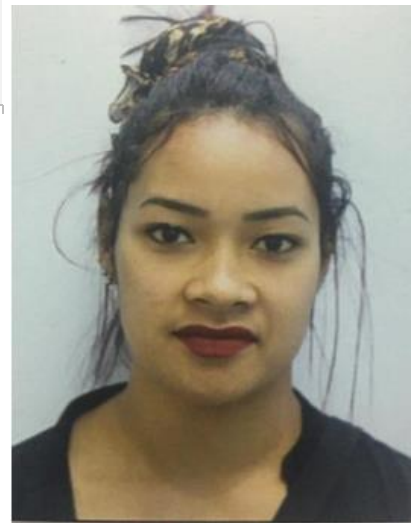


## 29. Ms. Malia PASEKA

Current Position: Board Member of Tonga National Taekwondo Association  
Date of Birth: August 30, 2000  
Gender: Female  
Nationality: Tonga  
Language: Tongan, English



### A. Qualification & Experience in Taekwondo

- *I have been practicing the Art of Taekwondo for the Last 10 years and have reached milestones such as gaining my Black Belt, and most recently Qualifying for the 2020/21 Tokyo Olympic Games. I am the first Female to ever Qualify for the Olympics in the Sport of Taekwondo for our tiny Island Kingdom of Tonga. This achievement was through the ongoing support and encouragement of our National Federation, Coach, Officials and Family. With this achievement, I am so Overwhelmed and Humbled. I sincerely hope that it will set an example for Young Women in Tonga and the Pacific Region to empower them with their dreams to never give up and keep on going despite all the odds.*
- *Through this Olympic Journey, I have gained Experience on the International Stage, competing in the Australia Open in 2019, as Well as winning a Bronze Medal at the South Pacific Games in Samoa – 2019 for Individual Female fighter, and Gold for Female Team Fight. Adding to this List is winning the Gold medal at the Olympic Qualification Tournament for Oceania Region for Tonga.*

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

- *Throughout the years I have been involved with various Sports in Tonga, such as Netball and Rugby at different levels. I have represented Tonga in the Female Rugby 7's in 2019 in Fiji after the South Pacific Games.*
- *I am currently working at the Tonga Airport Limited (Fuamotu International Airport) as a VIP Lounge Attendant. My role and profession lies in the areas of Customer Care and Service, as I serve the VIP Passengers that are awaiting to travel Overseas and Inter Islands.*

### C. Education

- *In 2018 I graduated from Tonga High School Form Seven, Completing my National Form Seven Certificate. Since graduating from High School, I have commenced Tertiary Study at The University of the South Pacific in Tonga (USP), Working towards a Bachelor in Geography.*
- *On the road to Qualifying for the Olympics and now preparing to Compete at the Tokyo Olympics, I have put my studies on hold, and look forward to continuing my studies after the Olympics.*

**D. Vision for WT in next 4-years**

- *To develop Taekwondo in the Oceania Region, especially for Female Athletes and Leaders. I believe that we have a strong base of Female athletes and Leaders, they will be role models for our next generation and help prevent Domestic Violence in women and children.*
  - *To encourage Women in Sport and encourage females of all ages into taekwondo especially those coming disadvantaged backgrounds.*
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