



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS

TO ALL WAKO MEMBERS

BY E-MAIL

Monza, 17th May 2017

RE: Announcement - WAKO World Championships 2017

Dear WAKO Members,

Please read this announcement very carefully and ensure you inform your members.

Due to various internal circumstances in Brazil I am sorry to announce that the upcoming World Championship in Salvador, Bahia, in Brazil in October (K1, Low-Kick and Light-Contact) has been cancelled. We have worked proactively in the last weeks to try and bring about a solution, but unfortunately been unable to do so. As President I immediately searched for opportunities to ensure protection of our athletes and WAKO IF in general. Considering that we are in the month of May already I find it unrealistic initiating a full bid process and my team have investigated the most realistic solution, to move all disciplines to Budapest, Hungary. We have also looked at other options, but we found a big uncertainty this close to the Championship. After a period of negotiation I am happy to announce that we have agreed on the solution to move ALL WAKO disciplines to Budapest. For the promoter this caused some significant challenges for which included capacity, accommodation, logistics and dates. However, this challenge has been solved and a new Sport-Hall and Hotels are changed, but we also needed to change the date. Let me also ensure that the change does not affect our finances and we have protected WAKO's interest.

May I thank Mr. Paulo Zorello in a difficult period but more importantly thank WAKO Hungary and the promoter Istvan Kiraly willingness to work with my team and resolve the challenge. Together with WAKO Organizing Committee we have solved a massive challenge quickly and in a diplomatic and dedicated way working together in harmony in the best interest of our Athletes.

To conclude;

2017 WAKO World Championships will be held for all disciplines in Budapest, Hungary, from 4th to 12th November 2017

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Please find below a note from our WAKO PanAm President, Paulo Zorello;

Dear Board Members and all WAKO affiliates,

I am the president of the Brazilian Kickboxing Confederation since 1991 and since its foundation we hold the Brazilian Kickboxing Championship and the Brazilian Kickboxing Cup every year, we currently are in the 27th edition. Last year, we had 1245 athletes attending the Brazilian Championship and 935 athletes attending the Brazilian Cup. This year, we will organize both events in July and September, respectively, and we will probably break those attendance records.

I am also the president of WAKO PANAM since 2006, but our entity's activities started in 1994, when we organized the first edition of the Pan-American Kickboxing Championship. During all these years, we held nine editions of the South American Kickboxing Championship, the last edition in Santiago de Chile in 2015, and another ninth editions of the Pan-American Kickboxing Championship, the last edition was held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016.

The next events in 2017 and 2018 are already scheduled.

This year WAKO PANAM held the second edition of the International Kickboxing Seminar, for athletes and referees, at its Training Center in Piracicaba, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, with participants coming from 7 different countries of the continent. I

n addition to that, WAKO PANAM will hold:

- *Bolivarian Kickboxing Championship, in Ecuador*
- *Caribbean Open, in Trinidad & Tobago*
- *Mexican Open, in Mexico*
- *South American Championship, in Uruguay*

In addition to the technical development of our athletes and referees, WAKO PANAM will be the first continental confederation to have its headquarter and training center inside the facilities of a National Olympic Committee which will be inaugurated in June, inside the facilities of the Paraguayan Olympic Committee.

However this release is not only to show how much we are working hard toward WAKO's development and how much we try hard to bring Kickboxing to all countries of our continent and to reach our dream of the Olympic recognition. We also have problems and, together, we will overcome them.

That said, I hereby want to inform you all that the Brazilian Kickboxing Confederation will not hold the WAKO World Championship stage for K1 Rules, Low Kick and Kick Light, scheduled for October 2017.

I hope I can count on the support of everyone, who during all these years shared with me the dream to put our Kickboxing in the place it deserves. Also I would like to apologize for all the problems

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this decision may cause.

I also affirm that this decision, without any doubt, was the hardest I have ever had to make in my life, but after analyzing all the factors, I came to the conclusion that cancelling the event was the best decision. We are through a hard moment in our Brazil, but I am sure that with faith and hard work, we will overcome this phase.

Although it was an extremely hard decision, I say goodbye being sure it was the correct one for the good of Kickboxing and, overall, for the good of the Brazilian Kickboxing Confederation, WAKO PANAM and WAKO IF.

Sincerely,

As President I thank you all for your understanding.
We will later on announce more details about the World Championships 2017.

Borislav Pelevic
WAKO IF President

Paulo Zorello
WAKO PanAm President

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