



United World Karate

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NEWS UPDATE

FIGHT FOR JUSTICE 2017 ACTIVITY CALENDAR & NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

Dear Friends:

No doubt you have heard the news that WKF Karate Sport has been selected to participate in the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. And, while some may be disappointed – I hope that none of you will be disheartened. United World Karate (UWK) will continue its legal fight for justice against the single minded discrimination that WKF represents within the Karate world.

On July 19, 2016 UWK appeared before the Swiss Court asking for an emergency injunction to force the IOC to stop its decision to advance WKF forward for the participation in the 2020 Olympics. It is very difficult to achieve an emergency injunction. However, it was the first time that this issue had been raised within a Court of Law and I was particularly interested to observe that none of our statements of facts were contradicted by the IOC. As a result, I firmly believe that we have made headway in the unification process. I do not believe that WKF will prevail as the only Karate Sport recognized in the future. UWK will appeal the Court's decision not to grant an emergency injunction and we will continue to pursue justice for the discrimination suffered by all karate-ka around the world that exist outside of the WKF. The WKF does not represent Karate. It only represents its narrow interpretation of Karate.

I was also heartened to learn from that the decision is only for the 2020 Olympic Games. More precisely, only 60 athletes will be competing in the 2020 Olympics, if indeed WKF actually makes it there. The WKF claims to represent 10 million athletes in over 100 countries. **60 players out of 10 million athletes means less than .000006% participation.** Does this seem like an organization that cares about its membership? In reality, this is simply a crowning claim the leadership of WKF can make. This is a leader's show – not a concern about Karate sport. And where will the millions of dollars invested in this "show" go? Now *that's* an interesting question.

When you actually realize the statistics of what was achieved, it does not leave on with a great deal of confidence that the organization going to the Olympics really gives a damn about the development of Karate Sport.

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On the other hand, United World Karate (UWK) provides a platform of Karate Sport that is unique. It umbrellas three distinct types of Karate Sport competition; Traditional, General and Contact. It has also added an educational core to its evolution.

I am very pleased to announce that when our Executive Team met in Montecatini Terme, Italy in July, I was able to sign a protocol with the EurEthics Academy for Sport. This Academy is endorsed and supported by the European Union and its program signatories (of which we are now one) are authorized to issue professional licenses for Karate Coaches. In Europe, this means that within the European Union countries (including candidate countries) this license is honoured between countries. This opportunity is the result of the ITKF educational program being completely endorsed by the Academy as its standards fully comply with the educational requirements of the Academy's competency evaluation. As a result, UWK is able to build on the common elements of the program and move forward with this certification. It is a big step for Karate world-wide as the EurEthics Academy's core template has received verbal approval from UNESCO. As a result, it will become a world-wide educational movement.

The program involves 8 levels with the first 4 being certified by National Federation members. The final 4 levels are the responsibility of the International Federation. The orientation session leading to the implementation phase in each respective country will happen January 25 – 29, 2017 in Montecatini. More details will follow shortly, but this will be a very significant counter-balance to the claims of WKF.

The Executive Committee also set the date of October 18 – 22 as the 2nd UWK World Championships. As Montecatini Terme, Italy will be designated the 2017 City of Sport, they have graciously offered to host this Championship. The exact schedule of meetings, judging courses and competition line-up will be distributed in the next couple of months – but mark the October date in your calendar now.

UWK has a very bright future. But we need your support, help and determination to build Karate for all – not just one. Together We Are One!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Jorgensen', written over a large, faint, stylized karate symbol in the background.

Richard Jorgensen, President
United World Karate