



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Date: August 30, 2011

To: ITKF National Federation Members

Re: **NEW CATEGORIES FOR 2012 ITKF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS & NEW ITKF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR CADET, JUNIOR & YOUTH**

Dear ITKF National Federation Member:

As Chairman of the International Traditional Karate Federation, I am pleased to announce the introduction of two new competition categories; **Ko-Go for Individual Male Kumite** and **Jiyu Kumite (free sparring) as an Individual Female Kumite** category.

The competition rules for the respective categories (i.e. Ko-go & Jiyu Kumite) as currently defined in the ITKF Rules of Competition will apply to the new categories for individual male and female Kumite. It is expected that these new opportunities for both individual male and female competitors, in conjunction with the new World Championship opportunity for youth ages 14 – 21, will provide a strong continuum for practitioners to study more deeply the martial art of Traditional Karate.

The new ITKF World Championships for Cadet (14-15 years), Junior (16-17), and Youth (18-20) are exciting developments for ITKF. All participants must hold a minimum of Sho-Dan level ranking. The categories for each age category are outlined as follows:

Cadet (14-15): Enbu; Fuku-go (with Ko-go Kumite for both female and male categories); Individual Kata; Synchronized Kata.

Junior (16-17); Enbu; Fuku-go (using Ko-go Kumite for both female and male categories); Individual Kata; Individual Kumite (using Ko-go Kumite for male & female); Synchronized Kata

Youth (18-20); Enbu; Fuku-go (using Ko-go Kumite for both female and male categories including Quarter-final; and then using Jiyu Kumite for Semi-final and Final rounds); Individual Kumite (Ko-go Kumite including Quarter-final round, then Jiyu Kumite for Semi-final & Final for both male and female categories); Individual Kata; Synchronized Kata.

The current ITKF World Championship age will be re-defined to 21+. The introduction of the new Ko-go Kumite category for males and Jiyu Kumite category for females will be at this level. This will provide individual competitors an equal choice of competition categories regardless of gender.

Please prepare your National teams accordingly.

Sincerely,

Richard Jorgensen, Chairman
International Traditional Karate Federation