



W K C

WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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5th Junior World Championships & World Cup for Children

Once again the Deutscher JKA Karate Bund DJKB (German JKA Karate Federation) hosted a great world karate event. The city of Hannover, capital of Lower Saxony in Northern Germany was the venue to unite young karateka from all continents from around the world. Nearly 1.200 competitors and about 150 referees and coaches attended the three-day tournament from 20th to 22nd October 2006. As with every WKC event a two-day seminar for the coaches and referees preceded the championships. Vice-President Joe Mirza, Technical Director Ladislav Klementis and the Chairman of the Technical Commission Dušan Dacić conducted this seminar.

The teams with the most competitors (over 100) came from the DJKB Germany, SKU Serbia, KSRS Republika Srpska, and ASK South Africa. Many competitors also registered from the AAU USA, RKC Russia, SKKFBH Bosnia & Hercegovina, INWKF Ireland, and USKO Russia.

The most successful Junior delegation was the AAU (USA) team followed by the KSRS (Republika Srpska) and SKU (Serbia) teams. In the Children categories the ASK (South Africa) won the most medals followed by the SKU (Serbia), and the INWKF (Ireland). In the total number of medals the *Serbian Karate Union* took the first place followed by the *All Styles Karate South Africa* and the *Amateur Athletic Union USA*. Also newcomers with small delegations were successful like the *Azerbaijan Karate Confederation*, the *Federacion Catalana de Karate Spain* and the *All Styles Karate Federation of Kalingrad Region Russia*.

On the 19th October the Deputy Lord Mayor of the city of Hannover welcomed the delegates of the participating federations in the city hall. The President of the hosting federation DJKB, Bernd Hirschberger, thanked the city for their support for the championships. After the reception the usual WKC meeting for the presidents of the national member federations with the WKC Executive Committee took place.

On Friday morning the tournament started precisely at 8 a.m. with all kata divisions for the children aged 9 to 12 years, all kata and kumite team categories for the Juniors 18 to 20 years. Eight tatamis were used so as to stick to the planned schedule. Thanks to the organising team with *Ladislav Klementis*, *Joe Mirza*, *Roland Dietrich* and *Branislav Mrva* the tournament ran very smoothly and in the afternoon a two-hour break was held to allow for the opening ceremony to start at 5 p.m. The opening speeches were made by the Lord Mayor of Hannover, Mr. Stephan Weil, the president of the hosting federation DJKB Bernd Hirschberger and the WKC President Marko Nicovic. The Lord Mayor specially thanked the WKC for bringing this world event to Hannover. The WKC President especially thanked the local organising committee chairman Mr. *Riad Kheirallah* with his team from the *Karate-Dojo Hannover* as well as the DJKB for taking the responsibility to hold a WKC World Championships for the third time.

Before the finals of the teams started two budo demonstrations were displayed: the Aikido group *Taido* under *Kenji Hayashi* and *The Samurai* in traditional Samurai costumes under *Axel Dziarsk* gave a superb show with their skill of Japanese martial arts.

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On Saturday the kata and kumite divisions of the children 13 and 14 years of age as well as the junior categories 15 to 17 years of age were on display. The first time the WKC introduced kumite for the children 13 and 14 years – there were no problems. So, the WKC will continue with these categories in the future.

On the last day of competition we saw the junior 18 to 20 years categories. The quality of the kata and kumite was very high. We hope that the karateka will continue with their training when they become adults.

Right after the last finals the farewell party with a live band started in the competition stadium, all the stress of the past few days were forgotten at the banquet and dance, which was held in the AWD Hall. Many young people promised to meet again in two years time at the next Junior Championships & World Cup for Children in Slovenia.