

In July of 1992, the IOC suspended WUKO. Because of the WKF suspension the USAKF was ineligible under the then current USOC constitution for membership in the USOC. In Oct. of 1992 the USOC moved to eliminate the USAKF as a member. but was convinced by the USAKF to 'suspend' them also and the USOC set a drop dead date of Dec. 31, 1993. That is, if the WUKO was recognized prior to Dec. 31, 1993 the USAKF would be automatically reinstated. This date came and went without WUKO, now WKF, recognition by the IOC. The USAKF had obtained a communication from the IOC asking USOC to not take any action until after the February, 1994, IOC meeting at the winter games. At the Jan. 1994 USOC membership committee meeting the USAKF asked the USOC to hold any action on their membership until March as the IOC letter read. The USOC membership committee felt that they could not overturn a self-executing board of director's motion and delay its impact until March 1 as USAKF requested. When the Feb. IOC announcement of WKF recognition was made, the USOC general counsel, in reply to an inquiry from the USAKF, stated no time would be available to hold a membership meeting in the few days before the March, 1994, USOC Board of Directors meetings even though this was stated to be possible at the January, 1993 USOC membership committee meeting. The head of the USOC membership committee was heard to say after the USOC March, 1993, meeting that this could have been accomplished if USAKF had requested it. An important footnote at this point is that the USOC had completed an overhaul on their constitution and by-laws amending the membership requirements of NGBs and had begun NGB compliance reviews. The USOC had determined that newly recognized NGBs would have to meet the more stringent requirements even if current NGBs did not meet those requirements.

The USAKF re-applied for USOC membership in May of 1994 and faced a strong challenge from the AAU and Nishiyama on two fronts. One, that IOC recognition had not taken place because there was no merger between the IAKF (Nishiyama's Group) and the WKF which the AAU and IAKF held was a prerequisite for unification and IOC recognition, and, second, and over the operations of the USAKF, but no documentation to support their position was presented. The USOC keyed in on 5 requirements and quoted the Amateur Sports Act and denied the membership application. After that meeting, in June a small contingent of USAKF personnel met with the USOC and went over each of the "five points" and other items for compliance. Some items were agreed to be a matter of paperwork and for others a substantive change was expected. What the USOC probably did not like, but never explicitly stated, was the strong hold George Anderson had over the USAKF, especially in the form of a non-interest bearing loan payable on demand which exceeded the value of the assets of the organization. Further the USOC general counsel stated that the USAKF was being considered as a new NGB and thus would be held to a higher standard than in place NGBs. This would not have been the case if USAKF had been previously considered. To solve the problem of recognition, the USAKF, helped by Terry Bryan, hired counsel in Colorado Springs and held task forces to review all aspects of its operations towards USOC compliance.

As another footnote, the AAU was represented in these matters by Mike Harrigan of Trigon Sports. It is rumored that Trigon has or will be taking Taekwondo as a client and was contacted in this regard by Joe Henson, a former AAU president with ties to the United States Taekwondo Union.

In June, seeing a possible weakness in USA karate leadership, and for the first time a possible chink in George Anderson's armor, two individuals attempted to form their own NGBs - Joe Mirza by drawing on the numbers of the AAU and Julius Thiry by trying to split the USAKF. Mirza formed his group citing a need for a new NGB to lead USA Karate. Thiry broke away at the USAKF Pacific League citing the USAKF was not in the correct position or mind set to lead karate. The split in the USAKF went down to even the dojo level with students leaving their sensei over it and at least one instructor is facing financial problems due to lost support over the issues involved.

The Mirza group with the help of Washington lobbyist Trigon formed a corporation called US Karate, Inc. to be the NGB. The idea was based on the concept of 50 percent of the organization being general

or WKF karate and 50 percent of the organization being IAKF or traditional karate. This organization's credibility problems began after it filed a membership application with USOC when Nishiyama pulled out of backing it.

The Thiry group formed the USA-NKF and set a national championships on the same date as the USAKF's saying no other dates were available and stated they were taking their own fully funded team to the WKF world championships from the winners of this event. It is rumored that some athletes are dissatisfied with USANKF because promised funding did not come about. It is also rumored that dire consequences would befall any Hayashi-ha who did not follow the USANKF dictates and who supported USAKF. A rumor harder to confirm giving the dictatorial manner in which USANKF organization is run..

(Make sure you feel okay about stating the above)

In late August, USANKF, for whatever reason, changed its position on taking a team and demanded the USAKF hold a team trials for the world championship, an offer which was rebuffed by USAKF because the team had already been selected. Thiry attempted to trade support for Anderson at the PUKO Junior Championships for a trials, but this was not supported by the USAKF. In late October, Thiry sent a demand for a trials to be held the weekend of November 5, the same date as the previously scheduled USAKF Junior and team championships. Again USAKF could not accept this demand. Suit was filed in Seattle, Washington by Kathy Thiry, Melanie Genung, Junko Arai, William Chadrow and one other to stop the USAKF team from competing and to order a trials on the date the athletes were to leave for Malaysia. The attempt at the preliminary injunction failed and the USAKF attorney claimed a complete victory for the USAKF stating that the USANKF attorney failed to articulate any argument in support of their complaint. The judge dismissed the allegations of violation of the Amateur Sports Act and stated he was not sure anything was left to litigate in the lawsuit, but USANKF has failed to dismiss the lawsuit.

In documents filed with the lawsuit, it was determined that the USAKF had the clear responsibility to select the team and to follow its own procedures. It was noted USANKF athletes failed to follow established dispute resolution procedures, were aware of the team selection procedures, and that the USAKF had left the offer open to the USANKF athletes on the synchronized kata team to participate in the championships if they so choose. This USAKF offer was open and was in no way related to the law suit action.

In September, Thiry led had an attempt to remove Anderson as the president of PUKO, but failed. A further attempt was made by Thiry in December in Malaysia to oust the both the USAKF and Anderson from the WKF. The only disaster falling to the USA was Julius Thiry's removal from the WKF Referee Council due to loss of support in the USA.

In the meantime, Mr. Mirza was having his own problems. Not only did Nishiyama pull out of the USK, Inc. mandating a quick change in its constitution and by-laws, allegations of mail fraud were raised because of the unauthorized use of George Anderson's, Julius Thiry's, and Jim Cottrell's name in solicitation for support and membership. Other allegations included unpaid bills and improper entry and removal of equipment stemming from the AAU national championships in Cincinnati. Additionally, other AAU and ex-AAU members are looking into whether the USK, Inc. was improperly funded by AAU funds. At the December USOC membership committee meeting, Mirza did admit to a \$5,000 payment from the AAU to the USK, Inc.

In December, both the USANKF and the USK, Inc. submitted membership applications to the USOC. Three other organizations requesting and receiving membership applications, Okazaki's group, Jim

Mather's USA National Karate Federation, and the AAKF (Nishiyama) did not submit applications and neither did the USAKF. At the USOC December membership committee meeting, the applications were heard and have since been recommended by the membership committee to be denied. Both organizations had problems in failing to know registered athlete membership numbers and to adequately track athletic membership. This was obvious even though they both claimed tens of thousands of supporters. Additionally, questions about lack of national programs, interests of the athletes, and other specific USOC requirements were raised that the applying organizations did not meet - such as participating in the last two world championships.

With the USOC not reinstating the USAKF, it gave the chance for others to try to take advantage of the situation. Yet in the months since last May neither the USANKF nor the USK Inc. have been able to meet USOC requirements. The USAKF remains the WKF and PUKO member and will be able to hold that membership for a long time. George Anderson still remains the president of PUKO and a vice president of the WKF. In all this from the Thiry split to the Pan American Karate Championships and WKF world championships and meetings, from a lawsuit in federal court, the USAKF has been able to hold it all together and still operate as the WKF NGB for karate in the United States.

Lastly, the USAKF through Senators Dole, Stevens, Bradley, Glenn and others put pressure on the USAKF to send a unified karate team to the Pan American Games. The USOC was called to Washington, DC, to defend their position, but in communication just recently received, it appears that the USOC has agreed to hold a combined trials for the purpose of sending a team of karate competitors to the Pan American Games. Hopefully as you read this, this will have in fact occurred. The athletes should not receive the short end of the stick for all the in-fighting in karate which appeared to hurt and almost prevent the athlete's ability to participate in the Pan American Games.