



中國香港空手道總會有限公司  
The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1031室  
Room 1031, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.  
電話/Tel: 2504 8243 傳真/Fax: 2577 5525 電郵/E-mail: kfhkc@hkolympic.org  
網址/http://www.hkkaratedo.com.hk

**Urgent by hand**

Ref: KFHKC/A041/18  
Date: 1 June 2018  
To: Mr. Ronnie M. C. WONG, JP  
Hon. Secretary General  
Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China

Dear Mr. Ronnie M. C. WONG, JP,

**Re: General Meeting on 8 June 2018**

I refer to your letter of 17 May 2018 informing us that the Board of Officers (“**the Board**”) of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (“**SFOC**”) have decided to restore the Resolution No.1 from the General Meeting on 26 March 2018 and call a General Meeting on 8 June 2018 to re-consider the resolution to suspend the membership of the Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong China Limited (“**KFHKC**”) indefinitely with immediate effect.

As I note from your letter of 17 May 2018, the need for your restoration of the resolution is based on the Board’s decision (“**the Decision**”) that KFHKC was unable to demonstrate the level of integrity and professionalism expected of a Member Association of the Federation; and had failed to formulate a fair and transparent system to address “the complaints”.

***Notice of appeal***

In a separate letter issued to you today, we have lodged an appeal against the Decision in accordance with Article 59(4) of the Articles of Association of SFOC.

Pending the outcome of our appeal, we see no need to convene the General Meeting on 8 June 2018 but we will still take the opportunity to respond to the Decision here and request that you will, as a matter of urgency, distribute this letter, together with the appendices, to all members of SFOC as if the General Meeting will be held as originally scheduled.



中國香港空手道總會有限公司  
The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1031室

Room 1031, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

電話/Tel: 2504 8243 傳真/Fax: 2577 5525 電郵/E-mail: kfhkc@hkolympic.org

網址/http://www.hkkaratedo.com.hk

*Recap of events*

Let me first recap the sequence of relevant events below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
2 Mar 2018	The Board, based on its conclusion that the complaints against KFHKC were founded, gave notice to call a General Meeting on 26 March 2018 to consider suspension of the membership of KFHKC either indefinitely or for one year.
16 Mar 2018	KFHKC lodged an appeal against the Board's conclusion that the complaints were founded
26 Mar 2018	At the General Meeting on that day, the resolutions pertaining to the proposed suspension of KFHKC's membership from SFOC were adjourned. Instead, KFHKC was asked to submit to the Board a comprehensive plan of actions for improving its corporate governance.
13 Apr 2018	KFHKC submitted their improvement plans to the Board which aim to address the various problems highlighted by the athletes' complaints in the past two years.
13 May 2018	KFHKC submitted to the Board the documents below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) progress of implementation of the improvement plans submitted to the Board on 13 April 2018;</li> <li>(b) Selection Policy;</li> <li>(c) Selection of Best Karate Athlete</li> <li>(d) Appeals Policy;</li> <li>(e) Complaints Policy; and</li> <li>(f) Code of Conduct.</li> </ul> (These policy documents were endorsed by members of KFHKC at an EGM held on 12 May 2018, with support from 74% of the votes casted. They were subsequently passed by resolution at KFHKC's General Committee Meeting on 17 May 2018.)
17 May 2018	The Board informed KFHKC that KFHKC's improvement plans and policy documents were not up to standard and hence the Board have decided to restore the resolution to suspend the membership of KFHKC.



中國香港空手道總會有限公司  
The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1031室

Room 1031, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

電話/Tel: 2504 8243 傳真/Fax: 2577 5525 電郵/E-mail: kfhkc@hkolympic.org

網址/http://www.hkkaratedo.com.hk

***The Board's focus on past complaints***

In view of the discussion and the decision of the General Meeting of 26 March 2018, we would expect the Board to be forward-looking and focus on KFHKC's improvement plans. However, it is clear that they prefer to dwell on the complaints they brought up at the General Meeting on 26 March 2018. To this end, the Board have included in the papers for the General Meeting of 8 June 2018 a Summary of Complaints at Appendix A, where they have added further observations to augment their earlier conclusion that the complaints were founded.

We maintain the view that the complaints were unfounded albeit they do highlight areas where KFHKC can make improvements. To support this stance, we have inserted at the last column of the table at ***Appendix A (copy attached)*** our further comments and observations.

***KFHKC's improvement plans and achievements***

KFHKC is dedicated to achieving excellence in corporate governance, and to ensure fairness and integrity in selecting athletes in competitive programmes. We admit that KFHKC is not a perfect organization but we are committed to make improvements in areas where rooms for such are identified.

The finalization of the corporate improvement plans and policy documents mentioned above represent an important milestone in our continuing journey for corporate improvement. As illustrated in ***Appendix B (copy attached)***, the problems highlighted in the complaints brought up by the Board were fully addressed and we are pleased that they have secured an overwhelming support from our members at the EGM on 12 May 2018.

***KFHKC's observations about the Board's approach to arrive at the Decision***

In the circumstances, we note with great dismay that the Board has decided that our improvement work is not up to standard, particularly in view of the following:



中國香港空手道總會有限公司  
The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1031室

Room 1031, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

電話/Tel: 2504 8243 傳真/Fax: 2577 5525 電郵/E-mail: kfhkc@hkolympic.org

網址/http://www.hkkaratedo.com.hk

- (a) the Board has never explicitly given us any templates or guidelines to follow nor prescribe any standards that we must meet;
- (b) the Board has not specified any shortfall that we must address with the exception of a comment to the effect that the following term in KFHKC's Code of Conduct is unacceptable, viz. 'Athletes also need to be loyal to the KFHKC and not to bring (KFHKC) into disrepute'. [In fact, this are not the wordings used in the Code of Conduct. The relevant rule in the Code of Conduct for compliance by all members of KFHKC (including General Committee members, coaches and referees) reads: "Not engage in activities which jeopardise the general interest of the Federation or bring the Federation and/or Karate into disrepute," which is based on the Code of Conduct template included in ICAC's publication: *Good Governance and Internal Control in Public Organizations*.];
- (c) the World Karate Federation has earlier confirmed that they have found no irregularity nor fraud in the selection method adopted by KFHKC and they do not agree that KFHKC should be suspended from SFOC based on the issues of selection of athletes;
- (d) in fact, the selection of athletes is the most sensitive area which attracts complaints and KFHKC has taken pains to formulate the Selection Policy as a joint effort with the Hong Kong Sports Institute. With the rejection of this policy document by the Board based on broad-brush approach, KFHKC is at a complete loss.

The basis of the resolution to suspend KFHKC's membership is that KFHKC has breached Article 1.1 of the IOC's Code of Ethics, namely, "Respect for the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play". Whilst we dispute this allegation, we submit that the Board has not set a good example of following this Code. The approach they have adopted is both biased and unreasonable, with a total disrespect for the autonomy of KFHKC as a National Sports Association for karate.

Our criticism is based on real examples and the actual experience we have had in dealings with some of the Board members: see details in *Appendix C (English and Chinese)*.



中國香港空手道總會有限公司  
The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1031室

Room 1031, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

電話/Tel: 2504 8243 傳真/Fax: 2577 5525 電郵/E-mail: kfhkc@hkolympic.org

網址/http://www.hkkaratedo.com.hk

***Ulterior motives of complainants***

At this critical moment when the future development of the sport of karate in Hong Kong is at stake, I should point out that despite the apparently great number of complaints received by the Board in the past two years against KFHKC (some 60 plus), they represent the repeated and incessant complaints from less than 10 complainants who are ostensibly related to an organization set up two years ago called the “Sport Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong China Company Limited”: see relationship diagram at **Appendix D**. To say the least, it is questionable whether these complainants have other ulterior motives they would like to serve.

***Consequence of suspension of KFHKC’s membership***

Never in the history of SFOC has the membership of a National Sports Association been suspended. The consequences and repercussions of such an unprecedented decision have yet to be ascertained. But one thing is certain: the development of karate in Hong Kong would suffer a serious set-back. Those who suffer most would be the athletes, present and future. Hong Kong will also lose out as the very promising track record in international competitions KFHKC have achieved (see **Appendix E** for the achievements from January 2014 to May 2018) would become unsustainable.

***Conclusion***

We honestly do not see any winners coming out of a decision to suspend KFHKC’s membership.

As we have previously pointed out to the Board, we believe corporate improvement is a continuous exercise and a journey without a destination. We accept all suggestions from stakeholders to improve ourselves, as long as they are practicable, reasonable, fair and importantly, brought to our attention.



中國香港空手道總會有限公司  
**The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited**

香港銅鑼灣掃桿埔大球場徑1號奧運大樓1031室

Room 1031, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

電話/Tel: 2504 8243 傳真/Fax: 2577 5525 電郵/E-mail: kfhkc@hkolympic.org

網址/http://www.hkkaratedo.com.hk

In light of our representation above, we trust that Members of SFOC will abide by the Olympic spirit and vote against the resolution proposed by the Board on 8 June 2018.

Yours sincerely,

Yu Kang Chau, Kenny

Chairman

The Karatedo Federation of Hong Kong, China Limited