

THE INTERNATIONAL TAEKWONDO FESTIVAL 2026

MAY 16, 2026

Industry Hills Expo Center
16200 Temple Ave. City of Industry, CA 91744
Updated 3/1/2026



Tournament Director: Grandmaster Young In Cheon
Tournament Chairman: Grandmaster Han Won Lee
Tournament Honorary Chairman: Grandmaster Ik Bum Choi
Referee Chairman: Grandmaster Danny Gonzalez
Referee Co-Chair Master Eileen Sandejas
Tournament Organizing Committee: YIC Taekwondo

Special Thanks to E-Productions, EZ Events, BMA/Mooto, Imagine Special Events



30th INTERNATIONAL TAEKWONDO FESTIVAL 2026

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TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR GREETING

May 16, 2026

Dear Taekwondo Family,

It is my sincerest pleasure to invite you to the 30th International Taekwondo Festival 2026! I extend a warm greeting to returning participants and a special welcome to those attending for the first time. I would also like to thank the Masters, Referees and coaches who are devoting their time and energy to support and growth of Taekwondo. It is very important for our youth to be challenged and by participating in tournaments it is a great way for them to develop confidence. The first tournament I hosted was the World Taekwondo Festival in 1994 as a televised exhibition event and from then it has changed and evolved from the Los Angeles Open Championship, Young In Cheon Invitational Championship and now currently known as the International Taekwondo Festival. Over the years we have attracted competitors from all across the country and internationally. I have seen athletes participate in their youth as grassroots athlete and now have become high-level world-class athletes. I have seen athletes that were once young students who are now Masters and Dojang Owners teaching the future generation and I am deeply proud of everyone's success. Thank you to all the parents for supporting their children's Taekwondo journey and making these experiences possible for them. As young athletes your participation sets you apart. You have devoted many hours of preparation and training to achieve success. Your perseverance and positive attitude have benefited you and these are all the makings of a champion. I wish you an exciting and memorable experience at the 30th International Taekwondo Festival Championship!

Sincerely,

Grandmaster Young In Cheon
Tournament Director
2000 Olympic USA Team Head Coach



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TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN GREETING

Distinguished Grandmasters, Esteemed Masters, Respected Coaches, Honored Athletes and Distinguished Guests,

It is with profound honor and deep gratitude that I welcome you to the 30th Anniversary of the International Taekwondo Festival- a milestone that represents three decades of unwavering dedication, excellence and the enduring spirit our martial art. Today, we gather not merely to compete, but to commemorate a legacy. For thirty years, this festival has stood as a symbol of unity, discipline, perseverance, and international friendship. It reflects the very essence of Taekwondo – a tradition that shapes character forges resilience, and elevates the human spirit.

We are especially privileged to be hosted by Young In Cheon, Head Coach of the United States Team at the 2000 Summer Olympics. It was my distinct honor to serve alongside him as an assistant coach during those historic Olympic Games in Sydney. Standing together on the world's greatest stage remains one of the defining privileges of my career. Coach Cheon's leadership has left an indelible mark on American Taekwondo. Through his vision, integrity, and relentless pursuit of excellence he has shaped generations of athletes and strengthened the foundation of our national program. His influence extends far beyond medals and accolades; he has cultivated character, inspired courage, and exemplified the highest standards of our art. To me personally, he is not only a revered colleague, but a mentor, a senior and a cherished friend. His guidance has enriched my journey both on and off the mat.

As we celebrate this remarkable 30-year milestone, may we honor the past, embrace the present, and inspire the future. May this festival reaffirm our shared commitment to excellence, respect and the unbreakable bonds that unite us as one global Taekwondo family.

With deepest respect and heartfelt gratitude,

Grandmaster Han Won Lee
1988 & 1992 USA Olympian
2000 USA Olympic Coach



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TOURNAMENT HONOARY CHAIRMAN GREETING

Dear Taekwondo Family

It is an honor and pleasure to welcome you all to this grand event. Athletes, referees, coaches, parents, friends of Taekwondo, you are present because the true value of the martial arts has touched your lives in some way. Most of you here have expanded your discipline, respect, confidence, citizenship and self-control through practicing Martial Arts, all qualities you can apply and share in your daily lives to make a positive impact on society.

Grandmaster Cheon is well known in the Taekwondo community for his role as a former coach for the U.S. National Team, U.S. Collegiate Team and 2000 USA Olympic Team but most important is his dedication to the growth and development of Taekwondo in the United States. To see his championship in its 30th year is a wonderful accomplishment and I applaud his success. The International Taekwondo Festival Championship attracts athletes from all over the country and the world and I welcome you and wish you good luck!

Sincerely,

Ik Bum Choi

Grandmaster



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GENERAL INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT VENUE	Industry Hills Expo Center: 16200 Temple Ave. City of Industry, CA 91744 www.IndustryExpoCenter.com (626) 330-0324		
TOURNAMENT HOTEL INFORMATION	Pacific Palms Resort 1 Industry Hills Pkwy, Industry, CA 91744 (626) 810-4455. \$175 rate		
REGISTRATION	Early Registration Deadline 4/26/2026	Regular Registration Deadline 5/3/2026	Late Registration Deadline 5/13/2026
GRASSROOT REGISTRATION Color Belts & Black Belts All Ages 4 Max Competitors Per Division	GRASSROOT POOMSAE GRASSROOT SPARRING (4 Max Per Division) 1 Event \$150 2 Event \$175	GRASSROOT POOMSAE GRASSROOT SPARRING (4 Max Per Division) 1 Event \$160 2 Event \$185	GRASSROOT POOMSAE GRASSROOT SPARRING (4 Max Per Division) 1 Event \$175 2 Event \$200
WORLD CLASS REGISTRATION Poomsae: Youth to U30 Sparring: Youth to Seniors <u>Daedo Gen 3 socks required</u>	SPORT POOMSAE INDIVIDUAL WORLD CLASS SPARRING 1 Event \$150 2 Event \$175	SPORT POOMSAE IND. WORLD CLASS SPARRING 1 Event \$160 2 Event \$185	SPORT POOMSAE IND. WORLD CLASS SPARRING 1 Event \$175 2 Event \$200
MORE REGISTRATION Info	Due to logistics and athlete safety, some 2 event combinations will not be allowed. You may not do both World Class Sparring and Grassroot Sparring. You may not do both Sport Poomsae and Grassroot Poomsae. You can do Sport Poomsae and World Class Sparring. You can do Sport Poomsae and Grassroot Sparring. You may do Grassroot Poomsae and World Class Sparring. You can do Grassroot Sparring and Grassroot Poomsae. NO REFUNDS		
WEIGH-IN FRIDAY, MAY 15th	Weigh-in for World Class Black Belts Only (CADET, JR, SR ONLY) 2:00-6:00pm at the Venue. We will also have satellite weigh in locations which will be announced shortly.		
COMPETITOR AWARDS	All Grassroot divisions will have 4 maximum competitors per division with 1 st ., 2 nd ., and two 3 rd place medals. World-class divisions will be full bracket with only the top 4 athletes medall.		
MANDATORY EQUIPMENT	WT approved WHITE v-neck uniform ONLY. All sparring competitors must wear WT approved equipment. Groin protector must be worn underneath. World Class Black Belt Sparring 10-32 yrs old must bring their own Daedo Gen-2 Electronic-socks.		
COMPETITION RULES	Current USAT Rules with Daedo Electronic Scoring System for World Class Black Belts		
COACHING	Coaching Pass: \$60 (access into tournament floor) Each dojang owner will receive 1 complimentary Master pass which also grants coaching access. Coach attire will be enforced: no jeans, no shorts, no hats, no sandals/slippers		
VENUE INFO	Parking: \$15 Admission: \$25 , Children 4yrs and under free. NO OUTSIDE FOOD, COOLER OR DRINKS ALLOWED. Only water approved. CASH ONLY! Please be prepared. Subject to changes by venue staff.		



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

TIME		FRIDAY – MAY 15TH	LOCATION
2:00pm	6:00pm	WEIGH IN – World Class Black Belts ONLY (CADET, JR, SR ONLY)	Industry Hills Expo Center or We will also have satellite weigh in locations.
TIME		SATURDAY – MAY 16TH	LOCATION
7:30AM	11:00AM	REGISTRATION One representative will pick up the credential badges for the school. Please make sure to contact your Master for your badge.	Industry Hills Expo Center
8:30AM	9:00AM	OPENING CEREMONY National Anthem	Industry Hills Expo Center
8:30AM		POOMSAE COMPETITION <i>Competitors will be called by their age and belt rank starting with age 5 & Under.</i>	Competition Floor
8:30AM		SPORT POOMSAE COMPETITION <i>Competitors will be called straight to Ring</i> <i>Individual Only – Youth 10-11, Cadet 12-14, Jr 15-17, Under 30</i> <i>Youth and Cadet will be called 1st.</i>	Competition Floor Ring TBD
8:30am		WORLD CLASS SPARRING COMPETITION <i>Black Belt Youth, Cadet, Jr. and Senior Only. Need Daedo Socks.</i> [8:30am Seniors] [10:00am Juniors] [12:30pm Youth] [3:00pm Cadet] These are ESTIMATED times. Please be present and ready.	Competition Floor World Class Ring TBD
11:00am		SPARRING COMPETITION <i>Competitors will be called by their age and belt rank.</i> <i>Competitors will be matched by age, gender, rank, and weight</i> <i>(4 max per division)</i>	Competition Floor

*Subject to changes. These are estimated times. We may start sparring before 11:00am if Poomsae concludes.



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COMPETITION RULES & REGULATIONS

POOMSAE: Poomsae competitors must perform only the poomsae designated for their specific rank. Scores based on: proper order, beauty, grace, rhythm, accuracy, power, technique and attitude. 4 competitors per division except for Sport Poomsae.

Rank (Kup)	10-9	8-7	6-5	4-3	2-1	Poom-Dan 1-2-3
Belt Colors	White	Yellow	Green	Blue	Red	Black
Poomsae Taeguk	Kicho or T1	T1 or T2	T3 or T4	T5 or T6	T7 or T8	Koryo-Keumgang-Taebaek etc.

SPORT POOMSAE will be released May 3. We will share on our Facebook and Instagram.

SPARRING/KYOROOGI: The current USAT & WT competition rules will govern this championship. Best out of 3 round format. The organizing committee may modify some rules according to the local condition. Grassroots = 60 second rounds, best out of 3. World-class = 90 second round, best out of 3. 12 point gap and 5 gamjeon rule.

Application of Junior Safety Rules for USAT State and Local Championships

Age	Belt Color	Applicable Rules
Dragon 6 - 7	Yellow	No Head Contact
	Green	
	Blue	
	Red	
	Black	
Ninja 8 - 9	Yellow	No Head Contact
	Green	
	Blue	
	Red	
	Black	Junior Safety Rules
Youth 10 - 11	Yellow	No Head Contact
	Green	
	Blue	
	Red	
	Black	Junior Safety Rules
Cadet (12 - 14)	Yellow	Junior Safety Rules
	Green	
	Blue	
	Red	
	Black	
Junior (15 - 17)	Yellow	Junior Safety Rules
	Green	
	Blue	
	Red	
	Black	Adult Rules
Senior	Yellow	Adult Rules
	Green	
	Blue	
	Red	
	Black	



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* Note: Tournament director may change the time limit and alter weight division if necessary to ensure fairness and maintain safety

WORLD CLASS BLACK BELT DIVISIONS

- We may combine two weight class to ensure everyone gets a match. Please look for updates.

Male:	Youth (10-11)	Female:
-30kg (66.0)	Fin	-30kg (66.0)
-35kg (77.0)	Light	-35kg (77.0)
-40kg (88.0)	Middle	-40kg (88.0)
+ 40kg	Heavy	+ 40kg

Male:	Cadet (12-14)	Female:
-33kg (72.8)	Fin	-29kg (63.9)
-37kg (81.6)	Fly	-33kg (72.8)
-41kg (90.4)	Bantam	-37kg (81.6)
-45kg (99.2)	Feather	-41kg (90.4)
-49kg (108)	Light	-44kg (97)
-53kg (116.8)	Welter	-47kg (103.6)
-57kg (125.7)	Light Middle	-51kg (112.4)
-61kg (134.4)	Middle	-55kg (121.3)
-65kg (143.3)	Light Heavy	-59kg (130.1)

Male:	Juniors (15-17)	Female:
-45kg (99.2)	Fin	-42kg (92.6)
-48kg (105.8)	Fly	-44kg (97)
-51kg (112.4)	Bantam	-46kg (101.4)
-55kg (121.3)	Feather	-49kg (108)
-59kg (130)	Light	-52kg (114.6)
-63kg (138.9)	Welter	-55kg (121.3)
-68kg (149.9)	Light Middle	-59kg (130.0)
-73kg (160.9)	Middle	-63kg (138.9)
-78kg (172)	Light Heavy	-68kg (149.9)
+ 78kg	Heavy	+ 68kg

Seniors

Weight class	Men	Women
	Weight limit kg (lb)	Weight limit kg (lb)
Heavyweight	unlimited	unlimited
Middleweight	87 (191.8)	73 (160.9)
Welterweight	80 (176.4)	67 (147.7)
Lightweight	74 (163.1)	62 (136.7)
Featherweight	68 (149.9)	57 (125.7)
Bantamweight	63 (138.9)	53 (116.8)
Flyweight	58 (127.9)	49 (108.0)
Finweight	54 (119.0)	46 (101.4)



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REFEREE SUPPORT



Referee Chairmans – Grandmaster Danny Gonzalez
Referee Co-Chair – Master Eileen Sandejas

Our Tournament success would not be possible without the support of our hardworking Referees.

International Referee: \$200/ day USAT/AAU Certified Referee: \$150 / day Non-Certified: \$100 / day

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided. Shared Hotel accommodations provided for those that qualify for Friday the 15th.
\$200 flight credit for IR's that qualify.

Referee Online Registration: www.TKDFEST.com

REFEREE SEMINAR: April 18th at YIC Taekwondo

Please contact us at tkdfest@gmail.com to sign up for the seminar.



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THINGS TO KNOW

1. The Industry Expo Center Grand Arena is an equestrian center turned into a competition arena. There is a roof covering but you will be outdoors and weather can be cool and windy in the early morning and evening. We highly encourage you to bring a light jacket or sweater.
2. There will be no ins and outs in the parking lot. Please note that once you leave the parking area you will have to pay for parking again. Parking is \$15 and Admission is \$25 children 4 and under are free.
3. Registration. One representative will pick up the credential badges for the school. Please make sure to contact your Master for your credential badge. Registration and badge pickup will be closed at 11:00am.
4. Athlete may NOT compete in both Grassroot Sparring Competition and World Class Sparring Competition. Athlete may not compete in both Junior and Senior divisions. Black Belts who are high level and experience please select World Class. Black Belts with not much experience please select grassroots.
5. Opening Ceremony will be at 9am this year. We will NOT stop for a lunch break once the tournament begins. Sparring competition will begin immediately after Poomsae. Referees will take lunch break in shifts.
6. The competition floor must be kept clear throughout the tournament for fire hazard policy. If security has to ask you to leave more than twice you may risk the loss of your coaching/master pass.
7. We will have many food vendors from Full Front BBQ grill, Hermanos Empanadas, 101 Pizza, Kettle Popcorn, Boba shop, snack shop and more. No outside food or drinks (water allowed)
8. Sangmoosa/Mooto martial art supply vendor will be on site for your equipment needs.
9. Imagine Special Events will be our photo vendor please stop by to purchase your souvenir photos.
10. Pride Medical Inc. will be our on site paramedics.



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VENUE & HOTEL INFORMATION

Headquarter Hotel

Pacific Palms Resort One Industry Hills Pkwy, City of Industry, CA 91744
(626) 810-4455 Mention Taekwondo for \$175 rate (limited)

Tournament Venue:

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