

Report on the European Kudo Junior Championships

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The European Kudo Junior Championships were held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on February 28th. A total of 154 athletes from 11 European countries (U16: 42, U14: 48, U12: 36, U10: 28) competed, showcasing intense battles.

KIF extends its gratitude to the Lithuanian Kudo Federation, the event organizer, as well as all participating athletes and referees.

Currently, 27 countries in Europe are officially affiliated with KIF and KIF anticipates participation from even more countries in the future.

In Europe, U18 junior class competitions are held alongside general division tournaments. The next such event is scheduled for November in Bulgaria.

This European Junior Championship marks the fourth tournament held since the pandemic subsided. With each successive event, the quality of tournament operations has steadily improved. The fundamental elements of the tournament's quality—the athletes' skills and etiquette, as well as the referees' knowledge and techniques—have also shown consistent advancement.

This tournament also marked the first time junior competitors were required to wear blue and white Gi. This is crucial for preventing erroneous judgments by referees.

Twenty-seven referees from seven European countries officiated.

Twelve of these referees have accumulated experience as Chief Referee through this tournament.

Just as athletes gain experience through competition, it is crucial for referees to gain experience within the matches.

After the tournament concluded, as Chief Referee, I conveyed 13 points of feedback to the referees who served as Chief Referees, relayed through their respective national representatives. I hope this will contribute to the further improvement of all referees.

KIF aims to cultivate Class-A official referees and advance license approvals for the upcoming World Championships (General Division, Junior, and Senior) scheduled for next year, and will continue its efforts toward this goal.

Below are some photos provided by the Lithuanian Kudo Federation.



