



**To:**  
Council members

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**Our ref**  
WTE/2020/00

**Date:** 8 May 2020  
**Subject:** Update on Taekwondo Europe activities

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I hope you and your family are doing well and are healthy in this time of crisis. Fortunately, there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, but I urge all of you to stay cautious and safe! With this letter, I would like to update you on the current situation of Taekwondo Europe

### **GOVERNANCE AND MEMBER RELATIONS**

On 22 April, WT held a conference call with all Continental Unions (CUs). On behalf of Taekwondo Europe, our Secretary-General Mr. Fysentzidis joined the meeting. All CUs reported on the impact the Corona virus has on their continent and operations.

Dr. Choue reported that WT is expecting a major impact on expected revenue this year. As a consequence, WT is preparing budget cuts on all programs and projects. Also, the Olympic revenue share is expected not this year but next year due to the postponement of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Currently, WT is reviewing the statutes of each CU and European statutes are exemplary for the other CUs. Fortunately, we have our statutes in full compliance with WT statutes.

It seems that slowly the measures of the different countries are being reviewed and adapted. In light of this, I will inform you if we will meet shortly in person or via an online conference call.

## **EDUCATION**

With the current situation, Taekwondo Europe has initiated several new educational projects. First, we introduced online instruction classes under the name of Instructor Squad. We have engaged with a number of high ranked Kyorugi and Poomsae athletes which are currently providing live or pre-recorded instruction classes online. This all-inclusive education is open for all athletes.

To prepare National Referees for an International Referee career, the educational department is preparing a multiple course program. In this program all essentials of refereeing will be taught. Also, for International Referees a workshop will be held and this workshop will refresh their knowledge and give new insights.

The education for coaches can be done by online classes as well. The education department is exploring possibilities for coaches to do seminars online. This new concept is not only applicable in this crisis time, but is also a solution for future education. Participants can follow the instructions from home in a live setting or with pre-recorded videos. This reduces the costs on both the side of the coach attending a seminar as well as Taekwondo Europe and the organizing host country.

## **EVENTS**

For WT it is important that the qualification tournaments for the Olympics will be held in 2020. For Taekwondo Europe it is priority that all our members have the opportunity to participate at this event. However, we are trying to host the qualification tournament in 2020. The organization of the G4 European Championships is scheduled for the end of 2020 or beginning of 2021. For the time being and based on the developments within our member states, all other events are postponed.

WT is planning to organize the world Championships 2021 in Wuxi, China. At this event WT proposes not only to hold its ordinary General Assembly, but also the General Assemblies of the Continental Unions. In 2021, WT will not organize any Grand Prix's. Based on the developments that we are all facing in sports, Taekwondo Europe is developing a strategy for its events to take place in a safe environment for our athletes. That might mean that we have to reduce the number of people inside a venue and we have to make sure to guarantee the safety of everybody participating in events until a vaccine for the coronavirus has been available on the market.

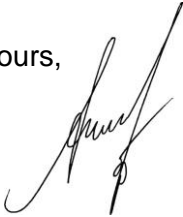
These strange new times ask from us to adapt. Therefore, for the first time in its history Taekwondo Europe organized an online event. Supported by our main sponsor Daedo International, and in close corporation with MAS Taekwondo, we organized an online poomsae event. The event attracted more than 1.200 athletes from 75 countries worldwide.

Currently you can still watch the event live every day on YouTube. We have developed an online virtual venue in which the referees score the athletes.

Taekwondo Europe is developing a new event for color belt athletes. In addition, an event for Para Poomsae athletes will take place shortly as well as a creative poomsae event. The crisis has forced us to search for these new concepts, but I truly believe that these online events are also sustainable for the future. We are targeting a group of athletes that we normally don't offer any event opportunities. The new online events create possibilities for athletes who normally do not want to spend money on travelling and competing abroad to participate from home or their dojang.

Finally, I would like you to know that our organization is ready for the future. We are innovating – like we have done in all past years – and the work that is being done by us all shows our resilience and determination to overcome this terrible crisis that has hit the world. I wish you and your family and members health and safety and I am looking forward to the day that we can meet each other again!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sakis Pragalos', written in a cursive style.

Sakis Pragalos

*President*