the hall was fully occupied. The highlight of the evening was definitely the WAKO PRO World Champion bout. In the ring we saw a Czech WAKO PRO Champion





and a great European PRO fighter Daniel Skvor fighting his opponent from Serbia, Stefan Andjelkovic (a former European and World Champion in amateur division, now third in Europe). This fight was brought to an end in the 4th round by AB after the Serbian corner threw the towel in the ring following a series of very hard punches. The audience gasped in unison while slowly leaving the hall.

The European Cup continues its tradition in 2018. Don't wait and put this tournament into your schedule. Save the date 6th - 9th September.

J.F.



CZECH FULLCONTACT UNION (WAKO Czech Republic)

CSFu is a Sports union with almost 220 member clubs and 6000 athletes. CSFu is part of Czech Union of Martial Arts and Czech Olympic Committee. CSFu, founded in 1992, is part of Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as the governing kickboxing organization in the country. Chairman of the CSFu is Mr. Jiri Mulac, and a member of the Board is Mr. Jan Frana who is WAKO Czech Republic representative.

WAKO INTERNATIONAL KICKBOXING TOURNAMENT

34 SLOVENIA OPEN

Zagorje ob Savi, Slovenia, 25th of November 2017, was the host town of the 34th traditional international WAKO kickboxing tournament "34 SLOVENIA OPEN". The tournament was traditionally organized by the home club of martial arts "Pon Do Kwan Zagorje", under the patronage of the Kickboxing Federation of Slovenia and the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations – the WAKO.

An exceptional tournament, one of the oldest tournaments in Europe, was attended by numerous prominent guests. At the opening ceremony, Slovenian Kickboxing Federation awarded "the athlete of the year":

Urša Terdin and Tilen Zajc in the seniors category, Tina Baloh and Alen Preložnik in the juniors category, Larisa Žagar Slemenšek and Timotej Zavec in the older cadets category and finally Tyra Barada and Tilen Repina in the younger cadets category.

470 fighters from 60 clubs, from six countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Italy and Slovenia competed on the tournament.

The audience enjoyed great fights in Point fighting, Light contact and Kick light. The best and very special



The president of the Slovenian Kickboxing Association and a WAKO Board member, Mr. Vladimir Sitar and the Athlete of the Year Senior Tilen Zajc.

category, Grand Champion, gathered the best fighters of the tournament. Tina Baloh, one of the best athletes in Europe, won the female Grand Champion category.

All the participants praised the outstanding organization of the tournament. Everything went on smoothly and without any problems and injuries. Slovenia Open tournament is already a trademark.

The next tournament is due for November 3, 2018.

M.P.

WAKO India National Kickboxing Federation Cup
 – Cadet, Junior & Senior-Men & Women
 17th - 20th January 2018, Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, India



MASSIVE AND PRODUCTIVE EVENT



An enthralling, colorful and glittering gathering of 1600 athletes, 150 officials from 28 States (28 Teams) took part in the championships.

No doubt, it was a mega and a fascinating national event for years to cherish upon. All the member states affiliated to WAKO India expressed their support with total participation, and WAKO India value and respect the support given.

WAKO India always stresses sincere and whole-hearted appreciation to host State and WAKO India officials who labored hard to make this event awesome and magnificent.

The event began with a musical program, and the Championships was declared opened by Mr. Anand Mohan Sharan, IAS, Chairman, WAKO India & Principal Secretary to Govt. Of Haryana as Chief Guest and Mr. Kuldeep Vats, president-Delhi Olympic Assn. & Vice President, Indian Olympic Association Presided over the functions.

Final results of the Federation Cup:

- 1st Place Maharashtra State Team
- 2nd Place Haryana State Team
- 3rd place Delhi State Team
- 4th place Telangana State Team

The 'Kickboxing Association of Delhi (KAD)' immaculately managed the awesome conduct of the event by Mr. Harsh Dahiya, Organizing Secretary & General Secretary – KAD and official of KAD, who, no doubt, deserves a big applaud.

It is not an embellishment to say that all excellently demonstrated the sportsmanship and showcased the skills right from day one till end in kickboxing by young sports enthusiasts and we are extremely proud of their achievements and sportsman spirit. All left with a positive expression and all seen looking forward to putting their new skills into practice. Not only have the athletes had a fantastic moment, but they also impressed stalkers depicting their vivid & vibrant styles of kickboxing art.



WAKO India President Mr. Santosh K Agrawal held very successful meetings with several important officials concerning sport in India.

The first meeting was with Mr. Narinder Dhruv Batra, a newly elected President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the President of the "Federation of International Hockey (FIH)".

During the meeting they exchanged positive views in regard to the development of the sport in India.

January 5th 2018.

FRUITFUL ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

A meeting was also held with Mr. Rajeev Mehta, the Secretary General of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) at Olympic Bhawan, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi at which a kickboxing presentation was organised and the WAKO 40-year anniversary magazine was personally handed.

Furthermore, another meeting with Mr. Rahul Bhatnagar, IAS, Secretary of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Gov. of India at New Delhi also took place.

Mr. Agrawal informed the officials about WAKO India participation at the WAKO World Kickboxing Championship in Hungary and discussed future activities in WAKO India Kickboxing organization.

Meet Girish R. Gowda
an inspirational fighter in and out of the ring

FIGHT FOR LIFE

This Bengaluru boy has won gold medal at WAKO India cadet & junior national kickboxing championship 2016-2017, silver medal in K1 rules World Cup Diamond and silver at Asian championships, he is 9 times national kickboxing champion and the 1st Indian kick boxer who won a medal at international championships.

He chose to be do martial sports but life decided that his most important battle will be outside a ring: it will be a battle for life.



Girish was battling a deadly form of acute blood cancer, diagnosed as leukemia in March 2016. He went through more than 100 chemo sessions and had many painful days. For a light-heavy weight kickboxer these were traumatic months filled with pain and agony.

Under the expert medical care and moreover a fantastic will and persistence, the 31 year old fighter not only thwarted the illness but also returned to work and kick boxing training and competitions.

His comeback was during India Federation cup in January 2018, Delhi, when he entered in to a ring

after a long time and won the gold medal.

"When I first time came to the hospital, I was left without any hope. I was feeling pain not only in my body but in my soul even more. But, as the time passed, I started to build my confidence and started to dream about hearing the national anthem again at the championships. I started again to dream about new ambitions, I gained back my love for life," said Girish. "My mother and four sisters were an emotional support for me in every step of this road of cure. When I came back home from the hospital, I was very weak. But I was tenacious and started to train again. It is been just 2 months after finishing the chemo treatment when I started practicing kickboxing again and entered the ring to fight in Nationals. The rest is history".

When he came back in the gym, he started doing specialized workouts and step by step, prepared to compete at India National Fed Cup in January 2018. That was his first competition after closing the chapter of illness. And he won the gold medal in -81kg.

"After my second birth, that is fighting cancer in the last nine months, I felt this final fight was like my first fight in career. This is, in fact, my 9th medal at national championships. This medal is the most important for me so far. I proudly say that I have been unbeaten from past 3 years continuously in Delhi. I dedicate this win to each and everyone who stood by me and supported me during my hard times", said Girish after winning the medal.

Girish's life is an inspiration to many young people in India. He is not only a champion, he has a team of the fighters at the WAKO India championships, and has organized over 30 self-defense seminars and



workshops for women. Now he is lecturing about cancer and the prevention. He makes educational videos on how to overcome a disease and launch them through social media. He is active also in marathon running, rock climbing and cycling. He has finished the International Referee and Judge seminar in kickboxing and became an A grade certified kickboxing coach in ring disciplines.

Bengaluru – India's most cosmopolitan city in the campaign **Heroes of Bengaluru**, an initiative for honoring and recognizing people and organizations that have inspired and created a powerful impact in their field of work and have defined the Spirit of Bengaluru, had Girish Gowda as a candidate for the reward. It was a great honor for WAKO India kickboxing to have such a personality to represent it in this prestigious awarding. Even he didn't win, he became a symbol of true warrior spirit. Let's share this heritage and remember that WAKO has not only a great champions, but a great personalities as well.

M.P.



WAKO Balkan Championships
Montenegro, Bijelo Polje
23th -24th September 2017

DOMINANCY OF SERBIAN FIGHTERS



The best fighter of the championships
Novak Radulovic

According to the regular calendar of activities of WAKO Europe, WAKO Balkan held its third regular championships.

WAKO Balkan is an association of WAKO members from the Balkan region and is a part of WAKO Europe. The organization has 12 member countries and is very incorporated in WAKO activities. Its President is Mr. Vlado Sitar (Slovenia).

This edition took part in Montenegro in the organization of Montenegro Kickboxing Organization.

After the opening ceremony the competition with 7 participating countries started promising good fights.

The Serbs were declared the best team in Low kick and the best fighter of the championships was the Serbian champion Novak Radulovic. He received the cup from the best WAKO fighter in history, Ivan Strugar.

M.P.

Argentina Open Camp

DREAMS OF SELECTION

OPEN SUMMER MAR DEL PLATA 2018



From 10- 11 February 2018, 230 athletes from different parts of the country met in Mar del Plata to compete for the place in the Argentine Kick Boxing Team, which will participate in the 1st South American Cup to be held in Asunción del Paraguay in the month of May, the World Championship in Italy and the Pan-American championships in Cancun, Mexico.

Declared of Municipal Interest by the Honorable Deliberative Council of the Partido de Gral.

Pueyrredon-Decree 93/18, the Tournament had a large attendance of local and



regional public, who joined the Club Cadets de San Martin during the program of the competitions.

The FAKB (WAKO Argentina) supervised the event and trained a new group of local referees and judges that will allow the sport to grow, the organization was in charge of professors Mabel Zecca and Adrian Martinez.

M.P.

Protecting athletes in sport

SAFE ATHLETES SAFE SPORT SAFE SOCIETY

New further important steps were taken in IOC towards protecting athletes from harassment and abuse by launching a toolkit to assist International Federations (IF-s) and National Olympic Committees (NOC-s) in developing and implementing athlete safeguarding policies and procedures.

The existing guidelines are building on and constantly improving according the researches, recommendations and case studies across the Olympic movement.

The aim is to prevent any way of harassments and abuse in sport.

Initiative has been established by four IOC commissions: Athlete, Entourage, Medical and Scientific Committee in collaboration with NOCs, IFs, UN Women organization as well as subject matter experts.

“The safety and well-being of athletes are paramount to the IOC and the Olympic movement”, commented **IOC President Mr. Thomas Bach**. “It is the responsibility of all of us to keep athletes safe and to guard their rights. Through a collective effort, I am pleased that we



WAKO gender equality policy MOVING FORWARD

The Organizing Committee of the 24th Hungarian Kickboxing World Cup 2018 proudly announces that this will be the first tournament providing equal conditions regarding prize money for woman champions as well as male champions since now!

Gender equality not only in governing bodies but also in competitive league in WAKO in one of the most sensitive and the most transparent fact when gender equality policy is on the table.



can launch this toolkit to assist sport organizations in this important area of athlete welfare, reinforcing our stance against all forms of harassment and abuse in sport”.

WAKO already have several initiatives making a system of protection of the athletes.

One of the mandatory is WAKO E-learning module which is available on line.

Manipulation in the competition somehow in front, during or by is too offensive behavior which afterwards goes in to match fixing (or attempt to match fix). Simple as that.

Various cultures have various understandings what is acceptable in behavior, relations and procedures. For that simple reason WAKO defined a certain standards that is expected all to conduct.

“We are all emotionally involved in sport, but we in WAKO are focused on the well -being of our athletes and we want every each of them, he or she to succeed not only by winning but also by keeping integrity and dignity as the human being”, **WAKO President Dr. Borislav Pelevic** stressed in his speech during opening ceremony of the Budapest World Championships. “We also want fair play for both parties. For this reason correct behavior is essential. Let's engage ourselves with respect to our colleagues, participants and competitors. Be aware that in WAKO we have a place where everybody can refer to if ever was exposed to any kind of manipulation”.

M.P.

Once speaking about equality in sport, women tennis champion Serena Williams had a very good story:... imagine that you are a father of two kids, a boy and a girl. They are both training the same sport, trying equally hard to reach the champions throne. And they succeed. Both of them are champions. But, a boy is much more awarded for the champions belt than a girl. How will one father explain this to his kids?...

Differences is what we have to leave in the past. Nowadays, WAKO's goal is to reach the highest level of equality at all levels and senses and to have it as a good practice in all sections of work.

THE STORY OF SPORT THE STORY OF MY LIFE

THE BEGINNING...

I was born on 25th July, 1977 in Chioggia, a small city about 40 km away from Venice, Italy. The first Rocky Balboa films motivated me to ask my parents to start boxing even though I wasn't 6 yet. I remember how disappointed I was when I got the news that I was too young for boxing. My father had to find a good option for me, and finally he found a sport that has determined my life forever. It was October 1983, when I entered a club (Gymnasium Sport Salus) where Karate Contact was trained. They gave me big gloves and I could punch and kick as much as I liked, for me it was more than enough...

Soon I started with two main disciplines: Semi Contact (Point Fighting now) and Full Contact and started to compete even though I was younger than 10. I competed for many years in Semi Contact, winning and losing but happy and not caring about the results or the trophies. I only knew that I enjoyed training and competitions greatly, and at the same time I was growing together with kids I shared great passion for the sport with and with my master Fornaro Sergio. I was still a kid when I won WAKO Europe Cup, one of the

most prestigious WAKO competitions between 80's and 90's.

WHEN I DISCOVERED LIGHT CONTACT KICKBOXING

Time flew, I was growing and new goals were on the table. I started to compete in Light Contact (1994) and soon realized that I achieved the best results in it, plus it gave me such joy. In 1994 I had my first World Championship in Great Britain where I gained a bronze medal. On the next World Championship in Spain I earned a silver medal around my neck! Fighting in Light Contact and Kick Light I won twice the Irish Open, twice the Austrian Classics, twice the Best fighter WAKO World cup, twice the Athens Challenge, 3 times the Italian Open, twice the Golden Glove and once the Golden Belt. I fought for the Italian WAKO National Team in 2002 and from 2009 to 2012. WAKO Europeans in Azerbaijan (2010) got me a bronze medal. I competed in all kickboxing disciplines, on the tatami and in the ring, but Light Contact has a special place in my heart.

WHY I QUIT FIGHTING

I retired in 2012 after WAKO World Championships in Turkey, where I had one of the worst performances in my life. I remember I was very sad



and for the 1st time in my life I felt I hadn't done my best. Worst of all I didn't enjoy the competition. It was the time to start thinking about something else in sport, time to quit competitions. I never felt as a champion, but I had always felt as a fighter.

When I was 17 I left school and changed many jobs, worked at a fish market at night, I was a boat maker, a house builder, worked at the sea dock, started military service in the Italian Navy as a sailor.... In my fighter's career I broke my left hand, the ligament of my left knee, my right foot, jaw and I had hundreds of muscular injuries, but I never gave up. Quite hard but I never skipped a training.

MANUEL COACH

It was a time to quit fighting, but I couldn't imagine my life without



kickboxing. Thanks to Mr. **Ennio Falsoni** (Italian Federation President at that time) I started a new challenge as a National Team coach, in charge of Light Contact cadets and juniors team. Since my 1st WAKO Europeans in Poland (2013) as a coach, I understood that it was my dream role.

Some years later, thanks to the new Italian Federation President Mr. **Donato Milano**, I was also in charge of the senior National team. What I liked the most? I was passionate to share my knowledge which I had acquired through the 35-year experience with young and top fighters. I love the feeling that I am with fighters, sharing their dream. I worked closely with some of the best fighters in the world. I was teaching them. "To learn" is a magic verb. If somebody thinks he knows everything, it's his end. The whole life we learn and we change. I help athletes to improve.

Approximately at that time I started with a Light Contact project with my National Team mate **Ivan Sciolla**. We named it **Light Revolution**, and we started with several Light Contact and Kick Light seminars around Europe with the idea to take all the best from several fighting sports and to implement it in Light Contact and Kick light. Soon with TOPTEN ITALIA who became our technical sponsor, we formed a team with the best fighters in Italy and Europe. After 5 years **Light Revolution TopTen Team** is still one of the best Teams in the WAKO for tatami and ring sports. We started seminars in Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Italy, Norway, Austria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Bulgaria, India, Nepal, South America... Thanks to this kind of life I have learned most of the things that I know now. I have learned something that you can't find in any book, something they can't teach in any school, something you can't buy. It is such precious experience working with different people, from different cultures, teaching them the same thing: kickboxing.

THE BIG DECISION

I lived in Italy, and my main job was not kickboxing. I didn't feel

happy. Something was missing. So I took the biggest decision of my life: I left for Norway (driving more than 2000 km alone). It was one of the best and most helpful experiences in my life. The first time after many years I was able to be all alone, all by myself. Those 24 hours on the road crossing Italy, Austria, Germany, Denmark and finally, Norway, seemed like a movie. I left my country, my parents, my friends and my club where I worked with Nicola Traina and Oriano De Bei who taught me many things about an instructor's job, especially with children, my club mates Gloria De Bei, Marco Nordio, Valentina Barbieri, Luca Padoan, Ivan Penzo, Lanza Riccardo, Nicola Albanese, Nicola Bellemo, Rihabe Abassi', Bellemo Nicola, Laura Marchesan, Riccardo Nordio, Martina Sartorato, Matilde Crepaldi, Gaia Brun and our beloved Riccardo Bellemo, our young Champion passed away last summer in a tragic accident at such an early age of 19.

It was a very big and difficult choice for me.

WHY NORWAY?

Norway is a country that I knew quite well because I had held some seminars in the past, especially a small city where I decided to move: Grimstad, on the coast, a place where I can see the sea, like Chioggia, my Italian city. I wanted a new start, in the country that supports sports in a systematic way. I found open minded people that understand kickboxing is not only punches and kicks, but it's a sport that increases physical and mental skills in children, help them to understand what real friendship is, fair play, team working and respect. In Grimstad Kickboxing club I found motivation again.

GOAL SETTING

I like to plan the future when possible, so in the near future I would like to bring **Light Revolution Project** to Oceania and Afrika. It would be a very good achievement to have seminars on all 5 continents in the world.

If I have to look more further I can say my dream is the Olympic Games. The WAKO is making big steps with



the IOC, so let's fight together to make this dream come true.

REVOLUTION IN LIFE ...

I have witnessed (R)evolution of kickboxing from 1983 to today...impressive! the WAKO has built a perfect organization in the past years. Of course, there is still something that we can fix and improve (especially the refereeing system).

But our children are our future! These tender souls need to be protected from the beginning of their sport career. Let the children play, they have the age for everything. The WAKO has a serious approach to this matter making official categories start from the age of 10.

Happy and proud to be part of the organization which has such regulations.

M. P.



Serbia Open European Kickboxing Cup
17-18Th March 2018, Belgrade
Disciplines: K-1 Rules, Kick light



NEW EVENT OLD GLORY



Serbia Open European Kickboxing Cup has been successfully completed.

The participation of 257 competitors from 69 clubs once again confirmed that there is an interest for this cup and that the best WAKO competitors in the ring K-1 discipline gathered in Belgrade. The competition was also organized in tatami discipline Kick light.

On the Cup was used the electronic scoring system Sportdata, which simplified, accelerated and transparently showed the scoring quality. At any moment, the audience could have an insight into the status of the scoreboard on the screens next to the ring.

The final bouts picked up for the Gala evening show expressed the whole beauty of this sport. The audience was able to enjoy the 13 matches, among which were the names of the WAKO





World champions as well as the participants of the World Games.

Of all participating countries, Serbia came first with 44 gold, 52 silver and 64 bronze medals. The host country, come out with the high number of registered participants over other participating countries, (160) and thus, in the final order, moved farther away from the other medal winners.

The second in terms of success is Bosnia and Herzegovina (gold 6, silver 5, bronze 4) and third Slovakia (gold 6, silver 4, bronze 3).

Numbers

12
nations

69
teams

257
competitors

1200
spectators at the
gala evening



WAKO Calendar 2018



WAKO Ranking	Date From	Date to	Name	Country	Venue
January					
B	19	21	Golden Glove (WAKO European Cup)	Italy	Conegliano (TV)
February					
A	2	4	Athens Challenge	Greece	WRESTLING OLYMPIC CENTER
B	9	11	Karlovac Open (WAKO European Cup)	Croatia	SPORT HALL "MLADOST", Rakovac bb
C	23	25	Slovak Open 2018 - Memorial of Ladislav "Doky" Tóth	Slovakia	
C	24	24	Grand Prix BIH (FC, LK, K1)	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sport hall ILIDŽA
March					
A	1	4	Irish Open International 2018 (WAKO World Cup) (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Ireland	Citywest Conference Centre
C	9	11	Latvia Open	Latvia	Sport Hall of Hanzas School
C	16	18	German Open 2018	Germany	SPORT HALL "SVN SPORTPARK"
WAKO OCEANIA	16	18	Oceania Kickboxing Championships	Australia	TBC
B	17	18	Serbian Open 2018 (WAKO European Cup) K-1 and KL	Serbia	Sports Hall "Ranko Zeravica"
A	23	24	Yokoso Dutch Open 2018	Amsterdam	
C	24	24	Balkan Open 2018	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sport hall Tešanj
April					
A	5	8	3rd International Turkish Open 2018	Turkey	WOW KREMLIN PALACE HOTEL
WAKO PANAM	5	8	Caribbean Open (All disciplines)	Trinidad and Tobago	TBC
B	6	8	Point Fighting Cup 2018	Italy	Pala Borsani, via per Legnano 5
WAKO PANAM	19	22	3rd Bolivarian Kickboxing Championship (All disciplines) The Austrian Classics 2018 (WAKO World Cup) (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Peru	TBC
A	20	22		Austria	Olympic hall - Innsbruck
WAKO AFRICA	23	28	Senior African Kickboxing Championships 2018 (FC, LK, K-1)	Camerun	Palais des Sports
C	28	28	ASVO Junior Challenge	Austria	NMS Sporthalle, Wulkalände 4, A-7210 Mattersburg
May					
C	5	5	KHB International Masters	Austria	Sport Hall Bluebox, Kadettengasse 19
WAKO OCEANIA	5	5	WAKO NZ South Island Championships Ring Sports	New Zealand	TBC
WAKO ASIA	5	12	(WAKO ASIA) Championships Seniors	Kyrgyzstan	SPORT COMPLEX «GAZPROM»
A	17	20	Hungarian Kickboxing World Cup 2018 (WAKO World Cup) (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Hungary	BOK Hall (former Syma Hall)
WAKO PANAM	20	25	4th International Kickboxing Seminar (Technical and Arbitral Seminar)	Paraguay	WAKO Panam Training Center in the Olympic Committee of Paraguay
C	26	26	Alpe Adria Open 2018 (PF, LC, KL, LK)	Croatia	Sport hall "Veli vrh"
A	30	4 June	Diamond World Cup 2018 (WAKO World Cup) (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Russia	Sporthall LOK "Vityaz"
WAKO PANAM	31	3 June	28th Brazilian Kickboxing Championship (All disciplines) official qualifying for Cadets & Juniors WC 2018	Brazil	TBC
June					
A	14	16	Bestfighter 2018 (WAKO World Cup) (Official WAKO Referee Worlds/Europeans)	Italy	105 Stadium
C	22	24	Balkan Championships 2018 (KL, LK) for Juniors and Seniors	Bosnia and Herzegovina	TBC
September					
WAKO PANAM	6	9	Brazil Cup of Kickboxing 2018 (All Disciplines), official qualifying for the 10th Pan-American Championship 2018	Paraná	TBC
B	6	9	WAKO K1 European Cup	Czech Republic	Arena Sparta, Kovanecka 27
WAKO	15	23	WAKO Cadets & Juniors World Championships (All disciplines)	Italy	PALARREX
C	28	29	Scandinavian Open 2018	Norway	Bjolsenhallen
A	29	30	Flanders International Kickboxing Cup 2018	Belgium	Sporthal "De Meerminnen"
October					
C	5	6	Czech-Open for Tatami Sports	Czech Rep.	JEREMI sport
WAKO	13	21	WAKO Senior European Championships (K-1, LK, KL)	Slovakia	TBC
C	13	14	Bristol Open	Great Britain	TBC
WAKO PANAM	24	28	10th Pan American Kickboxing Championship (All disciplines)	Mexico	
November					
C	3	3	34th Slovenia Open	Slovenia	City Sport Hall Zagorje
C	10	10	20th Kutina Open	Croatia	City Sport Hall
WAKO	17	25	WAKO Senior European Championships (PF, LC, FC, MF)	Slovenia	TBC
December					
C	1	2	Vilnius Open Championship	Lithuania	TBC
C	15	15	22nd Croatia Open	Croatia	Sutinska vrela sport hall



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Finnish OPEN
Espoo, Finland
27th - 28th January 2018

KICKBOXING IN ESPOO



Finnish Kickboxing Federation was founded in 1994 and has been recognized by the Finnish Olympic Committee since 2016. As WAKO members they participate in all WAKO activities and Finnish fighters are present at the biggest WAKO International Championships and Cups. Mr. Petteri Maunu, the President of the Finnish Kickboxing Federation and the tournament promoter Espoon Kehahait every year have full hands organizing International Finnish Open Championships. Traditionally, many kickboxing clubs around the world interested in this Cup, gather in Finland to compete in K-1 and Full

contact (older cadets, juniors, seniors, male and female). The city of Espoo and the venue Tapiolan Urheiluhalli once a year turn into a kickboxing arena full of adrenalin.

Mr. Sami Savo, the WAKO chief referee for ring sports, is from Finland so the organisers welcome his presence to organise a coach training seminar and have him show his excellence in the field.

This year's participation was relatively low with clubs (10) from only four countries: Finland, Estonia, Sweden and Turkmenistan, which outnumbered all the other countries.

The participation of only ten clubs and a small



*Turkmenistan team
came with 12 fighters*

Women training camp



number of athletes are definitely not the reason to diminish the importance of this traditional tournament which has always put this Scandinavian country among good organisers of kickboxing events. However, it is absolutely necessary to work on the marketing and popularization of the tournament in the future, in order to make it more appealing for foreign clubs, so that Finnish athletes can get a chance to compete with first class fighters from around the world.

Not only is the Finnish Kickboxing Federation, as a regular WAKO member, always present on European and world championships, but they also pay special attention to education and work improvement. For this reason they frequently hold seminars with domestic and international experts. The last one was on K-1, with Miodrag Jotic, a Serbian expert in this discipline. Regular seminars for female members of the Finnish kickboxing Organization are also held by their world and European champions Anne Katas and Camilla Marjamae.

M.P.

Finnish Martial Arts College
Espoo, Finland, 06/02/2018

HOT WINTER WINDS

The Finnish Kickboxing Association Winter camp was held in February in Espoo at the Finnish Martial Arts College. The camp was run by the coach Miodrag Jotic from Serbia.

The first exercises in the camp were purely technical training. Other exercises were especially knee kicks, body fights and counterattacks. Three types of combat were practiced in knee-joints. All of the battles were followed by an immediate counterattack.

Also, there were theoretical lectures about kickboxing.



The first day was lectured "Kickboxing - theory of sport", and "K-1 history", and on the second day: "Coaching- a challenge for kickboxing" and "Fight tactics".

The camp had nearly 70 coaches from 13 different clubs. The largest club in the camp was hosted by Espoo Kehähait, who participated with 22 enthusiasts. The second was Jyväskylä Sportfighters, from which we had more than 10 participants at the camp.

M.J.



WAKO European Championships for Cadets and Juniors
September 2nd – September 10th, 2017

THE POWER OF YOUTH



The beautiful city of Skopje has hosted this year's edition of WAKO European Championships for cadets and juniors.

An amazing number of 1.563 athletes from 37 countries from all around Europe showcased energy and enthusiasm in the massive sports complex in the heart of Skopje.

A busy week started with the WAKO Board meeting and WAKO Europe General Assembly where the WAKO Europe Acting President, Roy Baker was elected the President, and Istvan Kiraly took up the position of the 1st Vice President. Newly elected WAKO Europe Board members are:

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

Russia had the most entries with (176) followed by Poland (150), Hungary (138), Italy (112) and Greece (111).



The name which definitely stood out at the championships was Roland Veres (Hungary), who competed this year in full contact, after having won gold medals in Loutraki and Maribor last year in 4 categories, point fighting, light contact, kick light and team event.

After 3 enthralling days, the competition reached the semi-finals stage in all 7 disciplines of point fighting, light contact, kick light, low kick, full contact, K-1 and musical forms in the following age groups: youngest cadets, younger cadet, older cadets, and juniors.

FYROM had already hosted major WAKO events such as Senior World and European Championships in 2011 and 2006 respectively. However, this was the first time for the President of the FYROM WAKO Federation, Mr. Dejan Mitrovski Urko, to host such a large scale event



MEDALS STANDING COUNTRIES

	●	●	●	TOTAL
1. Russian Federation	57	45	33	135
2. Hungary	20	22	30	72
3. Italy	18	17	25	60
4. Ireland	14	11	13	38
5. Great Britain	12	11	24	47
6. Serbia	11	4	8	23
7. Croatia	10	10	24	44
8. Bulgaria	10	10	23	43
9. Turkey	9	14	18	41
10. Poland	9	11	46	66



The competition demonstrated sportsmanship and love of the sport. Everyone left with a smile upon their face, whole-heartedly applauding to the host. "Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, officials, presidents, and referees, it was a long but fulfilling week for our sport in Europe and it is extraordinary to see the level our sport has reached with younger competitors equalling if not bettering the seniors this year. We must focus on the youth of today as they are our real future. Sport uniquely brings people of all races and religions together on a level playing field where they can develop tolerance, understanding, and empathy for each other, that is how society will prosper that is the only way we will grow in a healthy and productive society", addressed Roy Baker, President WAKO Europe all the participants at the end of the championships.

and it is not exaggerating to say that he exceeded expectations by bringing a world class event back to Skopje.

The most numerous competition was in these disciplines and categories, so champions in these categories should be especially proud of their success:

- Point fighting OC male -57kg 17 fighters
- Light contact OC male -57kg 21 fighter
- Light contact OC female -55kg 17 fighters
- Light contact J male -57kg 18 fighters
- Light contact J male -63kg 20 fighters
- Light contact J male -69kg 21 fighter
- Kick light OC -47kg 17 fighters
- Kick light OC -52 kg 17 fighters
- Kick light OC -57 kg 18 fighters
- Kick light J male -69 kg 19 fighters

The total number of coaches was an outstanding 253, whereas fair play and professional arbitration were in the hands of 59 judges and referees.






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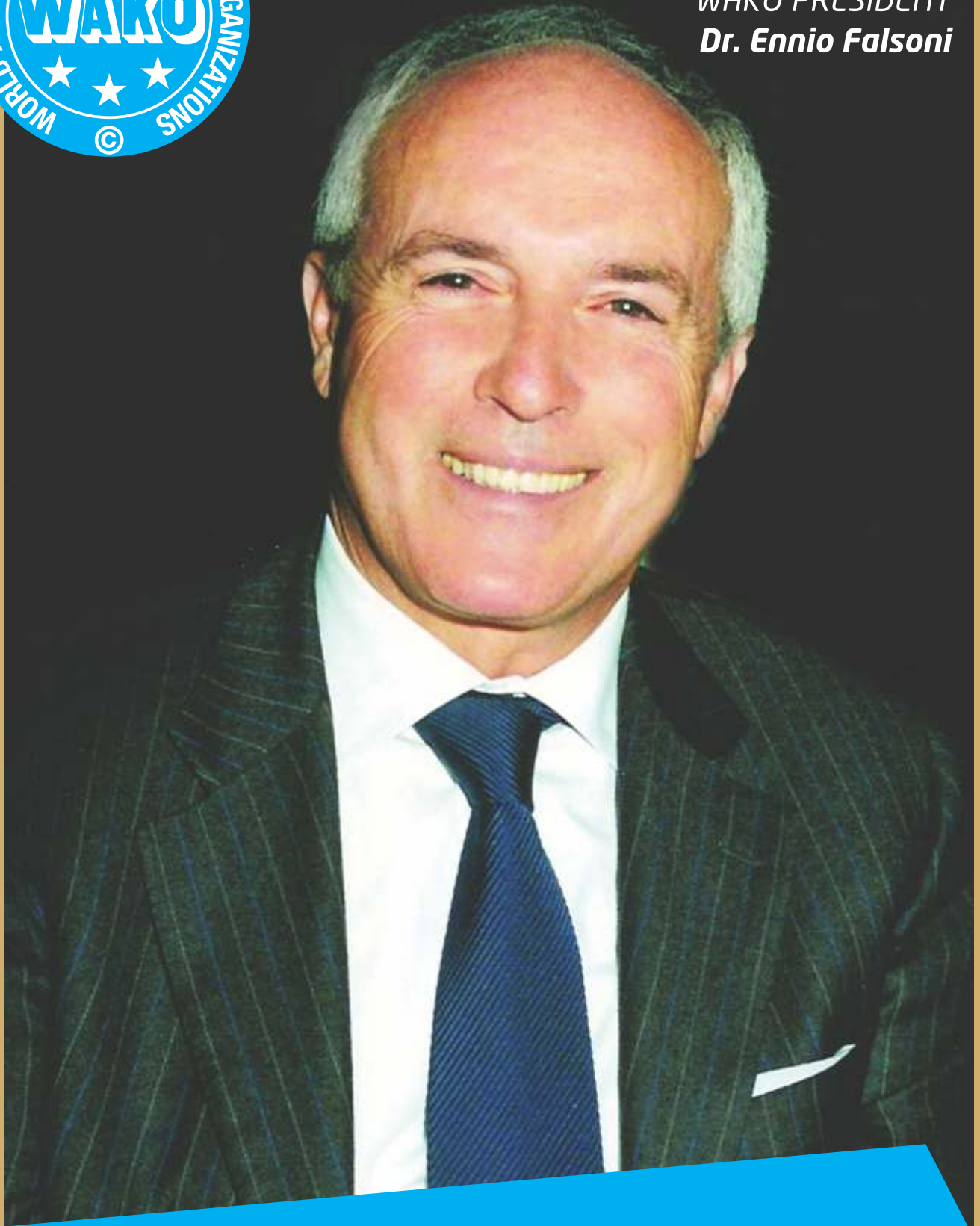
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*Honorary
WAKO PRESIDENT
Dr. Ennio Falsoni*



*Dear Ennio,
we are waiting for You*

