**WAKO Ordinary General Assembly 2024**
**at Danubius Hotel Hungaria**
**Address: Budapest, Rákóczi út 90, 1074**
**Sunday, August 25th, 2024**
**Time: from 09:00 am to 11:00 am (Budapest time)**

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On the 25th of August 2024, at 09:00 am (Budapest time) the Ordinary General Assembly of WAKO (World Association of Kickboxing Organizations) was held in order to discuss and resolve on the following

## Agenda

***Introduction:***

- *Appointment of the Chairman of the General Assembly*
- *Appointment of the Secretary of the General Assembly*

a. *Approval of the Agenda;*
b. *Appointment of scrutineers;*
c. *Approval of the minutes of the preceding Ordinary General Assembly (19/11/2023);*
d. *President's activity report;*
e. *Presentation of the financial statements 2023 and relevant audit report 2023;*
f. *Approval of the financial statements 2023 and relevant audit report 2023;*
g. *Appointment of the independent auditor for the auditing of the financial statements 2024;*
h. *Presentation and approval of the budget 2024;*
i. *Initial draft budget proposal 2025;*
j. *Admission for membership or NF name change (if any approved);*
k. *Suspension and or expulsion of members (if any approved);*
l. *Information on the future priorities and strategic direction of WAKO;*
    a. *WAKO Grading System and Black Belt*
    b. *GMS*
m. *Presentation of the Whistleblowing Policy;*
n. *Discussion of proposals submitted by the Members;*
    a. *Proposal from Palestine of July 10th "Suspension of the membership of Israel All Style Kickboxing Federation (WAKO Israel)"*

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By official call notice sent on June 24th, 2024, the Members were informed that proxies could have been granted in compliance with the provisions of article 20 of WAKO's Statutes.

Therefore, all Delegates had to send to WAKO Administration a copy of the power of attorney/mandate (Proxy) signed by the duly authorized legal representative of the Member within 7 days before the date scheduled for the meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly (by and no later than Sunday August 18th, 2024).

Proxies were reviewed by the Electoral Committee, which was composed by Mrs. Francesca Falsoni, Mr. Nikolaus Gstättner, Mr. Aslam Mahomed and Mr. Dario Alvarado, duly appointed by the Board of Directors before the Ordinary General Assembly was held.

As regards the voting rights of the Members, the requirements were always those set forth in article 22 of the Statutes:

a. participation to the WAKO World Championship held in the year of the GA (2024);
b. payment of the affiliation fees of the last 2 (two) years.

As regards the requirement under article 22, paragraph 3, letter b), of the WAKO's Statutes, it was clarified that the fees considered were those paid for the years 2023-2024.

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The President Mr. Roy Baker, after having ascertained that the Meeting:

- has been duly called by the Board of Directors (i) in compliance with Article 24, paragraph 2, of WAKO Statutes, through a notice of call sent to the Members by WAKO Administration by means of email on June 24th, 2024;
- has been validly established pursuant to Article 21, paragraph 1, of the Statutes;
- has therefore the power to resolve upon the items on the Agenda;

declares the Meeting open and able to resolve on the items of the Agenda at 09:23 am.

***Roll call***

The President requests Mrs. Francesca Falsoni (Chairwoman of the Legal Committee) to inform the Members about the attendance at the General Assembly. Mrs. Falsoni refers that the Electoral Committee has verified – pursuant to Article 22, paragraph 3, of the Statutes – that:

**No. 65** is the overall number of **possible votes**, among which **46 Members are in attendance** at the General Assembly with voting right, in short;

(i) **No. 46 Full Members** are effectively present at the General Assembly **having voting rights**;

(ii) **No. 10 Members** that would have voting rights are **not present** at the General Assembly;

(iii) **No. 9 Members** are present at the General Assembly but have **no voting rights**.

In the present minutes, the word "Members" used below refers to the "Full Members" of WAKO with voting rights in attendance during the GA.

***Introduction: Appointment of the Chairman and the Secretary of the General Assembly***

The President introduces the motion on the appointment of the Chairman and the Secretary of the meeting.

**MOTION: to appoint the President as Chairman of the meeting and Mrs. Barbara Falsoni as secretary of the meeting.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision.**

***a. Approval of the Agenda***

First of all the Chairman clarifies that the item n) point a. of the Agenda will be only a conversation not for voting.

He then introduces the motion on the approval of the Agenda.

**MOTION: to approve the Agenda of today's General Assembly.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

***b. Appointment of scrutineers***

**MOTION: to appoint Mrs. Katarzyna Kociszewska-Palacz and Mr. Romeo Desa as scrutineers of todays' General Assembly.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision but with the abstention of Poland (Mrs. Katarzyna Kociszewska by proxy).**

***c. Approval of the minutes of the preceding Ordinary General Assembly (19/11/2023)***

The Chairman makes reference to the minutes of the last Ordinary General Assembly held in Albufeira, Portugal, on November 19th, 2023, that have been made available to the Members in advance of the Meeting by means of e-mail sent by WAKO Administration (attached hereto under **Exhibit N. 1**). No comment was received from any Member about the minutes of the GA 2023.

**MOTION: to approve the minutes of the Ordinary General Assembly held in Albufeira, Portugal, on November 19th, 2024.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

***d. President's activity report***

The Chairman introduces the report prepared in connection with the activities carried out by WAKO during the year 2024.

The Chairman illustrates to the Members - through a power point document - the presentation of his activity report whose copy is attached under **Exhibit N.2** hereto.

It is also given the possibility to the Uzbekistan Kickboxing Federation to make a speech about the next Uzbekistan World Cup, which is the very first WAKO World Cup in Asia and the President invites all the national federations to support the event showing the global presence of WAKO in the Asian continent.

**MOTION: to approve the President's activity report 2024.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

***e. Presentation of the financial statements 2023 and relevant audit report 2023***

The Chairman requests Mr. Nikolaus Gstättner, as Treasurer of WAKO, to illustrate the content of the financial statements 2023 and the outcome of the audit report 2023 by reporting the relevant main figures and information.

Both documents were made available to the Members before the Meeting (herewith attached under **Exhibit N.3**).

The financial statements 2023 have been audited and revised for the first time by the appointed external auditors of the company **MSZ Group AG Zug**, from Switzerland, which has confirmed that the financial statements 2023 of WAKO comply with the Swiss law.

Total operating income 2023 amounts to 1'281'185 Euro.
Total operating expenses 2023 amount to 1'065'161 Euro.
After financial result and deduction of taxes the final profit of the year 2023 amounts to 210'319 Euro.

***f. Approval of the financial statements 2023 and relevant audit report 2023***

After the presentation of the documents, the Chairman requests to the Members to express their vote on the financial statements 2023 and the audit report 2023 (as per the documents attached under **Exhibit N. 3**)

**MOTION: to approve the financial statements 2023 and the relevant audit report 2023.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**
**(only one voting Member is out of the room)**.

***g. Appointment of the independent auditor for the auditing of the financial statements 2023***

The Treasurer Mr. Nikolaus Gstättner refers of the need to appoint the auditors for the audit of the financial statements 2024. The recommendation of the Board is to appoint again the following company as auditor for the financial year 2024: MSZ Group AG Zug, from Switzerland, as they fulfill the requirements set forth by WAKO's Statutes and Swiss law. The 2024 will be their second financial year to be audited. The Chairman explains that WAKO is going to change its auditors every four years for a matter of good governance and best practice.

**MOTION: to approve the Swiss company MSZ Group AG Zug as independent auditor for the auditing of the financial statements of WAKO 2024.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision (only one voting Member is out of the room).**

***h. Presentation and approval of the budget 2024***

The Chairman invites the Treasurer Mr. Nikolaus Gstättner to illustrate to the Members the budget of 2024 (attached under **Exhibit N.4**) which ends with a profit of 41.798,41 Euro. However, it is reminded once again that the budget is just a draft, an indication based on the accounts (income/expenditure) that we have up today - end of August. In fact all income and costs of the current World Championship in Hungary for example and of the next months, till December 2024, have still to be registered so only after the auditing of all the documents it is possible to get a clear overview of the whole 2024 financial year.

**MOTION: to approve the budget 2024, which is an estimation based on the actual financial situation registered at 24th August, 2024.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

***i. Initial draft budget proposal 2025***

The Board has already approved a provisional draft budget 2025 (attached under **Exhibit N.5**) which registers an even bigger profit of 105.685,00 Euro, however as said it is just an estimation and the 2025 budget shall be revised later on by the Board.

**MOTION: to approve the provisional draft budget 2025.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

***j. Admission for membership or NF name change (if any approved)***

The Chairman informs that there is a new application for Membership that has been evaluated by the Board on the basis of the provisions of WAKO's Statutes (article 9 - Application procedure) and is now submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

The applicant is:

**CAMBODIA**:
Cambodia Kickboxing Federation to be ratified as Full Member

**MOTION: to approve the National Federation of Cambodia as indicated above as new WAKO Member.**

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

**MOTION: to acknowledge the following National Federation's name change in 2024:**

**CZECH REPUBLIC**:
New name - Czech Association of Kickboxing

**The motion is approved by unanimous decision**.

The President reminds everybody of the importance to communicate any change in the name of the NF or of their national Boards to WAKO office because any change must be recorded. If there's a change name or a change of the president or general secretary it is critical to inform WAKO about it by official documents.

***h. Suspension and or expulsion of members (if any approved);***

No suspension or expulsion of members to be ratified.

On the contrary, the President informs that the following countries have been lifted from suspension as per Board's decision:

**LAOS**:
LAO Kickboxing Federation

**VIETNAM**:
Vietnam Kickboxing Association

**NEPAL**:
Nepal National Kickboxing Association

**TUNIS:**
Federation Tunisienne KTSDA

***l. Information on the future priorities and strategic direction of WAKO;***

The President tells of some of the main focuses of a five-year strategic plan;

- Video media streaming of major events and pay-per-view.
- Video material for development of the Olympic Channel.

- Inclusion in continental games (European games, Asian games, Pan-American games, African games).
- Brisbane 32, the Youth Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Festival.
- National Federation's development, conferences and discipline developments in Oceania, Asia, Africa.
- Support to the National Federations for national recognition by the National Olympic Committee.
- Media brand material to create for the National Federations.
- Conferences and discipline development in Africa, Asia, Panam, Europe, Oceania.
- Refugee team to develop (WAKO is now in direct conversations with the IOC for the development of the concept of a refugee team).
- Secure a major corporate sponsor, outside the equipment sponsors.
- Revision of the statutes and the grading syllabus.
- Professional services for WAKO members (front office, back office, media, coaching, certification, event management and NOC relations) to help the National Federations to develop the sport in their own countries.

Mr. Søren Koefoed, President of the WAKO Denmark, queries about clothing and labelling of the fighting gear and timing for its implementation at national level. The President refers of a Board's decision taken on the day before according to which he's going to meet soon the Platinum sponsors to check if they can allow some flexibility on this matter despite the legal binding components of the contract for a further 12 months.

The President of WAKO Senegal, Mr. Yakhya Diop, underlines the importance to focus more on the African continent for a strategic development and for the inclusion in the next Youth Games in Dakar 2026 and in the African Games of Egypt in 2027. The President confirms to have already established conversations and been working for a possible inclusion of kickboxing in the above multi-sport games so it is certainly one of the main focus of next year.

The Chairman clarifies that the following subject is just a presentation not for voting today.

*i. WAKO Grading System and Black Belt*

Mr. Tomaz Barada as Chairman of the Grading Syllabus and Standards Committee shows a presentation of a concept which the grading panel of WAKO has put forward (herewith attached under **Exhibit N.6**) for an update of the WAKO grading and black belt system.

After various comments and concerns about this subject from Canada, Denmark, Latvia, Israel, Spain, Lebanon, Austria, Kuwait, Guatemala and Finland the President invites the members to send their feedbacks and/or suggestions to Tomaz by e-mail, so that he can reply and take them into consideration for a final proposal on grading system to be submitted to the Board later on, that National Federations can decide to adopt or not, it won't be mandatory.

*ii. GMS*

The Chairman informs that the GMS presentation is not ready yet, so this item must be cancelled from the Agenda.

***m. Presentation of the Whistleblowing Policy***

Mrs. Francesca Falsoni, as Chairwoman of the WAKO Legal Committee, explains about the Whistleblowing Policy (herewith attached under **Exhibit N.7**) which gives the possibility to all the members, athletes, officials, individuals, to report breaches that come to their attention regarding, for example, violations of the WAKO Code of Ethics or any other WAKO procedure, protocols, regulations. According to this policy it is possible to report the breach or suspect breach in a way that gives confidentiality and protection of personal data.

The available reporting channel is an IT platform. So in the policy the modalities to communicate the report through the platform are indicated. Through the platform it is possible to fill a form in with information about the suspected or actual violation of breach which has been detected, the report will be then submitted and received exclusively by a commission made by people that have been appointed by the board. The committee dealing with the case will consider the content of the report and will make investigations without disclosing the data of the person reporting the breach. In the end whether there is a confirmation of the breach then there will be sanctions to the person who has breached the rules or the procedures of the code of ethics, in accordance with the modalities that will be of course considered in compliance with WAKO regulations. All cases will be dealt in the appropriate way in accordance with the documents that WAKO has adopted such as the WAKO Code of Ethics and the WAKO Disciplinary Code. The Whistleblower Policy applies to everybody in WAKO and is now in place since last April. It allows transparency and it is absolutely best practice in good governance not only for European countries but also to uniform to the standard rules of Europe possibly US and other continents. Cyber security is also mentioned as further step that has not been started yet but must be taken into account for the future.

***n. Discussion of proposals submitted by the Members;***

***a. Proposal from Palestine of July 10th "Suspension of the membership of Israel All Style Kickboxing Federation (WAKO Israel)"***

The above proposal from WAKO Palestine has been added on the Agenda having been received with 7 supporting letters from Canada, Jordan, Lebanon, South Africa, Syria, Iran, Kuwait, within 45 days before the date of the General Assembly, according to Article 25, paragraph 3, of the WAKO's Statutes.

Following a private meeting on the day before with the interested countries the President informs of the agreed possibility for both WAKO Israel and WAKO Palestine to make a four minute speech each of them, with no further comments from other countries.

Today the world has been destroyed by many conflicts. Sport can be a small part of correcting that by understanding what's happening in those countries and by supporting those countries in every possible way. Everybody is invited to reflect and think about how we, as WAKO members, can contribute to a positive society through sport. We can have disagreements, but we respect each other, and we are trying to keep wars and politics outside the sport, as is the directive of the IOC.

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As last issue the President introduces Mr. Istvan Kiraly and Mr. Zsolt Moradi as members of the local organizing committee of the Children, Cadets and Juniors World Championships 2024 taking place in

Budapest who respectively gives some technical and practical information to the Members about the sports venue, pass entries and logistic of the buses from hotels to the arena, ecc.

The Chairman thanks a lot all the Members for their contribution and attendance at today's General Assembly and declares its closing at 11:50 am.

Roy Baker
WAKO President

Barbara Falsoni
Secretary of the WAKO Ordinary General Assembly

**Exhibits:**

- **Exhibit N.1**: Minutes of GA 2023
- **Exhibit N. 2**: President's activity report 2024
- **Exhibit N. 3**: FS 2023 and Audit Report 2023
- **Exhibit N.4**: Budget 2024
- **Exhibit N.5**: Provisional draft budget 2025
- **Exhibit N.6:** WAKO Grading System and Black Belt
- **Exhibit N.7**: WAKO Whistleblowing Policy