



September 15, 2011

Dr. Jacques Rogge, President
International Olympic Committee
Chateau de Vidy
Case postale 356
1001 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear Excellency:

My purpose in writing to you today is to appeal to you to uphold the stated expectations of the IOC concerning the need for unification within the activity of karate before any consideration will be given by IOC to include it within the Olympic Games Programme. This expectation spans more than three decades and has been stated repeatedly by the IOC during this period of time. The ITKF is disappointed and gravely concerned about your recent letter to WKF informing them of the decision to short-list karate for consideration in 2020. (See Attachment1-IOC Sport Short-list)

Taking this decision completely disregards the failure of WKF to meet its obligations outlined in the written decisions of the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sport and Juridicial Committee. But, most importantly, it ignores the rights of the ITKF, its athletes, officials, coaches and judges who have struggled since this unjust journey began more than 30 years ago.

As you are fully aware, the ITKF (formerly IAKF) was the original karate federation whose leaders developed the first rules of karate competition used throughout the world. Also, it was the first karate federation to apply to the IOC for recognition in 1974. It was also the first International Federation of karate to enjoy membership within GAISF, the forerunner of the current Sport Accord. It was also a significant player in the development of the martial art of Traditional Karate through the structured and recognized national sport system throughout the world. All of this was completely and instantly reversed through the unilateral decision taken by the former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch who ignored this history and granted recognition to ex-WUKO – now self proclaimed, WKF.

More importantly, the 101st Session of the IOC, based on the written decision of the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sport, confirmed that there were two distinct disciplines of karate. This decision was the result of presentations made by both organizations (ITKF and ex-WUKO), including their respective rules of competition, to the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sport in 1986. In fact, the IOC defined these two disciplines as “General Karate” and “Traditional Karate”. But it went further in its definition by clearly defining Traditional Karate “as that which is practised by the International Traditional Karate Federation” and required such recognition within any Statutes of WKF. (See Attachment4-IOC Unification Principles)

This definition sparked the removal of IOC recognition from WUKO (self proclaimed, WKF) because of its failure to unify and provide equal opportunity rights to the practitioners of Traditional Karate practised by ITKF as required by the decision of the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sport and the subsequent IOC 101st Session. This action also triggered a Joint Working Committee (JWC), endorsed by the IOC, with the sole objective of drafting the final Statutes of WKF to include the two disciplines represented by the International Traditional Karate Federation (ITKF) and World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO – now self proclaimed, WKF). The IOC gave the Joint Working Committee a deadline to complete its work. In 1996, the JWC did complete drafting the final statutes of the World Karate Union – the new unified organization. A new name for the organization was

chosen because the World Karate Federation (WKF) is the name that the IOC defined as a merger of both WUKO and ITKF as a means of providing an organizational framework and foundation for cooperation (See Attachment4-Judge Mbaye Letter). Instead, WUKO simply self proclaimed itself as WKF and has continuously claimed unification is completed – with none of the corresponding IOC requirements or definitions for unification implemented.

In November of 1996, the ITKF formally endorsed the work of the Joint Working Committee and its new Unification Constitution by a unanimous vote of its World Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil. However, the ex-WUKO (now self proclaimed WKF) Executive Committee reneged on its agreement to do the same and refused to consider the adoption of the unification constitution – even though WKF had participated fully in the drafting of the proposed Unification Statutes of the organization. As a matter of fact, the Unification Statutes were never presented to the general membership of WKF at its World Congress in 1996 contrary to the commitment made to both IOC and ITKF! IOC President Samaranch was informed of this situation and the failure of WKF to comply, formally, through written correspondence by the mutually selected mediator, Mr. Tatsuno. (See Attachment5-TatsunoLtr)

Instead of chastising WKF for reneging on its commitment, IOC President Samaranch once again strangely and unilaterally determined recognition for ex-WUKO (self proclaimed as WKF) in 1999. He did this despite the aforementioned facts plus the additional fact that the entire issue was once again before the IOC Court of Arbitration for Sport at the time he made this decision. He did this in spite of IOC's own definition of WKF as a merger organization of ITKF and WUKO. Yet, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the IOC Judicial Committee and the IOC 101st Session had previously determined the requirements needed for recognition and outlined these in the “*Note On The Principles To Be Included In The Statutes Of The World Karate Federation (WKF)*” as authored by the Chairman of the IOC Juridicial Committee, Judge K. Mbaye. (See Attachment4-Unification Principles)

The basic circumstance of “Traditional Karate” and “General Karate” and the need for collaboration is not unlike many other sport federations. In fact, a parallel can easily be drawn between Classic Volleyball and Beach Volleyball. Beach Volleyball (like WKF) took some of the fundamental rules of the competition of Classic Volleyball (ITKF) and created a new variation – a new game. However, no one expects that Classic Volleyball players are required to play under the rules of competition of the game of Beach Volleyball or vice versa. No one claims there is only one set of rules or one ‘discipline’ of Volleyball. Both disciplines of Volleyball are recognized as being responsible for their respective activities and development. Both disciplines are recognized sports in the Olympic Programme. Indeed, this is as reflected in Judge Mbaye’s letter to WUKO and ITKF – there are two distinct disciplines of karate with Traditional Karate more specifically defined as that practiced by ITKF.

Why was this requirement allowed to be unilaterally abandoned by IOC President Samaranch? Why is it now that the IOC does not uphold its decisions and definitions consistently with respect to its own stated requirements? To this day, these questions remain unanswered. Rather, in the case of karate, the ITKF continues to be referred by the IOC Sports Director to a World Federation, WKF that has already proven that it does not respect nor include the competition of Traditional Karate under the Rules of Competition of the ITKF as required by the IOC. This is a very specific and stated requirement by the IOC to be included in any Statutes of the WKF that is representative of unification. The ITKF has written a number of times to the President of WKF regarding this matter and also to your office without any response.

Furthermore, WKF has no intention of allowing Traditional Karate athletes of ITKF to use the Rules

of Competition of ITKF – *even though the IOC has recognized the Traditional Karate competition of ITKF as a distinct discipline of karate.*

The ex-WUKO (self proclaimed WKF) continues to state that ITKF athletes must compete under the only rules of competition the WKF employs - the “General Karate” discipline. This discriminatory attitude of WKF has been clearly documented through letters from its Executive Officers to its National Federation members warning them that National Federations will be disciplined if they cooperate with ITKF National Federations. Consequently, there is no opportunity for our members to take their rightful place within the IOC Olympic family *as specifically required by the IOC*. (See Attachment2 – WKF General Secretary letter to Israel NF) Nor can ITKF benefit from the world-wide sport structure (i.e. Sports Ministries and national governments) that view the IOC as the sport “experts” and mirror IOC’s recognition decisions within their respective country’s sport policies.

Nor would the IOC allow Beach Volleyball to adopt competition rules that duplicate those of Classic Volleyball and still remain recognized as a distinct sport of the Olympic Programme – a separate competition from Classic Volleyball. But such is the case with WKF. Our organization has copied IOC previously on the “Cease and Desist” orders that we have sent to WKF regarding their use of ITKF categories and Rules of Competition which they have usurped for their own purpose. (See Attachment3 – “Cease & Desist”)

We continue to be met with silence from your office on these matters. We have written to you numerous times asking for your assistance in reinforcing the IOC stated unification principles within the currently self proclaimed WKF. Simply referring the ITKF to WKF is not a solution. Without IOC supporting its decision that two distinct disciplines of karate exist and its requirement that the Traditional Karate of ITKF be included in any World Federation representing karate that is recognized by the IOC, the injustice continues and the rights of ITKF athletes, participants, officials and judges denied.

The facts and IOC judicial decisions are very clear and well documented. The Traditional Karate discipline of karate is governed by ITKF and is to be included in any International Federation recognized by IOC. IOC cannot simply abandon its commitments and behave as though the issue is resolved. Throughout history leaders have found it necessary to correct injustices created by their predecessors. Such is the circumstance concerning this matter. WKF continues to demonstrate its unwillingness to adhere to the requirements set forth by the IOC Juridicial Committee, the IOC Court of Arbitration and the IOC 101st Session. Consequently, it is time the IOC displays its authoritative recognition of two disciplines of karate and list ITKF as the International Federation of Traditional Karate separately. If IOC wants to ensure the integrity of its Sport Federation structure, it must require WKF to unify with this distinct ITKF discipline as per the Principles of Unification set forward by IOC (Attachment4-IOC Unification Principles) and contained in the Unification Constitution written by the Joint Working Committee, endorsed by the IOC and ITKF, before any consideration should be given to karate as an Olympic Sport.

This simple decree from your office will correct decades of discrimination and persecution of ITKF, its athletes and participants. It will also steadfastly reinforce the Olympic Charter, most particularly Point 4 and Point 6 of the Fundamental Principles of Olympism which state:

“4. The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising

sport, *without discrimination of any kind* and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.”

Remark: The sport of Traditional Karate has been defined as a distinct discipline of karate by the IOC as practised by the International Traditional Karate Federation. The IOC needs to reinforce this statement by requiring the WKF to comply with the IOC Court of Arbitration

Principles as outlined by Judge Mbaye in his “*Note on the Principles To Be Included In The Statutes Of The World Karate Federation (WKF)*” before karate can be considered for inclusion in the Olympic Game Programme. Anything less continues the discrimination and unjust persecution of ITKF athletes, coaches and officials, effectively denying their individual rights.

“6. Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, *politics*, gender *or otherwise* is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement.”

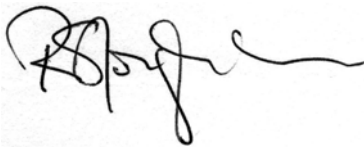
Remark: The ITKF has complied with every condition required of it by IOC, including the signing of the Unification Constitution within the timeframe set by IOC in 1996 – WKF still has not completed any of these obligations but enjoys IOC recognition. How is this possible?

Furthermore, the ex-WUKO (WKF) letters to its National Federation members requiring the “purging” of all Traditional Karate athletes associated with ITKF (See Attachment2) is discriminatory and abuses the political power enjoyed currently by WKF with its status granted through the unilateral and seemingly politically motivated action of former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Contrary to the IOC decision and requirements, WKF considers ITKF a “dissident group” as stated by the General Secretary of the WKF in his letter to the National Federation of Israel (See Attachment2). Consequently, in order to support the IOC Court of Arbitration decision recognizing the Traditional Karate practiced by ITKF as a distinct discipline of Karate, the IOC has no choice but to recognize the ITKF separately in order to stop this punitive discrimination. This will ensure the high ideals and principles of the IOC concerning fairness and the human right of people to practice their sport freely and without reprisal are maintained.

I look forward to your kind attention and response.

Sincerely,



Richard Jorgensen, Chairman
International Traditional Karate Federation

C.c. IOC Executive Board Members
National Olympic Committees
ITKF Member Federations