

To karatekas of traditional karate forms
To karate athletes
To admirers of Budo Karate and Budo culture

Dear all,

I address you, no matter what form, style or organization you belong to. It is my honor and pleasure to inform you that the process of unification of the traditional karate, more precisely the Japanese Budo Karate, has been successfully completed on December 17 in Warsaw, by finally creating the form of organization in terms of the so-called traditional karate platform. It is a federation of federations, existing founders, i.e. WFF World Fudokan Federation, WTKF World Traditional Karate-Do Federation, WBKA World Budo Karate Association and ETKF European Traditional Karate Federation, who, on behalf of all the members, having signed the Declaration on the so-called traditional karate platform, joined a unique organization where the traditional karate was put into one unity.

United federations, by joining the platform of traditional karate, in no way lose their autonomy. Moreover, they retain their structure, physiognomy and financial independence. At the same time, according to the agreement reached, the Federation of Funders (WFF, WTKF, WBKA and ETKF) meet every 4 years (proposal is every 2 years) within the so-called Karate Olympics in the respective common disciplines. We emphasize that each member federation exercises its disciplines at the same time. The united federation has chosen its name: the World Traditional Karatedo Union (WTKU).

WHAT IS WTKU?

In short, it embodies the idea and aspiration of Sensei Nishiyama, on the one hand, and a reaction to similar 2019 WKF and Okinawa Karate platforms on the other, as an expression of the inevitable process of uniting federations, organizations and styles.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WTKU AND ITKF?

ITKF is an organization that is primarily of a sports character, with a very precise competition system and sports rules of refereeing. The Budo character is presented through the so-called finishing blow (todome) which reflects the genius of the Sensei.

ITKF consisted of formally traditional styles: Goju ryu, Shito ryu and Shorin ryu, as well as the only evolutionary Fudokan style. By the power of its authority, the ITKF ensured the presence of the authority of the person, above all Sensei Kisaka (Goju ryu), Sensei Mabuni (Shito ryu), Richard Kim (Shorin Kenpo ryu) and Prof. Ilija Jorga, MD, PhD (Fudokan). To be honest, the corresponding kata of various styles were sidelined and Shotokan kata prevailed in the competitions, though all were equally valued.

With the death of Sensei Kisaka, Sensei Mabuni and Sensei Richard Kim, ITKF practically comes down to Shotokan and Fudokan styles. Finally, when Sensei Chirai left, ITKF totally “dejapanized”. In such a situation, the ITKF executives have not done so well, primarily because they are preoccupied with taking over the leadership status.

With the death of Sensei Nishiyama in 2008, ITKF started falling apart from the inside. Sensei left no successor, and leading people are simply incapable, anemic, and pale in authority to be able to, after such a strong personality, decently represent a leader!

Unlike ITKF, WTKU is a federation made up of federations that are founders and that are exactly those federations that have joined and make up the platform.

As we have already said, WFF, WTKF, WBKA and ETKF retain their constitution and independence in every respect. Federation presidents are leaders in the capacity of vice-presidents electing WTKU president every 4 years.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WTKU AND WKF?

It is evident that the karate world is divided into two blocks: the traditional and the so-called modern block. What is fundamentally different is precisely the structure, statutory rights, the way of electing the president, the organizational chart, as well as the peculiar rules of refereeing, validation and, above all, behavior, etiquette and sports etiquette.

The WKF is exclusive and disparaging of human rights, especially since it strictly forbids its members to have any contact with another federation, until they are eliminated from the organization.

WTKU is a multi-federation federation where discrimination or any human rights issue is unthinkable. WTKU is characterized by tradition-based education, where moral and ethical categories are dominant. Education, upbringing and etiquette are the very source of tradition, which is of particular importance when comparing two approaches to karate, the traditional and the so-called modern.

WTKU is open and does not raise questions about freedom of choice or cooperation. It sees no rival in WKF, but is on the contrary ready to build genuine cooperation, on the basis of mutual respect, for the benefit of world karate and both organizations, WKF and WTKU.

WTKU does not want to waste energy to bridge the decade gap between traditional and modern karate. Respecting the reality in the world, WTKU primarily protects itself, more precisely all the dogmas and rules of traditional karate, but this does not diminish the willingness to establish a bridge of cooperation not only with WKF, but also with other respectable institutions (TAFISA, WADA, UNESCO and an organization that takes care of intangible karate assets).

HOW DOES WTKU FUNCTION?

As mentioned above, all the people who manage the WTKU funder federations are at the same time vice-presidents of WTKU, who elect WTKU president among themselves.

Each federation reserves the rights to organize its own world championships, using its established rules of refereeing. Every 2 or 4 years, WTKU organizes a joint competition in common disciplines, the so-called Karate Olympics, which has

already been agreed for 2020 in Belgrade / Serbia. The financial flows of the federations at WTKU are separate, and as such have no interest on the part of WTKU.

WHAT DOES WTKU PAY ATTENTION TO?

First of all, it is about maintaining and functioning of the traditional karate in accordance with its historical roots and clearly defined rules. WTKU pays particular attention to the ethical and moral norms that define the traditional karate. At WTKU, education, upbringing and etiquette of its members come first.

In order to justify its sense of existence, WTKU has disclosed its code of traditional karate, while also introducing a court of honor, a prosecutor, a disciplinary commission, a committee for the legality and correctness of decisions that involve the importance of traditional karate.

HOW DOES WTKU FUNCTION WHEN IT COMES TO COMPETITIONS?

Every second or fourth year, the WTKU organizes the so-called Karate Olympics (karatelympics). Competitors that are in accordance with norms and rules have the right to participate in the Karate Olympics. Competitors are required to be members of the federation, both fundraising and newcomers, and to meet certain membership standards set by the parent members of federations, i.e. WTKU Unified Corpus.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON DISCIPLINES IN WTKU?

Enbu, Fuku go (Kitei Nishiyama Sensei and Kitei Higashiyama Sensei), Kumite, Kumite team, Kogo, Kogo team and Tsumeai.

WHAT ARE THE RULES IN WTKU?

WTKU combines adapted rules of traditional karate with the adopted amendments of federation funders.

All other disciplines from those listed are separate and are depending on the federation. Competitions are organized on separate tatami for each member federation at the same time and the rules of that federation apply. The competition is organized simultaneously in the form of the Karate Olympics, which involves common disciplines, as well as in the form of individual disciplines of WTKU members.

WTKU INFORMATION CENTER

- Warsaw/Poland telephone:
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- Belgrade/Serbia telephone:
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