

PRESS RELEASE



8 July 2019

Chinese Taipei collects all silvers while golds go to South Korea

NAPOLI, 8 July – The second day of taekwondo started with the men's and women's semifinals in team poomsae and mixed pairs poomsae. The sun shone brightly through the glass roof of the Palazzetto dello Sport centre, filling the hall with natural daylight. The athletes competed in challenging conditions as the temperature inside the arena soared.

After the second competition day in taekwondo, South Korea won all gold medals of all events that took place on Monday. Chinese Taipei took all the silver medals that were on offer, in all three categories of poomsae. Iran won bronze in men's team event, Thailand in the women's team event and Mexico in the pair's event.

Thirteen men's teams entered the stage in the afternoon to display synchronised actions with striking energy. They performed koryo followed by keumgang. Team Korea, the winner of team poomsae at Taipei 2017, was outstanding on the mat. The trio showed delightful speed and stability. Their score of 7.866 moved them to the top position when four teams were still awaiting the entry.

The Iranian team that had a third-place winner in individual poomsae presented an excellent range of movements and was very accurate. Their second pattern helped them outperform South Korea and advance to the final in the first position.

Later on, pairs from 18 countries displayed their skills in keumgang and taebaek. Being the first one to present, the duet from South Korea set a high standard for all the others. Precise side hicks and great techniques allowed them to score impressive 7.749 points. The pair from Chinese Taipei was able to get close to that score (7.483) having demonstrated beautiful angles in sidekicks. A disconnect in synchronisation between the athletes from China ruined all their hopes of getting a place in the final. Germany again qualified for the finals in the eighth position.

In the men's team finals, the athletes were starting in reverse order. Every country was delivering a higher score than its predecessor. The German men's team was able to slightly improve the semifinal score and finished in seventh place.

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Steven Behn from the German team later said "It was cool to be in the final. We were happy to be on the stage and show our freestyle because it is our specialty. The atmosphere was amazing."

After the first traditional pattern of taebaek, Iran was leading in the ranking. A small mistake in the freestyle pattern decreased their final score to 7.460 and moved them to third place. It was then the moment for South Korea to celebrate their gold. The trio was in perfect unison and performed impressive acrobatics. Chinese Taipei won silver.

Team member Cheng-Gang Li told FISU, "I am thankful to my teammates for everything. In the past I had an injury but together we managed to get a silver medal."

The women's team from South Korea was the only team that achieved a score higher than seven. One of the athletes had to use her hands to balance after the last piece of acrobatics. Despite that, they still had a large gap and finish with impressive 7.240 points. The delegation from Thailand had only three athletes and took their chance to compete in women's and pairs' pomsae.

P. Phaisankiattikun, who had to undergo a surgery just one week earlier said she was happy she decided to compete. "I always think about my team," she said. "The injury could not stop me from supporting my teammates. I am happy we used this chance and won bronze."

Finally, the winner of two gold medals - in teams and pairs events - Yebin Hwang shared her emotions with FISU. "I find it difficult to express with words how happy I am. I am now confused and cannot say if it is a dream or reality that has just happened to me."

Tomorrow, on July 9, men will be competing in weight categories 63-68kg and 74-80 kg, while women will fight for medals in the weight category 53-57 kg. It will be the first day when athletes will be facing opponents from other countries. The competition will start in the early morning with preliminary rounds that will define the best participants for semifinals and finals. Two days later, there will be competitions in higher weight categories.

Results

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Team Poomsae (Men)

Gold: South Korea (7.820)

Silver: Chinese Taipei (7.480)

Bronze: Islamic Republic of Iran (7.460)

Team Poomsae (Women)

Gold: South Korea (7.240)

Silver: Chinese Taipei (6.930)

Bronze: Thailand (6.780)

Mixed Pair Poomsae

Gold: South Korea (7.630)

Silver: Chinese Taipei (7.450)

Bronze: Mexico (7.300)

The International University Sports Federation – FISU

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Founded in 1949, FISU stands for Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (International University Sports Federation). FISU was formed within university institutions in order to promote sports values and sports practice in harmony with the university spirit. Promoting sports values means encouraging friendship, fraternity, fair-play, perseverance, integrity and cooperation amongst students, who one day may have responsibilities and key positions in politics, economy, culture and industry.

With FISU's motto being 'Today's Stars, Tomorrow's Leaders', all FISU events include educational and cultural aspects, bringing together sport and academia from all over the world to celebrate with a spirit of friendship and sportsmanship. FISU cooperates in developing its events and programmes with all major international sports and educational organisations. As major outcomes of those collaborations, in 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) proclaimed the International Day of University Sport to be celebrated annually on 20 September – an event that has seen huge growth in its first few years.

FISU is composed of 174 Member Associations (National University Sports Federations). The FISU General Assembly elects the members of the FISU Executive Committee, its board of directors. A total of 14 permanent committees advise the Executive Committee in their specialised areas. For the daily administration of FISU, the FISU Executive Committee relies on the Secretary General, who is assisted by the FISU staff. FISU's headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland.

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