

About countries participating in the World KUDO Championships

As of April 17, 29 countries have applied to participate in the coming World KUDO Championships, with 103 applicants for the general division and 92 applicants for the junior division. In addition, there are 12 applicants for the friendly match under the age of 11. The breakdown of participating countries by area is 9 countries from Asia and Oceania, 6 countries from the Americas, 12 countries from Europe, and 2 countries from the Middle-East and Africa.

Regarding the participation of athletes from Russia and Ukraine, KIF sent out the results of the Board of Directors' meetings on March 24th, and then sent out a message from the Head Director on March 27th.

As for Ukraine, since February, KIF has been approaching the branches in western district to participate in the World Championships. There are 11 regional branches in the western region of Ukraine and 3 more in the Russian-occupied territories. KIF has offered to invite juniors and adult females, excluding adult males who were deemed difficult to leave the country. And Russia has been told that it may be possible to allow adult males to participate in categories that would be difficult to attend from Ukraine.

KIF has continued negotiations with a strong desire for participation from both countries. We have held discussions with Ukraine, including holding remote meetings on multiple occasions. In addition, we have made efforts to gain understanding by explaining to the Japan Sports Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and members of the Diet who support KUDO.

At the beginning of March, we proceeded to select participants from Ukraine. However, after that, the Ukrainian sports association has indicated that they oppose the participation of Ukrainian athletes in competitions in which Russian athletes participate. In addition, it was not possible to form a consensus among the branches in the western region of Ukraine. As a result, KIF had no choice but to give up participation from Ukraine. There was also a choice not to allow participation from Russia if there was no participation from Ukraine. However, while we were looking for participation from both countries, Ukraine decided not to participate, so we decided to conditionally allow the participation of Russian athletes. The conditions are as described in the "Report from KIF Board ". Those were difficult decisions. As for Ukraine, we would like to do our best to get them to participate in the European

Championships, which are expected to be held later this year.

At the World KUDO Championships, which will be held for the first time in five years, all participants and spectators are prohibited from making political messages or slandering as decided at the previous KIF board meeting. KIF strongly urges all of you to take the attitude of purely participating in the sports named KUDO or cheering on the athletes regardless of nationality.

KIF sincerely hopes that the World KUDO Championships will be held as a place to pursue world peace and cooperation through a Budo named KUDO in a chaotic world where conflicts of various forms continue.

April 17, 2023
Head Director of KIF
Hideaki TAKAHASHI

