



# WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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**WKC**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**NO. 1/2012**

## Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Karateka from all over the World,

Following the outstanding success of the 4<sup>th</sup> TAFISA World Sport for All Games in Busan, Korea in 2008, the 5<sup>th</sup> Games will be again a vibrant and entertaining experience, offering an unique opportunity to discover the variety and values of the Sport for All movement including traditional games and popular sports of various cultures around the world. TAFISA and the Organizing Committee are expecting over 5.000 participants from more than 100 countries to attend the event, making it the meeting point for exchanges between various civilizations and cultures through Sports for All and Physical Activity.

The Games is organized under the patronage of Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaite, the President of the Republic of Lithuania, UNESCO, IOC & ICSSPE. The motto of the Games is Active People. Better World, offering a voyage of discovery around the world. Šiauliai is recognized as the capital of Lithuanian culture, with excellent sports facilities and a strong sports culture. During this event, Šiauliai will be the world capital for Sport for All and provide a unique and colourful platform for the art of the Sports for All movement. Šiauliai will witness a happy marriage of the various traditional games, sports and sports heritages of the world, and thus pay a great contribution to the better understanding of people in the world.

**The program of the TAFISA Games embraces the following Karate championships:**

Open WKC World Championships for Seniors

8th WKC World Championships for Juniors & Cadets

8th WKC World Cup for Children

Our City is a great place to arrange an international sport event. Šiauliai has already been recognized as a sporting city, with excellent sport facilities and a highly active sports community. Citizens have a strong sense of connection with sports traditions. Our region has a rich historical past, interesting

and valuable cultural history, a lot of beautiful tourist attractions. To learn more about the Games, please refer to [www.siauliai2012.lt](http://www.siauliai2012.lt)

I welcome you to this significant event and sincerely believe that it will be a tremendous success.

Bonne chance!

Justinas Sartauskas  
Mayor of Šiauliai City



## Draft Program

Time	WEDNESDAY, 4 <sup>th</sup> JULY 2012	Place
5.00 pm – 8.00 pm	Registration & Weigh-In of Competitors	Tennis Court
8.00 pm	WKC Meeting (Participants: the presidents of the national member federations and the members of the Presidential Board)	Tennis Court
	THURSDAY, 5 <sup>th</sup> JULY 2012	
8.00 am – 12.00	Seminar for all registered Coaches & Referees (Mandatory in Karate-Gi & WKC Referee Uniform)	Tennis Court
8.00 am – 12.00	Registration & Weigh-In of Competitors	Tennis Court
1.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Eliminations & Finals all Children Categories (Medal Ceremonies on the Tatami)	Tennis Court
	FRIDAY, 6 <sup>th</sup> JULY 2012	
9.00 am – 2.00 pm	Eliminations & Finals all Cadet Categories	Tennis Court
2.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Eliminations & Finals all Junior Team Categories	Tennis Court
	SATURDAY, 7 <sup>th</sup> JULY 2012	
9.00 am – 12.00	Eliminations & Finals all Juniors Individual Categories	Tennis Court
1.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Eliminations & Finals all Seniors Team Categories	Tennis Court
	SUNDAY, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2012	
9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Eliminations & Finals all Seniors Individual Categories	Tennis Court

## Sport and Tradition, Part 2

Tradition and sport, the discussion about the two different ways in karate began with an article about the interview with great teachers and representatives of FIAM, with a close study and practice to the traditional side of Karate, with the help of Masters Ferdinando Balzarro, Ilio Semino and Michele Scutaro. We shall examine the sporting aspect of karate with thanks to three great personalities in the world of FIAM, teachers Salvatore Canto, Ivano Di Battista and Marco Morelli.

*Traditional karate and sport: a distinction that is relatively modern with very deep roots into the past and history of this martial art. What is your opinion on this division and how, from your point of view, is lived in FIAM?*



**Canto:** There's almost a constant debate about wanting to divide the two, while all the concepts such as education, compliance, stress management and, self control, the outcome is nearly the same. It would be quite easy to change some small details to unify the two. In Kata, as master Wado, I have great admiration towards our Shotokan teachers who managed to find the right balance to give certainty to athletes during the internship. Each teacher endeavours to better the technique, speed, power and interpretation. I was originally responsible for

National Wado Ryu in FIAM, often finding differences, which I have tried to standardize. By having the advantage of being able to see Wado kata performed by its own founder, Master Hironori Ohtsuka, it had seemed the most natural and obvious solution, also endorsed by the Master Shingo Ohgami, chief instructor of the European Wado Kai. A kata is not traditional nor sport, it should be able to excite those who do and those who watch it. With this idea you could eliminate the differences between traditional and sport and at the same time trying to raise the profile of participation to the Wado membership.

**Di Battista:** I believe that karate should be one, without distinction between tradition or sport. Particularly in kata the tradition way should be kept. In sport the difference is that the bunkai is not practiced. FIAM attempts to reflect these characteristics, with training courses for technical as well as traditional and the development of bunkai would also be catered for, while the national athlete could



Ivano Di Battista

concentrates on the appearance of technical movements.

**Morelli:** For me sport karate is a small part of the path of a karateka (and non-mandatory), the competitive part of this martial art in all its forms has been used to spread karate worldwide but at the same time has also caused all the divisions that we encounter today. In FIAM this problem does not exist because the first is the practice of real karate and then comes the competition, which lasts only for a short time in training karate. The important thing in FIAM is to reiterate to everyone, including smaller athletes, the importance of Karate-Do is much deeper and rewarding. In fact, my philosophy is: „Karate is to be practiced for an entire life time.“

*Are traditional and sport karate in this regard compatible with each other? Will there be a supremacy of one of the two in the future?*

**Canto:** They are compatible ... but it depends on the individual's interpretation.

In Wado Kata, that I consider the historical background of the style, I remain convinced that the much-publicized changes, should be limited to the improvement of all the features of execution without changing the base and at the same time remain faithful to the traditional ways of the masters. Sometimes for convenience or stubbornness, we do not change what

has been introduced in the past. We do not want to tell the athletes that some steps are not true. We prefer to continue to multiply the changes in the name of a standardisation that does nothing but confuse the less experienced.

In kumite basic principles are the same in the sport as well as in the traditional way. The sports rules are to eliminate the dangerous techniques with referees that award scores, remain faithful to the following simple concept: you should be able to stop a decisive technique before you injure your opponent. To make tradition and sport more „real“ and interesting, you should not award points for techniques executed the same time.

To answer the second part of the question at this moment in time no one has the ability or desire to bring sport and tradition together to suit everyone's needs. In traditional karate not all practitioners are interested in competition. Sport karate allows you to face an opponent while being supervised by a referee. In traditional karate, the techniques are based on self - defence and are not suitable for competition.

**Di Battista:** In my opinion the two philosophies are compatible, it is the duty of the technicians to study and deepen their style. Currently in Italy traditional karate is the largest, in the future I hope this situation will evolve and change.

**Morelli:** As I previously said, tradition and sport are compatible with each other, but they all must be constantly practised with this in mind.

*What is your experience about this topic and how is it dealt with in the daily dojo training?*

**Canto:** For me, karate is simply what I live for. I have known the reality of the struggles between children in the

neighbourhood's of Casablanca where I lived up to the age of 15 years. Arrived in Italy not knowing a single word of Italian, I met some time later Master Iwao Yoshioka, one of the greatest fighters of his time with his unique way of kumite, his teaching stimulated us to learn quickly for the pure martial spirit of self-defence. Kata and basics were not considered essential. I decided to look around, discovered endless variations, and ended up studying the system of Master Hironori Otsuka. I am convinced that karate is one. Respect must be shown and not pretended. In our dojo the tradition mingles with competitiveness. In short, I like to think that we are a society of friends who enjoy doing karate.

**Di Battista:** My knowledge in this regard is undoubtedly in both fields. I support the tradition, even if in Italy in Shito Ryu. I know that athletes prefer learning a new kata (perhaps from YouTube) than studying the bunkai. Thanks to the international guide for the Shito Ryu style (Master Del Saito, head of the school-Ha Shito Ryu Saito, direct student of Kenzo Mabuni). I keep studying the original kata in Shito ryu and pass this on to my students. My advice to any good Athlete is to work on their physical fitness and technique.



Marco Morelli

**Morelli:** My personal experience is also reflected in my teaching. Since the beginning of my career in Karate I have taught, practiced and competed. I have 40 years of knowledge and teaching, which I pass on to my students all my experience. This federation is made up of master teachers and I'm proud to be part of them. In FIAM there are many like me.



*Martin Nožička and Robert Musil*

## Gesture towards tsunami victims

The organisers of the 8th WKC World Karate Championship in Liberec were awarded a Fair Play prize during the regular prize awards ceremony organised by the Czech Union of Martial Arts. This union associates all martial arts in the Czech Republic, from karate through boxing to Taekwondo etc. Organisers - Martin Nožička and Robert Musil were given the prize for the gesture towards Japan (Tsunami catastrophe) for donating all the entrance fees.

## AAU International Tournament

On the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 AAU USA Karate hosted a tremendous international competition, which was attended by top karate students from all over the United States, Canada and Europe. The competition contained two main events, the Elite and the Goodwill event. The Elite event was held for black belts with the highest possible standard and the Goodwill event was open to all visiting karate students.

The first day was dedicated to the Elite event, which consisted of kata mixed styles, kumite heavy and light weight, and the grand champion event. There were some great matches within the kata competition crowned by a very thrilling final. Jacob Tesarek won the finals with his Shotokan kata "Unsu". The kumite match was even more exciting with participants from Serbia, Czech and USA fighting for the chance to get in to the Grand Champion play off. Two US fighters, who fought great finals and brought back home prize worth of \$ 1.000 for the grand champion as well as \$ 500 for both finalists (heavy and light weight champions).

As for the elite events, we saw some great fights within the adjusted sanbon shobu rules and brand new kata competition concept, which changed karate on to a new and different level. Most of the fighters competing showed great skill in good and fair matches.

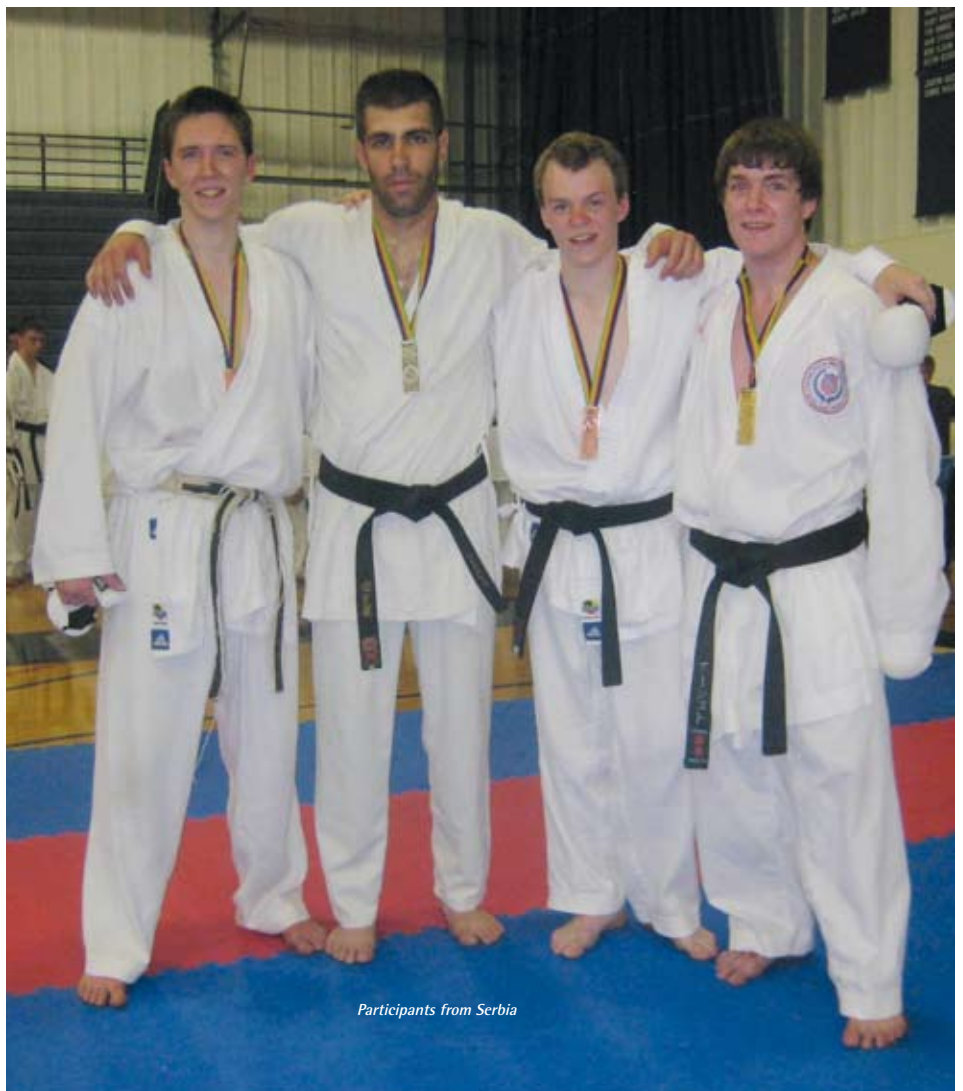
The second day was also very exciting with the sport hall full of dazzling competitors, who took part in this well organised competition. Most of the events had over 30 competitors enrolled. The children events were

proving the success of the AAU karate program. The seniors' events had some good matches, especially the heavy weight finals which were finished with an extension, run by sudden death rules.

The whole event was very friendly with Serbian, Czech, US and Canadian fighters spending most of their time together, talking and cheering each other and spending some non competition time together. Many of the competitors participated at the course of the three present Masters Nishime, Nishimura and Kotaka. By doing so, they were able to learn new skills and gain some experience in sports karate.

I would most certainly recommend to every good karate student to attend next year's AAU USA International Karate Championships in Lake Zurich, Chicago as it is one of the top events of the year worldwide.

Robert Musil, Shi Kon Budo-kai (Czech Republic)



*Participants from Serbia*

### A rich Schedule of Proposals to live new Challenges

If we ask ourselves, which are the values that permeate the world in which we live in. We would be divided in opinion: A part of us would put the accent on a society oriented to the appearance, in which proliferate the myths of beauty and respect; the other one should value "the important things of life" that make life worth living.

On all mass media we are witness of a "modus vivendi" crisis where more and more people are looking for an alternative life style.

As usual we try to face these difficulties searching inspiration in the words of one person:

"Creativity is born from anguish. Just like the day is born from the dark night. It's in crisis that inventiveness is born, as well as discoveries, and big

strategies. He who overcomes crisis, overcomes himself, without getting overcome". Albert Einstein 1931

We start from here and ask: what do we have to do to overcome any obstacle in our path? How could we change pessimism into inertia? One possible answer is to becoming ambassadors in a culture of thinking, discipline, sobriety and of an inside personal balance.

For many years FIAM has practiced these values actively, approaching young people to martial art in the schools and gyms all over Italy, supporting disabled people with a personalized sport path and stimulating elderly people, women and men to improve themselves in body and spirit, even facing the weaknesses in our society

Karate is in not only a sport it is a culture and a passion. (to be continued)

Dott. Bruno Gilardi

### Tournament Management

FIAM uses a software that is a powerful tournament management system. It supports all phases of the tournament management process: creation of events, collection of registrations, draw tables, entry fee management, generation of reports and statistics, and so on. FIAM supports 100 % WKC rules

Forget about complicated and expensive conventional karate scoreboards. FIAM has a system that implements the actual WKC rules and furthermore it provides additional features, adjusting the screen size, logging of all actions and many more features.

Any application can be used to stand-alone. All applications can be integrated to one homogenous system. Any phase of an event management process can be processed electronically to save time, resources, effort and money for all parties.

The software connects all tatamis with one central database. For that reason it is possible for many workstations to work on the same drawing tables at the same time. This design also ensures the availability of data for all our clients at any time. It is easy for the administration to overview and to trace all activities on the tatamis during the event. Because of the fully automated generation of the draw tables, recharge tables and result lists, you will no longer have to worry about time-consuming manual activities to create these outputs.



Karate Exhibition in Kraljevo



*Future Champions in Kraljevo*

## Martial Arts Festival in Kraljevo

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Martial Arts Festival was held in the City of Kraljevo from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012. This event was organized by the local karate club "Reikon", led by Prof. Zoran Jakovljevic. In the three days program many martial arts were demonstrated in open air on the main city square: karate, aikido, kung-fu, judo, capoeira, ninjitsu, jiu jitsu, aiki jitsu, wrestling, etc. 43 martial arts clubs from Serbia, Montenegro and Poland took part in the festival.

## First Minister of Scotland Receives Scottish Samurai Award

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Ronnie Watt OBE was invited to attend the "Best of Scottish Sport" reception dinner held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. Alongside Ronnie at the event were Scottish sporting greats such as; the golfer Sandy Lyle, rugby player Chris Patterson and swimmer Hannah Miley.

The reception was addressed by First Minister, The Right Honourable Alex Salmond who said it was an "absolute pleasure" to celebrate the achievements of Scotland's leading sports stars. He went on to say that Scotland was "a nation that is passionate about sport

and being able to celebrate sporting success matters". Following his address, Ronnie Watt presented Mr Salmond with the Scottish Samurai Award.

This award is presented each year to an outstanding individual who has promoted Scotland Scottish Sport and Culture abroad. Following the presentation, Mr Salmond took to the podium again and, during his thanks, recognised Ronnie for teaching karate to many thousands of people and for being one of the very few Scots whose achievements had been recognised by the Emperor of Japan via award of the Order of the Rising Sun.



*Samurai award for First Minister A. Salmond*

The WKC Newsletter is an official publication of the World Karate Confederation. Its purpose is to make karate better known to the public and the media. Therefore, reprinting or otherwise copying all its contents is not only permitted but will be welcome; quoting „WKC Newsletter” as a source will be appreciated. The WKC Newsletter will be issued free of charge two to three times annually. Please direct any questions about the WKC Newsletter or contributions for future issues to the Editor. All questions regarding the WKC in general or next WKC events in particular should be addressed to the WKC Office.

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