



4. Mr. KOTSIFAS John

- Current Position: Former WT Vice President
- Date of Birth: March 30, 1959
- Language: English, Greek
- Gender: Male
- Nationality: Australia

A. Qualification & Experience in Taekwondo

- Vice President - World Taekwondo
- President - Oceania Taekwondo Union
- Council Member - World Taekwondo
- Secretary General - Oceania Taekwondo Union
- President - Sports Taekwondo Australia
- 5th Dan – Kukkiwon

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

I am an experienced lawyer with over 34 years in legal practice, specializing in both sports and immigration law. I currently serve as a member of Australia's National Immigration Tribunal, where I adjudicate complex matters, including refugee and protection visa appeals. In 2021, I was honored to secure Australian refugee visas for several female Taekwondo athletes from Afghanistan, ensuring their safety and future in sport.

My commitment to sport spans more than three decades. I have over 30 years' experience in sports governance, having served as a World Taekwondo Council Member for the past 10 years in my capacity as President of the Oceania Taekwondo Union. My leadership has focused on regional development, integrity in governance, and increasing athlete opportunities across Oceania.

In 2000, I was appointed by the Australian Olympic Committee to manage the Australian Taekwondo Team for the Sydney Olympic Games. In 2004, I was personally appointed by IOC Member and then AOC President John Coates to manage five sports—Weightlifting, Wrestling, Fencing, Modern Pentathlon, and Synchronized Swimming—at the Athens Olympic Games.

In recognition of my service to Taekwondo and Australian sport, I was awarded the Australian Sports Medal by the Prime Minister in 2000.

With a unique combination of legal expertise, Olympic-level sports administration, and deep regional and international Taekwondo experience, I bring a vision for a more democratic, transparent, and inclusive World Taekwondo. I am committed to reform that benefits every member nation—large or small—and ensures that our athletes, federations, and regions all have an equal voice in shaping our sport's global future.

C. Education

- Bachelor of Laws
- Bachelor of Economics
- Post Graduate Diploma in Labour Relations Law

D. Vision for WT in next 4-years

A Bold Vision for a Democratic and United World Taekwondo

As Vice President, I will work to build a fairer, more inclusive, and globally representative World Taekwondo—one that reflects the values of our sport and empowers all its members.

One Member, One Vote

All MNAs must have equal voting rights and access to WT benefits. No nation should be excluded from decision-making or support. Every MNA, large or small, must have a seat at the table.

True Continental Representation

WT Council members representing each continent must be elected only by MNAs from their region. Allowing outside votes weakens accountability and undermines regional voice. Let each continent speak for itself.

Leadership by Elected Officials

A democratically elected Executive Committee must oversee daily operations. Currently, the President and unelected staff make all decisions—this is outdated and undemocratic. Like other international federations, WT must modernize.

Empowering CUs in Governance

Continental Unions must nominate WT committee members. At present, these are appointed solely by the President. This must change to reflect shared ownership and ensure regional expertise guides global policy.

Global Development & Financial Equity

We must provide core administrative funding to all MNAs and significantly invest in grassroots development—especially in the poorest nations across all continents where Taekwondo remains underdeveloped or unsupported.

Olympic Qualification Reform

The current Olympic qualification system must be restructured to allow more nations a realistic pathway to qualify athletes. The Games should reflect global participation, not just regional powerhouses.

A Global Forum for the Future

WT must host a bi-annual conference of all MNAs and CUs to collectively shape its strategic direction and vision. This will be a platform for unity, transparency, and progress.