



KARATE NOVA SCOTIA

President's Follow-up to the 2018 Halifax Nationals

I am very proud to say that our 2018 National Karate Championships in Halifax was a huge success.

I have also had the opportunity to thank nearly all of the individuals - in person - for the major roles they played over the past week, month, and year(s) – in order to make this Halifax Championship a reality. I will continue to do so - in order to let you know how special and important you are to KNS, and in particular your role at the National Championships.

For me personally, it was a four year process that resulted in a celebration that will last a lifetime. Thank you all so much for the hundreds of handshakes, hugs, messages, and congratulatory conversations - that made every second leading up to this week – both worthwhile and rewarding.

I would like to now recognize all the various groups that came together, in order to make an event of this magnitude, such a memorable and successful gathering for KNS Members, as well as our friends, families, and fellow karatekas throughout the entire country.

First of all, thank you to the administrative teams from both Karate NS and Karate Canada. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) worked endlessly on the items that were needed to be constructed, put in place, relocated, developed, set-up, and often rearranged. This team, of well over 100 individuals, consisted of our LOC Team Leaders, their various Committee Members, our expert Medical Team, and of course the dozens of Volunteers that made our management team and work force second to none in the country.

Also, the members of our Provincial Executive and Board, and the National Organizing Committee (NOC), who oversaw the entire process, with constant support and expertise, throughout each of the planning and implementation stages.

Thank you to the Province of Nova Scotia and the City of Halifax for all their administrative and financial support. Thanks to their sponsorship, we were able to have our Athletes' Village and Karate Canada Administration Team, including their various programs and events - right in Downtown Halifax at 5 major hotels - with some of the best food and entertainment just steps away.

And then there is the beautiful Halifax Canada Games Centre, our Competition Venue, where we hosted the largest National Championships in Karate Canada History – and our 2018 Championship is also the largest event ever to be held at the Halifax Canada Games Centre.

In addition, I would like to recognize the support of the production team, who I was able to reach out to through my Partnerships in the World of Robotics:



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- Advanced Systems - oversaw all the elements dealing with seating, staging, and sound.
- Bell TV1 - who provided the Video and Live Streaming, free of charge to viewers world-wide from our Halifax event.

From the World of Music, special recognition to two very special groups of individuals that have been with me in so many events over the past number of years – especially at this year’s Nationals:

- SQUID, who “Piped and Drummed” Team Nova Scotia into the Welcome Ceremonies at the Canada Games Centre, in a way that will be remembered for generations to come
- The FOCUS Band, who brought our weekend to a close with a Nova Scotia Kitchen Party, with all those in attendance singing and dancing - as they overlooked the beautiful Halifax Harbour.

I would like to personally say a special Thank You to our Nova Scotia Coaches and Officials. Thank You to our Provincial Coaches for your dedication to each and every team member during the entire year – not just at the Championships. Thanks as well to the Officials, who give their valuable time and expertise throughout the competition season, so that our Athletes can take part in a safe and secure environment.

Congratulations to the Parents, Guardians, and Mentors - who have travelled tirelessly over the months and years to the many practices, competitions, and Championships – it was especially nice this year for everyone to travel right here at home - to Halifax – where we proudly hosted the rest of Canada, for the first time in 13 years.

And last and most important of all, our Athletes – after all, you are the reason we are all here. Your outstanding athletic performances, in addition to being our proud ambassadors of Karate Nova Scotia and the Province of Nova Scotia - have made us all so very proud.

To Everyone - Thank You All So Much for your Dedication, your Teamwork, and your Ongoing Support. We all deserve to be very proud - as we represented Karate Nova Scotia in this Memorable and Historic “National Championship of 2018”

Yours in Karate

Gary

Gary Walsh
President - Karate Nova Scotia
Director - Karate Canada Board