



# TAEKWONDO VICTORIA

I N C O R P O R A T E D

A D I V I S I O N O F T A E K W O N D O A U S T R A L I A



## Open Letter From The President

### Re Costs For TVI Tournaments in 2011

Dear Members,

This letter is in response to a couple of e-mails we have received in regard to the cost of TVI tournaments in 2011. The writers were questioning the rising cost of entry fees and, as this is an issue that affects all of us, I thought it would be easier to give a single explanation here where everyone can read it.

Firstly, a lot of thought does go into the pricing of TVI tournaments. On the one hand, we do our best to keep tournament prices affordable for everyone. On the other hand, we have to make sure that we cover tournament costs and, yes, there also needs to be a modest profit. Tournaments are still the Association's main source of income and TVI's operating costs, purchase and maintenance of equipment, sponsorships for athletes, etc, have to come from somewhere. In addition, the last couple of Referee and Coaching courses have been heavily subsidised and run at a loss to encourage greater participation, as without sufficient Coaches and Referees the tournaments simply won't run.

Obviously, the individual members of the TVI Executive also run their own clubs, in addition to the time they voluntarily sacrifice to run TVI's day-to-day operations. We also have students who compete at these tournaments and we also feel the bite when prices go up. So it is in everyone's best interest that we get the balance right.

You would all be aware that prices are going up for just about everything we buy and many of you have probably experienced substantial price hikes on rental for your club venues in recent times. It has been the same for tournament venues and it is no secret that to run a two day tournament at the State Netball Centre, of the magnitude that TVI runs, now costs in the order of \$10,000 per day. i.e. a total cost of around \$20,000 for the weekend – and this is after we have introduced a number of cost cutting measures.

One way of reducing the main overhead cost is to switch to a cheaper venue, such as the stadium in Box Hill that we used earlier this year. Unfortunately that venue is not as spectator friendly and we received numbers of complaints about the lack of seating, quality of seating, distance/accessibility issues for players from the other side of the city, etc.

All that said, the TVI Executive is actively looking for alternative venues and would appreciate any feedback you may have about venues or proposed venues in your area. We are already investigating a soon to be built stadium in the Diamond Creek area which we understand will have seating for around 900 spectators. However, building has not yet commenced, so this option is still a year or two away.

In reference to entry fees at TVI tournaments, one or two people have attempted to draw comparisons with what an alternative association may be charging. My response is for them to take a closer look at the bigger picture. A big distinction between us and the current alternative is that, while we may charge a little more for our State level competitions, most of the profit goes straight back into providing services for our members and athletes and sponsorships for our international competitors. Under TVI's system, when we or TA select athletes for overseas competitions, we do our best to support and assist them and minimise their out-of-pocket expenses.

Conversely, the current alternative association provides few if any services for their members or athletes that we can detect, and provides no funding for any athletes at all. They run much smaller competitions and their most recent effort is actually three small comps piggy-backed all on one day. But while they may charge a little less for their State level comps, which are generally bypassed by serious competitors, they appear to be offsetting their losses by charging exorbitant fees for entries in the concurrent Selection event (over 220% x the TVI entry fee). Thus it would appear that the elite players are being milked to prop up two poorly patronised minor comps. On top of this, recent experience would suggest that a successful competitor from such Selection can then look forward to paying much more than the actual value of any overseas trip they are selected for, so that team officials can fly Business Class while the athletes fly economy down the back of the plane. Under such a system, only the wealthy can afford to become "elite athletes" and all athletes come a very poor second.

Each of you are free to use your own moral compass to decide which system you would prefer to support.

Barry Akehurst

President  
TaeKwondo Victoria Inc.