

## **IOC Accepts WTF Request for 4 Additional Quotas for 2008 Beijing Olympics (Excerpt from WTF.org site – Feb 6, 2006.)**

The International Olympic Committee has decided to accept the request from the World Taekwondo Federation to increase the number of athletes by four - two additional men and two additional women - for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The decision was made at the IOC's Executive Board meeting held on Feb. 5, 2006, in Turin, Italy.

With the decision, the WTF secured 128 quotas, including 66 for male athletes, for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

“The Executive Board decided to accept your request to increase the number of athletes by two additional men and two additional women for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games,” said IOC Sports Director Kelly Fairweather in his letter dated Feb. 5 to the WTF.

Following the introduction of Oceania as a new region, the WTF requested a quota increase by additional two men and two women to balance the distribution of quota places across continents.

The WTF established Oceania as its fifth regional federation on July 16, 2005, as part of its far-reaching reform programs. At the 117th IOC Session in Singapore on July 8, 2006, taekwondo was included in the program of the 2012 London Olympic Games.

World and regional taekwondo qualification tournaments for the Beijing Olympic Games are scheduled to take place in 2007, with exact venues to be decided.

On Feb. 5, the IOC's Executive Board also increased quotas for the world governing body of modern pentathlon, UIPM, by 12; for the International Triathlon Union by 10; and for the International Cycling Union by a potential increase of 20 athletes.

“These latest decisions will lead to an increase in the number of female athletes in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games by 128,” said the IOC. “This number will be included within the total number of 10,500 athletes.”