



# Monthly Newsletter

## World Karate Organization

### March & April 2024 Issue (Vol. 243)

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#### 1. Message from WKO President

Dear Branch Chiefs and Contacts,

Thank you for your continued support towards the development of the WKO.

It has been almost six months since the 13th World Karate Championship which left us the great excitement.

In Japan, the cold winter winds have given way to the soft sunshine of spring. The beautiful cherry blossoms will soon be in full bloom. I hope all the Branch Chiefs and Contacts around the world are doing well at this moment.

Serious international conflicts are prolonged, but our thoughts are always with the people in the affected areas. While thinking about the Ukrainian members who have been training even under difficult situations, I pray for the earliest recovery of the peace. We shall keep sharing the burden and the hardship with our comrades, as this international conflict concerns all of us living in this world.

In WKO, the new 4-year cycle activity term started after we successfully achieved the 13th World Karate Championship last autumn. I wish all the competitors, who embody the world's strongest Karate, would continue to give their utmost efforts to be the winner of the next 14th World Karate Championship in 2027. The one person who is entitled to be the world champion is the one who trains the most in the world. What the contestants who failed a step short in the last championship



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need to do is train themselves as much as they can. You need to train in high quality, in large amounts. You must not give up the challenges in each moment of each day. Don't let yourself give up. It is important to build up the number of victories in overcoming yourself. This can be said not only to competitors but also to the instructors and coaches. Those who teach should have as much strong passion as their students, and make utmost efforts to train them to the best. By striving together with the Competitors from around the world, we shall reach to be the strongest.

Now, the long-awaited World Fullcontact Karate Championship is finally settled to be held on 31st May and 1st June 2025 at ARIAKE Arena in the center of Tokyo. This Championship was originally planned to take place in 2020, simultaneously with the Tokyo Olympic Games, but had been postponed due to the Corona pandemic. Hearing the news of the holding of this event, the preparations for the selection tournaments have started in each region.

Recently, I participated in an online meeting with the WFKO European board members and Councilors of EFKO to discuss the framework of the selective tournament and its preparations. The Councilors include renowned Shihans, such as Shihan David Pickthall (IFK), Shihan Antonio Pinero (KWF), Shihan Sem Schilt, Shihan Paul Lorist, and Shihan Jonathan Tineo. Having those major international federations' participation in the WFKO project, we are gradually heading the way toward the gentle unification of Fullcontact Karate worldwide.

I look forward to hearing updates on the progress of selective tournaments in each region. In Japan, we will select the Japan National Team Members through the 9th All Japan Fullcontact Karate Championship on the 25th and 26th of May. Let's make this global festival of Fullcontact Karate a great success together.

Lastly, in Japan, the Karate Dream Festival 2024 International Championships and Karate Champion of Champions are scheduled in July, and the preparations for the events are getting very hectic at the Headquarters. We also plan to accept the overseas competitors at the 56th All Japan Championship, which will be held in October.

Although we have just finished the World Championship, we will have a year filled with the occasions of international exchanges. I am already looking forward to seeing many of you.

OSU

Kenji Midori  
WKO President



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### 2. Activities of Japanese Instructors & PR

Date	Member	Place	Purpose
2024/3/13 ~ 3/18	Yasuharu Fujihara, Shinichi Sotodate, Taishi Watanabe	Poland	Seminar
2024/4/5 ~ 4/8	Kembu Iriki, Mihiro Suzuki	Guam	Seminar Championship
2024/4/18 ~ 4/21	Takayuki Tsukagoshi, Kembu Iriki	China	Seminar
2024/5/1 ~ 5/8	Yasukazu Koi, Asuka Taniguchi	Canada	Seminar
2024/6/6 ~ 6/10	Yuji Shimamoto	Lithuania	Seminar
2024/6/27 ~ 7/2	Shinichi Sotodate	Kazakhstan	Seminar Championship Grading Examination
2024/6/27 ~ 7/3	Yuji Shimamoto	Denmark	Seminar
2024/7/24 ~ 7/29	Norichika Tsukamoto	Spain	Seminar
2024/7/31 ~ 8/5	Ryuji Toda, Shinji Toda	Switzerland	Seminar
2024/8/7 ~ 8/13	Tadashi Ishihara	Mauritius	Seminar
2024/8/21 ~ 8/26	Norichika Tsukamoto, Asuka Taniguchi	Switzerland	Camp
2024/8/21 ~ 8/29	Kenta Mori, Sakura Umemoto	Bulgaria	Camp
2024/8/22 ~ 8/25	Kembu Iriki, Taishi Watanabe	Poland	Camp
2024/9/12 ~ 9/21	Kumiko Sunakawa, Mitsuhiko Izumi	Norway	Seminar
2024/10/16 ~ 10/23	Yuji Shimamoto	Australia	Seminar
2024/10/16 ~ 10/23	Shinichi Sotodate	Brazil	Seminar Championship Grading Examination Meeting



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The Japan Region has resumed the consideration of invitations for Japanese instructors. However, please confirm and accept that for cases of COVID-19 infection during the visit, the inviting branch will be responsible for the arrangements and costs related to the extra accommodation and rearrangement of the air ticket.

### 3. Passing of Shihan Masahiko Yamada

The WKO Office was informed that Shihan Masahiko Yamada from the Nagasaki Branch passed away on March 14, 2024, at the age of 71. His long career in Karate supported the development of the WKO. We wish him a peaceful journey to the afterlife.

### 4. The Karate Dream Festival International Championship 2024

The Karate Dream Festival International Championship will be held at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium on July 20 (Sat.) & 21 (Sun.), 2024.

Please confirm the WKO website for information on categories, protectors, and provisional schedules.  
<https://www.wko.or.jp/news/kdf2024/>

Details such as application, visa request, and other related documents are scheduled to be announced in April. We humbly ask for your kind patience and understanding towards the matter.

### 5. Report of doping samples tested in each region in 2023

Doping Samples tested in 2023 were 8 in Europe and 12 in Japan. No samples from other regions were reported to the WKO Office.

### 6. Approval of New Branch Chief/Contact

#### Czech Republic

##### Branch Chief

Jiri Zofcin Jr. (21 years old, 2 Dan, 200 members)

Address: SABINA 135, SOKOLOV 35601, CZECH REPUBLIC

TEL: +420737696969

Email: [jirizofa@gmail.com](mailto:jirizofa@gmail.com)

##### Contact

Tomas Kinc (38 years old, 2 Dan, 120 members)

Address: Rychtarov 187, Vyskov, 68201, Czech Republic

TEL: +420605958958



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Email: [sensei.tomaskinc@gmail.com](mailto:sensei.tomaskinc@gmail.com)

Portugal

### Branch Chief

Jorge Ferreira (54 years old, 3 Dan, 100 members)

Address: Pta. Pedregoso, 106, 4745-123 - Alvarelhos Trofa - Porto

TEL: +351 939230003

Email: sempaijf@gmail.com

### 7. Dismissal of Branch Chief

India Rajeev BP (February 27, 2024)

### 8. WKO Website

Visit our website!

<http://www.wko.or.jp/>

We have been working on the improvement of the WKO Website. Therefore, we would like you to send the information of events which you would like to put on the website if you have any. Please provide us with the basic information as mentioned below.

#### 1. Events

- 1) Name of the event (Name of the tournament, camp, etc.)
- 2) Date and the place where the event was held
- 3) Host branch
- 4) The number of participants in the event
- 5) List of prize winners (in case of tournament)
- 6) Details about the event (including the impressions by the host)
- 7) Photos (Please give an explanation for each photo. About 5 to 10 photos will be put on the website.)

#### 2. News

- 1) Details about the news such as date, place, what happened and by whom, etc.
- 2) Photos

Please confirm that your report may not be introduced on the website if the report is recognized as inappropriate to put on the website by the WKO Office.



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### 9. ISAMI & Martial World Products

For ISAMI items, please contact Ms. Hayasaki (E-mail: [yuko@isami.co.jp](mailto:yuko@isami.co.jp)) or Fax (81)480-24-0713.

In your message, please put "Shinkyokushinkai Dogi" as the subject.

For Martial World items, please contact Mr. Tago (E-mail: [tago@mwjapan.jp](mailto>tago@mwjapan.jp)) and include "Shinkyokushinkai item order" as the subject of your message.

### 10. Notice from WKO Office

#### 1. WKO Office Contact Information:

- E-mail address:

[wko.one@shinkyokushinkai.co.jp](mailto:wko.one@shinkyokushinkai.co.jp)

For Ms. Ai Mitobe, and Russia/Asia/S. Pacific/North/Central/South America regions

[wko.two@shinkyokushinkai.co.jp](mailto:wko.two@shinkyokushinkai.co.jp)

For Ms. Shiori Emoto, for Europe/Middle East/Africa regions, and Anti-Doping-related matters

- Postal Address: 1-25-5-8F Higashi Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044, Japan
- Telephone Number: +81-3-6435-5425 Fax Number: +81-3-6435-5426

#### 2. Annual Fees

Payment of 2024 Annual Fee is due March 2024

All the Branch Chiefs/Contacts are required to pay the **Annual Fees** (US\$1~\$4 per member) based on the number of members (as of the end of December 2023) they have reported to the WKO Office by the end of January 2024. If you need an invoice, please contact the WKO Office.

**REQUEST from the WKO Office:** For those who are paying the annual fees together with other branch(s) in your country, we would appreciate it if you could also provide us with the breakdown, and the number of members of each branch.

**NOTE:**

\* No order for Black Belts and Dan Grading Certificates can be accepted from those who have not paid the annual fees.

\* Your Competitors will NOT get the financial support for participation from the World Championship organizer unless you pay the applicable annual fees.

We accept your annual fees and other payments through one of the following:

(Please do NOT use any other methods such as bank checks or cash. Cash payment with the exact amount may be acceptable only when you are in Japan.)

- **Bank transfer**



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**Account name:** WKO

It must be “WKO” only. Do not put anything after the name, please.

**Account number:** 0848604

**Name of the bank:** MUFG Bank, Ltd., Kagurazaka Branch

**Address of the bank:** 3-7 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0825, Japan

**Their SWIFT code:** BOTKJPJT

- Please avoid a bank that uses a transit bank, which may deduct a significant amount from your intended payment.

- **PayPal** (Online –payment service by credit card)

This service is available in more than 200 countries with 25 currencies. The fee is reasonable when making a small number of transactions. For details, please visit the PayPal website.

Paypal website: [https://www.paypal.com/jp/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=\\_home](https://www.paypal.com/jp/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_home)

※Please note that WKO will charge you a **handling charge** to cover the receiving charge.

- **Money Gram**

Currently unavailable due to extreme difficulty in receiving payments (since January 2019).

### ③. Various Forms

The WKO Office would like Branch Chiefs and Contacts to use the designated form when they contact us. We have:

- Order and Payment Form (for payment of grading fees, annual fees, and membership fees)
- WKO Official Invitation Letter Form (for inviting Japanese instructors)
- Request Form for Invitation Letter (for those who need a Visa to enter Japan)
- Application Form for a Candidate of New Branch Chief & Contact

Although we understand that some Branches/Countries have their own method, the forms helped us to do administrative work efficiently, and we appreciate your kind understanding.

### ④. Invitation of Japanese Instructors

The WKO office receives numerous invitations for Japanese instructors every year. Standard procedure calls for the Official Invitation Letter to be sent to the WKO Office with the necessary information filled in. The invitation becomes official only when the letter arrives at the WKO Office. Please refrain from direct negotiations with Japanese instructors, for it will only lead to problems in the future. Finally, we would like for all to understand that an agreement based on direct negotiations will not be considered an official invitation.

### ⑤. Acceptance of Students from Overseas Branches

Every year, numerous students from overseas branches visit Japan for training. When a student wishes to visit Japan for training, standard procedure calls for the Branch Chief or Contact (whom the student belongs to) to contact the WKO Office of the ideal time frame, dojo, and detailed information (name, dan/kyu, age, etc.) of the student. The WKO Office will confirm the content of



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the request with the Branch Chief/Contact of the dojo in Japan. In a case where an overseas student goes forth with his/her training in Japan without consulting the WKO Office, it would delay the response time of the WKO Office if an emergency happened to occur. To assure the safety of the students, we ask for everyone's cooperation in this matter.

#### **⑥. Centralization of communication between Overseas Branches**

It is required that communication (related to events within the organization) between Overseas Branches and Japanese Branch Chiefs and contacts be exchanged through the WKO Office. Translation of documents (Japanese↔English) will also be managed by the WKO Office. To avoid any unnecessary problems and confusion, we ask for everyone's cooperation in the centralization of communication between overseas branches.

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#### **11. Current Status on Payment of Annual Fees as of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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Please confirm the attached list.











Country	国名	Branch Chief Name	支部長名	2024		2023		2022		2020		備考/Remarks
				会員数 Members	年会費 Annual Fee							
Japan	日本	Tatsuya Hasegawa	長谷川 達矢			222 5.0	\$1,110	218 5.0	\$1,090	195 5.0	\$975	
Japan	日本	Takehisa Iriki	入来 武久			710 5.0	\$3,550	676 5.0	\$3,380	850 5.0	\$4,250	
Japan	日本	Hiroshi Nanri	南里 宏			196 5.0	\$980	215 5.0	\$1,075	744 5.0	\$3,720	
Japan	日本	Toshiki Kinami	木浪 利紀			164 5.0	\$820	156 5.0	\$780	182 5.0	\$910	
Japan	日本	Kunihiro Suzuki	鈴木 國博			180 5.0	\$900	184 5.0	\$920	135 5.0	\$675	
Japan	日本	Norichika Tsukamoto	塙本 德臣			314 5.0	\$1,570	300 5.0	\$1,500	282 5.0	\$1,410	
Japan	日本	Ko Tanigawa	谷川 光			263 5.0	\$1,315	263 5.0	\$1,315	235 5.0	\$1,175	
Japan	日本	Masashi Kimoto	木元 正資			1,240 5.0	\$6,200	1,258 5.0	\$6,290	1,217 5.0	\$6,085	
Japan	日本	Fumiaki Nagashima	永島 文秋			1,017 5.0	\$5,085	1,001 5.0	\$5,005	909 5.0	\$4,545	
Japan	日本	Kensaku Yamamoto	山本 健策			1,109 5.0	\$5,545	1,113 5.0	\$5,565	1,071 5.0	\$5,355	
Japan	日本	Masahide Jike	寺家 誠秀			242 5.0	\$1,210	255 5.0	\$1,275	233 5.0	\$1,165	
Japan	日本	Tsutomu Murayama	村山 努			218 5.0	\$1,090	221 5.0	\$1,105	213 5.0	\$1,065	
Japan	日本	Susumu Toe	遠江 大			422 5.0	\$2,110	415 5.0	\$2,075	375 5.0	\$1,875	
Japan	日本	Naoyoshi Matsumoto	松本 直義			230 5.0	\$1,150	233 5.0	\$1,165	226 5.0	\$1,130	
Japan	日本	Masatoshi Maeda	前田 政利			113 5.0	\$565	107 5.0	\$535	315 5.0	\$1,575	
Japan	日本	Shinji Sakamoto	阪本 晋治			559 5.0	\$2,795	558 5.0	\$2,790	607 5.0	\$3,035	
Japan	日本	Takatomi Naito	内藤 隆富			110 5.0	\$550	114 5.0	\$570	121 5.0	\$605	
Japan	日本	Masaru Wada	和田 勝			109 5.0	\$545	120 5.0	\$600	122 5.0	\$610	
Japan	日本	Shuichi Tada	多田 修一郎			97 5.0	\$485	112 5.0	\$560	108 5.0	\$540	
Japan	日本	Makoto Takahashi	高橋 誠			335 5.0	\$1,675	333 5.0	\$1,665	297 5.0	\$1,485	
Japan	日本	Yasuhiro Kurooka	黒岡 八寿裕			365 5.0	\$1,825	369 5.0	\$1,845	411 5.0	\$2,055	
Japan	日本	Tadashi Ishihara	石原 延			179 5.0	\$895	172 5.0	\$860	172 5.0	\$860	
Japan	日本	Hiroyuki Ohama	大瀬 博幸			565 5.0	\$2,825	531 5.0	\$2,655	540 5.0	\$2,700	
Japan	日本	Kazuo Miyoshi	三好 一男			324 5.0	\$1,620	321 5.0	\$1,605	324 5.0	\$1,620	
Japan	日本	Toshiyuki Mitarai	御手洗 俊行			181 5.0	\$905	217 5.0	\$1,085	208 5.0	\$1,040	
Japan	日本	Yuichiro Osaka	逢坂 祐一郎			252 5.0	\$1,260	239 5.0	\$1,195	249 5.0	\$1,245	
Japan	日本	Kenji Maegawa	前川 肇司			298 5.0	\$1,490	288 5.0	\$1,440	261 5.0	\$1,305	
Japan	日本	Kenji Midori	緑 健児			1,600 5.0	\$8,000	1,625 5.0	\$8,125	1,524 5.0	\$7,620	
Japan	日本	Shingo Kusu	櫛 優吾			220 5.0	\$1,100	201 5.0	\$1,005	194 5.0	\$970	
Japan	日本	Yasuhiro Yamasaki	山崎 保広			123 5.0	\$615	122 5.0	\$610	109 5.0	\$545	
Japan	日本	Masahiko Yamada	山田 政彦			253 5.0	\$1,265	273 5.0	\$1,365	276 5.0	\$1,380	
Japan	日本	Satoshi Niijo	新保 智			180 5.0	\$900	176 5.0	\$880	144 5.0	\$720	
Japan	日本	Naoki Kawahara	川原 奈穂樹			216 5.0	\$1,080	202 5.0	\$1,010	170 5.0	\$850	
Japan	日本	Hideaki Koizumi	小泉 英明			86 5.0	\$430	107 5.0	\$535	115 5.0	\$575	
Japan	日本	Takuya Harauchi	原内 卓哉			250 5.0	\$1,250	253 5.0	\$1,265	254 5.0	\$1,270	
Japan	日本	Tadashi Fukaya	深谷 忠			165 5.0	\$825	168 5.0	\$840	162 5.0	\$810	
Japan	日本	Kazuhiro Yamada	山田 一仁			494 5.0	\$2,470	453 5.0	\$2,265	442 5.0	\$2,210	
Japan	日本	Yasukazu Koi	小井 泰三			440 5.0	\$2,200	409 5.0	\$2,045	364 5.0	\$1,820	
Japan	日本	Tomikazu Yoshida	吉田 富和			279 5.0	\$1,395	254 5.0	\$1,270	187 5.0	\$935	
Japan	日本	Kiyohide Kuno	久野 浩英			279 5.0	\$1,395	327 5.0	\$1,635	155 5.0	\$775	
Japan	日本	Hideki Kesamaru	今朝丸 美紀			141 5.0	\$705	139 5.0	\$695	141 5.0	\$705	
Japan	日本	Ryutaro Hirayama	平山 龍太郎			196 5.0	\$980	192 5.0	\$960	174 5.0	\$870	
Japan	日本	Kumiko Sunakawa	砂川 久美子			253 5.0	\$1,265	231 5.0	\$1,155	150 5.0	\$750	
Japan	日本	Takayuki Tukagoshi	塙越 孝行			141 5.0	\$705	144 5.0	\$720	127 5.0	\$635	
Japan	日本	Eisuke Hiromae	広前 英輔			73 5.0	\$365	77 5.0	\$385	92 5.0	\$460	
Japan	日本	Kenichi Sugihara	杉原 健一			107 5.0	\$535					
Japan	日本	Yoshifumi Yanagihara	柳原 義文			124 5.0	\$620					
Japan	日本	Kenta Mori	森 健太			148 5.0	\$740	145 5.0	\$725			
Japan	日本	Masaya Yamamoto	山本 将也			176 5.0	\$880	144 5.0	\$720			
Japan	日本	Hideo Sano	佐野 英雄			216 5.0	\$1,080	224 5.0	\$1,120			
Japan	日本	Gaku Yasumoto	保木 学			133 5.0	\$665					
Japan	日本	Nobuhiro Kashiwagi	柏木 信広			151 5.0	\$755	150 5.0	\$750			
Japan	日本	Yoji Shimamoto	島本 雄二			141 5.0	\$705					
Japan	日本	Shinji Toda	遠田 真司			631 5.0	\$3,155					
Japan	日本	Toshiyuki Nogami	野上 利幸			182 5.0	\$910					
Japan	日本	Kenta Naito	内藤 健太			126 5.0	\$630					
Japan	日本	Ken Kato	加藤 建			142 5.0	\$710					
	Japan Total	日本集計		0	\$0	22,102	\$110,510	21,270	\$106,350	20,097	\$100,485	
	Grand Total	總計		15,882	\$21,001	77,637	\$197,356	73,220	\$192,897	76,410	\$195,138	