



## INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL KARATE FEDERATION

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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July 29, 2013

TO ALL ITKF NATIONAL FEDERATION MEMBERS

RE: ITKF as a World Governing Body

Dear National Federation Member:

The ITKF is a completely democratic world governing body of Traditional Karate that elects its Board of Directors through a Regional process. The Chairman is elected from among those Board of Directors members. There is no opportunity for “self-appointment”. Those who claim otherwise are, quite simply, misrepresenting the organizational structure of ITKF and misinforming others – either to promote a personal agenda, or out of ignorance. Whichever is the case, they do not truly hold a concern about the positive development of the organization.

The ITKF Constitution also provides a democratic process for change within itself. The ITKF Constitution has evolved since 1974 with the latest changes being democratically implemented in 2010 and 2012. It exists and is in full force today and outlines the governance of the organization, its members and its officers. It also must be respected by its members. Those who cannot live within its boundaries should leave the organization for one better suited to their character and nature of behaviour.

The unsubstantiated claims of concern that have been stated are not issue based, nor are they factual. In reality, they are not about the organization at all. Rather, they are simply personal accusations against specific individuals. Thus, they cannot be considered as anything more than a personal vendetta.

Mr. Kwiecinski’s latest letter to the Secretary of State of California is an example of this effort. How can anyone claim concern for the organization when that person asks the Secretary of State to stop the process of tax exemption for ITKF? Here is a direct quote from Mr. Kwiecinski’s letter:

*“With this letter we are requesting your Office to suspend the ITKF application for tax exempt status and stop the legal procedure until the ITKF Extra-ordinary meeting to be held August 17 in Poland.”*

He has achieved three things with that statement. First, he has attempted to destroy the hard work of the ITKF in overcoming many obstacles the ITKF had to face following the passing of Sensei Nishiyama to be in a position to apply for tax exempt status. Second, he has lied directly to the Secretary of State of California by claiming that there is a valid meeting of the ITKF organization to be held in Poland. There is no such meeting. Rather, there is an invalid and subversive meeting called without any Constitutional authority. Thirdly, he is denying all members of ITKF the benefit that comes from a tax exempt status. How does that show concern? Moreover, the ITKF is working very closely with this government agency to correct this situation. The Secretary of State in California considers the ITKF to be an active organization that is conducting its business. There is no alarm that needs to be raised, unless the motive is to unbalance and destroy ITKF.

Mr. Kwiecinski has also made several serious and unsubstantiated accusations. Yet, he has never shown the courtesy to bring these forward to the ITKF Board. Rather, he has made a world-wide public spectacle of the ITKF. If he had any real evidence to support accusations of this magnitude he had a duty as a responsible officer of ITKF to bring them forward to be dealt with in the correct process – not sneak around in the shadows of his own personal conjecture, ensuring he could attach his own context while among friends.

The non-sanction of the ITKF World Cup by the ITKF Board of Directors was not the first incident where the Polish Federation, led by Mr. Kwiecinski, has acted contrary to the ITKF Constitution and Event Sanction policies of ITKF. Indeed, both PZKT and Mr. Kwiecinski faced a strong challenge before the ITKF World Congress last October when other National Federation members reacted strongly and wanted to force cancellation of the ITKF World Championships because of the organizational and operational discrepancies being implemented and enforced by

THE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNING BODY OF TRADITIONAL KARATE



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PZKT. This was only avoided through negotiation and a personal appeal by the ITKF Chairman. Did PZKT or Mr. Kwiecinski heed these concerns, or try to overcome them? Absolutely they did not. Instead, when organizing the next event – the now infamous ITKF World Cup – PZKT once again chose to ignore the process and sanction policies of ITKF. The ITKF Board could no longer tolerate the continual breeches and was forced to suspend the PZKT and by extension, Mr. Kwiecinski. Instead of admitting and correcting his mistakes, Mr. Kwiecinski continues to ignore them, blames others and tries to hijack the ITKF by calling an ‘Extra-ordinary General Meeting’ to form a “new” ITKF. What audacity! The ITKF already exists as an organization and will continue to exist!

Now he has attracted a supporter who comes from a Federation in Greece, claiming to be a member of ITKF – yet under the leadership of Mr. Persidis, this Federation has never paid any membership fee to ITKF. Nor has Mr. Persidis attended any official ITKF event or Technical clinic of ITKF. In reality, he knows nothing about ITKF. Rather, he has been successfully prosecuted in a Court of Law in Greece by the former ITKF member National Federation President of Greece for much of his activity and outrageous claims. But Mr. Persidis still continues to sully the reputation of the late Sensei Nishiyama and the ITKF through his outrageous claims. Now he vows his solid support to Mr. Kwiecinski in his fight to destroy ITKF. This should come as no real surprise.

There is a proper process already in place to make any change the majority of members desire to make within ITKF. The most recent opportunity to do so was at the 2012 ITKF World Congress. The next scheduled meeting is the ITKF World Congress in 2014. The Constitution, like many other Sport Federations outlines the specific steps and process necessary to implement change. National Federation Presidents who are counseling others to break the Constitution of the ITKF are absolutely working contrary to the principles and benefit of the ITKF and the health of the organization. They are participating in a “kangaroo court” that has no validity outside of those participating who want others to believe it is real and valid. It is not. It is a real attempt to destroy the ITKF and the legacy of Sensei Nishiyama. ITKF Member National Federation Presidents who are actively participating in this destructive action against the ITKF will be viewed as willing participants in the attempt to destroy the ITKF as an organization.

It is time to put a stop to this nonsense. In reality, there are no real “urgent” organizational issues for ITKF that are putting it at risk. Certainly, as with any world governing body, there are issues that need to be addressed and will be in a proper manner. There will always be some specific countries unhappy and others satisfied. All of this needs to be kept in perspective. However, what is truly urgent is to deal with the damage and destruction that is being caused by those who do not respect the ITKF Constitution or the legacy of Sensei Nishiyama and are trying to destroy both.

Any change desired by a majority of its members can be achieved through the natural process of the ITKF’s current Constitution. The ITKF exists and will always exist to protect the treasure left in the legacy of Sensei Nishiyama in order to preserve Traditional Karate for the benefit of future generations. If Sensei Nishiyama had any “dream” or purpose for ITKF – it was that one. His dream did not lie in the celebration of personal achievements or “dream” projects associated with any one individual. The Budo he taught is certainly not embodied in the disrespectful behavior displayed by those who ignore the ITKF Constitution in an attempt to destroy the organization he founded.

Sincerely,

Richard Jorgensen, Chairman  
International Traditional Karate Federation