

20. Ms. Anna VASSALLO



Current Position President of Malta Taekwondo Association
Date of Birth: March 17, 1958
Gender: Female
Nationality: Malta
Language: English, Maltese, Italian

A. Qualification & Experience in Taekwondo

I started involved in Taekwondo six years ago and immediately fell in love with the sport. Soon after I was invited to contribute on the administrative side of the sport and was appointed Secretary General of the local association in 2017. Two years later I was appointed President of the Malta Taekwondo Association upon the resignation of my predecessor. Subsequently I was re-elected to the post in February 2021. At present I am the only female council member in the European Taekwondo Union.

Since my appointment first as a Secretary General and later as Association President, I have made good governance and the promotion of the sport as my two main goals. To this end I collaborated with the Malta Olympic Committee to draft a new constitution for our Association which was duly adopted during an extraordinary General meeting.

I have worked to restructure various aspects of the Association's set up to ensure fairness and professionalism in:

- *the selection of the National Taekwondo team*
- *the introduction rigid guidelines for young athletes to gain entry to the Malta National Sports School*
- *the grading system whereby all clubs have fully qualified WT coaches. Previously all but one of the clubs were not in the GMS*

Concurrently i have embarked on a plan to promote the sport by organizing international Taekwondo camps for the first time in Malta, one of which was successfully organized only a few days ago. At present, my committee and myself are in the process of setting a Para-Taekwondo Team.

Finally, we have also started Poomsae class with a view to eventually having a National Team in this category.

B. Experience in Other Areas (Other Sports, Business or Professional)

Outside my involvement in our sport, I graduated from the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology and I have worked mainly in the hospitality and petrochemical industry. I have held positions at all levels within the organizations that I have worked for, from junior concierge in a local five star hotel to PA to the CEO to office manager within a multinational oil company based in Malta.

C. Education

- *Studied Hotel Management and Tourism at the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology.*

D. Vision for WT in next 4-years

My vision for World Taekwondo for the next four years can be succinctly summarized in the following points:

- *To increase participation at all levels of the sport with particular emphasis on grass roots level*
 - *To make the sport more inclusive and available to all those who show an interest in taking up the sport*
 - *To increase the visibility of the sport in as many countries as possible by means of a plan to increase the sport's exposure on television, social and printed media*
 - *To make Taekwondo a vehicle to improve people's lives by making sure that WT is proactive in helping displaced people obtain visas and residence permits to live in safety in their newly adopted countries*
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