WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

WKF ANNUAL REPORT

2025

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

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WKF

1. INTRODUCTION

This report first appeared in 2021 focuses on the main activities of the World Karate Federation for the period from 1st January 2025 to the 31st December 2025.

1.1 Affiliations

A total of 201 members composes the WKF as follows:

1.2 Events

AFFILIATIONS	
CONTINENTAL FEDERATION	**NATIONAL FEDERATIONS**
AKF	44
EKF	53
OKF	13
PKF	40
UFAK	51
TOTAL	201

A total of 30 WKF Official Events were held in 2025:

2025 WKF OFFICIAL EVENTS		
TYPE OF EVENT	**EVENT**	**TOTAL**
World Championships	Karate World Championships	2
	Para Karate World Championships	1
Multisport Games	Youth African Games	1
	Junior PanAmerican Games	1
	Islamic Solidarity Games	1
	World Games	1
Continental Championships	AKF	2
	EKF	2
	PKF	2
	OKF	1
	UFAK	1
Karate One	Premier League	4
	Series A	4
	Youth League	5
Other Activities	WKF Youth Camp	1
Regional Events	Mediterranean Championships	1
TOTAL		**30**

2. WKF OFFICIAL CALENDAR

The table below shows the 2025 WKF Official Calendar:

WKF OFFICIAL CALENDAR 2025			
DATE	**ACTIVITY**	**LOCATION**	**WEB**
10-12 January	Karate One - Series A	Tbilisi (Georgia)	**LINK**
24-26 January	Karate One - Premier League	Paris (France)	**LINK**
7-9 February	EKF Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Bielsko-Biala (Poland)	**LINK**
14-16 February	Karate One - Series A	Larnaca (Cyprus)	**LINK**
20-23 February	Karate One - Youth League	Fujairah (UAE)	**LINK**
14-16 March	Karate One – Premier League	Hangzhou (China)	**LINK**
3-6 April	Karate One – Youth League	Guadalajara (Spain)	**LINK**
18-20 April	Karate One – Premier League	Cairo (Egypt)	**LINK**
7-11 May	EKF Senior Championships	Yerevan (Armenia)	**LINK**
22-24 May	PKF Senior Championships	Monterrey (Mexico)	**LINK**
23-25 May	AKF Senior Championships	Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	**LINK**
30-1 May/June	Karate One – Premier League	Rabat (Morocco)	**LINK**
6-9 June	OKF Championships	Noumea (New Caledonia)	**LINK**
23-25 June	WKF Youth Camp	Porec (Croatia)	**LINK**
26-29 June	Karate One – Youth League	Porec (Croatia)	**LINK**
25-27 July	UFAK Championships	Abuja (Nigeria)	**LINK**
7-10 August	Karate One – Youth League	Monterrey (Mexico)	**LINK**
8-9 August	World Games	Chengdu (China)	**LINK**
21-23 August	Junior PanAmerican Games	Asunción (Paraguay)	**LINK**
28-31 August	PKF Cadet, Junior and U21 Championships	Asunción (Paraguay)	**LINK**
5-7 September	Karate One – Series A	Salzburg (Austria)	**LINK**
5-7 September	AKF Cadet, Junior and U21 Championships	Guangzhou (China)	**LINK**
12-14 September	Mediterranean Championships	Guadalajara (Spain)	**LINK**
3-5 October	Karate One – Series A	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	**LINK**
17-19 October	**Karate World Championships – Qualification Tournament**	**Paris (France)**	**LINK**
11-12 November	Islamic Solidary Games	Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	**LINK**
27-30 November	**Karate World Championships – Final Phase**	**Cairo (Egypt)**	**LINK**
4-7 December	Karate One – Youth League	Venice (Italy)	**LINK**
10-20 December	Youth African Games	Angola	**LINK**

3. KARATE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 27th World Senior Championships had a Qualification Phase in Paris from 17 to 19 October 2025, and a Final Phase in Cairo, Egypt, from 27 to 30 November 2025. In addition, the Para Karate World Championships 2025 were also held in Cairo during the same period.

3.1 Karate World Championships – Qualification Tournament Participation

The table below shows the participation at the Karate World Championships 2025 – Qualification Tournament:

Number of Countries Participating	95
AKF	24
EKF	45
OKF	0
PKF	17
UFAK	8

Number of Athletes Participating	478
AKF	98
EKF	288
OKF	0
PKF	70
UFAK	18
Refugee Karate Team	4

3.2 Karate World Championships – Final Phase Participation

The table below shows the participation at the Karate World Championships 2025 – Final Phase:

Number of Countries Participating	86
AKF	18
EKF	37
OKF	2
PKF	14
UFAK	15

Number of Athletes Participating	378
AKF	79
EKF	162
OKF	18
PKF	58
UFAK	61

3.3 Medal Table

The following table shows the medals per nation in the 27th Karate World Championships - Final Phase:

NATION - MEDAL					
RANK	**NATION**	**1ST PLACE**	**2nd PLACE**	**3rd PLACE**	**TOTAL**
1	EGYPT, EGY	3	0	1	**4**
2	ITALY, ITA	1	1	1	**3**
	JAPAN, JPN	1	1	1	**3**
	ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, IRI	1	1	1	**3**
	TURKIYE, TUR	1	1	1	**3**
6	UZBEKISTAN, UZB	1	0	1	**2**
	JORDAN, JOR	1	0	1	**2**
8	GERMANY, GER	1	0	0	**1**
	HONG KONG, CHINA, HKG	1	0	0	**1**
	FRANCE, FRA	1	0	0	**1**
11	KAZAKHSTAN, KAZ	0	1	2	**3**
12	UKRAINE, UKR	0	1	1	**2**
13	PUERTO RICO, PUR	0	1	0	**1**
	PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, CHN	0	1	0	**1**
	SLOVAKIA, SVK	0	1	0	**1**
	KOSOVO, KOS	0	1	0	**1**
	MALAYSIA, MAS	0	1	0	**1**
	MOROCCO, MAR	0	1	0	**1**
19	GREECE, GRE	0	0	2	**2**
20	ENGLAND, ENG	0	0	1	**1**
	ALGERIA, ALG	0	0	1	**1**
	TUNISIA, TUN	0	0	1	**1**
	UNITED STATES, USA	0	0	1	**1**
	CHILE, CHI	0	0	1	**1**
	AZERBAIJAN, AZE	0	0	1	**1**
	VENEZUELA, VEN	0	0	1	**1**
	ARMENIA, ARM	0	0	1	**1**
	WKF-1, WKF-1	0	0	1	**1**
	CROATIA, CRO	0	0	1	**1**
	SAUDI ARABIA, KSA	0	0	1	**1**
	WKF-2, WKF-2	0	0	1	**1**
TOTAL		**12**	**12**	**24**	

3.3 Para Karate World Championships Participation

The table below shows the participation at the Para Karate World Championships 2025:

Number of Countries Participating	31
AKF	8
EKF	16
OKF	1
PKF	4
UFAK	2

Number of Athletes Participating	115
AKF	23
EKF	50
OKF	1
PKF	17
UFAK	24

3.4 Medal Table

The following table shows the medals per nation in the Para Karate World Championships 2025:

NATION - MEDAL					
RANK	**NATION**	**1ST PLACE**	**2nd PLACE**	**3rd PLACE**	**TOTAL**
1	EGYPT, EGY	4	1	4	**9**
2	ITALY, ITA	1	2	1	**4**
3	CROATIA, CRO	1	0	1	**2**
4	FRANCE, FRA	1	0	0	**1**
	HUNGARY, HUN	1	0	0	**1**
6	SPAIN, ESP	0	1	1	**2**
	JAPAN, JPN	0	1	1	**2**
	TURKIYE, TUR	0	1	1	**2**
9	UKRAINE, UKR	0	1	0	**1**
	SLOVAKIA, SVK	0	1	0	**1**
11	GERMANY, GER	0	0	2	**2**
12	CANADA, CAN	0	0	1	**1**
	ROMANIA, ROU	0	0	1	**1**
	KAZAKHSTAN, KAZ	0	0	1	**1**
	MEXICO, MEX	0	0	1	**1**
	AZERBAIJAN, AZE	0	0	1	**1**
TOTAL		**8**	**8**	**16**	

4. KARATE ONE

Karate One is the main series of competitions organized by the WKF. During 2025, a total of 13 Karate One events were held.

4.1 Karate One Premier League

Four Karate One - Premier League Events were held:

KARATE ONE PREMIER LEAGUE EVENTS 2025					
DATE	CITY	PARTICIPATION		YOUTUBE	WEB
		Athletes	Countries		
January 24-26	Paris (France)	375	70	LIVE ON YOUTUBE CHANNEL	Link
March 14-16	Hangzhou (China)	370	68		Link
April 18-20	Cairo (Egypt)	371	63		Link
May/June 30-01	Rabat (Morocco)	355	60		Link

At the end of the Karate One – Premier League Rabat 2025, the 2025 Grand Winners were awarded at the 2nd Grand Winners Award Ceremony:

4.2 Karate One Series A

Four Karate One Series A Events were held:

KARATE ONE SERIES A EVENTS 2025					
DATE	CITY	PARTICIPATION		YOUTUBE	WEB
		Athletes	Countries		
January 10-12	Tbilisi (Georgia)	1022	83	LIVE ON YOUTUBE CHANNEL	Link
February 14-16	Larnaca (Cyprus)	977	84		Link
September 5-7	Salzburg (Austria)	1054	77		Link
October 3-5	Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)	917	76		Link

4.3 Karate One Youth League

Five Karate One - Youth League Events were held:

KARATE ONE YOUTH LEAGUE EVENTS 2025					
DATE	CITY	PARTICIPATION		YOUTUBE	WEB
		Athletes	Countries		
February 20-23	Fujairah (UAE)	2232	86	LIVE ON YOUTUBE CHANNEL	Link
April 3-6	Guadalajara (Spain)	2645	72		Link
June 26-29	Porec (Croatia)	2846	70		Link
August 7-10	Monterrey (Mexico)	789	53		Link
December 4-7	Venice (Italy)	3045	77		Link

5. CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The table below shows the participation in the Continental Championships during 2025:

CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025					
DATE	EVENT	CITY	PARTICIPATION		WEB
			Athletes	Countries	
February 7-9	EKF Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Bielsko-Biala (Poland)	1181	48	**Link**
May 7-11	EKF Senior Championships	Yerevan (Armenia)	556	49	**Link**
May 22-24	PKF Senior Championships	Monterrey (Mexico)	508	28	**Link**
May 23-25	AKF Senior Championships	Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	409	28	**Link**
June 6-9	OKF Championships	Noumea (New Caledonia)	154	6	**Link**
July 25-27	UFAK Championships	Abuja (Nigeria)	371	30	**Link**
August 28-31	PKF Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Asunción (Paraguay)	941	26	**Link**
September 5-7	AKF Cadet, Junior & U21 Championships	Guangzhou (China)	893	25	**Link**

6. PARA KARATE CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The table below shows the participation of Para Karate athletes at the Continental Championships during 2025:

PARA-KARATE CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025					
DATE	EVENT	CITY	PARTICIPATION		WEB
			Athletes	Countries	
May 7-11	EKF Para Karate Championships	Yerevan (Armenia)	55	42	**Link**
May 22-24	PKF Para Karate Championships	Monterrey (Mexico)	29	6	**Link**
May 23-25	AKF Para Karate Championships	Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	36	26	**Link**
July 25-27	UFAK Para Karate Championships	Abuja (Nigeria)	4	1	**Link**

7. REFEREE COURSE

7.1 For Candidates with WKF Qualification – Paris 2025

REFEREE COURSE PARTICIPATION	PARIS
Kata Course	87
Kumite Course	178
TOTAL TOTAL	265

7.2 For candidates without WKF Qualification – Fujairah 2025

An annual WKF Referee Course at a Karate 1 event is celebrated for Candidates with no WKF qualification.

REFEREE COURSE PARTICIPATION	FUJAIRAH
Kata Course	182
Kumite Course	210
TOTAL	392

7.3 Referees and Judges per Continental Federation

The following table includes the number of referees and judges per continental federation:

CONTINENTAL FEDERATION	REFEREES AND JUDGES	MALE	FEMALE
AKF	265	234	31
EKF	231	204	27
OKF	11	9	2
PKF	63	50	13
UFAK	107	86	21
TOTAL	677	583	94

8.WKF COACHES COURSES & EXAMINATION

The following table include the number of coaches who obtained certification in the different courses organized along 2025, both at onsite and online (e-learning platform):

WKF CERTIFIED COACHES ON SITE				
EVENT	**COACH PROGRAMME**	**ACCREDITED COACH**	**KUMITE**	**KATA**
SA	Tbilisi 2025	37	/	/
PL	Paris 2025	9	17	3
SA	Larnaca 2025	12	/	/
YL	Fujairah 2025	130	/	/
PL	Hangzhou 2025	3	6	2
YL	Guadalajara 2025	59	/	/
PL	Cairo 2025	2	6	1
PL	Rabat 2025	/	2	/
YL	Porec 2025	78	/	/
YL	Monterrey 2025	19	/	/
SA	Salzburg 2025	22	/	/
SA	Kuala Lumpur 2025	12	/	/
WCh-QP	Paris 2025	12	27	14
WCh-FP	Cairo 2025	22	24	9
YL	Venice 2025	65	/	/
TOTAL		**482**	**82**	**29**

WKF CERTIFIED COACHES ONLINE			
COACH PROGRAMME	**ACCREDITED COACH**	**KUMITE**	**KATA**
E-Learning	410	143	65
12 online seminars were held in 2025			

9. TV BROADCASTING & COMMUNICATION

9.1 TV Broadcasting

The following table shows the statistics of the TV Broadcasting

TV NETWORKS	TERRITORIES	CONTINENTS
12	29	5

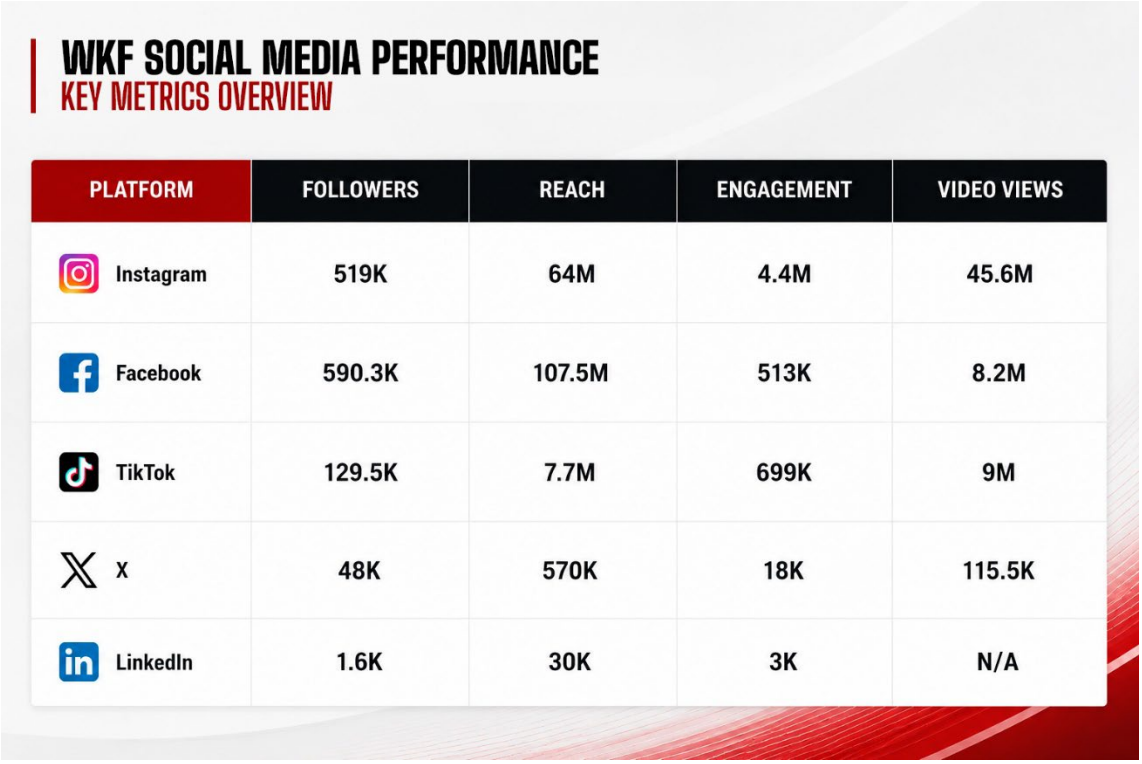
9.2 Youtube

The following table shows the statistics of the WKF Youtube Channel:

SUBSCRIBERS	POSTS	VIDEO VIEWS
818k	670	12.4 M

9.2 Social Media Channels

The following table shows the WKF social media channels statistics in 2025:



10. WKF OFFICIAL PARTNERS

During 2025, the WKF official partners structure was composed of:

2	12	17	5
OFFICIAL SPONSORS	WKF APPROVED BRANDS WITH SPORT PROTECTIONS	WKF APPROVED BRANDS WITH KARATEGIS	WKF APPROVED BRANDS WITH TATAMIS

10.1 WKF Official Sponsors

The official sponsors of the WKF Official events were:

10.2 WKF Approved" Brands

Sport Protections

Brands with "WKF Approved" protections:

Karate-gis

Brands with "WKF Approved" Karate-gis:

Tatamis

Brands with “WKF Approved” Tatamis:

11. Legacy Programmes

11.1 Guardian Girls Karate

Continuing with its expansion strategy, the Guardian Girls Karate programme achieved significant progress throughout the year, marking a highly impactful period of development. Three continental launches were successfully delivered: Oceania in July, Europe in November, and Africa also in November.

The programme reached more than 40 activities implemented across 19 countries and five continents, including demonstrations at The World Games in Chengdu.

Global participation exceeded an estimated 1,400 participants worldwide.

A total of 54 instructors representing 28 National Federations were involved in the programme’s delivery, with a breakdown as follows:

- EKF: 22
- OKF: 17
- UFAK: 11
- PKF: 4 *Continental launch scheduled for June 2026
- AKF: 0 *Continental launch scheduled for March 2026

As part of the efforts to strengthen community engagement and communications, 2025 also saw the launch of the GGK **microsite** and of its **Instagram account.**

LINKS to news about the continental launches:

- **AFRICA:** https://www.wkf.net/news-center/article/!/3050/world-karate-federation-launches-guardian-girls-karate-programme-for-africa-in-zimbabwe
- **EUROPE:** https://www.wkf.net/news-center/article/!/3003/guardian-girls-karate-programme-officially-launched-in-latvia
- **OCEANIA:** https://www.wkf.net/news-center/article/!/2877/guardian-girls-karate-programme-wraps-up-official-launch-in-oceania-with-womens-self-defence-seminar-in-adelaide

11.2 Green Karate

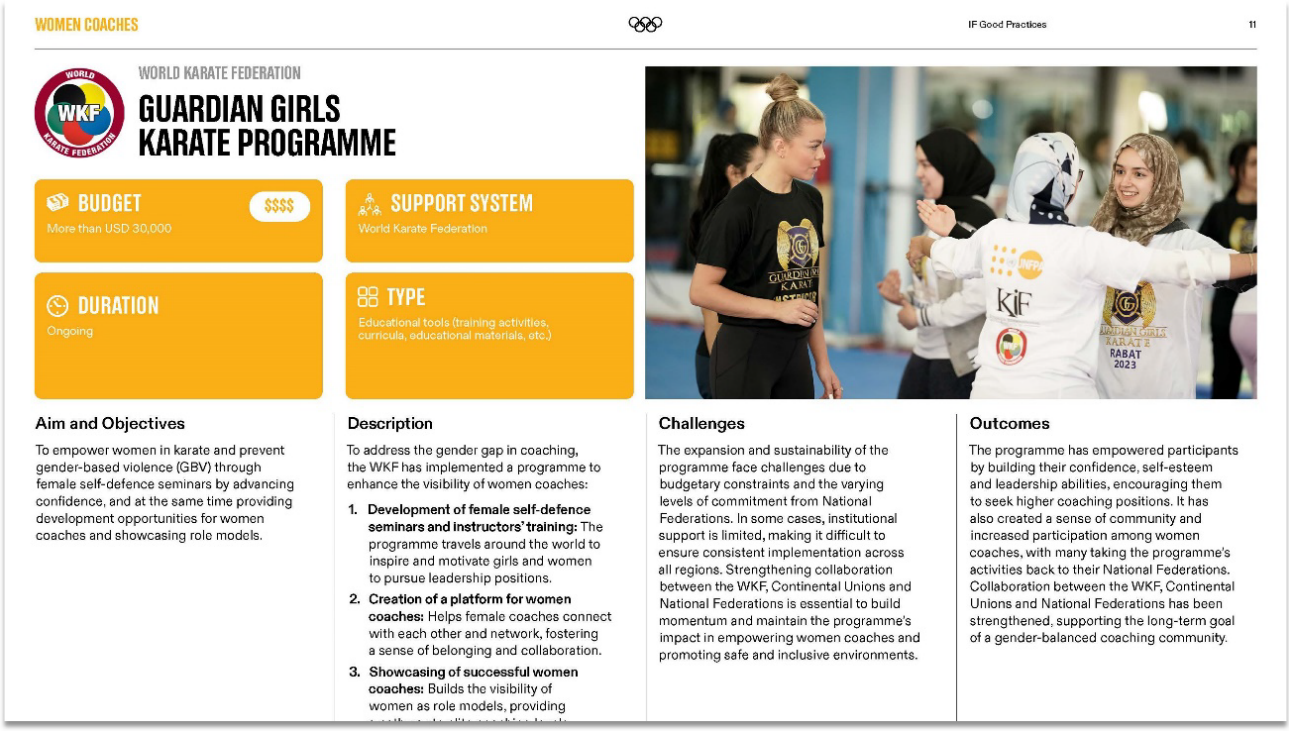
In cooperation with WKF's main partners, the #GreenKarate project is designed to promote the production and widespread use of sustainable Karate equipment. Through this initiative, WKF and its partners pledge to produce Karate gear, protections and tatamis fabricated with at least 70% recycled materials.

Already 10 "WKF Approved" brands have joined the programme:

12. Women Sport Commission

12.1 Contribution to IOC Study on Women Coaches

The World Karate Federation participated in an International Olympic Committee (IOC) study entitled **“Best practices for encouraging women coaches”** aimed at identifying best practices for encouraging and supporting women coaches in sport. The findings of this initiative were presented in the IOC “Insight Guide on Good Practices for Encouraging Women Coaches”, officially launched during the IF Forum 2025 in Lausanne. Among the 32 Olympic sport organizations interviewed, the WKF was selected as one of only nine featured International Federations, with a special recognition given to the Guardian Girls Karate Programme as an example of effective practice in promoting opportunities and pathways for women in coaching.



WOMEN COACHES

IF Good Practices 11

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

GUARDIAN GIRLS KARATE PROGRAMME

BUDGET $$$$
More than USD 30,000

SUPPORT SYSTEM
World Karate Federation

DURATION
Ongoing

TYPE
Educational tools (training activities, curricula, educational materials, etc.)

Aim and Objectives

To empower women in karate and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) through female self-defence seminars by advancing confidence, and at the same time providing development opportunities for women coaches and showcasing role models.

Description

To address the gender gap in coaching, the WKF has implemented a programme to enhance the visibility of women coaches:

1. **Development of female self-defence seminars and instructors’ training:** The programme travels around the world to inspire and motivate girls and women to pursue leadership positions.
2. **Creation of a platform for women coaches:** Helps female coaches connect with each other and network, fostering a sense of belonging and collaboration.
3. **Showcasing of successful women coaches:** Builds the visibility of women as role models, providing

Challenges

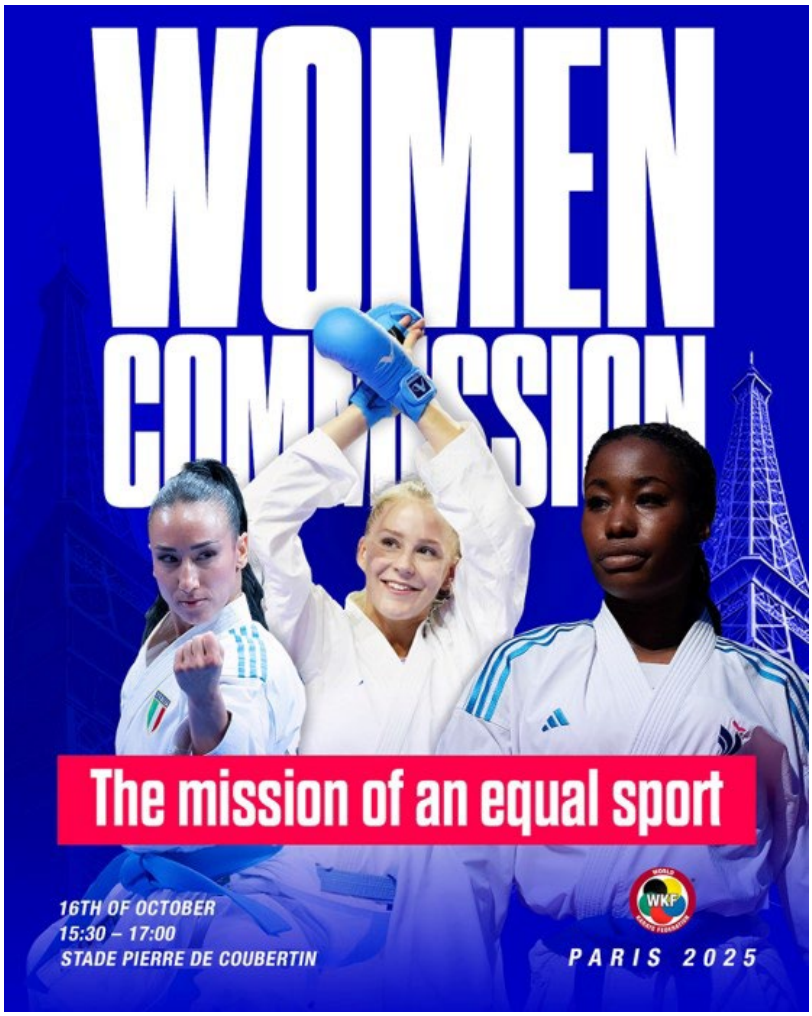
The expansion and sustainability of the programme face challenges due to budgetary constraints and the varying levels of commitment from National Federations. In some cases, institutional support is limited, making it difficult to ensure consistent implementation across all regions. Strengthening collaboration between the WKF, Continental Unions and National Federations is essential to build momentum and maintain the programme’s impact in empowering women coaches and promoting safe and inclusive environments.

Outcomes

The programme has empowered participants by building their confidence, self-esteem and leadership abilities, encouraging them to seek higher coaching positions. It has also created a sense of community and increased participation among women coaches, with many taking the programme’s activities back to their National Federations. Collaboration between the WKF, Continental Unions and National Federations has been strengthened, supporting the long-term goal of a gender-balanced coaching community.

12.2 2nd WKF Conference: Women in Karate

Women in Karate was organized in connection to the first phase of the World Championships in Paris in October. The conference focused on addressing the need for increased female representation among coaches and referees, while emphasizing the importance of creating a safe, supportive, and inspiring sporting environment that fosters development in these roles. This topic was addressed not only from a women's perspective, but also as a broader issue relevant to all coaches and referees operating at a high-performance level. The event featured guest lecturer Ms. Karin Hagglund, researcher in High Performance Coaching at the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences.



12.3 Rules changes for Referees: Supporting Female Representation

In collaboration with the WKF Referee Commission, regulatory updates were introduced with the objective of maintaining and strengthening female representation by adapting certain rules that address specific conditions affecting women.

a. Introduction of a Maternity Leave Exemption Rule under Article 3.4.4 of the WKF Referee Commission and Referees' Rules.
b. Implementation of a case-by-case nursing accommodation framework to support new mothers.

12.4 Statistics of women participation in WKF Events

The following table shows the statistics of women participation in WKF events:

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN WKF EVENTS		
ROLE	**WOMEN PARTICIPATION**	**% OF TOTAL PARTICIPATION**
Athletes	10,086	43.8%
Para-Karate Athletes	115	38%
Coaches	590	19.0%
Referees	90	13.7%

WORLD KARATE FEDERATION

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