

IJF VETERANS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS,

FORT LAUDERDALE, U.S.A

17 – 21 NOVEMBER, 2016

REPORT FROM

S.G.MOORSHEAD, VETERANS DIRECTOR, OCEANIA JUDO UNION



Hot dogs, hamburgers and fried food, how wonderful to get home and have a fresh, crisp salad!

In order to arrive in Fort Lauderdale without too much jet lag I departed from Tullamarine on 7th November and spent a week with my sister in Phoenix before proceeding on to Fort Lauderdale on the 14th November to settle in and assist where necessary before the massive job of registering and weighing in an anticipated entry of over 1000 entries began on Thursday, 17th November.

There were four official hotels with prices varying from US\$150.00 – US\$200.00 per night with shuttle busses operating from these hotels to and from the venue on each of the days of the tournament.



The IJF personnel and the Continental Union personnel were accommodated at the Marriott Harbour Beach Hotel, a very large and very comfortable resort style hotel with the beach at the end of a large area where one could relax in the sun, play



various games and ofcourse a large and very accommodating swimming pool and sunbaking areas, (not that we had time for any of these activities!) The restaurants were varied in both price and food style but the coffee shop closed at 2.00 pm! Consequently, I have a new appreciation of the value and availability of the food and general refreshments that we take for granted in my country of Australia.

The venue, The Fort Lauderdale Convention Centre, was massive with five competition mats laid in a 'U' shape. The referees were accommodated in the centre of the 'U' with the medics on the outer edges of the mats. Score tables and monitors were set up on both sides of the mats, however in some instances were hard to see. The public seating area accommodated some 1500 persons and was only half full.

On arrival our ID's were checked by professional security officers and we could then enter the judo competition. There were approximately eight large merchandise stalls, all in the one area with a wide variety of merchandise from books, judogi and judo nick knacks to t-shirts, training wear and apparatus.

The World Veterans Championship is a massive tournament with 11 men's and 11 women's age groups which each have the IJF seven weight divisions in each age group. That means that it is possible to award 154 Gold medals and 154 silver medals and 308 bronze medals!

I believe that the Australian entry this year is the largest to participate since the Veterans World Championships have been in place.



Competitive representatives from AUSTRALIA were in age order:

Mr Ken McAveny	NSW	M9	-90 kgs	5 th place
Mr Peter Middleton	WA	M6	-66 kgs	Unplaced
Mr Doug Noack	VIC	M4	-66 kgs	7 th place
Mr. Luc Tournier	WA	M3	-66 kgs	Unplaced
Mr. Jeb McAveny	NSW	M2	-100 kgs	Unplaced
Mr. Lito Uyami	WA	M1	-66 kgs	5 th place
Ms Helen Thompson*	GBR	F3	-57 kgs	5 th Place

* Helen lives and trains in Perth

Competitive representatives from FRENCH POLYNESIA were in age order:

Mr. Bruno Damo		M4	-100 kgs	Unplaced
Mr. Phillippe Marin		M4	-90 kgs	Unplaced
Mr. Gwenael Zampieri		M2	-66 kgs	9 th place

Competitive representatives from NEW ZEALAND were in age order:

Mr. Vitally Aliluev		M5	-100 kgs	Silver medal
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Overall the championships ran well, the first day got rid of some of the hiccoughs which is normal however there were some areas that needed more personnel to run efficiently.

The IJF IT team worked very well under the leadership of Mr. Niko Van Dijk.

To assist him were:

Mrs Corina Ilic	Roumania
Mr. Nikolay Repin	Russia

The President of the IJF, Mr Marius Vizer presented medals on the first day, together with Mr Yasuhiro Yamashita who was the coach at the two day training camp that was held after the conclusion of the event with, I believe, 50 participants.

Veterans Directors and committee members present were:

Mr Andrei Bondor,	Roumania	IJF Veterans Commission Director
Mr Andre Van Zyl,	South Africa	Event Director
Mr. Miklos Flory,	Hungary	Ethic Director
Mr. Omar Danga Loum,	Senegal	Continental Director, Africa
Mr. Laurent Commanay,	France	Continental Director, Europe
Mr. Isamu Nakamura	Japan	Continental Director, Asia
Mrs Susie Moorshead,	Australia	Continental Director, Oceania

In conclusion, there is enormous amount of pressure on the persons in charge at an event of this magnitude. I want to express my gratitude to all those people who worked such long and tiring hours, both in the months of lead up and actually at the tournament. It is a thankless job, but one that gives enormous satisfaction if everything goes according to plan... yes... there are hiccoughs along the way but hopefully those problems can be rectified before they become common knowledge.

Well done and thank you to the local club members in Fort Lauderdale who supported the tournament, from bus drivers to IT people, referees and medics and many, many more.

**S.G.MOORSHEAD,
VETERANS DIRECTOR, OCEANIA JUDO UNION, 27.11.2016**

