

Electronic protectors for 2012?

With continued criticism over judging decisions in taekwondo at Beijing, the WTF has vowed that they will finally have an electronic protector system ready for the London 2012 Games to avoid any more controversy.

They are also planning to introduce a system to immediately replay video footage from matches, so referee decisions can be immediately analysed and corrected if necessary.

WTF President Chungwon Choue said, "We are now at the juncture of opening a new chapter to surge another wave of change in order to create a new image of taekwondo.

"Our new tasks are to make competitions more exciting, to ensure transparency and internationalisation of the administration of the WTF, and to continue transparent and fair competitions based on our experience at the Beijing Olympic Games."

Electronic protectors were originally slated for introduction in Beijing, but the technology was not ready in time, and, as ATKD has reported on in the past, the process has been marred by politics and accusations of bribery.

But the move may be too little, too late, as taekwondo's future in the Olympics after 2012 will be voted on by the IOC next year, and the sport is facing stiff competition from karate, golf, cricket and rugby. **ATKD**



PHOTO BY JUNG YOUNG-IL/AP/WIDEWORLD IMAGES