



WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

WKF CONGRESS BUDAPEST 2023

Budapest (Hungary), Monday 23rd October at 15.00h in

HQ Hotel Danubius Hotel Hélia, Room Helia

1. **Congress administrative formalities.** Delegates' registration opened from 14.00h
2. **Roll call**
 - 2.1 The WKF General Secretary, Mr. Toshihisa Nagura, conducted the roll call which counted 82 delegates of which 74 had voting rights.
3. **Honoring the departed**
 - 3.1 The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, expressed his regret for the loss of Mr. Alexey Petrov, the President of the Bulgarian Karate Federation 2003-2023 and the Balkan Karate Federation from 2013-2015. A short video was shown in his memory and the Congress stood in a moment of silence in his memory.
4. **Agenda approval and appointment of Secretary of the Meeting**
 - 4.1 The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, proposed the approval of the agenda distributed to the delegates. The agenda was adopted without objection.
 - 4.2 Without objection, Mr. Gunnar Nordahl was appointed as Secretary of the Meeting.
5. **Opening of the Congress. Address by the WKF President and by the Hungarian Karate Federation President**
 - 5.1 The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, declared the congress for open and welcoming the delegates and the President of the Hungarian Karate Federation Mr. Mr. János Mészáros, asking him to join him at the podium.
 - 5.2 The President thanked the Hungarian Karate Federation and its President, Mr. János Mészáros, for hosting the championships, and his 25 years of dedication to the sport of karate and requested Mr. Mészáros to address the Congress.
 - 5.3 President János Mészáros addressed the congress wishing all participants welcome to Budapest and thanked the WKF for the trust in arranging the Championships as well as offering his personal assistance with any issue pertaining to the venue or organization where he could be of help.



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6. Adoption of the minutes of the Konya 2022 Congress

- 6.1 The minutes having been distributed to all federations prior to the Congress, and no comments received, the minutes from the 2022 WKF Congress in Konya were **unanimously adopted**.

7. President's report

- 7.1 The WKF President, Mr. Antonio Espinos, gave his report to the Congress highlighting the steps taken up to the decision of LA28 not to include karate on the program for the Games. Despite all our efforts it is clear, that it is not a matter of the popularity or quality of the sport that determines a place if one has no competitor for the sports with the backing of national governments or international corporations providing huge sponsorships to the Games. He pointed out that we must not let this discourage us from our continuous fight to earn our place in the Olympic Games and to further guarantee the continuity of our sport in the Continental Games, where it is present in all continents to date. We have every right to be proud of the development of our sport over the last years.

8. General Secretary's report.

- 8.1 The WKF General Secretary, Mr. Toshihisa Nagura, stated that his report would be limited to the membership issues under point 9.

9. Membership issues: affiliations / disaffiliations; if any

- 9.1 The WKF General Secretary, Mr. Toshihisa Nagura, presented to the Congress the reasons for provisional disaffiliation of the Georgian National Karate Federation, as per the decision of the WKF Executive Committee on 27th December 2022.
- 9.2 The representative of the Georgian National Karate Federation took the floor to express its views on the subject of their provisional disaffiliation.
- 9.3 The WKF General Secretary, Mr. Toshihisa Nagura, then requested the Congress for the ratification of permanent disaffiliation of the Georgian National Karate Federation. The congress **agreed** to the proposal with 69 votes and 5 abstentions.
- 9.4 The WKF General Secretary, Mr. Toshihisa Nagura, requested the Congress for the ratification of permanent affiliation for the Georgian Sports Karate National Federation. The congress **agreed** to the proposal with 71 votes and 3 abstentions.

10. Treasurer's and Auditor's report. Adoption of the 2021 & 2022 audited accounts and adoption of the 2024 budget

- 10.1 The WKF General Treasurer Mr. Michale Dinsdale, presented his report and the auditors for the years 2021 and 2022. The report has been available online and paper copies were distributed to the delegates at the congress. The Treasurer's report and Auditor's report for the years 2021 and 2022 were **unanimously approved**.



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10.2 The WKF General Treasurer Mr. Michale Dinsdale, presented the WKF budgets for the year 2024 which was ***unanimously approved***.

11. Report on Budapest World Championships

11.1 A short presentation of this 26th Senior Karate World Championships was given by the Hungarian Karate Federation showing record breaking participation. The presentation was followed by a video displaying the virtues of the venue and the city of Budapest.

12. Report of the Sports Commissioner

12.1 The Sports Commissioner, Mr. Gunnar Nordahl, gave his report to the Congress, outlying the role of the Sports Commissioner and the forthcoming of adjustments of the competition rules to the new Senior World Championship format.

13. Report of the Athletes' Commission

13.1 The Chairman of the Athletes Commission, Mr. Davide Benetello gave his report of the activities of the Sports Commission and the elections of two members which period expires under this Championships, among a total of nine candidates.

14. Qualification Systems for the upcoming Senior Individual and Team WCH

14.1 The WKF Senior Advisor, Mr. Fransisco Alegrete, presented the update to the qualification and competition system for the upcoming Senior National Teams and Individual World Championships which will start the qualification cycle with the present World Championships in Budapest.

15. Communications Report

15.1 The WKF Communications Manager, Mr. Sergio Aguilera, presented his report showing a very extensive and growing presence of WKF in the social media with over 1,700,000 followers.

16. Sports Calendar 2024

16.1 The WKF CEO, Ms. Sara Wolff, presented the WKF sports calendar:



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MONTH	DAY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	COMMENTS
January	12-14	Karate 1 - Series A	Athens (Greece)	
January	26-28	Karate 1 - Premier League	Paris (France)	
February	9-11	EKF Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Tbilisi (Georgia)	
February	16-18	Karate 1 - Series A	Larnaca (Cyprus)	
February	22-25	Karate 1 - Youth League	Fujairah (UAE)	
March	7-9	African Games (Karate Competition)	Accra (Ghana)	Opening 8th March - Closing 23 March
March	15-17	Karate 1 - Premier League	Antalya (Turkiye)	
April	19-21	Karate 1 - Premier League	Cairo (Egypt)	
April	26-27	OKF Championships	Sydney (Australia)	
May	8-12	EKF Senior Championships	Zadar (Croatia)	
May	16-19	Karate 1 - Youth League	A Coruña (Spain)	WKF Referee Course (no WKF license)
May	23-26	PKF Championships	Punta del Este (Uruguay)	
May/June	31-2	Karate 1 - Premier League	Casablanca (Morocco)	
June	24-26	WKF Youth Camp	Porec (Croatia)	
June	27-30	Karate 1 - Youth League	Porec (Croatia)	
TBD	TBC	AKF Senior Championships	TBC	
August	8-11	Karate 1 - Youth League	Cancun (Mexico)	
August	22-25	PKF Cadet, Junior and U21 Championships	Sao Paolo (Brazil)	
August	TBC	UFAK Championships	TBC	
September	13-15	Karate 1 - Series A	Salzburg (Austria)	
September	20-22	Mediterranean Karate Championships	Olbia (Sardinia)	
September	27-29	Commonwealth Championships	Dhaka (Bangladesh)	
October	9-13	World Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Venice (Italy)	WKF Referee Course
November	22-24	WKF Team World Championships*	Pamplona (Spain)	
TBD	TBC	AKF Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Philippines	
December	5-8	Karate 1 - Youth League	Venice (Italy)	

11 October 2023

In red: to be confirmed

**As per the new WKF World Team Senior Championships (TWSCH) format rules art. 1.3 for the qualification of continental places the "Continental Championships must be celebrated at least 30 days before the TWSCH", 20th October 2024.*

The calendar was **unanimously ratified** by congress. The few events still to be confirmed will be decided soon and duly communicated to all NFs.

17. Guardian Girls Karate Project

17.1 A presentation of the project Guardian Girls were given. Following the agreement signed with Koyamada International Foundation (KIF), World Karate Federation (WKF) is developing, with KIF and UNFPA, a worldwide social program that aims to promote gender equality and the women empowerment to defend themselves from all forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) through Karate training. During the World Senior Championships (Hungary), the European Senior Championships (Spain), and the Karate 1 – Premier League events (Egypt, Morocco, Japan and Ireland):

- Organize women self-defense seminars.
- Make women self-defense actions demonstrations.
- Give support to the host National Federations for the implementation of the Guardian Girls Karate Activities in their countries.

17.2 Special mention was made to the substantial contribution to the Guardian Girls project made by WKF 2nd Vice President Mr. Nasser Alrazooqi through his donation following the presentation of the programme in Fujairah (UAE) in the month of February.

18. Presentation of the 2024 WKF Youth Camp in Poreč (Croatia)

18.1 President of the Croatian Karate Federation, Mr. Davor Cipek and his team gave a presentation of the forthcoming 16th WKF Youth Training Camp, U12 Youth and Para-Karate Cup, and WKF Youth League Tournament.



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19. Presentation of the 2024 World Team Senior Championships in Pamplona (Spain)

19.1 The Spanish Karate Federation, represented by its President, Mr. Antonio Moreno, gave a speech welcoming everyone to attend the first separate World National teams Championships in Pamplona. The speech was followed by a promotional video showing the venue, accommodation and facilities.

20. Presentation of the 2024 World Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships in Venice (Italy)

20.1 Mr. Davide Benetello and the wished everyone welcomed to Jesolo, Venice, for the next World Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships. The organizing Committee is headed by Domenico Falcone and Davide Benetello as president of Karate. The introduction was followed by an extensive presentation of the both the area, hotels, venue and reference to the official website www.worldchampionshipvenice2024.it

21. Ratification of the EC proposal for the 2025 World Senior Championships & future World Championships planning

21.1 The Qualification Phase of the 2025 WKF Individual Senior Championships were **unanimously approved** to take place in Paris, France.

21.2 The Final Phase of the 2025 WKF Individual Senior Championships were **unanimously approved** to take place in Cairo, Egypt.

22. AOCB

22.1 No other competent business having been brought forward, the President closed the congress at 18:25.

23. Next Congress

23.1 The next WKF Congress will take place in Venice, Italy on 8th October 2024.