

Modernisation and Unification of Karate

Meeting held at Sport England on 20th June 2005. (These minutes are in draft and have to be ratified at the next meeting of the WSPIB on 20th July 2005).

Attendees: P.Don - Sport England, N.Halafihi –Pow Wow Sportz
A.Shaher, D.James, P.Allen, T.Donovan OBE, V.Charles MBE, B.Tatlow
– EKGB

B.Poynton, A.Sherry, L.Lipinski – ETKB

J.Ellis, D.Johnson – NAKMAS

1. NH - Welcomed everybody to the meeting, mentioning the wealth of experience around the table.
2. PD – Felt it was a unique occasion to move forward for the good of Karate. NH has done a tremendous job in pulling together the WSP for Karate, again this could not have been achieved without the help and support of the 3 bodies represented at the meeting. NH will chair the WSPIB over the next 6 months with funding coming from Sport England. It is a great opportunity to unify Karate by looking to implement the WSP over the next 9 months. If there is no unification/modernisation there can be no WSP in place for Karate. This will result in Sport England reviewing the funding, as at present it only funds NGBs with WSPs in place or NGBs moving towards implementing WSPs.
3. NH – then took the members through the documents already circulated, these included the ‘Purpose of the WSPIB document’. All agreed that this document was the way to move forward towards unification.
4. Structure of the new body – It was unanimously agreed that all issues discussed would then be subject to members getting a consensus of opinion, rather than putting matters to the vote. If necessary, if 2 or more options were suggested these could then be taken to the membership for a decision. The WSPIB will be working through issues over the next few months, so it was essential that where ever possible the membership of the group should remain the same. Any proposals will then be put forward to an Inaugural General Meeting of the unified Governing body, which would be held at the beginning of November 2005. NH circulated a document looking at the structure of a unified Governing Body. A discussion then took place about: management board representation, whether a board of directors was necessary, paid employees, whom will they be responsible to. All these issues will be discussed over the coming months. (In this item the word new should not be used the agreed wording is Unified Governing Body as underlined)
 - 4.2 – It was agreed that Nick Halafihi and Philip Don would meet with an Independent recruitment company who specialises in recruiting executives for sport governing bodies to enlist their help in recruiting a CEO.
 - 4.3 – The CEO position would be advertised, interviews held and appointed by November 2005.
 - 4.4 – Inaugural General meeting to be convened under one roof for all members of the 3 bodies EKGB, ETKB and NAKMAS, this meeting to be held in Loughborough or Warwick Universities with a possible date of

6th November 2005, but each body would confirm within 7 days the best possible date. The New CEO would be introduced to this inaugural general meeting.

5. Voting strategy for the members – NH presented a paper on his thoughts on the way forward, looking at proportional representation. A discussion then took place, this included issues relating to cost of membership agreed at £1.00 per individual member, insurance cover would be an add-on to membership fee, whether all members were registered with associations. If agreed all members will have to register with the NGB, due to economy of scale, insurance fees could be lower than at present. At this point the meeting was adjourned for each group to discuss the proposals. Following this, each group unanimously agreed with the proposal tabled this gave each member association of the unified governing body 1 vote per 250 members registered- See NGB 2 document.
6. It was also pointed out that each of the 3 bodies present had being given a mandate by their management boards to make decisions on behalf of their boards and that these decisions could not be overturned by their respective Management Boards.
7. Name of the unified body – Again after discussion it was agreed to adopt the name Karate England as the trading name, with the logo of the 3 lions, as is already in place with the EKGB and keep the limited company name as the English Karate Governing Body Limited with appropriate changes to the articles of association and articles of memorandum. Sport England would provide assistance in this area.

All present at the meeting felt very positive about what had being achieved at the meeting and were excited at moving forward with enthusiasm.

The next meeting will be held at Sport England on 20th July @ 12.00

A press release was agreed. This will be distributed by Sport England.