



UWKF News

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Olympic is for all

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We asked for this in 1996 so that all karate can be included for future karate development
 This Work was not only done by Antonio Espinos but all karate leaders

Karate's attempt to get into the Olympics again

It is important to understand this road to karate's intention to be included into the Olympics and how this came about. Many stories have been told and written by those that were not there and many new narrative of opinions have been written about and expressed but many are far from the truth.

In the twilight of WKF karate attempting, another attempt. after three failures to be admitted into the Olympic Games program, it was important for us to allow **thinking karate people** to view the facts and then determine what is good for our sport/ Due to an enormous amount of work done by the Joint Working Commission set-up in 1996 by the Presidents of WKF and ITKF endorsed by the IOC, karate received its provisional recognition by the International Olympic Committee during the Atlanta Olympic Games (see picture in right panel) because of the efforts of this JWC. In Barcelona on 16 July 1992, a decision was made by the IOC executive committee to withdraw the recognition which was granted to the World Union of Karate-do Organization (WUKO) in 1985. Why was it that the IOC decided that it was a time to cancel WUKO recognition? Although WUKO karate was in all continental unions and was conducting world events since 1972. The simple answer is UNITY, the IOC wanted karate united and all practitioners of all format to be included in the future of karate's quest to be an Olympic Sport. As we are aware, Taekwondo had a very successful campaign at the same time being included as a demonstration sport for two occasions as non official medal status sport, but achieved this 4 years later. In 1983 Walter Troeger sport director of the IOC wrote to the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF), "the IOC decided to encourage the WTF (World Taekwondo Federation) and the ITF to merge. In fact, opportunity for those who practice your sport..." On October 15, 1984 Monique Berlioux Director of the IOC writes, "This is to inform you that Taekwondo will not be included in the programme of the XXIV Olympiad as it is not an Olympic Sport. Its demonstration in Seoul on the occasion of the Games would be possible **should the Organizing Committee so requests**. In this case, the situation concerning the existing two IIs (International Federations) governing taekwondo would have to be clarified" Yet on August 27, 1991 the ITF write WUKO. "Our application has been made to the IOC once more for recognition and we are aware their decision." Yet Taekwondo has been a Olympic was a demonstration sport under the WTF for two Olympiads in a row even with two competing organizations. So what is the most important principle money, influence or fairness?

Lets take a look back in time and see if we can put some of the pieces together by following the sequences of events and following the paper trail:-

1. In 1983, a merger (unification) was achieved in Cairo between WUKO and ITKF. This became known as "Cairo Accord". Article 2 of the agreement stipulated "WUKO and ITKF are united with effect from this date, into a unified world governing body". This agreement was signed by J. Delcourt, H Nishiyama, P Hoglund, J Evans, D Mitchell, N Sherif, and F Wendland to name a few representing both organizations.

2. At the 1985 Berlin session of the IOC, a report entitled "Report on Karate Presented by H.E. Mr. G Ndiaye from Ivory Coast and an IOC member made the following observations: " Referring to certified official documents, I can confirm that at the end of 1984 the comprised of about 85 member countries, 55 of which are recognised by their NOC or the highest sports authority of their respective countries. Of the federation some of the ITKF have affiliated their shotokan group to the ITKF. At the same period about six federations of ITKF are recognised by their NOC or highest sports authority of their country, that is Egypt, Linya, Iraq, Peru and Yugoslavia." The report further states: "**The eventual unification of WUKO and the ITKF should in no circumstances be considered as a question to be settled before the IOC grants its recognition to the WUKO.**" Based on this report, the WUKO was recognised. In a letter to Jacques Delcourt Executive President of WKF, from Walther Troeger, Sports Director of the IOC it states, " When the IOC made its decision in favour of WUKO, it did do because of its conviction that you represent the majority of sportsmen, **in order to not deprive this majority of the IOC's recognition any longer and because it seemed very likely that an agreement between both federations representing all karate could not be reached in the near future future**

3. In December 1989 WUKO received pressure to unify with the ITKF. On 10 January 1990 in the presence of Mr. Vazquez Rana, President of the Association of National Olympic Committee (ANOC), in Mexico City a second agreement between WUKO and ITKF was agreed. This agreement states " The representatives of WUKO and ITKF agree to unification under the mediation of President Mario Vazquez Rana, compeomising to report to him on all the advances made on the future negotiations. The Borbon and the ITKF: Mr. Hidetaka Nishiyama and Mr. Eduardo Salas Pooley, accept the commitment to inform their representative executive boards about the following points: 1. The unification of WUKO and ITKF. 2. The structuration of an executive with Mr. Jacques Delcourt as the President

4. On 31 January 1991, Nishiyama writes " Based on the IOC decision, a unification meeting was held on January 10, 1990, in Mexico City and mediated by Mr. Mario Vazquez Rana, President of ANOC. During the meeting, both WUKO and ITKF agreed to form a unified body and accepted the basic structure of the new body in which Traditional Karate under the ITKF and "Modern Karate" (ten-



- 1996 Osaka Declaration for recognition
- 1996 Atlanta Olympic today
- Meeting Samaranch and Carrad ●Then the rot sets in
- Joint Working Commission ●And it continues
- Set-up that set the founda-



tative name) of WUKO would both hold equal positions, a proposal made by the mediator and which was accepted by both organizations.

5. In April of 1991 the IOC wrote to the WUKO extending the deadline for unification and warned of possible loss of recognition if unification did not take place. The deadline was extended to 31 December 1991. WUKO had to achieve the unification with ITKF to keep its recognition. This mandate put WUKO at a serious disadvantage with ITKF. If the ITKF did not agree to the negotiations, WUKO would lose recognition.

A sport must be widely practiced around the world. For men, and summer events, that's "practiced in 75 countries over four continents." (For women, it's 40 countries and 3 continents.) A sport must be widely practiced around the world. For men, and summer events, that's "practiced in 75 countries over four continents." (For women, it's 40 countries and 3 continents.) Which Kind of Karate Has Olympic Chops?

'Noncontact' style hopes to be in Games, splitting sport's world; rewarding kicks

Karate hopes to be an event in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo.

ENLARGE
Karate hopes to be an event in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Photo: TORU YAMANAKA/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES
By Eleanor Warnock

Sept. 25, 2015 2:41 p.m. ET
7 COMMENTS

TOKYO—Practitioners of one of the world's most popular martial arts are beating themselves up over which form of the sport should be represented at the Olympics.

Karate is one of eight events competing to debut in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. But which karate? The group that the International Olympic Committee has recognized to bid—the World Karate Federation—allows only minimal contact. Yet there are millions of karate fighters in other schools who do follow through with their punches. Their leaders are crusading to have both styles represented at the Olympics or risk chopping off the dreams of many of the world's karate kids.

World Karate Federation President Antonio Espinos on the Olympic Dream

The road to the Tokyo Olympics has already been bumpy for Japan. The government scrapped plans for a new Olympic Stadium (too expensive) and an Olympic logo (allegations of plagiarism). The decision on new events, due Monday, is the next big test on the horizon.

Karate has missed a spot in the Olympics three times before, but officials say the Japan venue and support from high-profile politicians means the time is right to strike. Or just lightly strike, depending on whom you talk to.

It isn't just honor on the line—there is also money involved. In many countries, inclusion in the Olympics is a prerequisite for receiving government subsidies.

Sayaka Kato, 22 years old, has a world championship under her belt in Shinkyokushin karate, a full-contact style with sharp kicks and punches that uses minimal body protection.

"I've gone through my entire life with these rules. I don't want to compete under different rules," she says.

The Japan Fullcontact Karate Organization estimates 20 million people around the world practice full-contact karate. Russian President Vladimir Putin has an honorary black belt. The group's founder was known to kill bulls with his bare hands.

The group collected a million signatures across Japan last year backing the idea of two karate events at the Olympics, full-contact and noncontact. "Millions of children won't be able to follow their dreams if there aren't two rules," says the full-contact group's chairman, Kenji Midori.

But the campaign has failed to budge the World Karate Federation, which promotes a style known as noncontact karate. The International Olympic Committee has recognized the World Karate Federation as the international governing body of karate since 1999.

"Having techniques that reward injuring the opponent is not the best message we could give as a sport karate federation," says World Karate Federa-

The purpose of the World Karate Promotion Foundation (WKPFF) is to contribute to world peace and international understanding through the cultural exchange inherent in the training and instruction of young athletes in Karate.

Our primary purpose is to participate in the Olympic Games as soon as possible by obtaining the approval and official recognition of the International Olympic Committee.

With the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, we are challenging the International Olympic Committee to recognize the art of Karate as an official competitive event. There is an international cooperative effort by all major styles and schools of Karate (WKF, JKF, ITKF, etc.), the likes of which have never been seen.

All involved strive to obtain inclusion in the Olympic Games. It is our intention to demonstrate the extensive physical, mental, and spiritual training that is part of Karate. Karate is a way of life dedicated to discipline, with respect to our teachers, fellow practitioners, and all humanity.

Mr. Kunio Tatsuno, Founder and Sosai (Governor General) of the World Karate Promotional Foundation (WKPFF) has successfully achieved a favorable agreement towards unification of the WKF and ITKF. He was appointed in Charge de Mission by both organizations and is authorized to contact the IOC at any level to obtain the final recognition of KARATE and its inclusion into the Olympics.

He is a successful business leader, the General Manager of the Osaka Sports Festival, and Soke President of Motobu-Ha Shitoryu Seishinkai Karatedo Union.

PROMOTERS AND STAFF

WKF

- Mr. Jacques Delcourt - President, WKF
- Mr. Intiaz Abdulla - Vice President, WKF
- Mr. Takaichi Mano - Gen. Secretary, WKF
- Mr. George Popper - Gen. Treasurer, WKF

ITKF

- Mr. Hidetaka Nishiyama - Chairman, ITKF
- Mr. J. Michael Crowe - Gen. Secretary, ITKF
- Mr. Rajeev Sinha - Director, ITKF



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unity approach. We pushed for the signing of the OSAKA Declaration as both Nishiyama and Delcourt were very reluctant to sign. I had to fight and push Delcourt to take a reconciliatory approach, and with the assistance of Tatsuno we achieved the signing which was a historic occasion, and the single event that got WKF its recognition in 1996 in Atlanta during the Olympic Games. I traveled for 8 months met many IOC members and met many decision-makers asking them for their support and advise and everyone stated clearly that with Delcourt and Nishiyama at the helm they were afraid there will be no unity. It was abundantly clear that change had to happen and it had to happen fast. I then flew to Madrid and met with Antonio Espinos, at his home and discussed with him the changes that we needed to effect as we were both Vice Presidents in the WKF I was Vice President T representing Traditional Karate and Antonio representing G or General karate, we were both elected at a Congress in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia in 1994, Delcourt did not attend as he had a heart attack as was reported. Antonio Espinos assumed the position of Chairman and conducted the Congress and Executive function. This ambition to unseat and take control started in Mexico during the World Championships in 1986, this continued in 1992 during the World Championships in Granada, Spain. Espinos was setting up his empire and selecting his "cronies" boys to do all his dirty work, I knew this so went to meet him to ask him to take the initiative and lead our organization. He informed me that he could not as he had a family and his wife did not want him to take this position, and asked that I lead the organization, I had my reservation. We agreed on a way forward as the next World Championships was scheduled for Sun City, South Africa and Antonio wanted us to act during this period. I immersed myself into the unity and getting the agreement concluded, we developed the JWC draft constitution which was based purely on the 101st Session Principles of Unity as developed by the IOC Judicial Commission under the chairmanship of Judge Keba Mbaye from Senegal where it was clearly indicated that the unification of karate under the new World Karate Federation will include the following : General Karate in countries with WUKO members, Traditional Karate in countries and GT and General and Traditional Karate where there is both forms of karate in countries. The agreement also agreed that the President will come from WUKO and General Secretary from ITKF and the other position will be divided equally. That there will be three distinct permanent commission as advised by the IOC, one for General Karate controlled by WUKO and the other Traditional Karate controlled by ITKF and the third GTC General Traditional Commission where the both groups will be involved. After I discussed this with Delcourt I realized that this was a problem not for Delcourt so much as he knew he was on his way out, but for Antonio Espinos and George Yerolimpos and their group, the prime target now was myself as they believed I was "selling-out" the WKF, which had not changed its name at the Algiers Congress in 1995, unilaterally without the acceptance of the ITKF. The Antonio George alliance was now in full control and they had smelt blood, they had A VERY CLEAR AGENDA, to cull all Delcourt supporters and those that we not in their group. The first casualties was Fritz Wendland and Prince Adam Czartoryski-Borbon as they were to be perceived as Delcourt's right hand men, this happened in Kota Kinabalu. Next was the proceeding in Sun-city in 1996, I insisted that we present the JWC statues which I had posted to every WKF



Karate's road to the Olympic Dream

one form of karate to be in the Olympic Program

6. In 1991 Francios Carrad the director general of the IOC advised the ITKF that " if unity were not achieved with karate by 31 December 1991, the withdrawal of WUKO recognition would not result in the ITKF's recognition. Thus is is clear that you must actively and constructively help WUKO to be successful in its effort of unification. A few weeks later, Nishiyama writes back, " both the ITKF and WUKO officially agreed to unification... We would like again stae that we will cooperate in all unification efforts"

6. In November 1991, In November 1991 Rick Jorgensen, Secretary of ITKF Negotiating Committee (Now President of ITKF) and also Interim President for another 2 years of the newly formed United World Karate, wrote to Mr. Fritz Wendland, 2nd Vice President of WUKO. " Consequently, the ITKF will be reporting to the IOC, the futility of its efforts and recommend the IOC proceed with the consequences outlined in its directive last year (the withdrawal of the WUKO recognition)

7. Furthermore in December 1991 again Rick Jorgensen writes a letter to Fritz Wendland (previous member of ITKF) "the ITKF is not seeking recognition through the WUKO organization"

8. In March 1992 Delcourt wrote to Nishiyama, " I offered you at first to participate with us, WUKO in the main sporting events for our 141 country members: World Championships, Pan-American, Asian, African Games, and so on, by creating a category for ITKF." Nishiyama replies in April 1992, "The difficulty I see with your proposed "protocols" is that it is simply an invitation for ITKF to join WUKO as a subordinate organization. However, as we have discussed many times before, the basic principles of traditional karate, as practiced by the ITKF and its athletes and coaches, are very different from those followed by WUKO.. Accordingly, we propose that rather than WUKO joining ITKF or ITKF joining WUKO, we join together in the formation of a new, unified organization in which WUKO and ITKF disciplines can co-exist as distinct branches with the Olympic program...."

9. After a meeting held between ITKF President and WUKO President in Los Angeles, Delcourt writes, " I am very eager to tell you how satisfied I am about the discussions we've just had in Los Angeles. It was the first time I felt there was some esteem on both sides and the beginnings of friendship.....Now the problem will be to bring out points of view and we know that this won't be easy for there are - from your side as well as from our side - inflexible positions of principle" Nishiyama replies 3 days later, " I must say that the ITKF was quite disappointed with the results of that meeting , inasmuch as WUKO oly repeated its previous proposal that ITKF join WUKO... My feelings are that we spent two days talking about two different subjects, domination and unification with no common ground ever being established..."

10. Delcourt replies, " I do not understand and I am also very surprised at your interpretation of the position of WUKO. We have never spoken about "domination". Our position is made of two proposals: either a merging - in WUKO giving all guarantees for an incorporation of ITKF at every level. Such a merging - which is achieved every day either in sporting or in business field- is not dishonorable at all. - Or you want remain totally independent for some reasons of your own, and then we propose the "Protocol" which got the agreement of principle from the IOC Executive Committee and also grants you all guarantees, respects your independence, enables your coming into the "Olympic Family". Moreover we also granted you further advantages that we didn't offer the various associations which have already signed the Protocol. On the occasion of our meeting in Los Angeles, the members of the ITKF that were present were ready to discuss the "Protocol" point by point, but you opposed...."

11. Nishiyama writes back on May 18 1992 , " From the contents of your May 18, 1992 letter (quoted above), I understand that WUKO's "Protocol", which requires the ITKF to become a member of WUKO is this your final position with respect to the unification of our two organizations."

12. Delcourt replies on June 12, 1992, " Your proposal to have a parallel co-existence of WUKO and ITKF under a kind of "umbrella" is a division forever and not a unification which means "Unity": one sole body. . . If you don't want this protocol, I will be prepared to study other proposals from you".

13. Nishiyama writes back " WUKO sport karate and ITKF traditional karate are two separate disciplines.... Until you are willing to negotiate with ITKF as an equal, I fear unification will elude us".

Shortly thereafter the ultimate happened:-

14. 16 July 1992 the IOC executive committee withdrew the recognition of WUKO stating " The WUKO has not achieved the unification of karate by the deadline appointed to that effect. It has known since April 1991 that it is in danger of having its recognition withdrawn, it has had the opportunity to put its point of view to the IOC: Inasmuch as this situation is linked to a conflict virtually insoluble at present, it seems today that the sole means whereby a development may be brought about is by not maintaining the recognition granted to WUKO in 1985. The withdrawal of recognition of the WUKO therefore seems inevitable in order to unblock the situation. However, it is appropriate to accompany this measure, which is not a punishment, with an encouragement in the form of an assurance to WUKO that, if it can achieve the unity of karate within a short time, it will quickly regain its status within the Olympic Movement. This could be the case if WUKO succeeds in unifying karate between now and 15th September 1993".

Karate's Road to the Olympics

The true history, not the Antonio show

The JWC now completed its initial works and sent the works to both Presidents of WKF and ITKF and the General Governor Kunio Tatsuno, Delcourt had many issues with the document as he was still stuck on the issue that ITKF must merge into the WKF and that the numbers in the WKF was far greater than the ITKF, this was also the opinion of Dr. Mano, and we had to convince him that unity was more important than insisting on power before compliance. Something staranged happened during this period, a meeting as called in Osaka, Japan and I could not make it, I got a telephone call from Tatsuno to state that he had met with Dr. Mano and Nishiyama and some others and that they believed that Dr. Mano should assume the President of the new united body, and that he was going to visit Paris, and should be there and he will convinced Delcourt to retire and he will take care of Delcourt retirement concerns. This did not go down well and Delcourt who was in conflict with the Antonio George Alliance decided top join with them as he felt venerable and did not believe Tatsuno's offer. Geroge Popper also was sent to speak to Delcourt about this on the recommendation of Tatsuno, but Delcourt wanted assurances and he did not

get this. This was what made the issues worse and Delcourt then refused to present the JWC draft Constitution to the Congress in Sun City, South Africa. Antonio Espinos now started putting is plan in full force, we now had the 1997 Elective Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and the contestation fro President was between Antonio Espinos (selected by Delcourt and the George alliance), supported and financed by Takashi Sasakawa (as he was very upset that Tatsuno was getting so much prominence), Tatsuno also wanted to get more prominence in Japan and this was not good for Sasakawa, Tatsuno did not attend the Brazil congress surprisingly. Peliconni from Italy, many believe he was a plant to split the vote and myself. This Congress was rigged and the election was a total sham. Delcourt was the chief election officer and his cronies were the adjudicators of the election results. Countries were allowed to vote that were not even members of the WKF and many countries were paid a handsome bribe and they had their airfare and accommodation paid. I ws African President at this time and fought a very serious battle to unseat another Delcourt and Antonio cronies Nader Sherif, a one time members of the ITKF,

and a very prominent arm-dealer that used his karate position to distribute arms throughout Africa and traveled in the name of karate to expand his arms networks. A very hard election was held in Libreville, Gabon in 1995, and I won an unexpected victory, Delcourt attended this Congress and tried to convinced the Gabon Authorities to arrest me, but the authroities were scared that there will be a diplomatic incident as South Africa had took by me. This started a new attack on me as the Antonio, Delcourt , George Alliance needed Sherif to assist them in Africa and I was not in this formulation as I was not easily manipulated and refused to sign on to their corrupt and underhanded practices This was the conflict that played itself out in Brazil, Sharif also represented the Arab Karate Federation and this was important for Antonio as he wanted their money and they support which they obliged for benefits for qualified referees and some medals.

The corruption and rots started setting in fast as the group needed money and they wanted The result of Brazil was already stage managed long before Brazil, I lost these elections and I was attacked continuously.

Meeting with Sosai Chodoin

Sosai Chodoin become a support of the World Karate Promotion Foundation, as a prominent and wealthy individual who make his money in business activities at a young age, he agreed to assist the program of Karate to the Olympics as he as karate himself

Michael Jackson

Chodoin brought Michael Jackson on board and he become a supporter of Karate to the Olympics and pledged to assist in speaking and lobbying world prominent leaders to assist in this regard with his influence and his resources

Osaka Success

It was the first time in the history of Karate Unity attempts that the OSAKA declaration was signed with a clear road-map and clear guidelines for unification, the IOC applauded the group for this achievement





Opinion of Media about Tokyo 2020

tion President Antonio Espinos, whose group says it represents more than 90% of organized karate followers.

Mr. Espinos has seven children, all of them with experience in the martial art. "I would have never brought them to practice karate if they told me it was full-contact karate," he says.

There is another option—koshiki or "safe contact" karate, in which contestants wear a chest protector and headgear. The founder of this school's federation is Masayuki Kukan Hisataka, who taught karate to the late actor Bruce Lee among others.

Mr. Hisataka says Olympic spectators want to see real hits and action, not shadow boxing.

"The reason karate didn't get into the Olympics up until now was precisely that it was a noncontact sport," says Mr. Hisataka. Ciaran Mitchell, who founded a koshiki contact karate organization in the U.K., says karate needs to excite spectators. "I don't have anything against noncontact karate, but it's like archery with no target. I can show you how I aim the bow but I don't shoot."

Though they are skilled at landing blows in the ring, the contact-karate adherents are relative lightweights in the political arena. The head of the Japan Karate Federation, the local noncontact group, is Takashi Sasagawa, a former longtime member of parliament in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and son of the late right-wing billionaire Ryoichi Sasagawa. Mr. Sasagawa served as a state minister under then-Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, and Mr. Mori is now head of the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee.

The fight has extended to history, with each side saying its version is faithful to the martial art's origins.

Karate arose over centuries in the southern island of Okinawa, now a part of Japan, with influence from Chinese martial arts. While little is known about the sport in its infancy, historians say it probably wasn't about being nice to the other fellow. But after the sport was introduced to mainland Japan in the 1920s, noncontact karate evolved.

Rival schools call the noncontact version too Europeanized and say it benefits long legged Europeans by rewarding kicks more. "Japan won't be able to get medals in the Olympics," says Mr. Hisataka, the "safe contact" proponent.

But Toshihisa Nagura, general secretary of the World Karate Federation, says the non-contact sport inherits the "kata" portion of karate practiced from the early days, in which practitioners carry out moves against an invisible opponent. "Traditional elements were preserved exactly as the old days," he says.

People familiar with the talks say Tokyo Olympic organizers are likely to include karate in their recommendations for new Olympic sports, which must be ratified by the IOC next year. Others under consideration include bowling, squash and surfing.

Proponents of full-contact karate say they will keep fighting if karate gets in the Olympics, pointing out that the Games feature multiple forms of many sports like swimming and wrestling.

Ms. Kato, the 22-year-old karate champion, sees the culmination of dreams that began when she was a little girl and watched the powerful kicks of her older brother when he was practicing karate.

"I want to win a gold medal with our rules," she said.

Write to Eleanor Warnock at eleanor.warnock@wsj.com
The Transformation of Karate-Do
 by Kiyoshi Yamazak





Opinion of Media about Olympic 2020 We want Karate in the Olympic But it must be all Karate not just the WKF

The Transformation of Karate-Do
by Kiyoshi Yamazaki

1999 was a great year for the estimated 50 million karate practitioners around the world who have long awaited their chances to have their Olympic dreams fulfilled. On June 19, 1999, the 109th Session of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) ratified the definitive recognition of the World Karate Federation (WKF) as the International Governing Body (IGB) for the sport of karate. What this means is that karate is now a candidate sport for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece, and will likely be included as a demonstration sport. The decision will be made by the 111th Session of the IOC, scheduled for September 11-13, 2000 in Sydney, Australia. Our long and painful dispute with the International Traditional Karate Federation (ITKF) over the IOC recognition has finally been settled. Now it is time to make peace and work together to move karate-do forward into the 21st century. Participation in the Olympics will certainly transform karate. Our next mission is to make sure that karate maintains its honor, technical integrity and traditional values so that our ancient art will be accepted and respected as a constructive member within the greater family of sports. Karate is a sport cultivated by the Eastern culture and tradition, and has much to offer the youth of the world in building strong bodies, minds and spirits, as well as developing character, compassion and humanity. Joining the Olympic family means that karate accepts Olympism as its guiding philosophy. Such thought might upset some "traditionalists." However, believe it or not, this had already occurred in the early 1900s. Let me explain.

The Origin of Karate as a Sport

Soon after the revival of the Modern Olympic Games in 1896, Baron Pierre de Coubertin extended his invitation to Japan. The Japanese government chose Dr. Jigoro Kano, best known as the founder of judo, to represent the country. Dr. Kano, a life-long educator and university president as well as renowned martial artist, became the first Japanese representative to the IOC in 1909; he also participated in the 5th Olympics held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1912 as the head of the first-ever Japanese delegation. This was 10 years prior to the famous demonstration of karate by Gichin Funakoshi and Shinkin Gima that took place at Dr. Kano's Kodokan Dojo in 1922. Dr. Kano became the Baron Pierre de Coubertin of Japan. He founded the Japan Athletic Union, which still governs all sports in Japan to this day, and dedicated his life to promoting sports and physical education among Japanese youth. Judo, which he created, was without doubt a combination of the traditional Japanese martial art of jujitsu and the ideal of Olympism outlined by Coubertin. It was Dr. Kano's effort to support the Olympic movement as a proud citizen of Japan in response to Coubertin's call for support: "Every act of support for the Olympic movement promotes peace, friendship and solidarity throughout the world."

When Dr. Kano invited Funakoshi from Okinawa and encouraged him to teach karate in Tokyo, Dr. Kano envisioned a universal sport that could be practiced by the youth of the world. The transformation of karate-jitsu to karate-do signified karate's acceptance as a sport, rather than as a tool of war. Funakoshi's dojo kun (motto) includes "Seek perfection of character!" This philosophy actually originated in ancient Greece and was handed down to him by Dr. Kano, a life-long mentor to Funakoshi and a friend of Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

Olympism and Budo

Ancient Greece and Japan may seem a world away. However, these two countries share somewhat similar philosophies and religions. For example, the Kojiki, Japan's first book on history (written in 712 AD), describes the day-to-day interactions among mortals and immortals, and resembles the work of Homer. And a Zen master, instead of Socrates, might easily have said "His chief and proper concern: knowledge of himself and the right way to live."

The Olympic Charter states that "Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will

and mind. Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of good example and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles. The goal of Olympism is to place everywhere sport at the service of the harmonious development of man, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity." I believe that these goals are consistent with the objectives of Budo as defined by the Budo Charter: "to cultivate character, enrich the ability to make value judgments, and foster a well-disciplined and capable individual through participation in physical and mental training utilizing martial techniques." Students of Budo are required to "constantly follow decorum, adhere to the fundamentals, and resist the temptation to pursue mere technical skill rather than the unity of mind and technique." Instructors must also "always strive to cultivate his or her character, and further his or her own skill and discipline of mind and body."

This is where the East meets the West. The global culture lies upon the universal truth and understanding. Olympic Karate must represent both Olympism and the Budo Spirit.

Rules of Karate Competition

With these in mind, our next task is to shape the future of karate-do as a sport. This is an important but also a risky job. Much as the mighty Roman Empire caused the decline of the ancient Olympic Games, narrow visions can lead karate into ruin.

The Romans lost sight of the ancient Greek ideals. Athletes were replaced by gladiators, and the interest in striving for perfection was ignored in favor of spectacular actions which pleased the Emperor and the Coliseum audience. As the original purpose of the Games was forgotten, Olympism itself began to decline. Karate must not follow that path.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin wrote, "First of all, it is necessary to maintain in sport the noble and chivalrous character which distinguished it in the past, so that it shall continue to be part of the education of present day peoples in the same way that sport served so wonderfully in the times of ancient Greece. The public has a tendency to transform the Olympic athlete into the paid gladiator. These two attitudes are not compatible." In the recent years, karate has enjoyed a rapid growth in popularity, thanks to the current WKF Kumite and Kata Rules which made karate competition fair, fun, exciting and, above all, safe. Although drastic changes in these rules have been proposed by some, we must be very careful when attempting to modify the rules that have brought karate such success, including IOC recognition. Temptations are always there to make the sport more spectacular, appealing and exciting; this, however, would result in fundamentally altering the nature of the sport and losing sight of its original purposes, thus causing the sport to decline due to a smaller number of participants, and the audience to lose respect for the sport.

There are many sports that have successfully avoided such a trap: golf, tennis and fencing (European), among others, enjoy their popularity without having had to modify their rules to be more appealing to the mass audience. They accomplished this by educating the public about their sports, rules and traditions, and by inviting the public to join.

Karate must remain a participation sport and therefore, the rules must first consider the safety of the athletes: not only of those who compete in the World Championships or the Olympic Games, but also of athletes of all ages and skill levels in local, regional and national competitions, and even of those who do not compete at all. I oppose any attempt to make gladiators out of karate athletes, sacrificing their safety. Professional wrestling and kick boxing may be fun to watch but they do not belong in the Olympics. Promoting karate the right way will take many years of work. We need to provide better training for the referees and judges so that the competition will be fair. We must improve the rules to make it even safer so that more people (including younger children) can participate. And we must educate the general public through a better public relations effort. The stories about the history, tradition, honor, dignity and



indomitable spirit of the sport and its athletes must be told so that everyone can understand and share the virtues that karate provides and the traditional wisdom it represents.

Traditional karate is like classical music or ballet. The music of Mozart, Beethoven or Bach may be arranged to some degree, depending on the individual musician's interpretation of the music. However, if it changes the basic nature of the music, it is no longer "classical." It is tradition that provides the depth in art. Such tradition must remain and stay alive in the sport of karate.

Karate must also maintain its own identity as an independent sport. Changing the rules to render karate more similar to tae kwon do, judo or boxing would have a negative effect on karate for many years to come, and will eventually kill it.

Conclusion

The Olympic Karate Movement has already brought us a democratic structure that governs the international and national federations. As in any other democratic entity, all members must actively participate in the decision-making process. If we fail to act promptly, we all must share the responsibility of failure. I ask the world karate community to resist the temptation to make radical rule changes, and to choose the right way to promote the sport while preserving its traditional honor, spirit and ideals.

Baron Pierre de Coubertin also said, "Olympism is not a system, it is a state of mind. It can permeate a wide variety of modes of expression and no single race or era can claim to have a monopoly on it." It is my sincere hope that karate will become a productive member of the world sport community, and that future generations of the world's youth will be able to share in its virtues, developed throughout ancient India, China, Okinawa and Japan, uniting the communities of the world in peace.

About the Author:

Sensei Kiyoshi Yamazaki is a member of the WKF Technical Committee. He is also a WKF referee and the chairman of the Technical Committee of the USA National Karate-do Federation. As International Director of the Japan Karate-Do Ryobu-Kai, Sensei Yamazaki teaches karate in 25 countries. His headquarters dojo is located in Anaheim, California, USA, and his students include such Hollywood celebrities as Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sting, and Grace Jones. Olympic identification symbol is the property of the IOC.

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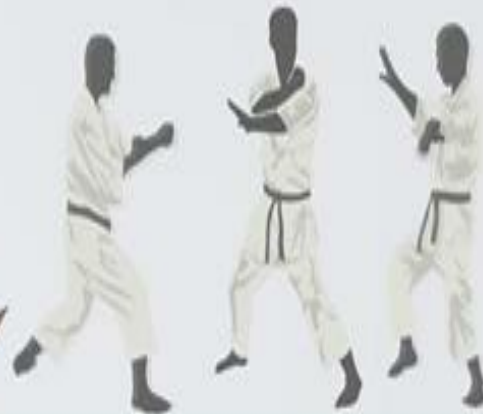


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Executive Committee member 6 months before the Sun City Congress, I received no response as all Executive Members were asked to reject this and it should not be presented to the Congress as the unity with ITKF should be stopped with immediate effect. It was at this time that a JWC meeting was held in Lausanne with Delcourt, Espinos, Yerolimpos and Nishiyama, Crowe, Luciano with Carrad and Tatsuno present, they insisted that Abdulla and Sinha should be removed otherwise they will pull the plug on the unification. Tatsuno did not agree and insisted that he be given a chance to seek to us, this was what broke the negotiation and the WKF delegation now decided not to pursue the unity and convince the IOC to accept them with the directive "THAT THEY WILL KEEP THE DOOR OPEN FOR UNITY", this is still the case today if one reads the letter for the WKF President Antonio Espinos when he made his appeal to the IOC at the IOC Session in Seoul in 1999. Karate received its recognition because it agreed to keep the door open and adopt the direction of the IOC. The JWC Achieved its first goal getting karate recognized by the IOC first in Atlanta in 1996 when they received provisional recognition and now full recognition in 1999. The JWC was able to achieve in 3 years what the other had tried for 10 years, a historic achievement made possible by many: Gussippe Pellicone, George Popper, William Millerson, Dr. Mano, Sosai Kunio Tatsuno, Jacques Delcourt, Hide-taka Nishiyama, Michael Crowe, and many more. There was no Antonio Espinos or Yerolimpos before the provisional recognition it is only after this recognition that we saw the true agenda of his group. Also from the ITKF there was no Rick Jorgensen or Liviu Crisan or any other they did not contribute much to this process but today they want to rewrite a history that is actually false and it is taking glory for something they did not do. In fact these individual have always been the stumbling block to unity and development of karate for all, and today they claim to have contributed in the initial plan, THIS IS NOT TRUE.

The problem with our position started after the full acceptance of karate in Seoul in 1999, Antonio Espinos and George Yerolimpos started they sinister, underhanded and dirty attack on the African structure, they wanted a subservient and Executive in Africa which was totally in their control and no resistance whatsoever, they attempted from 2000 to 2007 to create many issues relating to Africa and us in particular both on the continent and in my own country. Espinos what a more corrupt Executive has he had under the auspices of Nader Sharif and he targeted Algeria as a sponsor for this agenda. In 2007 at the 12th All Africa Games in Algiers he illegally installed an Executive, even through the current UFAK Executive was elected democratically in 2005 in Angola, again paying bribes to African Karate leaders and installing them without any election. Some of our Executive Committee members were even arrested and we then decided that enough was enough and left Algeria with even participating in the games. Antonio Espinos and his new Algerian friends together with some South African cohorts from the previous Apartheid regime had their own games, these apartheid cohorts are still being used by Antonio today and South African and African Karate is in a mess, with weak leader and the standards going down yearly, the only exception is Egypt.

It was after this in 2009 that we decided to create the United World Karate Federation to unify all karate under one organization with all formats because:-

1. Unity had not been achieved although Espinos promised the IOC that he is prepared to do so, until today not unification has been achieved
2. The ITKF under Rick Jorgensen is a shadow of its former self, and an insignificant organizations with a maximum of 10 countries with a few clubs in each of its national federation with just a few recognized by their respective NOC's and HSA
3. That both organization don't want to include all karate formats in their membership and are dividing karate more in the World even the structure of the newly formed United World Karate is flawed and not workable
4. After allowing karate 17 years to get into the Olympic program, and after noticing that karate may be included in the final short list for 2020 we don't believe that this will be achieved under the auspices of WKF and especially under Antonio Espinos as President, he has culled more people in his reign than any other President only selecting corrupt and weak individuals that are "yes men" a case in point is his culling of his partner in crime and close confidant George Yerolimpos because he questioned his managing of the resources of WKF.
5. His corruption charges in India where it is alleged that he has received bribes of over \$2.5 million dollars for selling recognition to KAI after AIKF was members of WUKO/WKF since 1978
6. United World Karate Federation is an alternative and a home for the 90% of karate is not included in any of these organization but chose to still practice karate everyday, these are the 100 million Espinos is including in his membership is not the truth, the WKF has between 15% and 20% of the World karate population
7. Traditional (Not ONLY ITKF) who believe they control traditional karate Karate and especially the Okinawan styles, other traditional Japanese and western run styles are not included
8. Contact karate both knockdown and Koshiki Karate are not included in the future structure of any of these groups, Hisataka Hanshi the developer of Koshiki Karate has sacrificed a great deal both for WUKO and World Karate but is not in the future structure
9. Kyokushin Groups are not included in the future structure within the WKF and the group included in the United World karate under Jorgensen is as small as the ITKF, insignificant and unimportant but they chose this as they can do the same the WKF has done control and keep their position



DIFFERENT TO ALL OTHER ORGANIZATION we are ready to received all those that have the same vision and mission.

It must be stated that we are not against karate going to the Olympic but it must include three uncompromising issues:-

1. All Karate must be united in one organization with all formats and all styles included as per the 101st Session IOC Principles of Unification as espoused by the IOC and its judicial commission in 1992;
2. Kata must be included in the Olympics with Bunkai
3. No insistence of dissidence or insisting that all karate must do the NEW WKF formats and abandon their preferred way of doing karate
4. Although we have sport as a focus we must also instill the IOC values which are karate values for a better World through karate education, which should include Cultures, Human Development, Social cohesion, Youth Empowerment, Women Empowerment and promoting Unity, Peace and all inclusiveness using the IOC principle of Universality as a departing point.

