IWUF 13th World Wushu Championships – Jakarta, Indonesia

Deadline Reminder

The IWUF 13th World Wushu Championships are coming up! We look forward to seeing you in Jakarta, Indonesia, November 11-18. This is a reminder that Preliminary Entries are due September 10th. The Preliminary Entry Forms must state the exact number of competitors taking part in the events. The Preliminary Entry Forms must reach the Organizing Committee and the IWUF Secretariat no later than 24:00 (Jakarta Time) September 10th, 2015. All final entries must be submitted through the IWUF Online Registration System by October 10, 2015.
The 2015 World Anti-Doping Code was approved and came into force on 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2015. IWUF Anti-Doping Rules 2015, based upon this new code, also came into force this year. With the significant changes made to the Code and the Rules, the ultimate objective of the fight against doping in Wushu is to protect the clean athletes.

IWUF collected a total of 60 samples last year and saw four anti-doping rule violations. IWUF is committed to anti-doping testing across its portfolio of events, with an extra focus on targeted out-of-competition testing. More than half of all tests will take place out of competition this year. 18 top-level athletes from 13 national federations have been selected into IWUF Registered Testing Pool 2015 (11 Sanda athletes and 7 Taolu athletes). The athletes and national federations concerned were informed officially of their inclusion and obligations.

WADA believes that “a long-term solution to preventing doping is through effective values-based education programs that can foster anti-doping behaviors and create a strong anti-doping culture.” IWUF started the anti-doping education programmes at the 5th World Junior Wushu Championships 2014, which has been a success for young athletes to participate in the anti-doping quiz. The outreach will be held again in Indonesia during the 13th World Wushu Championships in November 2015. The athletes, coaches, officials and staff will be encouraged to take part in this face-to-face anti-doping education programme.

For more information of IWUF’s anti-doping programmes visit http://www.iwuf.org/antidoping/.
Letter from Ukraine

How a Small Group of Determined Coaches and Athletes Brought the Ukrainian Wushu Federation to National Olympic Recognition

The story of wushu’s triumph in 21st century Ukraine is one of struggle, passion, will and perseverance. Ukraine, since its 1991 independence, relies almost entirely on the tireless efforts of small her core group of athletes and coaches to bring it to prestigious world levels. Last fall, the Ukrainian Wushu Federation was recognized by the Ukrainian National Olympic Committee as a subject of the Olympic movement; this was a most notable achievement after years of hard work by the Federation’s leaders. How did this struggling, former-Soviet republic manage to raise wushu to world-class levels, show a strong profile at recent World Championships, and bring home golden success in the last European Championships? To look for answers we caught up with one of Ukraine’s key wushu players, Oleksii Nosach, last summer in Nanjing at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games (YOG).

Nanjing’s Sports Lab was the IOC’s experimental, interactive showcase of four sports: wushu, skateboarding, roller-sport and sport climbing. Each day brought thousands of visitors, athletes from the Olympic Village, IOC delegates, NOC officials and Nanjing locals.

Nosach, as one of the top Ukrainian
athletes and coaches, was recommended by the Ukrainian Wushu Federation to the IWUF to work in Nanjing at the Sports Lab teaching wushu to curious initiates. “We’re like a family here,” he says, smiling, alongside fellow coaches from the U.S. and China, and demonstration athletes from Russia, Iran, India, Italy, and China. The combination of wushu and family is no stranger to Nosach, something that became abundantly clear as he told us the story of Ukraine’s wushu history, which is also in some ways the story of a unique, extended wushu family.

**From Donetsk to Brovary**

Nosach was born in Debaltsevo City, in the Donetsk region. “I started wushu when I was 14 years old,” he says, “When I began, I practiced without shoes. For the first two years I did sanda also, but after that I only did taolu. I remember that when I first saw the taolu performance of Andrii Koval, Ukraine’s top wushu athlete, I realized that I needed to study further to improve. Koval’s coach, Oleg Chukanov, was a true leader in Ukraine wushu -- he supported athletes in their training, professional development, and stood up for fairness in competition. So in 2003, when I was 19, I went to Brovary Wushu School, which is near Kiev, and trained at the wushu school there with coach Chukanov.”

Nosach recalls, “In Ukraine, coach Chukanov undertook the challenge to create a new wushu federation. He gathered all interested coaches and athletes who wanted to openly develop wushu as a sport. As a result, Andrii and I, we also became the founders of the new federation. Chukanov established a strong team of wushu of specialists for whom wushu was life. For four years two federations in Ukraine struggled for recognition from the Ministry of Sports of Ukraine. But finally it’s been resolved. We have been recognized; my coach Oleg Chukanov was elected and is currently the President of Ukraine Wushu Federation. He is deeply committed to wushu. He urged us to go over to train in China and bring its expertise back to Ukraine. As we did this consistently I’ve watched wushu in Ukraine develop and grow stronger. Every year I see progress.”
Ukraine’s Wushu Pioneer

Ukraine Wushu Federation President Oleg Chukanov was one of his nation’s pioneers of wushu, and one of the first to train in China. He was born in Kiev, and in 1989 when Ukraine was still part of the Soviet Union, he went to college far away in Siberia at Khabarovsk Sport University to study wushu. In a university exchange program in 1991 he went to China. “I studied taolu about 70% of the time, and sanda about 30% of the time. I spent three months there, and of course, that was the beginning.”

Chukanov brought back his wushu knowledge – and his passion for the sport – to his school in Siberia. In 1993, after Ukraine became independent following the dissolution of the USSR, Chukanov returned to Kiev to open a wushu school. He moved the school to nearby Brovary in 1993, and began building Ukraine’s wushu sport program and nascent federation. Devoting himself almost entirely to wushu, he worked relentlessly to get wushu recognized as a kind of sport in Ukraine. In 2004 he became the new President of the Ukraine Wushu Federation, and essentially reinvented the organization from the ground up. It was a continual struggle, and it took four years for the government to officially recognize the new federation. In 2008 they finally won the support from our Ministry of Sport, and the Ukraine Wushu Federation was accepted by IWUF.

Chukanov’s strategy to build wushu in Ukraine included creating a sports education program for youth and a special sports school. When the program got noticed by Ukraine’s sport ministry, wushu was finally recognized by the Ukraine government. “But,” he notes soberly, “it’s been very hard,
especially with very little money. The coaches work in a small school, we don’t have a government building. We have wonderful parent support, which helps keep us going.”

When students can’t afford to pay for wushu lessons, he teaches for free. Sometimes, he says, he even buys his students pants so they can train. His devotion to his students has paid off in Ukraine’s many national and international wushu champions, and top amongst them are Chukanov’s longtime student Andrii Koval, Nosach (who partnered with Koval to bring home several world championship duilian medals), and one of the country’s rising female stars, Liudmylia Temma.

Training in China

Nosach has been working with Chukanov since 2003. “We have a high level of wushu in Ukraine,” he says, “in great part because we made the opportunities to go to China to study and learn. In 2004 we went to China for the first time for competition. Then in2005 I, along with Andrii and coach Chukanov, went to Shanghai University and trained with Chinese athletes for three weeks. This first time – there was lots of pain! But it was a good experience, and it changed our preparation for competition, and gave us a better understanding of wushu.”

Nosach started competing nationally in 1999, but in 2003 he won his first championship medals, taking third place in straight sword and spear. “In 2008 my third championships --- and my first competition in the European Wushu Championships in Poland – I got first place in duilian, second in spear and third in straight sword. It was an exciting time for Ukraine Wushu – we were a new team, a stronger team, and each athlete won some medal. We trained in China, and we really moved ahead in the sport. I went back to China and trained – with my friend and wushu brother Andrii Koval -- for 2 months in 2010, two months in 2011, one month in 2012, and three months in 2013.”

Coaching and Judging

Since 2003 Nosach had been coaching children in wushu. He had five groups, 100 total. “In the beginning, “he recalls, “It was for fun. In 2009 I stopped teaching for fun and focused on one group of 15, and trained them seriously for competition. We trained for 2 hours each day, and before a competition, twice a day.”
Nosach also started to take a broader look at building wushu in Ukraine. Given the task by the Ukrainian Wushu Federation, Nosach began to build a coherent system for judges. He subsequently was elected the Chairman of the Technical Committee of the federation eight years ago. “In 2009 I started organizing our Ukrainian technical committee and teaching judges. In 2010 I attended a judges training course in China. Coming back, we trained 120 judges for sanda and taolu competition. It was difficult building the wushu organization in Ukraine because we were not an Olympic sport. We had to do it all ourselves.”

Nosach’s appetite for competition remained strong, and in the Toronto World Wushu Championships in 2009 – his first world event – he took second place in duilian (along with teammates Andrii Koval and Sergey Romaniuk.). In the 2011 World Championships he competed in nandao and spear; he is now practicing traditional bagua, and in Romania at the 1st European Taiji championships he placed second.

To make wushu truly grow in Ukraine, and Europe, Nosach realized that constantly improving technical and judging standards was essential, so he began traveling as a judge as well. “I had my first international judging experience in 2012 at the WJC Macau, and in the last WJC in Antalya I judged also.”

At home in Ukraine, Chukanov, Nosach and Koval keep the focus on the continual development of the Ukrainian Wushu Federation, supporting young or novice teachers, judges, and improving training to create stronger young athletes. “I work 12 hours almost every day, training from 6 am, finishing at 10 pm,” remarks Nosach. “I only eat when the athletes warm up.” Koval himself is a longtime Ukrainian wushu champion, having trained in the sport for 20 years and traveled to many tournaments. Nosach describes his duilian teammate: “He’s a seven-time European champion, and has won the Traditional Wushu Championships many times. He competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympic tournament, and is the Junior Wushu team head coach.”
All the time he is focused on developing the Ukrainian Wushu Federation, and bringing the sport forward."

Nosach speaks with considerable pride when he describes the Federation’s recent accomplishments, especially developing youth athletes. “On the Ukraine Junior Wushu Team,” he says, “One girl got second place in Macau, three students got first place in duilian, and in Antalya one girl placed third in gunshu.” The Ukrainian Wushu team also did extraordinarily well at the last European Wushu Championships.

Ukraine Looks to the Future

Chukanov’s enthusiasm for wushu and the athletes he’s nurtured so carefully bursts through when he talks about the organization. “The Ukrainian Wushu Federation now - it’s one big family!” he says proudly. “Athletes, coaches, judges, doctors. We have our own branches in 25 regions of Ukraine. We have about 3,000 members of the Federation!

In some they are developing better taolu (Kyiv, Zaporizhia, Odessa, Lviv, Mariupol, Lutsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk). In others, sanda (Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Donetsk, Mariupol, Sumy, Zaporizhia, Kherson, Czernygv). Others still follow the development of traditional wushu. But -- we need peace!"

Recent events in Ukraine put even more pressure on developing wushu there. “Ukraine is dangerous,” says Nosach soberly. “My family lived in the Donetsk region, but now their house has no windows, no electricity. They are staying with me in Brovary, all in one apartment.” Despite the struggle of the past, and present challenges, the Ukrainian Wushu Federation remains undaunted. The recent recognition by their national Olympic Committee is not only a measure of success after many hard years of work, but also reaffirms the Olympic wushu dream Ukraine shares with 145 other nations around the globe.