

## Kickboxing: Trio becomes the first Southeast Asians to be Kickboxing Referees



Nazri, Valencia and Joel officiated in the 2022 WAKO World Championships (Children, Cadet and Juniors) and earned their gold cards

1. The 2022 World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) World Championships held in Jesolo, Italy from 30 September to 9 October proved to be a monumental milestone for the Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS). The trio comprising of Muhammad Nazri Sutari, Valencia Yip and Joel Lye became official 'C' Class referees for Tatami Sports, under WAKO. This comes after 6 days of extensive work, each officiating over 200 matches at the competition which saw nearly 2,000 athletes from 62 countries.
2. Kickboxing under WAKO comprises of 7 disciplines across 2 environments; Ring and Tatami. The trio became the first in Southeast Asia to attain such a qualification in Tatami Sports. The license will enable holders to officiate in any competitions from World Cups to Continental Championships.
3. This milestone is the first step towards promoting the sport of Kickboxing in Singapore, as the federation seeks to promote Tatami sports and organize more activities, with the objective of developing a wide pool of grassroots talent.
4. Nazri shares, *"I've always been the athlete and not the official. So becoming an official licensed referee is an entirely new game. There is a lot of technical knowledge you need to have and make crucial split-second decisions. Ultimately, I believe this will help improve my fighting performance because now I know what the referees and judges are really looking out for."*
5. The World Championship saw athletes as young as 7 up till the age of 18 compete in fighting disciplines and Musical Forms.
6. Jason Lim, president of KFS shares, *"Apart from getting their official licenses, I believe what's more important is bringing back their learning experiences from the World Championship. We want to bring that level of technical expertise in terms of officiating and organization, so that participants can expect the fairest competition with the highest standards, be it grassroots competitions or national championships. We learn from the best and extract their wisdom to apply it here in Singapore."*
7. Mr Brian Beck, Chairman of Tatami Sports and World Chief Referee comments, *"It is my greatest pleasure to award the official licenses to the deserving trio from Singapore. They are one of the best referees I've seen in Southeast Asia and even in Asia. They are confident and competent both inside and outside the tatami. I am excited to see what's next for them and will be glad to train them and build their capabilities."*
8. The referee contingent from Singapore has received compliments from various coaches and national delegates. Safeguarding Officer from Great Britain, Mr Gordon Mitchell, says *"I've been watching the Singapore representatives perform in their refereeing roles. They are very competent and as a coach, I would be more than happy to have them officiating my athletes."*



# KICKBOXING FEDERATION OF SINGAPORE

## **About Kickboxing Federation of Singapore**

Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS) is the appointed national representative of the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) – the world’s sole governing body for the sport.



KFS is the governing body for the sport of Kickboxing in Singapore, and is recognized as a National Sports Association (NSA) by Sport Singapore (SportSG) – the Sport Ministry in Singapore.

In addition, KFS is a recognised member of Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC).

KFS’s SNOC membership can be found on their official directory:

<http://www.singaporeolympics.com/members/>

## **Mission**

To be the beacon for Kickboxing in Singapore, promoting it as a wholesome sport for ALL and nurturing those with the attributes for “competitive Kickboxing” to realise their maximum potential.

## **Vision**

- To become one of the leading nations in the sport; at SEA Games, Asian Games and World Level.
- To develop, groom and nurture talent; and to consistently compete and perform at the highest levels across the national squad, and all major international championships.
- To become a regional hub for Kickboxing in South East Asia.

## **Objective**

We aim to develop the sport of Kickboxing in Singapore by providing:

- Kickboxing as a Sport and/or Fitness activity to everybody regardless of age, gender and race.
- Competition opportunities at National, South-East Asia, Asian and International Levels.
- An avenue to reach out to at-risk youths.

## **Contact Person**

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