

WDSF

COMPETITION

RULES

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WDSF COMPETITION RULES

Rule 1

Controlling organization

The World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF) is the governing body for all DanceSport competitions and athletes, including amateur competition at all levels, in each country through that country's WDSF Member body, and internationally. The only DanceSport competition that the WDSF does not claim to govern and maintain jurisdiction over are those specially declared to be excluded, or to be excluded for a period of time, by the authority of the WDSF Presidium.

The WDSF is the sole authority worldwide for the determination of amateurs' status. Subject to WDSF's **Statutes** and **Competition Rules**, and subject to the policies established by the General Meeting and any agreements or policies established or entered into by the Presidium, right of entry by competitors to WDSF national or international competitions (including all amateur competitions) is delegated to the relevant WDSF member body.

Rule 2

Application

1. These **Rules** apply to all DanceSport Competitions granted by WDSF, including but not restricted to Standard, Latin-American, Teacher-Student, New Vogue, American Style, Freestyle, Rock'nRoll, Old Time and Modern and Latin Sequence. Rules for Teacher-Student DanceSport are administered by the WDSF Professional Division. Rules for Rock'n Roll are administered by the WDSF Associate Member the World Rock'n Roll Confederation. Rules for Baton Twirling are to be administered by IBTF. Rules for Country and Line Dancing are to be administered by UCWDC.
2. The WDSF Presidium is responsible for seeing that these **Rules** are observed.
3. For specific events the Presidium may impose supplementary rules on the organizer.
4. Every competitor who competes in a competition granted by WDSF must be a Member of or registered or affiliated with an WDSF Member body.

Rule 3

Prize money

In WDSF DanceSport Competitions prize money can be paid up to the amount of prize money paid by WDSF in WDSF World Open. If an organizer offers more prize money than in WDSF World Open he needs the approval of the WDSF Presidium.

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Rule 4

Advertising and competition numbers

1. In all WDSF granted DanceSport Competitions advertising by up to four sponsors is allowed on a couple's competition costumes. A man or boy may advertise up to three sponsors, and a woman or girl may advertise only one sponsor. The size of the advertisement may be no more than 40 square cm for each sponsor. Such advertising may only be displayed and located on the waist, chest or sleeves.
2. Advertising on the competition number card of the couple is limited to 20% of the size of the competition number on the card.
3. The size of couples' competition number cards may be up to DIN A5 plus 20% reserved for advertising. Couples must accept the number card as issued and may not tamper with or reduce the size of the number card.
4. The number on any competition number card may not exceed three numerals.

Rule 5

Grades of competitions

1. WDSF World Championships

1.1. Adult and Youth and Junior II

- a) Types of competitions:
WDSF World Championships are held
 - aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep)
 - ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)
 - ac. over Ten Dances (Standard and Latin American)
 - ad. in Formation dances (Standard and Latin American), Rule 14 (2) – (13) must be observed. -only Adult
- b) Invitations:
Invitations are to be sent to all WDSF member bodies.
- c) Entitled to participate:
Every WDSF member body has the right to nominate two couples.
WDSF World Ten Dance Championships

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Only one couple may represent each member body

WDSF World Formation Championships:

Two teams of each category must be invited from each member body.

d) Reimbursement of expenses:

Reimbursement of expenses, see Rule 8.

1.2. Senior I

a) Types of competitions:

WDSF World Senior Championships are held

aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep).

ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)

b) Invitations:

Invitations are to be send to all WDSF member associations.

c) Entitled to participate:

Every WDSF member body has the right to nominate two couples.

d) Reimbursement of expenses:

No travel expenses, one overnight hotel accommodation. Chairman and Adjudicators according to Rule 8.

e) Age limit:

Competitors in International Senior Championships must in the calendar year in which the Championship is held have reached at least their 35th birthday (both partners).

2. WDSF OPEN WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.1. Senior I

a) Type of competitions:

Senior I Open World Championships are held: In the Ten Dances (Standard and Latin American).

b) Invitations:

Invitations must be sent to all WDSF Member bodies.

c) Eligibility:

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All couples of the highest competitive category of a WDSF Member body are eligible to participate, but a couple's application for entry may only be made by the relevant WDSF Member body.

- d) Reimbursement of expenses:

No travel expenses, no hotel accommodation, provided that all couples advancing to the quarter-final shall be paid a minimum lump sum reimbursement of CHF 150,00. Reimbursement of WDSF Chairman and WDSF Adjudicators shall be made by the Organizers according to Rule 8.

2.2. Senior II

- a) Type of competitions:

Senior II Open World Championships are held:

- aa. In the Standard Dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Fox Trot, Quickstep)
- ab. In the Latin American Dances (Samba, Cha Cha Cha, Rumba, Paso Doble, Jive)

- b) Invitations:

Invitations must be sent to all WDSF Member bodies

- c) Eligibility:

All couples of the highest competitive category of a WDSF Member body are eligible to participate, but a couple's application for entry may only be made by the relevant WDSF Member body.

- d) Reimbursement of expenses:

No travel expenses, no hotel accommodation, provided that all couples advancing to the quarter-final shall be paid a minimum lump sum reimbursement of CH 150,00. Reimbursement of WDSF Chairman and WDSF Adjudicators shall be made by the Organizers according to Rule 8.

2.3. Senior III

- a) Type of competition:

Senior III Open World Championships are held in the Standard Dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Fox Trot, Quickstep)

- b) Invitations:

Invitations must be sent to all WDSF Member bodies

- c) Eligibility:

All couples of the highest competitive category of a WDSF Member body are eligible to participate, but a couple's application for entry may only be made by the relevant WDSF Member body.

- d) Reimbursement of expenses:

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No travel expenses, no hotel accommodation, provided that all couples advancing to the quarter-final shall be paid a minimum lump sum reimbursement of CH 130,00. Reimbursement of WDSF Chairmen and WDSF Adjudicators shall be made by the Organizers according to Rule 8.

3. WDSF Continental Championships Adult and Youth

a) Types of competitions:

WDSF Continental Championships are held

- aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep)
- ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)
- ac. over Ten Dances (Standard and Latin American)
- ad. in Formation dances (Standard and Latin American), Rule 14 (2) – (13) must be observed.

b) Invitations:

Invitations are to be sent to all WDSF member bodies in the relevant continent. For sport's communication Israel is counted to Europe.

c) Entitled to participate:

Every WDSF member body has the right to nominate two couples.

- I. WDSF Continental Ten Dance Championships:
Only one couple may represent each member body.
- II. WDSF Continental Formation Championships:
Two teams of each category must be invited from each member body.

d) Reimbursement of expenses:

Reimbursement of expenses, see Rule 8.

4. WDSF Sub-Continental Championships

a) Types of competitions:

Sub-Continental championships are held

- aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep)
- ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)
- ac. over Ten Dances (Standard and Latin American)

b) Invitations:

Invitations are to be sent to all WDSF member bodies of the concerned Sub-Continent. It is not allowed to invite couples from other Sub-Continents than the concerned Sub-Continent.

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- c) Each invited member body has the right to nominate two couples. The organizer may invite one further couple from each participating country.
- d) Reimbursement of expenses:
Reimbursement of expenses, see Rule 8.

5. WDSF World Ranking Tournaments

There are 4 categories of WDSF World Ranking Tournaments:

- a) WDSF SUPER WORLD CUP
- b) WDSF WORLD OPEN

The WDSF will conduct a series of WDSF World Open Competitions in Standard and Latin, which will be „WDSF World Open“ with prize-money and points for the WDSF Computer World Ranking List.

- c) WDSF INTERNATIONAL OPEN

The WDSF will conduct a series of WDSF International Open Competitions in Standard and Latin with points for the WDSF Computer World Ranking List in accordance with the Presidium.

- d) WDSF OPEN

The WDSF will conduct a series of WDSF Open Competitions in Standard and Latin with points for the WDSF Computer World Ranking List in accordance with the Presidium.

- e) Detailed regulations for the conduct of these tournaments will be issued from time to time by the Presidium.

6. International Invitation Competitions

- a) Definition of an International Invitation Competition:

Except for International Team Matches and Formation competitions a competition may only be described as an “International Competition” if it involves couples from at least four WDSF member bodies.

- b) Invitations:

Invitations are to be sent only to WDSF member bodies unless decided otherwise by the Presidium.

- c) Reimbursement of expenses:

The reimbursement of participants shall be subject to agreement between the member bodies.

7. International Invitation Competitions for Formation Teams

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- a) Definition of an International Invitation Competition for Formation Teams:
A competition may only be described as an "International Formation Competition", if it involves formation-teams from at least four WDSF Member bodies.
- b) Invitations:
Invitations are to be sent only to WDSF member bodies unless decided otherwise by the Presidium.
- c) Reimbursement of expenses:
The reimbursement of participants shall be subject to agreement between the member bodies.

8. WDSF World Cups

- a) Types of competitions:
WDSF World Cups are held
- aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep)
 - ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)
 - ac. over Ten Dances (Standard and Latin American)
- b) Invitations:
Invitations are to be send to all WDSF member bodies.
- c) Entitlement to participate:
Only one couple will be accepted from each invited member body.
- d) Reimbursement of expenses:
Reimbursement of expenses, see Rule 8.

9. WDSF Continental Cups

- a) Types of competitions:
WDSF Continental Cups are held
- aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep)
 - ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)
 - ac. over Ten Dances (Standard and Latin American)
 - ad. in Formation Dances (Standard and Latin American), Rule 14 (2) – (13) must be observed.
- b) Invitations:

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Invitations are to be sent to all WDSF member bodies in the relevant continent. For sport's communication Israel is counted to Europe.

c) Entitlement to participate:

Only one couple/formation team will be accepted from each invited member body.

d) Reimbursement of expenses:

Reimbursement of expenses, see Rule 8.

10. International Team Matches

a) Types of competitions:

International Team Matches are held:

- aa. in the Standard dances (Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep)
- ab. in the Latin American dances (Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive)

b) Invitations:

International Team Matches are subject to arrangement between the WDSF member bodies, but may only be held once in any year in the same country and between the same WDSF member bodies.

c) Entitlement to participate (Definition of a team):

Each team must consist of at least four couples chosen according to national ranking and must not be varied during the competition.

d) Reimbursement of expenses:

The reimbursement of participants shall be as freely agreed between the WDSF member bodies concerned.

11. Open Competitions

1. WDSF Open Competitions are held in the following disciplines: Latin, Standard and Ten Dance
2. Participation is only allowed for couples of WDSF member bodies. Couples from countries and bodies not affiliated in the WDSF shall only be permitted to participate at the WDSF Presidium's discretion.
3. Open Competitions with the status "Rising Stars" can be held as "WDSF Open Rising Stars Competitions" in the age group Adult. Couples on the places 1 to 50 of the actual WDSF Computer World Ranking List are not allowed to participate in these "WDSF Open Rising Stars Competitions".

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12. Lifts

Lifts are not permitted in either category.

Note: A lift is any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the partner.

The chairman can disqualify couples using lifts in their dance performance.

13. WDSF Standard Freestyle and Latin Freestyle Competitions

WDSF Freestyle Competitions are held in the following disciplines: Standard Freestyle and Latin Freestyle.

a) Dances

A minimum of three out of five competition dances from the selected discipline must be included in any performance and must be danced for 75% of the duration of the performance.

Elements of other dances and dance forms may be included up to a maximum of 25% of the duration of the performance.

b) Music

Competitors must provide the Organizers with:

- aa. 2 copies of a compact disc ("CD") recording of their selected music, and
- ab. A full, accurate and current list of selected titles on the CD or CDs including title(s), composer(s), arranger(s), publisher(s) and CD or record number(s).

c) Duration

The duration of a performance must be between 3:30 and 4:00 minutes.

d) Format

A competition may comprise a maximum of a 1st round and a final.

Competitors must perform the same choreography in the same order and to the same musical arrangement in every round.

e) Lifts

A maximum of three (3) lifts is permitted during each performance.

Each lift may not exceed 15 seconds in duration.

f) Holds

In Standard Freestyle the following alternative holds are permitted:

- aa. Man's right hand or left hand on the woman's back;

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- ab. Man holding woman's right hand in his left hand;
- ac. The couple may use these alternative holds for a maximum continuous duration of 20 seconds, a maximum of three (3) times during the performance, with a minimum of 20 seconds of normal hold between alternative holds.
- ad. A 30-second period at the beginning of the performance and a further 30-second period at the end may be danced without a hold or in any other style of hold subject always to the Chairman's discretion to prohibit holds that could be dangerous, injurious or offensive.

g) Props

No props are permitted at any time during the performance. WDSF Competition Dress Only

WDSF Dress Regulations apply to all competitions held under this Rule.

A couple's competition dress may demonstrate or suggest the theme of the choreography or performance but must be in either Latin or Standard style.

The competition number card issued to a couple prior to their dancing, must be clearly visible to the adjudicators and the audience.

h) Lighting

Lighting conditions must be the same for all couples in all rounds.

i) Order of Couples' Performances

The Order of couples' performances shall be decided by drawing lots by the Chairman or a person approved by the Chairman, at which all couples or their representatives must be present.

- aa. The same order will be used for the rehearsal and the 1st round of competition.
- ab. For the final round the order will be drawn again according to the same protocol.

j) Entry and Exit

Each couple shall be granted a maximum of 30 seconds for entry to the competition floor prior to performing and 30 seconds for exit from the competition floor after the conclusion of their performance.

The exit may be performed to music.

k) Rehearsal

The Organizers must grant each couple an opportunity to conduct a full rehearsal on the proposed competition floor, at a reasonably convenient time, for a minimum of 15 minutes' rehearsal time, to test the competition floor and the Organizer's production of the couple's selected music.

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All athletes, all WDSF Chairmen, the WDSF Invigilator, and all camera operators, sound engineers, and lighting engineers must be present for the duration of all such rehearsals.

There must be at least 2 hours' break between the end of the rehearsals and the 1st round of competition.

l) Chairman and Invigilator

WDSF invigilator and an WDSF Chairman must be appointed by WDSF to chair each competition, to supervise and monitor the organizer's adherence to the **Rules**, and to disqualify any couple who break any WDSF rules, regulations or codes or contravene any WDSF policy or Operating Policy.

The organizer must provide a camera operator, an up-to-date video camera, and a screen and facilities for slow-motion and still-picture viewing for the invigilator, only for World and Continental Championships.

Every performance in every round, including rehearsals, must be recorded for use in checking for violation of any WDSF rules, regulations or code or contravention of any WDSF policy or Operating Policy and as proof of violation or contravention in case of disqualification.

m) Disqualification

In case of a disqualification a detailed report signed by the WDSF invigilator and WDSF Chairman, including the video recording of the performance as proof of violation of the **Rules** or other reason, shall be sent to the WDSF Sports Director not later than 1 week following the conclusion of the competition.

14. Time allowed and Tempi

In all rounds of competitions the music played shall be a minimum of one and a half minutes duration and a maximum of two minutes. In the Paso Doble the music shall be played at minimum up to the second highlight and at maximum to the 3rd highlight, provided always that the Chairman may extend the maximum duration for any dance or dances if in his or her opinion a longer duration is necessary for fair adjudication of that dance or those dances in an event.

The tempi for each dance shall be:

Waltz	28-30 bars/min.	Samba	50-52 bars/min.
Tango	31-33 bars/min.	Cha-Cha-Cha	30-32 bars/min.
Viennese Waltz	58-60 bars/min.	Rumba	25-27 bars/min.
Slow Foxtrot	28-30 bars/min.	Paso doble	60-62 bars/min.
Quickstep	50-52 bars/min.	Jive	42-44 bars/min.

Type of music:

In all WDSF competitions the music must have the character of the dances, for example no disco music in Latin-American dances.

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15. Choreography and Syllabus

1. Subject to these **Rules**, all choreographies in all ten dances in all WDSF granted championships, cups and other competitions, are open choreographies.
2. In all competitions governed by this Rule 5 there is a uniform restricted syllabus for all Juveniles age groups. This syllabus is prepared and amended from time to time by a Commission of the WDSF Presidium. This syllabus is effective 12 months after publication by circular to all WDSF Member bodies.
3. In all competitions the Syllabus must be invigilated by a minimum of one qualified Invigilator who shall be appointed by the WDSF Member body governing DanceSport in the country where the competition's produced, but whose appointment must be confirmed by the WDSF Presidium.
4. In all competitions the Invigilator reports to the chairman. In case of a breach of the restrictions in the first round of a competition, couples shall be warned by the chairman. If there is again a breach of restrictions in the next round or final, the couple shall be disqualified by the chairman.

Rule 6

Right to organize competitions

1. The Presidium grants the right to organize competitions by Rule 5 (1) – (5), (8), and (9) and levies a fee; see the **WDSF Financial Regulations** (Appendix to the **WDSF Statutes**).

Theses competitions, except competitions Rule 5 (5) and (6), must have been previously offered to the members by circular.

In special cases the Presidium is authorised to grant events directly to bidding Cities or Countries, subject to the prior approval in writing by the National Member Body.

2. Competitions covered by Rule 5 (5) must be registered by WDSF. The fee for registration is CHF 20,00. The organization of theses competitions shall be as freely decided by the national member body.

Rule 7

Invitations

Invitations to International Invitation Competitions must be arranged between the member bodies concerned. The invitation must contain the date of registration of the competition by WDSF.

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Rule 8

Reimbursement of Expenses

The minimum reimbursement of expenses to competition couples, chairman and adjudicators for competitions covered by Rule 5 (1) – (5), (8) and (9), will be fixed by the Presidium.

WDSF Member bodies will be notified of the amounts in advance.

Rule 9

Anti-doping

Doping is forbidden, according to the terms of the **WDSF Anti-doping Code**.

Rule 10

Procedure for International Competitions Granted by WDSF

Chairmen and Adjudicators

1. A chairman (non-voting) appointed or confirmed by the WDSF Presidium is responsible for the control of every competition. When a chairman has not been appointed by WDSF the organizer must appoint a chairman (non-voting). The chairman of every competition must hold a valid and subsisting WDSF Chairman's License at the time of that competition.
2. A minimum of seven adjudicators shall officiate at competitions governed by Rule 5(1), (2), (3), (5)(a)-(c) and 8, a minimum of five adjudicators in competitions governed by Rule 5(4), (6), (7) and (9), and a minimum of three adjudicators at Team Matches.
3. Adjudicators must hold a valid and subsisting WDSF licence to judge competitions governed by Rule 5, except 5(6) and (7).
4. Adjudicators for competitions governed by Rule 5(1)-(5)(b), (8) and (9) must be nominated by the WDSF Presidium.
5. For competitions governed by Rule 5, (1)-(5), (8) and (9) the adjudicators must be from different countries. Under these **Rules** a chairman (non-voting) or an adjudicator is from a country if he or she holds a valid and subsisting WDSF License issued by that country's WDSF Member body and is either a citizen of that country or resided in that country for at least 183 days during the twelve months previous to the date on in which the relevant competition is produced.
6. For all competitions the adjudicators must be recognized by the WDSF Presidium.

Conflicts of Interest Not Permitted

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7. An adjudicator shall not judge a competition, and shall retire from the panel adjudicating that competition, where any person competing in that competition is a member of that adjudicator's immediate or extended family, including de facto relationships, or where that adjudicator has a personal relationship to or with any competitor in the competition which makes it inappropriate for him/her to serve as an adjudicator. For greater clarity, the words "immediate and extended family" include anyone to whom the adjudicator is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or by adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.
8. A registered athlete may not judge or chair WDSF DanceSport competitions until after declaring in writing that he or she has ceased to compete.

Marking

9. Closed marking, shall be used in the final of competitions. Open marking is not allowed at WDSF Competitions except to display the couples' places in each dance, and is not allowed to display the individual placing of each adjudicator of the dances, however the organiser may seek permission from the chairman to use the Open Marking System. The Skating System shall be employed.

Selection of Heats; Semi-Finals and Finals

10.
 - a) Competitions covered by Rule 5, (1) - (5), (8), (9), and (11) shall comprise at least a first round, semi-final and final. Starting with the first round, the selection of all heats shall be random but not rotating through the five dances, but from the "96-round" the selection of all heats shall be random and rotating. The semi-final must always be danced in two heats in competitions covered by Rule 5 (1), (2) and (3).
 - b) The semi-final of any competition must be danced in two heats on a floor with an area of less than 250 square metres.
 - c) No more than 10 couples should dance in each heat of a competition round, up to the quarter-final in competition governed by Rule 5(1), (2) and (3).
11. In WDSF Championships and WDSF Cups with an entry of more than 20 couples, except for Ten Dance, the re-dance system shall apply from the first round. Two qualifying rounds shall be held to allow all couples the opportunity of dancing twice. In WDSF World Ranking Tournaments the "Regulations for WDSF World Ranking Tournaments" shall be observed. The chairman shall decide the number of couples to be re-called from both qualifying rounds.
12. At least 50% of the participating couples shall be recalled to the next round (excluding the Final), except in Ten Dance, in which at least two thirds of the participating couples shall be recalled only after the first round to the next round; provided always that this provision does not apply for WDSF World Ranking Tournaments.
13. Ten Dance Competitions shall comprise no more than first round, quarter final, semi-final and final. 15. In Finals adjudicators shall place couples. "1" is the best place marking. The same placing must not be given to more than one couple.
14. In competitions governed by Rule 5(1)-(5), (8), (9) and (11), no more than 6 couples should participate in the final, but if more than 6 couples qualify, the chairman will decide on the number of participants.

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15. In Competitions governed by Rule 5(1) through (5), (8) and (9), the organizer must display marking sheets upon conclusion of the competition.

Revised Competition Format

16. a) In all WDSF World and WDSF Continental Championships (only age group "Adult") the "Revised Competition Format" must be used. It may also be used in all WDSF granted competitions (only age group "Adult") if the WDSF Member body applies to use this format."
- b) "Revised Competition Format" in the Standard and the Latin Discipline means the provision of two (2) solo dances, one (1) at the beginning and another one (1) at the end of the final, with each couple performing for one (1) minute in each solo dance, and that all couples return to the floor after the solo dances for a further one (1) final minute of group competition in that dance.
- c) Revised competition format" in the Ten Dance Discipline means the provision of one (1) solo dance per discipline at the end of the finals, with each couple performing for one (1) minute in each solo dance, and that all couples return to the floor after the solo dances for a further one (1) final minute of group competition in that dance. The solo dances in the Ten Dance Discipline are fixed with Quick Step in Standard and Jive in Latin.
- d) The order of couples in the final of the "Revised Competition Format" (solo dances) must be chosen by random selection manually or by computer under the supervision of the Chairman.

Team Matches

17. a) In each round open marking shall be employed, couples being assessed as 1, 1 1/2, 2, 2 1/2, 3. "1" being the best mark.
- b) For equal performance, identical markings may be given. In all dances the same couples must always dance against each other. Interchange of couples is not allowed.
- c) The marks shall be added together to produce a result.

New Judging System

18. The WDSF New Judging System is the foundation for future developments in adjudication in WDSF, as set out in the appendix to these **Rules**.

Health and Welfare of Athletes

19. There must be a break of at least 20 minutes between the rounds of a competition.
20. All Finals and prize presentations for Juvenile athletes must be concluded before 21:00 (9:00 P.M.).
21. All Finals and prize presentations for Junior I athletes must be concluded before 22:00 (10:00 P.M.).
22. All Finals and prize presentations for Junior II athletes must be concluded before 23:00 (11:00 P.M.).

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Production

23. Follow Spotlights may not be used in any WDSF-granted competitions except in certain circumstances. Follow spotlights may only be used during solo dances in such a way as to illuminate each and every couple in the same way.

Rule 11

Age Restrictions

1. The following age division is obligatory in all international competitions and championships:

Juvenile I:	reach 9 th birthday or less in the calendar year
Juvenile II:	reach 10 th and 11 th birthday in the calendar year
Junior I:	reach 12 th and 13 th birthday in the calendar year
Junior II:	reach 14 th and 15 th birthday in the calendar year
Youth:	reach 16 th , 17 th and 18 th birthday in the calendar year
Adult:	reach 19 th birthday or more in the calendar year
Senior I:	reach 35 th birthday or more in the calendar year
Senior II:	reach 45 th birthday or more in the calendar year
Senior III:	one partner must have reached his or her 55 th birthday or more in the calendar year. The other part must have reached his or her 45 th birthday or more in the calendar year

Only for Open Competitions:

Under 21 reach 16th to 20th birthday in the calendar year

Putting two age-groups together, such as juvenile I and II as well as junior I and II in one class, is optional. Youth couples are allowed to participate in adult competitions. In all age sections one partner of a couple can be younger, except in the seniors

2. When nominating couples, member organizations must give dates of birth.

Rule 12

Competition Dress

1. In all competitions granted under these **Rules**, competitors shall dress or costume according to the **WDSF Dress Regulations**, which form a part of these **Rules**. The chairman, or the WDSF Sports Director, has the right to disqualify any couple at the competition when either partner is not dressed or costumed according to this Rule, and in addition to its other powers under the **WDSF Statutes** the Presidium is authorized to suspend from competitions for a limited period of time any competitor who breaks this Rule.
2. In all WDSF Championships, Cups and Grand Slams granted under these **Rules**, adjudicators serve as a team and shall dress or costume as follows:
 - a) men: black or midnight-blue business suit, dress shirt, WDSF necktie, dress shoes; and

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- b) women: black or midnight-blue business suit with either skirt or trousers, dress blouse, WDSF scarf.

Rule 13

Couples and Athletes

3.1. Definition of a couple

A couple consists of a male and a female partner

3.2. Couples of mixed citizenship.

- 2.1. A couple may only represent a country in any WDSF Championship or Cup if one of the partners holds a valid and subsisting passport of the represented country at the time of registration and the time of the relevant competition.
- 2.2. A couple may only represent a Member at in any International Competition if each partner is permitted to compete by the represented WDSF Member at the time of registration and the time of the relevant International Competition.
- 2.3. In competitions during events of IOC and IWGA couples of mixed nationality are not permitted. According to the ***Olympic Charter*** a competitor represents his or her country. Each competitor must hold a valid and subsisting passport of the WDSF Member country represented at the time s/he is appointed to represent that Member and at the time of the relevant IOC or IWGA event. An athlete may only represent a country in IOC, OCA or IWGA events if s/he is permitted to compete by the WDSF Member for that country and has been so permitted for a continuous period of six (6) months before the date of the event.

3.3. How To Represent A Country

- 3.1. A competitor having represented one country in any WDSF Championship or any WDSF Cup is not permitted to represent another country in any WDSF Championship or WDSF Cup competition until a period of 12 months has elapsed since the last representation.
- 3.2. A competitor having represented one country in any WDSF World Ranking Tournament or any Open Competitions governed by other rules is not permitted to represent another country in any WDSF World Ranking Tournament until a period of eight (8) months has elapsed, except when the competitor has received consent in writing to the change in representation from each of the two relevant WDSF Members, and then the competitor may immediately represent the new country. The period of eight (8) months referred to above starts with the last date on which the competitor represented the former country in a WDSF World Ranking Tournament or an Open Competition governed by other rules.
 - 3.2.1. The WDSF Member body of the newly-represented country must contact the athlete's former WDSF Member body to request agreement for the change of representation. If the former WDSF member body does not reply within one month the athlete may register with the new WDSF member body and represent the new WDSF member body.

3.3. WDSF Formation Championships/Cups:

In WDSF Formation Championships/Cups at least 12 competitors per team must hold a valid and subsisting passport of the represented WDSF member country at the time s/he is appointed to represent that Member and at the time of the relevant Championship or Cup.

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- 3.4. An athlete who has previously been registered in the WDSF DanceSport system or WDSF PD, who returns to the WDSF DanceSport system after competing or otherwise participating in a dancing system or dancing competition system which was not registered in the WDSF DanceSport system, may not represent any country or WDSF Member body in any WDSF DanceSport competition until six (6) months after his or her most recent participation in a dancing competition that was not registered in the WDSF DanceSport system.
4. Registration and Identification of Athletes
 - 4.1. All athletes participating in WDSF Championships/Cups and WDSF World Ranking Tournaments must be registered with WDSF in the WDSF Registration System. Only an athlete's WDSF Member body may apply for such registration.
 - 4.2. All participants in WDSF-granted Competitions must be identified to the satisfaction of WDSF and the WDSF Chairman of the competition.
 - 4.3. Each WDSF Member body is authorized to issue Athlete License Books or License Cards to its registered athletes.
 - 4.4. Athlete License Books or License Cards which must include a photograph of the athlete, according to forms and standards prescribed by the Presidium from time to time in an Operating Policy, as well as according to the requirements of National Sports Authorities.
 - 4.5. If an athlete does not produce an authorized Athlete License Book or License Card at the time of registration for a competition, then s/he must identify himself or herself to the Organizers' representative and the Chairman by producing his or her valid Passport for examination and photocopying by the Organizers and the Chairman, and further must satisfy the Chairman as to his or her valid and subsisting affiliation with an WDSF Member body and provide all other proofs which WDSF or the Chairman may require at that time.

Rule 14

International Formation Championships

1. Formation Championships may be held in two styles:
 - a) in the Standard dances
 - b) in the Latin American dances
2. Competition dress:

Standard section: The men's dress must be black or midnight-blue.
Latin section: The men's dress in colours is permitted, but all men of a team must have the same colour of dress. No properties are allowed.
3. Teams in the Standard category must base their routines on the Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot and Quickstep with an optional maximum of 16 bars based on any dance including Latin American.

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4. Teams in the Latin American category must base their routines on the Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble and Jive and any other Latin American rhythm with an optional maximum of 16 bars in any dance, including Standard dances.
5. Solo work in the Standard category shall be restricted to 8 bars in any one dance used with a maximum of 24 bars over the whole presentation. This does not apply to the Latin American dances in which solo work is normally a part.

Lifts are not permitted in either category.

Note: A lift is any movement during which one of the dancers has both feet off the floor at the same time with the assistance or support of the partner.
6. In all championships teams shall consist of six or eight couples. No person may dance in more than one team in the same event.
7. At any stage in a championship team members may be replaced by up to 4 reserves.
8. No Formation team shall dance a routine exceeding 6 minutes including entry and exit. Of these 6 minutes, no more than 4 ½ minutes shall be judged and must be clearly identified in recognisable fashion (beginning and end).

Teams not complying with these requirements may be disqualified by the chairman.
9. Adjudicators experienced in formation work should be selected. No less than 7 adjudicators from different WDSF Member bodies must be engaged.
10. Tapes or other audio systems shall be used.
11. Adequate arrangements must be made for team rehearsals, an equal amount of time being allocated to each team in the ballroom and with the music.
12. A chairman must be appointed. He must attend rehearsals and warn any team infringing the **Rules**. If the **Rules** are infringed during the contest, he will have the right to disqualify the team(s) after consultation with the adjudicators. The dance routine and music used at the rehearsal are the only permitted during the competition. No change of dress is permitted during the competition.
13. When there are more than 5 teams in a competition a second round must be held.

Rule 15

Authority of the Presidium

The presidium shall have the authority to make decisions on matters not covered by these **Rules**.

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Rule 16

Application of these Rules

WDSF Member bodies are responsible for compliance with the ***WDSF Competition Rules*** in their respective countries and should use them as guidelines for their own rules.