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WORLD KARATE CONFEDERATION

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4th Junior World Championships & World Cup for Children

With a record of more than 1.400 competitors and 150 officials the 4th Junior World Championships & World Cup for Children was held in Darmstadt, Germany. In comparison to the previous Junior World Championships two years ago in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, the number of participating federations doubled from 24 to 49 from all five continents. We would like to thank the hosting German federation DJKB and the local organising club Shotokan Darmstadt for their hard work with the unexpected high number of participants. Despite the deadline for inscriptions two weeks prior to the tournament several federations just came on the spot and registered their children and junior competitors only one day before the competition. This makes it very difficult for the WKC Organising Committee as well as for the local organisers to prepare the championships.

In some of the junior categories we had more than 60 entries even with the restriction to a maximum of four entries per federation. It shows that our members like this kind of championships. Again certain federations supported the tournament with large number of entries. Like in the past the Italian FESIK, the Serbian SKU, the federation from Republika Srpska (BIH) KSRS, the South African ASK, the Romanian FRK, the Bosnian SKKBH, the Belarus BMAF, and the Russian RKC as well as the USKO had big entries. The Irish INWKF also did send a strong team this time. Of course the hosting German federation was represented with the highest number of participants.

The following federations participated for the first time in a WKC tournament: CSKA, Spain; JKA-CZ, Czech Republic; LKF, Laos; NKF-N, Norway; PKF, Poland. We thank these federations for their trust in the WKC and hope that they are satisfied with our confederation and will continue their support.

The standard of the two junior kumite age categories 15 to 17 and 18 to 20 years was high this time. If these juniors continue their training and career we will may see even more from them when they will compete in the senior categories. In the kata competition many athletes have not yet understood the meaning of the karate technique. The strength does not come from the *hara* but from the arms or the legs. They have to train more the inside strength than the outside. Karate is not ballet or show but a fighting art.

Under the supervision of the retiring Chief Referee Mr. Bernd Hirschberger an appointed Referee Commission started it's work for the first time. It consisted in Darmstadt of Messrs. Henrique da Silva ADSAK, Portugal), Joe Mirza (AAU, USA), Gerold Reifenauer (AKC, Austria), Thomas Specht (DJKB, Germany), and Dr. Rony Kluger (KDI, Israel). We will continue on this road and establish a permanent commission and additional members in the future. Further discussion and proposals will be considered.