



Oceania Commission Report 2018



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2018 Oceania Open Cup

The 2018 first WKSF Oceania Open Cup was hosted in Melbourne Australia at the Body World Gym in conjunction with the Kettlebell Sport Australia Federation and Kettlebell Athletica. This was the first official WKSF Oceania Open Cup to be held in Australia and it was organized by Ms. Zivka Jadranka Marinovic, WKSF Oceania Coordinator for 2018, WKSF founding member/Australian representative, and President KSAF (a non-profit organization).

The 2018 WKSF Oceania Open Cup competition in 2018 was also the first official WKSF World Championship Qualifier for athletes who want to compete in the Amateur Division to represent Australia at the 2019 WKSF World Championship. KSAF also scheduled two additional qualifying events to be held in 2019 for the WKSF World Championship for all divisions. In order to qualify and be part of the WKSF Australian Team athletes had to achieve a minimum of rank 1 in the Amateur Division and CMS in the Professional Division.

Congratulations to all the athletes who made Kettlebell sport history competing in the 2018 WKSF Oceania Open Cup. The official WKSF ranking table was used.

Yevhen Kovalyshen and Luarna Williams both officially qualified at the first WKSF Oceania Open Cup to represent Australia as part of the WKSF Australia team at the 2019 WKSF World Championship!

This WKSF Oceania Open Cup was a success due to everyone who supported and competed in this event, including the KSAF committee members, Tonia Economou, KSAF Secretary, John Distefano and team from Body World, the lifters from Victoria and Western Australia, WKSF judges (Zivka Jadranka Marinovic, Tracey Gunn, CEO of WAK, and Vincenzo Bounocore from Team WAK), coaches (Marilyn Tuna and Roger Saheli) and to those who supported the event behind scenes, including the sponsors Kettlebell Athletica (kettlebells, timers, and platforms, etc.), and the host venue: Body World Balaclava.

The first WKSF Oceania Open Cup failed to attract a lot of lifters for a variety of reasons outside the organiser's control as follows: Due to the public announcement made by WKSF during the week leading up to the Oceania Open Cup regarding the decision to change the Australian affiliated organisation, and the uncertainty prior to that announcement regarding the new 2019 affiliated organisation in Australia, a lot of confusion was created for athletes wanting to qualify, team uniform etc. The consequence of the uncertainty resulted in a decision by several athletes to not support the event. There was also a loss of lifters for the scheduled Oceania Open Cup due to the fact that other events were being held in Australia such as the IUKL World Cup held a week later in Melbourne which included international athletes, and a competition being held on the same weekend of the WKSF Oceania Open Cup in another state. Athletes having more than one option to qualify for WKSF Worlds also resulted in a loss of lifters at the WKSF Oceania Open Cup. It was an Oceania



Open Cup however only Australian athletes were represented from two different states, including 6 athletes from Perth and 2 athletes from Victoria. There were no athletes representing New Zealand or other nations in Oceania and the reasons given included both financial and personal challenges. In addition athletes were planning to compete in 2019 in other/additional qualifiers that were scheduled for the WKSF World Championships in both Australia and NZ. Another challenge included the national team uniform for the WKSF Oceania Open Cup, because of the uncertainty regarding the Australian WKSF affiliation for 2019. KSAF's solution to the dilemma was to provide a free t-shirt for all athletes so they would not have to pay for a new uniform again in 2019.

In summary, the first Australian WKSF Oceania Open Cup held on 2nd December 2018 marked the end of the year's voluntary work on behalf of WKSF, fulfilling all the WKSF guidelines and requirements. Other requirements for the year were also met which included organising qualifying events for the 2018 WKSF World Championships and qualifying the 2018 WKSF Australian Team (which included Marilyn Tuna who made history representing Australia at the 2018 World Championships); WKSF judges: VICTORIA (Zivka Jadranka Marinovic, Roger Saheli), WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Marilyn Tuna, Tracey Gunn, Clare Hunter, Jason Hunter, Amanda Dickson, Vincenzo Buonocore), QUEENSLAND (Valerie Abbott), and NEW ZEALAND (Heath Bowman); WKSF administration tasks; and 2019 WKSF World Championship qualifier and events to which there has already been a great response. Over 20 athletes are interested in competing at the 2019 World championships from around Australia as a result of promotion and support for WKSF throughout 2018 as the 2018 Oceania Coordinator.

2019 WKSF Oceania Coordinator role

Regarding the Oceania Coordinator role for 2019, the WKSF Executive Commission voted that they would like me to continue as the WKSF Oceania Coordinator and have "the voice in Oceania" because "you can do a great work promoting WKSF". After careful consideration I am formally declining WKSF's offer which was ultimately due to WKSF choosing another organization to be their 2019 Australian representative rather than supporting a founding member.

Finally, as the outgoing 2018 Australian representative/Oceania Coordinator/and founding member I sincerely wish the incoming Australian Representative/Oceania Coordinator the best of luck in 2019. As I have stated above, and I herewith confirm, I will not be accepting the role of WKSF Oceania Coordinator for 2019.

Zivka Jadranka Marinovic
Oceania Coordinator 2018

President WKSF
Oleh Ilika

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a red circular stamp. The stamp contains the WKSF logo, which includes a stylized kettlebell icon and the letters 'WKSF' in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the letters, the full name 'WORLD KETTLEBELL SPORT FEDERATION' is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

