

## Karate-World in Olympic Buzz

Karate is included into the Olympic program of the 32<sup>nd</sup> summer games in Tokyo with 6 categories. The yesterday proclaimed resolution of the "Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games" and the "International Olympic Committee" still needs approval, but that is merely a formality, say insiders.

After the World Karate Federation´s (WKF) failed application for Rio 2016 the excitement was, especially in Austria, huge. "That it our world championship´s extra kick", say the both organizers Ewald Roth and Hans Werner Streicher delighted. In just over a year the big event takes place in Linz, more than 130 nations are expected in Upper Austria.

Local athletes, who prepare intensively for the World Championships 2016, are very delighted. One of them, European Master Bettina Plank, who won the first Austrian Olympic Silver Medal in Karate at the European Games in Baku, says "It is unbelievable, next year we have home World Championships and then there are the Olympic Games in Japan, the motherland of Karate in 2020. That is just perfect!", highly motivated. Plank, who is currently one of Austria´s medal hopes next to Alisa Buchinger, would be 27 in 2020, which is the golden age for a Karateka, add her coaches.

Additionally to the inclusion in the Olympic Program for Tokyo, Karate was recently accepted in the Paralympic Program. "Austria is setting new international standards" claims Hans Werner Streicher, head of the organizing committee. He refers to the full inclusion of the competitions of people with disabilities into the World Championships´ program. Just a short while ago the strategy regarding this inclusion could be adjusted with the WKF. Streicher and Roth put it straight that "the Home-WC is not only going to be a cultural and athletic highlight in 2016, but will be a totally new dimension of a sport event".

Apropos – everyone who wants to join the WC 2016 live, the ticket sale starts in November. More information at [www.karate2016.at](http://www.karate2016.at).

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