



# WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)  
Member of the General Association  
of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and  
the International World Games Association (IWGA)

## TO ALL WKF NFs

Madrid, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010

I am writing you for an update on developments since Belgrade, but before I would like to say that the Belgrade World Championships have been an overall success, and that the aspect of show, media impact and associated areas that we established as a main objective in 2009 have been a great success. The new format of 5 days competitions and 2 days for medals and finals in 1 elevated competition area, the 4 hours of live TV broadcast to around 90 countries worldwide, the layout of the competition area on Saturday and Sunday, etc., have supposed an historical step forward for the WKF. Soon we will have the results of the study of the TV audience ratings, country by country, and will be able to evaluate this information in order to optimize our performance in future editions. Finally, I don't want to forget to express my heartfelt thanks, in the name of all involved, to the Serbian Federation for the great work, help and contribution.

Some weeks after Belgrade we had in Istanbul the 1<sup>st</sup> Clubs World Cup, and I have to say that it has been a positive experience, although a higher participation would have been more desirable, but understand that the new events need time and stability to consolidate, therefore the plan is to have the next one in the same place and around the same dates and make an effort to inform and encourage our NFs to be more active in the event. Then we will see if to continue every 2 years or annually, but this will be after **the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in 2011**. Again here my heartfelt thanks to the inestimable contribution of the Turkish Karate Federation.

We continue working in the project of enhancing and optimizing the competition rules; this process will take longer than initially scheduled, but at the end we want to avoid as many as possible unnecessary risks, as this project has to be used by all our 182 NFs in the 5 Continents and therefore we have to be very careful and give them something workable and handable taking into account the short resources and infrastructure available in so many of our NFs. At this regard, I want to inform you that **the EC has approved with effect 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2011, to extend the compulsory use of the WKF body protection in junior and senior age categories** as the unanimous opinion of the Sports Commission so recommends to fully implement the concept of vigorous Karate already defined last year. This measure has already been successfully tested this year in several major events like the European Senior Championships.

We are also working hard in the Premiere League, and I want to thank our General Secretary his hard work to have ready this project that will start in January 2011 with the Paris Open, and I encourage those NFs that can be compliant with the quality requirements fixed to apply for joining this ambitious and prestigious project.

In another matter, the RC, upon request I made to the RC Chairman in Istanbul, is studying the creation of a new category of WKF referee qualification for World Cups and Premiere League events. This category will be given in the annual WKF referee course before the World Championships and will allow to referees that did not reach the pass mark for WKF qualification and their score is situated between this 1<sup>st</sup> pass mark and a 2<sup>nd</sup> pass mark to be fixed in the same way as the 1<sup>st</sup> one, to obtain this new qualification that will allow them to officiate, get experience and training in World Cups and Premiere League events. The confirmation event(s) will be of course these World Cups and Premiere League events and now we are more precisely defining its number and nature. You will be kept properly informed once the project has been approved by the EC.

I trust that this information has been useful for you. I wish you all the best for 2011.

Best regards

**Antonio Espinós**  
WKF President

Copy to: **WKF – EC**  
**WKF Commissions Chairmen**