

Declaration of Unification of World Karate

Background

With the historic signing of the WKF–ITKF Joint Statement led by Mr. Hidetaka Nishiyama (Chairman of ITKF) and Mr. Jacques Delcourt (President of WKF) at a duly constituted meeting in Osaka, Japan in 1996 for the unification of karate into ONE Federation administering all karate, the JWC (Joint Working Committee) was established with Mr. Kuniō Tatsuno as its convener and Mr. Imtiaz Abdulla (WKF), Mr. Takaichi Mano (WKF), Mr. Rajeev Sinha (ITKF) and Mr. J. Michael Crowe (ITKF) as members.

This Joint Statement was the reason for the IOC to reaccept Karate back and give its previous recognition with a very clear mandate for unification based upon IOC 101st Session directive which included the suggested statute as drafted by the IOC Legal Commission.

JWC was further mandated to re-examine the directives and the proposed statutes towards creating and directing a unified process where both the ITKF representing Traditional Karate and the WKF representing General Karate would be unified into one Federation administering all Karate with two separate commissions i.e. one for Traditional Karate and another for General Karate. Furthermore, the position in the Executive Board would include members from both Federations.

This work of JWC was completed as per the above directives, however, the process of unification failed dismally even though the JWC allowed without interference a generous period of 17 years. It has now become imperative for this legally appointed structure to reconvene.

After evaluating and auditing the processes of the last 17 years which includes the IOC decisions, the attempts to unify all karate and unsuccessful bid by the WKF to have Karate included in the 2016 and 2020 Olympics, it has come to an unbiased conclusion that the World Karate fraternity which had mandated the JWC to act on its behalf to present a process that was fair and reasonable, has been deprived of their constitutional right to have karate unified and included in the Olympic Games.

Further mitigating factors is the fact that currently the both organisations are in turmoil with serious consequences whereby Karate could lose its recognition because of serious allegation and practices that go against the very directive given by the JWC and the IOC.



Finding of the Audit Process

It is the contention of the surviving and active JWC members Imtiaz Abdulla and Rajeev Sinha who can confirm that the JWC has never been disbanded.

It is therefore resolved after intensive investigation that it is imperative that the JWC will return to the founding documents of unification as guided by the IOC Legal Commission and adopted by the IOC Monte Carlo Congress which are the ONLY documents that should be used as the guiding document for the unification of all karate into one Federation, taking into consideration that there are two types of karate i.e. General Karate as practised by WKF and Traditional Karate as practised by ITKF in order to achieve its original objective because of the disregard for due process.

It is further suggested that the process shall be all inclusive noticing that 17 years have passed and possibly new structures could have been developed. Because of the frustration created by the unsuccessful and sometimes illegal and non-inclusive process it is further imperative that other structures will be consulted to be included to truly achieve Karate unity globally. In order to achieve its original mandate, the following FOUR points will be undertaken to restart the unification process for realization of inclusion of karate into the Olympic Games.

1. Unification of all karate into ONE Federation;
2. Expansion of the JWC to include all FIVE continents to assist it achieve its goal;
3. Implementation of the directives of the 101st Session directives and propose steps towards unifying karate, developing a just and fair legal framework to include all karate into one federation
4. Program for inclusion of Karate as discipline in the future Olympic and other globally recognised structures and games.



Imtiaz Abdulla
WKF JWC Member



Rajeev Sinha
ITKF JWC Member

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Prague, Czech Republic