

# W.K.C.

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**World Karate & Kickboxing Council**

## **March Newsletter**

**Hello friends and competitors. Welcome to the first issue of our WKC newsletter.**

*WKC explodes out of the gate!*

On February 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, Peter Lewis and Michael Bernardo officially launched the WKC. In only a few short weeks over 21 countries have joined; nearly double the number of countries in Florida and our website took over 1000 hits in the first couple days. It seems that everyone has been waiting for something new to happen, something to put our sport back on the right track. Of course we had an advantage over any other so-called “new” organization, due to the fact the countries involved came over from other existing organizations. In a few short weeks we have established ourselves as a world leader in sport karate!

*Change can be confusing.*

I think anyone involved with the WKA over the past few years would agree that a positive change was necessary. Over the past few years we have tried to work with the WKA to create that change but it was not happening. The World Championships in Florida last year was the final factor that motivated us to take action. To go into detail over every issue we had with the WKA would be too time consuming and we do not want to dwell on negatives. We believe people who have been on the Team know we tried our best each year to make the Championships a success. However, unfortunately we must address a few rumours:

1. We left the WKA. We were tired of our competitors being charged higher prices for stamps and passports; charged varying prices for registration at the door, and finally, the general impression that the WKA was trying to grab every cent it could from our Team members.
2. We did not cause the high prices in Florida . Some people are accusing us for the high prices in Florida . Our first response (after not believing anyone could take those allegations seriously) was, if we did make all the money, why would we leave? We did everything we could to keep the costs down. We had our Team members book directly with the official WKA travel agent and we encouraged our family members and

spectators to make arrangements on their own. When the WKA suspected we were doing this, they threatened us with a 200 Euro fine for every Team member and spectator that did not book directly through them. Not a very family friendly policy.

We wish any competitor travelling to a WKA event, well. Our focus now is on moving forward and building the WKC, not tearing down the WKA; we feel they do a good enough job themselves when they spend their time smearing our names.

***Team USA gears up to challenge the world!***

Creating the WKC provided us with an opportunity to work with Richard Plowden in the United States. As many Canadian competitors know, the United States is home to some of the best sport karate competitors in the world. The WKC will provide our Team the opportunity to challenge a vastly improved Team from the States. Mr. Plowden has three National tryouts scheduled that give competitors from across their country the opportunity to compete; U.S. tryouts will be held in California, one in Atlanta and one in his hometown, Detroit, Michigan. Prominent martial artists from across the United States are supporting WKC in the United States including Tony Young, Tony Kattingle and John Sharkey, among others. So we suggest our team prepare hard because we expect this year's championships to be the most competitive ever.

***WKC World Championships set for Dublin, Ireland.***

This year's World Championships are being held in Dublin, Ireland. The competition will be run over four days, with three days of eliminations and one day of finals. Our goal is to give all competitors the chance to sightsee when they travel. Running the competition over 6-8 days is only good if you are making money off the hotel room nights.

**Schedule:**

Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – registration.- there will be no pre-registration.

Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> - registration in the morning; judges meeting in the afternoon.

Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> – eliminations.

Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - finals and victory party.

***Canadian Championships.***

When: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>.

Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, 101 Lyon St. Ottawa.

Hotel: Crowne Plaza – 1-800-2CROWNE.

Registration: Friday 2:00-9:00pm / Saturday 9:00-11:00am.

Cost: \$60 per event.

Times: Friday - 5:00 pm Round 1 of forms and weapons.

Friday - 7:30 pm All continuous point sparring.

Saturday - 9:00 am Round 2 of forms and weapons.

Saturday - 11:30 am Round 1 and 2 of point sparring.

Sunday - 10:00 am Finals for forms, weapons and point sparring.

***What does all this really mean for our Competitors?***

We left the WKA knowing that someone would take over in Canada and try and use the goodwill and name we have built up for over 10 years, and attempt to keep sending a team to the WKA World Championships. We wish every competitor success regardless of where they compete. We will not estimate what the attendance will be like at the WKA World Championships or how well it will run. We did not expect a smear campaign against us, and after this newsletter, we hope not to have to address these rumours again. What we can control is the direction the WKC will take. We hope our track record of organizing events will speak for itself when competitors make their decision on where to compete this year. We are an open organization and realize our competitors can compete any where they wish. We are confident the WKC will keep growing at a fast pace, not only in Canada, but around the World.

**John Douvris: 613-234-5000**

**Email: [info@douvris.com](mailto:info@douvris.com)**

**[Douvris Martial Arts](http://www.douvris.com) website ([www.douvris.com](http://www.douvris.com))**

**Michael Bernardo: 519-659-2504**

**Email: [michaelbernardo1@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelbernardo1@hotmail.com)**

**[Bernardo Karate](http://www.bernardokarate.com) website ([www.bernardokarate.com](http://www.bernardokarate.com))**