



# WAKO British Columbia

A Provincial Affiliate of WAKO Canada

## 2023 Annual General Meeting

Date - Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2024  
Location – ZOOM Platform  
Time – 2:15 pm (Pacific Time)

*In attendance:*

*Farinaz Lari (Far Method - President), Greg Lamothe (Martial Arts Unlimited – Acting VP), Nicole Sawin (Connection MA), Cassius Sebunyana (Merge Combat & Fitness), May Chan (District Warrior)*

*Guest - Muzammal Nawaz - WAKO Canada*

## AGM Minutes

### 1. Welcome

The meeting opened by Farinaz Lari, seconded by Greg Lamothe

### 2. Accreditation of Voting Delegates

Five voting members in attendance – District Warrior; Connection Martial Arts; Martial Arts Unlimited; Merge Combat and Fitness; FAR Method). The quorum was established for voting.

### 3. WAKO BC Update

Farinaz Lari (President) provided an update on the 2023 year with WAKO BC.

a. Thus far there are 10 member clubs in the association.

District Warrior -	Vancouver
Connection Martial Arts –	Prince George
Gibson Kickboxing and Pankration –	Port Moody
Legends Martial Arts –	Dawson Creek
Lions MMA –	Vancouver
Martial Arts Unlimited –	Victoria
Merge Combat & Fitness –	Victoria
Victoria Martial Arts –	Victoria
Rocky Mountain Martial Arts –	Invermere
FAR Method –	Vancouver



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2.

- b. Two Officials Courses were hosted in Dawson Creek and Victoria.
- c. Two inaugural competitions were held also in Dawson Creek (Kick Light) and Victoria (ring)
- d. The first WAKO BC tournament was scheduled for BC on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> but was cancelled due to concerns from the Athletic Commission.
- e. The BCAC has decided to withdraw approval from WAKO BC to host events due to their concern that we are not qualified to host events based on their position that WAKO BC is not following policies established by WAKO.
- f. WAKO BC is reviewing the first two events with the BCAC.
- g. WAKO has launched a complaint with the office of the Ombudsperson over concerns that the BCAC's communication has been unclear, untimely and unprofessional.
- h. Greg Lamothe is the lead on the investigation with the BCAC office.

## 4. 2024 Canada Update

Muzammal Nawaz (WAKO Canada) provided an update from the NOC.

- a. Nationals is being held in Niagara Falls in April. First time we have athletes from all provinces and territories (except Nunavut)
- b. WAKO World Junior Championship is being held in Budapest in August
- c. WAKO World Senior Championship is being held in Abu Dhabi in 2025 for the first time
- d. NSO is hosting a NT Coaching Course in March. WAKO BC is sending a participant
- e. PSOs are growing quickly with Alberta and Nova Scotia to be recognized in 2024

## 5. WAKO BC Plans for 2024

- a. Complete review with Commission
- b. We want to host a few events before year end.  
Evan in Dawson Creek wishes to run another development tourney  
Greg and Cassius want to run a club show and possibly a development tournament
- c. We need to submit some documents to viaSport by Feb 26<sup>th</sup> to maintain our PSO status.

## 6. WAKO BC Elections 2024/2025

Muzammal (WAKO Canada) facilitated the elections for the WAKO BC Board.

- a. President - Greg nominated Farinaz L. for President – May seconded – voted 5-0
- b. VP – Farinaz nominated Greg L. for Vice President – Cassius seconded – voted 5-0
- c. Director Ring Sport – May nominated Ali K – Greg seconded – voted 5-0
- d. Director Coaching – Farinaz nominated Nicole S. – Greg seconded – voted 5-0
- e. Director Competitions – Greg nominated Cassius S. – Farinaz seconded – voted 5-0



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3.

Muzammal mentioned to the Board that some positions on the WAKO BC Board were not filled, however the Board can appoint persons to be interim members (non-voting) throughout the year as the needs arise. Greg motioned to close voting to BOD – Farinaz seconded – closed voting.

## 7. Additional Items

Greg reminded the Board that while the position roles exist with job descriptions found in the Statutes of WAKO BC, the priority has to be to develop an operation plan for 2024/2025 to establish priority areas for the PSO to move forward and rebuild trust with BC clubs.

The priority will be to get through the BCAC review and then move towards work towards sport development in the province with a focus on developing officials.

## 8. Close AGM

Greg motioned to close the 2023 AGM – Farinaz seconded – the group voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 2:54 pm