

IKF Official in the spotlight: Esther Han

Esther Han is the chair of the Asia Competition Working Group (ACWG), member of the IKF Competition Committee and IKF Jury Member.

Esther is from Chinese Taipei and got involved with korfball during her study at the university. Originally a basketball player, she fell in love with korfball, as it was seen as 'more gentle'. As a tall, skinny player, she felt more in her place with korfball. After a while, she became a player of the national team of Chinese Taipei, and she competed in multiple editions of the World Games and the World Korfball Championships. After retiring as a player, she took a break from korfball. Two years ago she got involved with the IKF and became the chair of the IKF Asia Competition Working Group..

The ACWG falls directly under the IKF Competition Committee and is concerned with the coordination of the IKF Asia Events. The committee is in charge of finding hosts, appointing officials and aligning the details of the event with the host. These tasks come with their challenges.

Esther: 'When we started to organise IKF Asia events, I noticed that there is a lack of high-order competition officials from various countries. Our goal is to increase the population of high-standard IKF officials from Asian countries. If you want to have good competition, besides good teams you must also have good IKF officials. These factors are equally important and are integral'.

Furthermore, Esther notes that is a challenge to find suitable hosts for the events. The top of korfball countries in the continent is small and there are not a lot of countries that can expect to claim the medals in events. Countries are not always eager to organise an event if their national team has only a minor chance of achieving great things during such an event.

The Asia Competition Working Group will address these challenges through education and knowledge exchange: "We will arrange some courses or seminars just before the IKF Asia events and invite the potential IKF officials. For example, we can arrange the courses for referees and jury, and they will have the opportunity to practice during the events. I think it can accelerate this capability as IKF Officials".

Korfball has brought a lot of happy moments and memories into Esther's life. She met her husband while playing korfball and she has made a lot of korfball friends that she gets to see at IKF events. One of her best memories is from the World Games 2017 in Wroclaw, where she was present as fan of the Chinese Taipei team: 'As a player, the best result that we got internationally was third place. Although we came very close to Belgium a couple of times, we've never ever defeated them, so you can imagine how excited I was when the Chinese Taipei team won the second place last World Games in Wroclaw. I am very lucky to witness the moment. It is the best memory that I have in IKF events"

