

## 30. Mr. Pita Nikolas TAUFATOFUA



Current Position: Board Member of Tonga National Taekwondo Association  
Date of Birth: November 5, 1983  
Gender: Male  
Nationality: Tonga  
Language: Tongan, English

### A. Qualification & Experience in Taekwondo

- *Started taekwondo at the age of 5 and have been doing it for 33 years*
- *Currently a 4th Degree Black Belt and two time heavyweight Olympian in Taekwondo for Tonga*

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

- *I have qualified and competed in two sports at the summer and winter Olympics. The second sport, cross country skiing; I reached Olympic level qualification in under a year in a new sport. I am also currently a kayaker working to be the first person to qualify and compete in three different Olympic sports. I credit this accomplishment and skill set to my upbringing as a taekwondo athlete.*
- *For 15 years I worked in Youth homeless shelters, helping disadvantaged youth overcome a myriad of challenges from depression to self-harm and all levels of mental health. From these years I learnt just how capable we are to overcome challenges when given the right environment and assistance. My work in youth shelters and my Olympic endeavors led me to my role as the first ever UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador to the Pacific. I have spoken and advocated on behalf of the Oceania youth at the United Nations amongst other stages.*
- *I am the author of 'The Motivation Station' and speak on motivation and self-development with a corporate audience including AIRBNB, MIT and INTEL. I have a passion for the environment and do a lot of work travelling to schools and community groups for Youth in the Pacific.*

### C. Education

- *Highschool- Tonga High School/St Peters Lutheran College year 12 completed*
- *Majoring in Mechanical engineering and a minor in Materials Engineering*
- *Masters of Engineering Science (hold)– University of Qld*
- *Fifteen years as a Youth Homeless Councilor*

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

- *World Taekwondo has been a staple in my life since I started my taekwondo journey over thirty years ago. I had the pleasure of meeting President Choue for my first time in Korea while preparing for the 2008 Beijing Olympic qualifiers. President Choue asked me why I did taekwondo. My answer was to become strong and disciplined enough to get Tonga to its first Olympics for taekwondo. President Choue looked at me and said 'No, The purpose of Taekwondo is to positively change the World'. These words remained in my mind for the last 12 years and helped influence my role in the homeless shelters and with UNICEF in the pacific.*
  - *To use taekwondo and all the benefits it brings the youth to positively change the World. To create opportunity in Oceania for the kids to experience Taekwondo and in doing so to improve their lives. I would work to improve the standard of health for all those in Oceania through the uptake and development of Taekwondo. Finding ways to increase female and youth participation while limiting barriers would be a pivotal part of my work. I believe that taekwondo has the ability to do this in a massive way and I would work to be a driver in this area.*
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