

Nominee for STF Athletes Commission Chair

*Full Name of Nominee
(as in NRIC):

GAN GUO BIN



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Nominee's Self Introduction:

I was a national athlete from 2012 to 2015. I am currently a practicing lawyer. I specialise in civil and commercial litigation. In the course of my work, I have represented national athletes in legal matters, including but not limited to defamation claims.

I am fluent in English, Mandarin and Cantonese. I am conversant in Japanese and to a lesser extent, Korean.

Current and past contributions to STF

I am seeking to make contributions to high performance.

Separately, during my time as a national athlete, I assisted the STF with a variety of duties. These duties included operational work during competitions as well as other forms of assistance.

Taekwondo Experience

My relevant experience is listed below:

- a. National Team
 - a. Represented Singapore:
 - i. 2012 Asian Cities Gold Cup, Hong Kong
 - ii. 2012 Korea Open, Gyeongju, South Korea
 - iii. 2013 World Taekwondo Championships, Puebla, Mexico
 - b. Selected for:
 - i. 2013 Korea Open, Chuncheon, South Korea
 - c. Shortlisted for:
 - i. 2012 Asian Championships, Vietnam
 - ii. 2015 SEA Games, Singapore
 - iii. 2016 Asian Cities Gold Cup, Hong Kong
- b. National Varsity Team:
 - a. Represented Singapore:
 - i. 2012 Asian University Taekwondo Championships, East Malaysia, Bronze
 - ii. 2013 Asian University Taekwondo Championships, Cheongyang, South Korea
- c. International Tournaments:
 - a. Competed in:
 - i. 2014 Korea Open
 - ii. 2015 ASEAN Taekwondo Championships, Vietnam
- d. Overseas Training
 - a. May 2014, Hong Kong
 - b. June 2014, Korea, Jeonju University Taekwondo Team
- e. Local Tournaments
 - a. 2012 National Taekwondo Kyorugi Championships, Gold
 - i. Best Player Award
 - ii. First PSS tournament in Singapore
 - b. 2013, 2015 National Taekwondo Kyorugi Championships, Gold

- f. Assisted Ng Ming Wei as a training partner leading up to the 2017 and 2019 SEA Games.

Major Games Experience

- a. Participated in the 2013 World Taekwondo Championships, Puebla, Mexico
- b. Assisted with training and preparation for Ng Ming Wei at the 2017 and 2019 SEA Games

Reasons to stand for Election

I believe that more can be done for the current crop of athletes. In my view, the only thing separating our athletes from other athletes worldwide is experience. I would therefore push for athletes to participate in regular overseas training trips or competitions. Alternatively, I would propose to receive interns from Korean universities specialising in taekwondo on a bi-monthly, rotational basis to expose our athletes to higher levels of sparring.

On that note, I do not believe that our national athletes should have to pay out of their own pockets to represent Singapore. I believe this sends the wrong signal and would push firmly against the idea.

Separately, I believe that the current team can be better equipped. I would push for the STF to pursue and maintain a sponsorship programme by which the team can be equipped with the proper training/competition attire. Representing Singapore internationally is no easy task. Our players should receive tangible and physical rewards for the effort that they put in to do so.

To that end, I would also push for the training equipment to be regularly replaced or refurbished, including but not limited to handmitts and the like.

I also believe that due recognition should be given to our national athletes. There is no reason to categorise all of them as being from the "*development squad*". Once they have achieved a certain level, they should be referred to as national athletes; no one who has qualified for the designation should be prevented from labelling themselves as such.

Finally, a lot of our national athletes are fairly young. It can sometimes be difficult for the youth to speak about their problems – despite those problems being real impediments to success. I would like to leverage on my age and experience to speak on their behalf – so that proper issues, whether big or small, can be quickly and effectively dealt with in their favour whenever possible and reasonable.