

IFMA: A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

Annual Report 2022



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FOREWORDS | HONORARY PRESIDENT

Dear esteemed members and friends of IFMA,

It is with utmost pleasure that I present to you the IFMA 2022 Annual Report, a testament to the resiliency and perseverance of our organization in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Despite the global pandemic, we have remained steadfast in our mission to promote and develop Muaythai as a cultural art form and sport around the world.

In 2022, IFMA has achieved remarkable progress in expanding our community, with a record number of athletes and national federations participating in our events and activities. Our focus on athlete safety, anti-doping measures, and sustainability has remained steadfast, as we continue to strive towards making Muaythai a safe, fair, and socially responsible sport.

This year has seen a truly remarkable display of unity and solidarity among the IFMA family, as we came together to navigate the uncertainties and challenges brought on by the pandemic. Our success in these challenging times is a testament to the hard work and

dedication of our members, officials, athletes, and partners, who have remained unwavering in their support of the sport we all love.

Looking forward, IFMA is poised to build on our momentum and expand our reach and impact in the years to come. We remain committed to promoting the values of tradition, respect, and fair play that are at the heart of Muaythai, while also embracing innovation and growth.

As you explore this report, I hope it will inspire and inform you of the progress we have made and the opportunities that lie ahead. I am grateful for your continued support of IFMA, and I look forward to our continued success in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Sakchye TAPSUWAN

Honorary President, International
Federation of Muaythai Associations
(IFMA)

FOREWORDS | DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear valued members and friends of IFMA,

As we reflect on the past year, it is with great pride that we present to you the IFMA 2022 Annual Report. This report is a testament to the dedication and resilience of our organization in the face of unprecedented challenges. Despite the impact of the global pandemic, IFMA has continued to adapt and evolve to meet the needs of our members and promote the growth of Muaythai around the world.

Throughout 2022, IFMA has remained committed to advancing the sport of Muaythai in all its facets. We have continued to prioritize athlete safety, integrity, and fairness, while also working to expand our global reach and impact. Our events and activities have brought together athletes, officials, coaches, and fans from around the world, showcasing the best of Muaythai and promoting its values of tradition, respect, and fair play.

We have also taken significant steps towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of Muaythai, with initiatives focused on environmental

responsibility, community development, and social impact. These efforts reflect our commitment to promoting Muaythai not just as a sport, but as a force for positive change in the world.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the unwavering support of our members, partners, and stakeholders. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of IFMA over the past year. Your dedication and commitment to the sport of Muaythai are truly inspiring, and we are grateful for your continued support.

As we look ahead to the future, we are excited to continue building on our progress and expanding the reach and impact of Muaythai around the world. I hope that this report will inspire and inform you of the progress we have made, and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of IFMA, and I look forward to our continued success together.

Sincerely,



Charissa TYNAN

IFMA Director General

LOOKING AHEAD

2023 Senior World Championships - IFMA 30 Years | Bids

The IFMA World Championships is a highly prestigious event that brings together the best Muay Thai athletes from around the world to compete for the title of world champion. It is a celebration of the sport's rich cultural heritage and provides a platform for up-and-coming athletes to demonstrate their skills and abilities. The event is an important part of the development and growth of Muay Thai and is eagerly anticipated by fans and participants alike.

In 2023, the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) will celebrate its 30th anniversary. The upcoming event in 2023 will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the organization over the past three decades. IFMA has worked tirelessly to promote and develop Muay Thai as a sport, and has played a key role in gaining the sport's recognition as part of the Olympic movement. The organization has also focused on promoting the cultural

heritage of Muay Thai and supporting the sport's development in developing countries. With its commitment to promoting the sport and its cultural heritage, the IFMA World Championships will continue to be an important platform for Muay Thai athletes to showcase their skills and abilities on the world stage.

2023 European Olympic Games | Krakow, Poland

The 2023 European Olympic Games will be held in Krakow, Poland, and will feature a new addition to its sports program. Muaythai has been announced as an official sport in the European Games for the first time.

This marks a significant milestone for Muaythai, as it is now recognized as an Olympic sport and has the potential to be included in future Olympic Games. Muaythai has grown in popularity worldwide, with many countries now actively promoting and developing the sport.

The inclusion of Muaythai in the European Games provides a platform for elite Muaythai athletes to compete at a high level and showcase their skills on an international stage. It also raises the

profile of the sport and promotes its cultural heritage.

The European Games will feature a wide range of sports disciplines, including Olympic and non-Olympic events. With the addition of Muaythai, the event will offer even more variety and excitement for both athletes and spectators. The games will also feature cultural and entertainment events, bringing together people from across Europe to celebrate sport and cultural exchange.

2023 Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games

| Bangkok-Chonburi Province, Thailand

The Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) is an important event for martial arts enthusiasts and athletes from all over Asia. The next edition of the AIMAG is set to take place in Bangkok and Chonburi Province in Thailand in 2023, and will run between November 17 and 26.

Among the twenty-nine medal sports and two demonstration sports included in the AIMAG programme, Muaythai is a notable addition. The Muaythai competitions at the AIMAG are highly competitive, with athletes from all over Asia vying for the gold medal. The

competition is also an opportunity for Muaythai to gain more recognition and exposure on the world stage, as the sport continues to grow in popularity around the world.

The AIMAG in 2023 will feature a total of 305 events, offering athletes the opportunity to compete for 297 gold medals. Eleven venues will be located in Bangkok, while seven will be in Chonburi province. The event's fighting parrot mascot and the AIMAG emblem, the Garland of Unity, have been unveiled.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIMAG has been moved twice, with the original dates of May 2021 and March 2022 being rescheduled. However, the event remains an exciting prospect for fans of martial arts and sports enthusiasts, with Muaythai being one of the many disciplines set to take center stage at this prestigious event. The last edition of the AIMAG was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in 2017.

2023 World Combat Games

| Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The World Combat Games is a multi-sport event organized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)

that brings together elite athletes from various combat sports every three years. The event features a diverse range of combat sports, including boxing, wrestling, judo, taekwondo, karate, sambo, Muaythai, and more, ensuring that there is something for everyone to enjoy. The competition not only provides a unique platform for athletes to demonstrate their skills and abilities but also offers an opportunity for cultural exchange between nations. In addition to the sporting competitions, the games also feature cultural events that showcase the host country's traditions and customs. The World Combat Games have been widely regarded as a huge success and an important step in the development of combat sports and their recognition as part of the Olympic movement. It is a significant international sporting event that is eagerly anticipated by fans of combat sports and serves as a testament to the power of sports to unite people and promote mutual understanding and respect.

2022 AT A GLANCE

2022 Senior World Championships

| Abu Dhabi, UAE

The IFMA World Muaythai Championship 2022 was a highly anticipated event that brought together more than 800 participants and 600 athletes from all over the world. The championship was held in the beautiful city of Abu Dhabi, UAE, which provided the perfect backdrop for this global competition.

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) Hall 5 was the venue for the championship, which was held from May 26 to June 04, 2022. The competition was divided into two divisions, the under 23 and Elite divisions, and saw athletes from six continents competing for podium positions. The championship was the pinnacle event for the world's top athletes, and it was a privilege for Abu Dhabi to host it.

Apart from being a prestigious competition, the event was also the first in the qualification series of the World Combat Games 2023 in Riyadh. Gold medallists directly qualified for the

games, while other finalists gained valuable qualification points in the rankings race for the Games. This made the championship even more significant, as athletes were not only competing for podium positions but also for a chance to represent their countries at the World Combat Games.

Abu Dhabi's first-time hosting the Muaythai World Championship was a massive success. The eight-day action-packed schedule featured more than 100 nations and 600+ athletes battling it out on the grounds. The championship was not just about the competition, but also about the cultural exchange that took place. The event included diverse cultural activities, social and executive meetings, seminars, workshops, in addition to the main prestigious event the "World Championship."

It was a spectacular event that displayed the best of Muaythai from around the world. It was an exciting time for the future stars of this combat sport, who had the opportunity to compete at the highest level and showcase their skills to the world. The championship brought together people from different countries and cultures, and it was a celebration of diversity and unity in the world of sport.

2022 World Games

| Birmingham, AL, USA

The 2022 World Games held in Birmingham, Alabama, United States was a highly anticipated event for the Muaythai community. Originally scheduled to take place in 2021, the Games were rescheduled to July 2022 due to the postponement of the 2020 Summer Olympics caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Muaythai tournaments were held from 15 to 17 July 2022 at the Boutwell Memorial Auditorium, which was an ideal venue for such a highly competitive event.

This was the second time that Muaythai was included in the World Games, and it attracted participants from all over the world. The competition format was highly competitive, with the number of weight classes for men being reduced from eight to six, and the women's weight classes increased from three to six. It was a historic moment for the sport as it achieved full gender equality for the first time in the event's history.

The men's matches were contested in the six weight classes, namely featherweight (57 kg), light welterweight (63.5 kg), welterweight (67 kg), light middleweight (71 kg), light heavyweight (81 kg), and heavyweight (91 kg). The women's matches were also highly

competitive and contested in the six weight classes, namely light flyweight (48 kg), flyweight (51 kg), bantamweight (54 kg), featherweight (57 kg), lightweight (60 kg), and light welterweight (63.5 kg).

The tournament witnessed some of the best Muaythai athletes in the world displaying their skills and fighting spirit. The matches were intense and highly entertaining, leaving the spectators in awe of the athletes' capabilities. The athletes displayed a remarkable level of physical and mental strength, endurance, and technical expertise, making it a memorable event for all those who witnessed it.

In conclusion, the 2022 World Games Muaythai tournaments were an exceptional event that marked a significant milestone for the sport. With full gender equality achieved, it provided a platform for both men and women to compete at the highest level. The highly competitive tournament witnessed some of the best athletes in the world and highlighted the sport's physical and mental demands, making it an unforgettable event for all the spectators and participants.

SEA Games

| Hanoi, Vietnam

Muaythai was one of the most popular sports featured at the 31st South-East Asian Games (SEA Games) held in Hanoi, Vietnam. Widely practiced around the world Muaythai made its sixth appearance at the once-every-two-years regional SEA Games, drawing in participants and enthusiasts from all over Southeast Asia.

The International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) recognizes six different disciplines of Muaythai, each with its unique set of rules and techniques. Of these six disciplines, two were contested at the 2022 SEA Games, including the combat version of Muaythai, which is the principal version of the sport competed at various multi-sport events worldwide.

The SEA Games provided an excellent opportunity for Muaythai athletes to present their skills and fighting spirit, and spectators were left in awe of their capabilities. With eleven events held across two disciplines in the sport in Vietnam, the Muaythai tournament displayed the finest talents of the region. One of the highlights of the event was the introduction of wai kru, a ceremonial and cultural introduction to each Muay Thai bout. Introduced in

2019, wai kru became a standalone competition at this year's SEA Games, adding an extra level of competition to the sport.

Wai kru is performed by every Muaythai boxer before a contest and is a critical aspect of the sport's cultural significance. Athletes performing the wai kru ritual were judged based on their performance, adding an additional layer of complexity to the already physically and mentally demanding sport. The athletes displayed remarkable physical and mental strength, endurance, and technical expertise, making it a memorable event for all those who witnessed it.

The 2022 SEA Games Muaythai tournament was an exceptional event that highlighted the sport's popularity and cultural significance in the Southeast Asian region. With two disciplines contested and the inclusion of wai kru as a standalone competition, it provided a platform for athletes to display their skills and highlight the sport's physical and mental demands. The event was a resounding success, attracting enthusiasts and athletes from all over the region, and was an unforgettable experience for all the spectators and participants.

2022 University World Cup Combat Sports

| Samsun, Turkey

The Opening Ceremony of the FISU University World Cup Combat Games 2022 welcomed university nak muay from five continents to the beautiful city of Samsun.

The FISU University World Cup Combat Sports competition format was created to supplement other FISU competitions. The cup embraced a university-versus-university format instead of national delegations, making it a game-changer. The main goal of the cup was to offer the chance to go global to those who might not otherwise have an opportunity to compete on the international university sports scene. With this event, FISU sought to improve the role and significance of university sport for student athletes.

IFMA has been a longstanding member of FISU since 2015 when Muaythai first joined the FISU events programme and was honored to have its athletes participate in this year's University World Cup Combat Games.

The FISU University World Cup Combat Sports saw the world's best university athletes battle it out in six IOC recognized sports: Boxing, Karate,

Muaythai, SAMBO, Wrestling, and Wushu. All the six sports of this unique event have been on the FISU sports programme for several years as part of the biennial FISU World University Championship events or, in some cases, part of the FISU World University Games programme. These same sports will also be part of The World Combat Games 2023 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

2022 European Championships | Istanbul, Turkey

The European Muaythai Championships held in Istanbul proved to be a highly significant event, attracting the participation of over 1000 athletes and officials hailing from 40 European countries. The tournament brought together the best Muaythai athletes from across Europe who vied for the coveted title of European champion. A diverse array of weight classes and disciplines were featured, and the level of competition was impressively high, with athletes showcasing their skills and techniques in the ring.

Aside from serving as a platform for competition, the championship also provided an avenue for cultural exchange between the participating

nations. The athletes and officials were afforded the opportunity to immerse themselves in the unique blend of Turkish and European cultures in Istanbul, while gaining insights into each other's training methodologies and techniques.

A European Clean Sport Conference was also held during the European Muaythai Championships in Istanbul, organized by the International Testing Agency (ITA) in conjunction with the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA). The conference was attended by renowned experts in the field of anti-doping, as well as representatives from various national and international sports organizations. The conference's main goal was to discuss and share ideas on how to prevent and detect doping in combat sports. Presentations and discussions were held on various topics related to clean sport, including the latest developments in anti-doping testing, the importance of education and prevention, and the role of athletes, coaches, and sports organizations in promoting clean sport. A panel discussion with top-level athletes was also held, emphasizing the significance of fair play and ethical conduct in sports.

To promote cultural understanding and peace, a special evening was hosted by the Turkish Muaythai Federation, in collaboration with EMF and IFMA, and with the support of the National Sport Development Fund of Thailand. All VIP delegates and distinguished guests enjoyed a delightful dinner cruise on the Bosphorus Strait, which is renowned as the most scenic and romantic part of Istanbul. The President of the Turkish Muaythai Federation welcomed all the delegates and encouraged fellow federation leaders to stand together in solidarity and unity, promoting peace. The evening brought together all heads of delegations, including representatives of Russia and Ukraine, which served to underscore the unifying aspect of Muaythai that transcends politics and borders, and aims to secure a brighter future for the next generation.

2022 Youth World Championships

| Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The 2022 IFMA Youth World Championships took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, marking the largest post-pandemic sporting event in the country. Over 100 countries participated in the event, which celebrated unity in

diversity and provided a platform for cultural exchange.

The opening ceremony, held at Sunway Lagoon Beach, was a spectacular showcase of traditional Malay performances that demonstrated the rich cultural heritage of Malaysia. One of the highlights of the ceremony was a touching moment when 101 youth flag bearers, dressed in traditional attire, paraded onto the main stage.

IFMA Secretary General Stephan Fox expressed his gratitude to the Malaysian government and the Malaysian Convention Bureau for providing a safe environment for the event. Fox emphasized that the IFMA Youth World Championships are the organization's flagship event, bringing together youth from around the world to celebrate diversity and recognize each other's achievements.

The event began with the fundamental Anti-Doping World Conference, followed by the IFMA World Youth Conference, which focused on the theme of Fair Play. Over 600 selected youth representing their federations came together for this special World Conference to discuss important points on Fair Play and the Olympic values.

IFMA believes in the universal language of muaythai and aims to use it as a tool towards a better world. Over 300 youth from challenged backgrounds, refugees, and displaced youth were invited to participate in all activities, the wai kru and mae muay courses, the educational conferences, and the daily sport activities with special seats in the arena. Each social project was given a special donation to support their work.

The traditional IFMA Youth Awards Gala brought together all athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers in spectacular fashion. The event recognized the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals and organizations in true Muaythai and IFMA style, promoting unity, solidarity, and, above all, friendship.

In conclusion, the 2022 IFMA Youth World Championships were a resounding success, celebrating diversity, fair play, and giving back to society.

Establishment of IFMA Mediterranean Union

IFMA has successfully established a new regional Federation for Mediterranean countries, with the aim of being

included in the prestigious Mediterranean Games. This achievement was made possible thanks to the IFMA Executive Committee's recent decision to approve the establishment of the federation, which was a requirement for the sport's inclusion in the games. With 18 member National Federations in the region, IFMA exceeded the minimum requirement of 14 member countries. The initiative and proposal for the establishment of this regional body was spearheaded by the Italian Muaythai Federation, and we extend our gratitude to them. IFMA calls on all Mediterranean countries to collaborate and proceed with the establishment of the Federation, marking a significant milestone in the promotion and recognition of Muaythai in the region.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & EDUCATION

Social Responsibility & Education is an important aspect of Muaythai, as it is vital for athletes to be responsible and knowledgeable about the impact they can have on society. Muaythai is not just a sport, it is a way of life that is built on values such as respect, integrity, and fairness. The International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) has recognized this and has made it a key priority to promote social responsibility and education among its athletes and member organizations.

In line with this goal, IFMA has taken several steps to positively impact society through the power of Muaythai. IFMA has initiated several programs and projects to promote sustainability, anti-discrimination, and safeguarding initiatives. One such program is the IFMA Social Responsibility & Education program, which focuses on promoting the values of Muaythai and empowering athletes to be positive role models in their communities.

IFMA has also launched the Muaythai Connects initiative, which is aimed at promoting unity, diversity, and equality

in Muaythai. The initiative provides a platform for athletes from different countries and backgrounds to come together and share their experiences and perspectives, fostering a culture of mutual respect and understanding.

Another important aspect of IFMA's social responsibility efforts is its commitment to sustainability. Muaythai is a sport that has a deep connection to nature, and IFMA recognizes the importance of preserving the environment for future generations. To this end, they have launched the IFMA Green Project, which aims to reduce the carbon footprint of Muaythai events and promote eco-friendly practices.

In conclusion, IFMA's efforts to promote social responsibility and education are an important aspect of our mission to develop Muaythai as a sport that not only produces world-class athletes but also contributes positively to society. By promoting values such as respect, integrity, and fairness, and by empowering athletes to be positive role models in their communities, IFMA is creating a future generation of Muaythai practitioners who are not only skilled athletes but also responsible members of society.

Muaythai Safeguarding programme takes new level

In line with its commitment to embed safeguarding measures across the sport of Muaythai, the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) has introduced a comprehensive event-safeguarding programme for the first time ever at a major IFMA tournament. The programme was successfully implemented at the 2022 Asian Championships held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, which saw the participation of athletes from across Asia.

The comprehensive measures put in place were designed to ensure the protection and well-being of all participants, including athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators. In addition, they were aimed at minimising the risks of abuse, exploitation, and harassment towards children and adults.

The programme included the deployment of safeguarding officials during the event, with one official on duty for each of the days of competitions held. In addition, a representative from the UAE National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking was also present at the event to assist with safeguarding efforts.

Other initiatives implemented as part of the programme included the delivery of safeguarding presentations at team arrival meetings, regular visits to teams' training sites and hotels during the tournament, and the development and distribution of materials to raise awareness and provide guidance on the reporting mechanisms available for incidents.

Overall, the successful implementation of the safeguarding programme at the 2022 Asian Championships serves as a significant milestone in IFMA's commitment to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of all participants in Muaythai events. It is expected that similar initiatives will be introduced at future IFMA tournaments, in line with the Federation's ongoing efforts to ensure the highest standards of safety and fairness in Muaythai.

IFMA Safeguarding commitment continues

In 2022, the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) also continued its commitment to safeguarding with its Safeguarding courses program. Developed in partnership with leading experts, this educational pathway aims to enhance the protection of children and other at-

risk groups, including young athletes, women, LGBTQ+ participants, and people with disabilities, against all forms of harassment, abuse, and exploitation in the sport of Muaythai. Since its launch, nearly 2,000 learners from member associations, confederations, and regional associations have registered for the program, participating in online courses and webinars to become familiar with the tasks and responsibilities of a safeguarding professional in Muaythai. IFMA is dedicated to bringing about child protection and ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all participants in the sport.

Key stakeholder relationships developed

In 2022, active engagement with external stakeholders continued with a view to enhancing a safeguarding culture within Muaythai around the world by, among others, having fruitful exchanges on this and other topics with UN Women, Mission 89, UNICEF, Right To Play and United Through Sport.

IFMA Sustainability Strategy launched

In 2022, the International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA)

announced its commitment to sustainability by aligning with the sustainability strategy for the future events.

IFMA recognizes the importance of sustainability in sports and is committed to promoting social, economic, and environmental priorities in the sport of Muaythai.

The sustainability strategy includes commitments to key pillars such as accessibility, safeguarding, human rights, workers' rights, gender equality, health, climate action, waste minimisation, green buildings, and procurement. Proper policies, procedures, grievance mechanisms, and training programs will be in place to identify and address negative impacts and structural discrimination.

Key pillars of the strategy

Accessible venues

An accessible event for disabled people and people with limited mobility across tournament site infrastructure overlay and services.

Human rights

Proper policies, procedures, grievance mechanisms and training programmes will all be in place to identify and

address negative impacts and structural discrimination.

Safeguard and protect

Ensure smooth engagement and collaboration with the local safeguarding stakeholders in the host countries and Host Cities.

Minimise waste

Avoid and reduce waste as per the relevant standards.

Protect health

Protect the well-being of athletes and entourage.

Promote gender equality and equity

Identify key issues affecting women and girls in the host countries and region and develop joint initiatives with key partners.

Reduce climate impact

Estimate and reduce the competition's greenhouse gas emissions, mitigate emissions and use the platform to educate fans on climate change.

MUAYTHAI FOR FAIR PLAY

The International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) has made significant strides in promoting fair play and preventing doping in the sport of Muaythai. IFMA has developed a comprehensive set of principles and actions to promote fair play, including promoting respect and tolerance among athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators, and ensuring that athletes compete on a level playing field.

To prevent doping, IFMA has adopted a zero-tolerance policy towards performance-enhancing drugs, and athletes are subject to regular testing. IFMA works closely with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to ensure that all anti-doping measures are followed and that the sport remains clean. In addition, IFMA partners with the International Testing Agency (ITA) to ensure that athletes are tested and that anti-doping measures are effectively implemented.

Education and outreach are key components of IFMA's strategy to promote fair play and anti-doping. The organization holds regular conferences and seminars for athletes, coaches, and officials to educate them on the

importance of fair play and the dangers of doping. IFMA also works with national federations and other organizations to promote these principles and to spread awareness of the harmful effects of doping.

IFMA's partnerships with GAISF, ASOIF, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) allow the organization to access the latest information and best practices in the areas of fair play and anti-doping. This enables IFMA to remain up-to-date on the latest developments and to share its own expertise with other sports organizations.

In conclusion, IFMA is deeply committed to promoting fair play and preventing doping in the sport of Muaythai. Through its partnerships with organizations such as WADA, ITA, GAISF, ASOIF, and the IOC, IFMA is taking significant steps to ensure that these principles are upheld and that the sport remains clean and fair for all athletes.

MUAYTHAI ATHLETES CONFERENCE

The Muaythai Athletes Conference is an annual gathering that attracts some of the most talented and influential figures in the sport. The conference is designed to provide a forum for Muaythai athletes to connect with one another, exchange knowledge and ideas, and learn from experts in various fields related to the sport.

The 2022 edition of the Conference featured the biggest number of participants, offering a wide range of workshops and seminars that cover topics such as nutrition, strength and conditioning, injury prevention, mental preparation, and more. Participants also have the opportunity to attend panel discussions, networking events, and other activities that allow them to engage with their peers and build lasting relationships within the Muaythai community.

The Muaythai Athletes Conference is a crucial event for the sport, as it helps to promote a sense of unity and collaboration among athletes, coaches, and officials. It provides a platform for discussions on important issues that

influence the sport, including athlete safety, anti-doping measures, and fair play.

The conference is also an opportunity for Muaythai athletes to display their skills and talents, both on and off the mat. It is not uncommon for top athletes to give demonstrations or participate in friendly matches during the conference, allowing attendees to witness the sport at its highest level.

In addition to supporting the growth and development of Muaythai as a sport, the Muaythai Athletes Conference also places a strong emphasis on the health and well-being of its athletes.

Workshops on injury prevention and mental health are just a few examples of the conference's commitment to supporting the long-term health of Muaythai athletes.

The Muaythai Athletes Conference is a valuable event for anyone involved in the sport, from athletes to coaches to officials. Its emphasis on community, education, and athlete well-being make it an important and highly anticipated event on the Muaythai calendar.

MUAYTHAI SETS THE WAY TOWARDS ASIAN GAMES

The International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) has been actively promoting the inclusion of Muaythai in the official program of the Asian Games, one of the most significant multi-sport events in the world. While Muaythai has been included in the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) program since 2009, IFMA has been advocating for the sport to be featured in the larger, more prestigious Asian Games.

IFMA has been engaging in discussions with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the governing body that oversees the Asian Games, to emphasize the increasing popularity of Muaythai and the sport's potential to enhance the event's program of the 2026 Asian Summer Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

IFMA has been highlighting the cultural significance of Muaythai, which is deeply rooted in Thai tradition and history. The sport has transcended geographical and cultural boundaries and has become popular in many countries worldwide. Therefore, its inclusion in the Asian Games program

would offer a unique opportunity for athletes from different regions to showcase their cultural heritage and fighting styles on a global stage.

The push to include Muaythai in the Asian Games program has garnered significant support from various quarters, including athletes, fans, and sports organizations worldwide. The inclusion of Muaythai in the event would not only provide a larger platform for the sport and its athletes, but it would also promote cultural diversity and inspire the next generation of athletes to strive for excellence in the sport.

IFMA's relentless efforts to promote the inclusion of Muaythai in the Asian Games program are a testament to the sport's growing popularity and recognition globally. The inclusion of Muaythai in the event would be a significant milestone, providing a unique opportunity for athletes to showcase their skills and compete at the highest level of international competition, as well as promote cultural diversity, inspire young athletes to pursue their dreams in the sport, and foster greater understanding and appreciation of different cultures worldwide.

IFMA 2022 Annual Report

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