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Hi folks,

Welcome to another year in GREAT tournament competition!! Our first tournament of 2012 will take place on Saturday, January 28th. And we continue to make improvements.

Louis F. Meyer Youth Center (the old Magdalen Gym) is working out GREAT!! And they have added a new gym floor. Meyer Center let's us have 4 rings, better parking, better restrooms, better registration facilitation, and concession facilities. **AND THIS YEAR WE WILL HAVE MATS IN SOME RINGS!!**

Last year our tournament ran very quickly, and we expect to have the same luck this year! We have changed a few of the ways we run our rings and have REALLY improved our times. We hope to be done this year by 3:00 pm, OR EARLIER!

I continue to try to improve our check-in times. When you PRE-REGISTER (send in your registration form ahead of time), then you do not have to be on site till the check in time. Please look at the "Check In" area on the front page to see what time you need to be on site. Remember that if you don't pre-register, your REGISTRATION FORM must be in by 10AM on Saturday!!

There is always some confusion in figuring out what division to put your child in. For all the Cadets (Split Belts) at Karate Life Studios (ages 7-10), your child should be in a BEGINNERS division for his or her age. All Karate Life Studios **Little Ninjas** should ONLY compete in the Little Ninja's division, which are not included in most tournaments.

For everyone else, USA-NKF Rules state:

Beginners have less than 1 year of training
Novice has 1 to 2 years of training
Intermediate has 2 to 3 years of training
Advanced has 3 years or over

These are the guidelines that you should use to place your children in the proper divisions. And make sure everyone EXCEPT NINJA'S has the proper sparring equipment.

We NEED HELP at this event. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Dojo for parents wishing to help. We need parents to work scoring tables, help us keep awards at the rings, help us judge and referee, and work the registration tables in the front lobby. We also need help in setting up the gym on Saturday evening, and then help in taking things apart. All of us volunteer our time to help the children and athletes be able to have a fair and organized tournament. Please join us for a day of work, camaraderie and fun!

Sensei Charles Jarnagin