



W K C

WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

1

1st Children & Junior World Cup 1998 in Locarno, Switzerland

On 26th and 27th September 1998 the 1st WKC Children & Junior World Cup took place in Locarno, Switzerland. Nearly 300 children and juniors participated in the two day event. They came from 14 member federations and more than 50 clubs, mainly from Italy, Switzerland, and Germany because of the closeness to Switzerland. For the children there was no limitation of the number of participants per federation. In the junior categories only four athletes per category per country were allowed to participate. The teams coming the longest way were from Australia and the United States. Four South African referees came as observers to see the championships and the structure of WKC: Messrs. P. Hlobo, D. Nteso, E. Mshali, and D. Geyer. They supported the tournament by refereeing.

Prior to the tournament the senior referees conducted a one day seminar. They were supported by Master Paolo **Bolaffio** who trained the participants with basic techniques which showed the special effects on health.

The Swiss karate federation made a good job in organizing the tournament. Many kids slept in the dormitories beneath the stadium. That was an exciting experience for them. That made it very easy for them to find new friends from other countries. So everybody was dancing to the live music at the farewell party and it took the parents and the coaches some time to get the children to bed.