

Establishment of a Youth Council

Background Information

The current Strategic Plan aims to modernise our organisation and to ensure it is fit-for-purpose for the future. It aims to build a better, student-centred experience for all our members with the goal of retaining more students and providing for succession planning.

One initiative introduced by the Strategic Plan is to develop and embed a Youth Council. This concept aims to make the governance of Taekwon-Do more representative of the membership, 75% of which is under the age of 18. This group represents our future leadership yet has a limited voice in the art and limited pathways to develop into future leaders within our organisation.

As with all sports, Taekwon-Do experiences a significant drop in numbers over the teenage age years through to the early 20s. The long-term challenges of this trend can be seen in membership numbers, succession planning at club and national levels, capacity and capability of service delivery, instructor recruitment etc.

Purpose of a Youth Council

The Board wishes to engage with our younger members to better understand their Taekwon-Do experience and how it could be improved, against the challenges they face in everyday life. We wish to retain more students longer. The purpose of a Youth Council is to hear from our youth, to gather their insights on how to engage our youth, and to provide a leadership and development opportunity for our future leaders.

Council Structure and Operation

- 6-8 members.
- Monthly meetings, except December or January (10 in total).
- Meetings online, Sunday evenings, capped at 1.5 – 2 hours.
- Attendance not compulsory, acknowledging school, university, or work commitments.
- The agenda is set by the Council to discuss and explore the relevant issues.
- Council would select a delegate to attend ITFNZ Board meetings.

The Board will select the inaugural Youth Council members, ensuring the following representation:

- Gender equity.
- Diversity in background and experiences.
- Regional.
- Metropolitan and rural areas, ensuring representation of large and small clubs.
- Open to all belt grades.

We are seeking expressions of interest from members aged 16-24 who wish to be involved in establishing and developing the Youth Council concept. If you are interested, please email your details to ceo@itkd.co.nz by **21 August 2023**.

If you have any queries, please contact Alex Hayton on (021) 288 8822.