

Article by Taekwondo New Zealand – March 2009

2009 TNZ Open Championships

Held at the Avondale College Sports Stadium on the 28th and 29th March the 2009 NZ Open was an action packed weekend of top Taekwondo. Over 250 competitors from 35 clubs around New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia and Tonga participated in both Fighting and Poomsae competition. The two day event also saw the introduction of the La Just Electronic Body Protector scoring system for all grades from colour belts right through to black belt level.

On the Saturday the fighting competition ran all day and into the night. Spectators and participants were treated to some great performances from our Olympians and medals winners at the recent Oceania Championships, and Commonwealth Championships. There was also a lot of new talent becoming apparent in many divisions and with the added element of some top competition from our international guests, the standard was very high at times. This made for a great spectator event throughout the day and with the clarity of the electronic body protector system the spectators were able to better understand the scoring and get behind the athletes and enjoy the action.

After a long day and night of fighting, Sunday saw a much more relaxed pace with the Poomsae competition. However, the action in the ring, particularly with the creative Poomsae, was at times very entertaining and spectators and athletes alike were again treated to some great performances from our Oceania Champions and our international competitors who again added a real edge to the competition.

TNZ is currently compiling the results of the Fighting and Poomsae competition which will be published shortly.

It was certainly a big learning curve for the competitors, coaches and officials and it was great to see everyone pull together and embrace the new system as well as work through some hic-cups along the way. The organisers would like to thank all of the athletes and their coaches for their patience and professionalism during the event. There was a lot of co-operation between participants and officials in ensuring that everyone gained the most out of using the new system. TNZ was very happy with the La Just system and sees this as the way of the future for Taekwondo in New Zealand. The organisers also received a lot of positive feedback and some great suggestions on ways to improve the event next time and these have been noted and will be implemented at the next event.

TNZ would like to thank Grandmaster Joon No and his team from La Just Oceania for introducing the new La Just system to New Zealand at this event. The La Just team were very helpful and professional and the system was excellent and very well received by competitors, coaches and the public.

Without volunteers and officials none of these events would be possible. This tournament was one of the biggest held by TNZ next to the Oceania Championships.

TNZ gratefully acknowledges the hard work behind the scenes of the dozens of volunteers who helped to organise the 2009 NZ Open as well as all of those who helped over the two-day competition, It was great to see members from all organisations pull together and run a highly successful tournament.