



# Irish Open International

## Invitation 2018:

Dear Coach/Student

We would like to invite you to 2018 Irish Open International. What an amazing year 2017 was. We broke all records within WAKO for the sixth year in row, surpassing all our expectations once again. With more than 4,000 registrations a new world record for a fighting tournament. So again we will ensure we only allow 4,000 registrations. We really are delighted with the continued positive feedback from coaches and fighters alike from our post event survey, amazingly 99.8% of coaches intend on returning in 2018. Last year we collaborated with Peace and Sport and IOC initiative Founded in 2007 by Modern Pentathlon Olympic Medal list and World Champion Joël Bouzou, Peace and Sport is a neutral and independent worldwide organization that is operational in using sport and its values as an instrument for peace, it is a strategic partner with WAKO IF and something we believe aligns itself with our chosen charity and the unique nature of the Irish Open contributing annually to society in support of vulnerable children. <http://www.peace-sport.org/>

The Irish Open is run by fighters for fighters in aid of a very worthy charity, the Irish Society for the protection of Children. Please do not forget that it is unique in this regard in that nobody gets paid at all, **every penny of profit is donated to the ISPCC**. No other tournament in the world today offers 17 7x7 meter matted areas, two 8 x 8 matter areas for forms. **It is very important to remember competitor's registration will close at 12 noon on Friday 1st March**. Also to ensure we maintain the integrity and joy of the championships competitor registrations are restricted to 4,000 as we really do not want the event to grow any more, strange but true, Irish Open is not about size or money it is about beauty and excellence, we want to ensure we can continue to offer the engagement and quality you have all come to expect from our event. We also must recognize the hard work of our volunteer referees, so we will have a more balanced program spread out over a longer time bringing more stability and space for everybody, competitors, coaches, officials and volunteers.

We are very excited about our continued collaboration with the US Open, the largest and most prestigious tournament in America. The two events will be closely linked in, with all winners from the 2017 Irish Open receiving automatic seeding at the 2018 US Open event and vice versa anybody ranked at US Open in the top three will be seeded in Irish Open.

We are very proud of what the Irish Open has become; it really is an amazing event, with so many international fighters. This truly gives your students a rare opportunity to compete against fighters of the same level. We look forward to seeing all our friends at what is a very unique get together of the world's most talented Martial Artist Athletes in what will be an inspirational weekend filled with energy and passion unmatched in the fighting tournament scene today.

Roy Baker,

Chairman Irish Open Organizing Committee  
**Where Legends are Born.**

