

Kickboxing: Punching Above Weight with Score of Global Appointments



Valencia was nominated into the WAKO Education Committee, selected as a WAKO GameChanger and will be Singapore's first Forms athlete at the November World Championships

Singapore, 26 July 2023 – Valencia Yip has been involved in Kickboxing for more than a third of her life. But 2023 will be a year to remember as she receives her second appointment by the World Association of Kickboxing Organizations (WAKO) – the first the WAKO Education Committee in April 2023. Valencia will be the second Singaporean selected for the coveted program, following the footsteps of kickboxing trailblazer, Nazri Sutari, who was part of the [inaugural batch](#) in 2021.

The WAKO GameChanger program is a leadership program incepted in 2021 by WAKO, the IOC-recognized body for the sport of Kickboxing, to nurture and mentor future leaders as part of its' succession planning strategy. Valencia is the first and only Southeast Asian female to be selected and one of 2 Asians in the latest cohort.

In addition, Valencia is the sole female and first Kickboxing Forms athlete for the republic. Forms is a martial arts choreography comprising of an imaginary fight against one or more opponents. There are four sub disciplines to compete in, offering a choice of performing with or without weapons and music accompaniment. It remains to be the only non-sparring discipline amongst WAKO's seven disciplines.

Valencia shares with an excited expression, *"It's really an honor to be selected. I've spent 12 years in the sport, half of that time building the federation. I'll be competing for the first time in September, so that's exciting but quite nerve-wrecking at the same time. Everything's happening really fast. I'm hoping to make a difference locally and globally both as an athlete and as a sports administrator."*

Jason Lim, president of Kickboxing Federation of Singapore (KFS) shares, *"I am very happy that Valencia was selected for the second edition of the program. It's a testament of her abilities and I'm excited to watch her growth and profound impact in all aspects."*

WAKO president, Roy Baker shares, *This is the second edition of a global initiative and I am excited to see the Athletes develop and grow their capabilities in this strategic program of leadership development within the sport of Kickboxing as we must always be looking for and developing capabilities, capacities and leaders succession planning."*

Valencia will be leaving Singapore for Europe on 5th September, slated for 2 competitions including a World Cup. She returns to Singapore in October and will fly in November for the biggest competition, the WAKO World Championships held in Portugal from 17th to 27th November .

Valencia trains under the tutelage of Brian Beck, an Olympic gymnast turned Kickboxing master and father of multiple-time WAKO Forms World Champion, Ashley Beck – a prominent Hollywood stuntman who most notably stunt-doubled Michael Keaton in DC's new film, The Flash.

KICKBOXING FEDERATION OF SINGAPORE

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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 (Sports) – 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.

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