

XIV African Kurash Championships – BRAZZAVILLE – 22 October 2016



The 14th African Kurash Championships took place in Brazzaville – Congo on the 22nd October at the [GYMNASE NICOLE OBA](#). This is a new facility used during last year's African Games for the first time. It has a large seating capacity as shown in the picture on all four sides with excellent crowd control. Probably the finest venue we ever used for an African Kurash Championships.

Accreditation took place on the 21st October in one of the adjoining halls, which was also used for a warm up area during the competition. There was a good spirit among everyone and meeting old friends once again at the African Championships. Accreditation cards were pre- printed but photos had to be taken and printed on the cards before the weigh in the evening. No serious problems were experienced and all went well at the accreditation, weigh in and the draw.



Due to the forthcoming junior world Kurash championships it was decided to do only a senior championship in 2016 and entries from DRC, CONGO, SOUTH AFRICA, SWAZILAND, CAMEROON and NIGERIA were initially received. Nigeria withdrew early stating they would rather participate in the junior world championships.

I managed to solve the federation issues of Cameroon by recognizing Jean-Serge Enanak Ofakem as president of Cameroon Kurash. He has several active Kurash clubs catering for players of all ages. He managed on his own to colour white judo jackets to green and blue in Cameroon to start of Kurash in the correct manner. I gave him his first official IKA yahktak and promised to facilitate some for Cameroon. Here I need the assistance of the IKA please. He is keen to also host the African Kurash Championships in the future. In Central Africa some countries are able to travel between each other by road, which cuts the cost of traveling.

The Championship day did not start without problems, there was a power outage and arrangements had to be made to secure a power generator to drive the computer system, printers and scoreboard. This caused the event to start only at twelve o'clock instead of nine o'clock.



The break was used by the referees above to discuss the rules and clear any misunderstandings. Female participation is once again a problem. Culture and financial means are probably the main causes and I do not see an easy solution.



There was a large crowd of around 1500 spectators seated on the four sides. The atmosphere was vibrant, showing that the popularity of Kurash has grown tremendously since the 2012 event. A sincere word of congratulation to Mr. Angat for his enthusiasm towards the promotion of Kurash in Congo. I want to propose that Mr. Angat becomes the new president for the central African Zone, he is a humble person with some good ideas to grow Kurash in that region. This is also supported by the Cameroonian president. Mr. Yafali from DRC can then have more time for his IKA duties as a commission member.



Once the competition started the event went well. Only around six pm it was getting dark and there was still no power for the lights. However we were with the last category (100+KG) with only 4 participants using the round robin elimination system. With one player winning all his bouts the gold medal was no problem. However the other three all had one win and wins and points were equal. In dim light we decided to award the three payers each with a silver medal instead of a rematch between them.



I was impressed with the standard of competition and good execution of technique among all the categories. Refereeing had a few problems regarding impartiality and if in any way possible, it would be great if at least one IKA referee from a different continent could attend every African Championship.

Listed below are the new African Champions and medallists.

WEIGHT	1ST		2ND		3RD		3RD	
	CTRY	NAME	CTRY	NAME	CTRY	NAME	CTRY	NAME
60	CGO	ELENGA BATCHI Derland	CGO	FOUNGUE KEBELE Loick	DRC	MAKENGU Dubbelboer		
66	CGO	BANIAKINA Destin Bob	DRC	BOMPEMA Herve	DRC	TABA Rodrigues	CGO	BELONGA Zoung
73	RSA	LOUW Nicolaas	CGO	MVAZIBI ONDENDE Dieu M	DRC	EKONDJO Yannick		
81	CGO	ITHIERE Bolgy Junior	CGO	ILALI Eroce Paniche B	DRC	MBAKU Dieulevent		
90	CGO	KIBA Stelone Roddy	CGO	IPPET LETEMBET Rumnigge	CGO	YINGA MVOUSSIKI Roston		
100	CGO	LOUPET Kelish	CGO	NTIBA ONDON Steeven	CMR	ENANAK OFAKEM Jean		
100+	CGO	MOUTOUMONE EKOSSA	CGO	OKANDZE OOPANGA Difna				
100+			RSA	SUTHERLAND Donald				
100+			CGO	SOULE SOBOUR Franck				

As round robin elimination (pool system) was used as most divisions had 5 or 6 players. Only in 66 KG division, 2 bronze medals were issued due to equal points and wins for the 3rd place.

For the 100+ category we were unable to refight the 3 second placed players due to equal point as the power generator was unable to drive also the lighting.

In general the organization went well, the medals were stunning (100mm). Everyone competed in Yahktak, we had enough for the competition and after the event they were distrusted between Congo and DRC and two were given to Cameroon. A computer (with scoreboard and tournament software) and colour laser printer was left with the Congo federation for future use as per the original budget inclusion)

During some discussions and informal meetings the following shortcomings were briefly discussed.

- There is a need for a formal coaching qualification (IKA or AKU) recognition certificate to be issued for coaches in federations. National sporting bodies and government have a requirement for this in their recognition requirements.
- For youth programs we need to formalize some kind of colour belt structure, it has educational value and also sets certain goals that can be achieved.
- Cameroon requested a coaching course for coaches, I discussed it briefly with the IKA general secretary and an invitation will be formalized by them before the junior worlds.

Thomas Dunker President AKU