



WORLD ASSOCIATION OF KICKBOXING ORGANIZATIONS

TO ALL WAKO MEMBERS

Dublin, March 17th, 2020

Re: President's Letter

Dear President/Dear Friend,

Firstly, I would like to wish you happy St Patricks day. This is a way here in Ireland where we celebrate the Irish Heritage, however this celebration is like no other as we have like many of you a quarantine situation in Ireland due to the COVID-19 and all social gatherings have been rightly stopped.

Today, as the world faces the global spread of the coronavirus, we are called more than ever to follow the values embodied in the sport of Kickboxing and the IOC.

Those values of solidarity and concern for the well-being of others will play a fundamental role in our effective confronting of the challenge with which we are now presented.

As members and leaders of that global community we must commit to working in a spirit of solidarity and co-operation, joining with citizens across the world in fighting this global health emergency.

My thoughts and prayers also go towards Ennio Falsoni and his family on this day, as seven years ago today, our Leader was taken ill and still fights on to this day with his family, always positive, always supportive. I have had the pleasure of visiting him at his home on a number of occasions and his intellect and mind are as sharp as ever, he continues to be an inspiration to all of us, due to his indomitable spirit and the incredible family he has around him supporting him, every day. Ennio and Maria Pia, you continue to be in my prayers.

Today, as the world faces the global spread of the coronavirus we are called more than ever to follow the values embodied in the WAKO, the sport of Kickboxing and the IOC, positively focusing around. Determination, resilience, cooperation and an indomitable spirit to succeed and support each other, will overcome the adversity and challenges we as a sporting community face today. This is what makes the WAKO Family strong, by putting the well-being of our community first and being selfless and committed to each other's well-being, will play a fundamental role in our effective confronting of the challenge with which we are now presented.

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So often, as President of WAKO, I have been inspired and uplifted by the generous spirit of unity that I have witnessed between and within our federations, athletes, officials and coaches, across the World. I have seen so many examples of care and compassion where we have come together to look after each other, and to ensure the welfare of those who are vulnerable and marginalized.

With the ever changing environment and local and international restrictions, the WAKO Calendar is consistently updating, so to keep yourself and your members up to date please visit: <http://wako.sport/en/news/2020/03/13/update-of-wako-activity-calendar-2020/1017/>

That WAKO spirit, I have no doubt, will come very much to the fore during this difficult time, which will require committed, generous and compassionate leadership, as we work to keep all members of our WAKO family safe.

Please keep yourself, your family and our community safe in these difficult times. If I can be of any assistance to you, do not hesitate in contacting me at your earliest convenience, I am at your disposal.

Respectfully Yours,

Roy Baker
WAKO President



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