



PRESS RELEASE

WORLD MARTIAL ARTS GAMES RULES TO SUPPORT NON-VIOLENCE IN SPORTS COMPETITION

March 12, 2007 Victoria, BC Canada - In a continuing effort to promote non-violence in martial arts competition, the World Martial Arts Games Committee (WMAGC) is pleased to announce that the words fight, fighter, fighting or any form of the word "fight" will be removed from their current Rule Book and vocabulary. In its place will be the words spar, sparring, match, competitor, athlete or other non-violent words. These changes are being made in order to comply with the Olympic Charter and the Olympic mission to promote a peaceful society, high standards in sport ethics, non-aggressive education of youth and to ensure that fair play prevails and violence is banned. According to most English language dictionaries, the word "fight" refers to using physical force to try and defeat someone. Sparring on the other hand, insinuates a controlled match without hitting hard.

"One can not just promote non-violence in sport, one must also choose words that support it" says Ken Marchtaler, Chairman of the WMAGC, "I am surprised at how many IOC recognised bodies have the reference to the word "fight", or forms of it in their current rule books. It has been difficult to control injuries in many martial arts contact competitions. By removing violent words from our rule books and day to day vocabulary, we can continue to reduce aggression in competition, and subsequently reduce injury."

Marchtaler goes on to say, "One of the missions of the World Martial Arts Games Movement is to support the Olympic Charter and what it represents. My feelings are, that the IOC and their recognised sports federations will follow our lead in having violent words removed from their rule books. This is just another way we can all work together to promote peace in martial arts competition and in all sport."

The World Martial Arts Games Committee plans to release the updated version of its Rule Book by early April 2007.

The World Martial Arts Games Movement is a non-profit society formed in August 2005. Its goal is to unite the World of Martial Arts through annual competition. The World Martial Arts Games encompasses organizations, athletes and other persons who agree to be guided by the World Martial Arts Games Charter. The Charter is governed by World Martial Arts Games Committee (WMAGC).

The World Martial Arts Games Committee (WMAGC) is the supreme authority of the World Martial Arts Games Movement. Its role is to promote top-level sport as well as sport for all in accordance with the World Martial Arts Games Charter. It ensures the regular celebration of the World Martial Arts Games and strongly encourages appropriate sports ethics and the protection of athletes.

Further information about the World Martial Arts Committee and the 2007 World Martial Arts Games can be obtained by visiting the WMAG website at www.worldmartialartsgames.com .

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