

2009 U.S. Open Update

This U.S. Open is going to be Historic!! Registration is now closed. We have registered 1741 Athletes, 461 Coaches and 55 International Referees. This is a record for this the 18th Annual U.S. Open Taekwondo Championships

We have 59 different nations participating, 13 2008 Beijing Olympians and 17 confirmed National teams.

The USA is represented by 47 different states with the most celebrated athlete participating to be Charlotte Craig, 2008 Beijing Olympian.

We have a couple of interesting new components to this event, a WTF IR seminar and refresher course, a Kukkiwon Dan testing, EBP in use, and... the fact that we are at the historic Tropicana Hotel at the heart of the Vegas strip!

This will be the 62nd IR seminar held by the WTF and the 53rd IR Refresher course. We currently have 123 IR's registered and 184 potential IR's registered. The seminar will be held at the Tropicana Hotel from February 7-10 2009. Registration for this seminar has been closed. For more information please contact Amanda Rubin, Amanda.rubin@usa-taekwondo.us or 719-866-4632.

The Kukkiwon has chosen the 2009 U.S. Open to launch a historic Dan test; this will be held on Sunday February 15th at the Tropicana Hotel. There will be mandatory seminars for the testers on the 13th and 14th. Registration for this historic test has been closed. For more details contact Becie Seals at becie.seals@usa-taekwondo.us or 719-866-4632.

For the first time in the history of the U.S. Open, USAT will use the LaJust Electronic Body Protectors as a scoring system. The EBP's will be used for the 14-17 and Adult (18-32) sparring divisions only. If you are in these divisions please bring WTF approved headgear, forearm guards, shin guards, mouth guard and protective cup (required for male competitors).

As part of its World Ranking system which came into effect on January 1, 2009, the World Taekwondo Federation has announced the ranking grades of the WTF events for 2009.

The upcoming 2009 U.S. Open held Feb. 12-15 in Las Vegas, Nev., received the only G-2 rating among the international opens on the 2009 calendar. All other international opens were rated G-1.

Opening Ceremony and the March of Nations will be held on Thursday the 12th of February at 7:30 pm. We encourage all nations to participate in this exciting and entertaining procession. There will be a special exciting demonstration by the united taekwondo clubs of Las Vegas as well as a short performance by the *Les Follies Bergere*.

If you have registered, be proud to be a part of a historic U.S. Open. This will be one of the largest, most competitive, exciting tournaments USAT has ever hosted.

The Tropicana Hotel has extended the registration deadline till the 4th of February, so book your rooms now before they are all gone! You have to take advantage of the \$55 weekdays and \$99 weekends rates for double rooms.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2009 US Open. Viva Las Vegas!

Mark A. Kaufmann

Director, USAT Events