



IJF VETERANS COMMISSION REPORT



The judo veteran activity and competitions continue to be in a self-development process. The number of participant countries is growing and last year in Ft. Lauderdale Veterans world championships we hit the record of 68 countries.

In the mean time, the national and local veterans clubs development is going fast and almost all countries, which have, participate on continental or world veteran championships have more judo club and local events.

In IJF database we had registered 2.650 competitors, which participate in the last two years to the world championships, but this is a small part of the veterans judoka in the commission database which is nearly 10.000 and those which are just practice but don't compete we estimate to 50.000 persons.

But behind the number of competitors, we start to feel a real judo community. At the events now the veterans come with their family, spend holidays together and follow kata or shiai sessions for additional days.

Many of former competitors return in the Dojo and help the young trainers or are involved in referee activity or sponsorships.

Their judo knowledge is a gold value for many communities because on the veteran age many performers move from a country to another and share their experience to new generations. Next year we will run the 10th IJF Veterans World championships In Cancun and in this year in Sardinia.

We run great veteran championships in 2015 in Amsterdam and the biggest participation in 2016 in Ft Lauderdale where we add the family programs and the first judo training days assisted by Sensei Yasuhiro Yamashita and Sensei Jimmy Pedro.

We have already Bid from 5 countries to organize World Championships for veterans. The Continental Unions set own calendar and are involved representatives from all continents. The Continental Championships run Europe from 2004, the Pan American confederation have continental veteran events in every two years, but many other national competition in Brazil, USA, Canada.

Japan this year assumes to offer the second Open Veteran championships in Kodokan under the



IJF name, which I want to, thanks again. Oceania is in a slow development process of development for veterans, but the distance between the unions nations make this difficult. But we are happy to have more than 15-20 competitors from this region. We are happy that regions like Africa and Middle East have a relative good participation and winners too.

IJF commission and events organizers make a good synergy between IJF standards and Veteran own financing activity, we follow the SOR and competition rules too.

We are present on Internet with webpage and Facebook and in one year these sites are visited by 600.000 visitors.

The future looks great. The former judoka return in dojo and the community is growing with fathers or grand fathers and mothers of the new judo generations.

IJF understand the fact that this community is dedicated for friendships and love for JUDO.

Andrei Bondor
IJF commission director