Memorandum

Date: 27 February 2026

To: **All members**

From: **Master Grant Eccles, on behalf of the Tournament Advisory Group**

Subject: **National Tournament 2026**

We're excited to bring you this important update regarding the location and dates of this years National Tournament, to be held on 22nd and 23rd August 2026.

As you know, we were looking forward to hosting Nationals in Christchurch this year. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts and due to some circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to secure confirmed venue arrangements in the greater Christchurch area within the required timeframe.

As a result and to ensure we could provide certainty for competitors, instructors, officials and families — and deliver the event to the standard our members expect — we can now confirm that this years Nationals will be held at the **Claudelands Events Centre in Hamilton** on the 22nd and 23rd of August. We thank H3 Events and Hamilton City Council for their generous and timely support and sponsorship to allow us to secure the Events Centre as a venue.

Claudelands Event Centre (Claudelands Arena - Claudelands) is a world class venue located in the heart of Hamilton City. Direct flights to Hamilton are available daily from Christchurch and Wellington, and Hamilton is also an easy drive down the Waikato Expressway from Auckland Airport. Direct train links to Hamilton are also available from Wellington and Palmerston North, as well as Auckland. Hamilton has plenty of quality accommodation and eateries within a 10-minute travel radius from the Claudelands Events Centre.

Further tournament information including links to accommodation options will be available on the Nationals page of the iTKD website in the coming weeks.

We know this change will be disappointing for some, particularly for our South Island members who were looking forward to a mainland event. Please know that this decision was not made lightly. Our priority has always been to provide clarity as early as possible and to secure a venue that allows us to deliver a well-run, high-quality national tournament for everyone.

We remain very committed to delivering a tournament in the South Island and are already working proactively to secure the greater Christchurch area as the host venue for 2027. We are very hopeful that with additional lead time we will be able to make that a reality.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We truly value the commitment our members make to attend and contribute to our national events, and we look forward to bringing everyone together in Hamilton in August for what promises to be another outstanding National tournament.

Yours in Taekwon-Do

Master Grant Eccles
on behalf of the Tournament Advisory Group (TAG)