



Shotokan-ZA team competes in WUKF World Championships

KYALAMI – The Shotokan-ZA National Karate Team are in Scotland to compete in this year’s World Union of Karate-Do Federation World Championships in June.

June 14, 2018



The 14-person team, four officials and team supporters flew out of OR Tambo on 10 June to attend the WUKF World Karate Championships. Photo: Mari du Preez

The Shotokan-ZA National Team is currently in Scotland to represent South Africa at the seventh World Union of Karate-Do Federation (WUKF) World Karate Championships (<http://www.wukf-karate.org>).

The 14-member team, as well as four officials (referees and coaches) and team supporters, left South Africa on 10 June from OR Tambo airport to travel to Dundee, Scotland to compete.

The youngest competitor, Shannon Oliver, is 11 years old and is currently a purple belt while the oldest, Marjolein Lewis, is a 55-year-old 4th Dan black belt.



Shannon Oliver, who is 11-years-old, is excited to be visiting Scotland to compete. Photo: Mari du Preez

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"The WUKF Karate World Championship is the biggest karate tournament of its kind, they have confirmed 2 280 participants [in total for this year]," explained Mari du Preez of Kyalami Karate (<http://www.kyalamikarate.co.za>), which is affiliated with Shotokan-ZA. "All 14 team members will be competing in the Kata [category] and 12 in Kumite [category], some in Shobu Ippon and some in Shobu Sanbon Kumite."

The competition will run from 14 to 17 June.

The squad was identified at both the Gauteng and National Championships last year and final trials were held in October. The team has been training for the championships since November.

“This being our first WUKF World Championship, we are approaching this competition with conservative expectations and purely as a learning opportunity.

“Locally, our team has done exceptionally well in the various competitions leading up to our departure, but we are interested to see how we fare on the world stage in terms of our training, skill, preparation programme, etc.”



Demira Naran, who is 12-years-old, is one of the youngest members of the Shotokan-ZA team currently in Scotland for the WUKF World Karate Championships. Photo: Mari du Preez



Demira Naran, a brown belt, and Shannon Oliver, a purple belt, are the two youngest team members who travelled to Dundee, Scotland. Photo: Mari du Preez

The WUKF World Karate Championships are for competitors of all ages.

Details: www.wukf-karate.org (<http://www.wukf-karate.org>)

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