

**Press Release 11/2006**  
December 14, 2006

## Founding Meeting of International Professional Dance Sport Council (IPDSC)

On December 12, the Founding Meeting of IPDSC was held in Rome under the leadership of the President of the Italian DanceSport Federation (FIDS), Mr Ferruccio Galvagno. Mr Galvagno was authorized by the 2006 IDSF Annual General Meeting and by the IDSF Managing Committee meeting held in Barcelona in September 2006 to proceed with the establishment of this body. The original initiative to establish the IPDSC was presented to the IDSF Presidium by a significant number of well-known professionals.

At the 2006 IDSF AGM, IDSF members confirmed that IDSF was not seeking to start a war with the World Dance Council (WDC). However, IDSF must fulfil its roles and responsibilities as an International Sports Federation within the worldwide Olympic and Sporting family. Therefore, IDSF could not continue to delay the development and growth of DanceSport while additional discussions took place with WDC.

We ask the DanceSport community to objectively review the facts. Discussions have been conducted between IDSF and WDC over decades without any detailed common pathway being agreed to. In addition, guerrilla tactics continue to be conducted and condoned at the highest levels of WDC in relation to unrepresentative and undemocratic puppet organisations which seek to undermine IDSF's position. At the 2006 AGM, IDSF members confirmed that " IDSF will no longer tolerate or ignore such tactics ". It was also confirmed in the AGM minutes that " If WDC wants to discuss the future then they must understand that the time for political games and tactics is over ".

Therefore, as part of DanceSport's continued growth and development, IDSF members at the 2006 AGM overwhelmingly confirmed by 99 votes to 6 votes, to support " the establishment of IPDSC as the vehicle for the IDSF professional division, organised under its own democratic principles, but subject to the policies and administrative decisions of the IDSF ".

As a result of the AGM's decisions, the Founding meeting of IPDSC was conducted on December 12th in Rome. A total of 30 Countries were present or represented by proxy at the Foundation meeting of IPDSC. It was particularly satisfying to see a number of Professionals present at this meeting as delegates.

After the presentation by the FIDS President and the distribution of draft Statutes, Rules and Regulations, the meeting agreed to form four different working groups to assist in the progress of IPDSC as follows:

- IPDSC Statutes (Jim Fraser, Petr Odstrcil, Michael Shelton (IDJTA), Gian Carlo Guarini)
- IPDSC Rules and Regulations (Heinz Späker, Roger Dolléans, Alessandra Valeri, Alexander Melnikov)
- IPDSC Competition Calendar (Irena Bous, Pavel Dorokhov, Davide Cacciari, Tommy Shaughnessy, Luis Vaño, Sergey Dorogovtsev)
- IPDSC Athletes Commission (Daniele Tondon was appointed as Coordinator). This is an open Commission in which any athlete may take part.

The IPDSC Founders' Meeting unanimously appointed the above members to the Working Groups. It was also agreed that these working groups will be required to present their final results to the IPDSC Managing Group not later than March 31, 2007.

The IPDSC Logo and IPDSC website ([www.ipdsc.org](http://www.ipdsc.org)) were also unanimously accepted.

The meeting also unanimously agreed to the nomination and appointment of the following persons to form the IPDSC Managing Group:

- Verena Sulek
- Peter Maxwell
- John Kimmins
- Ferruccio Galvagno
- Shawn Tay

This group will monitor and supervise the activities of the IPDSC Working Groups and prepare for the first IPDSC Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for 2007. The 2007 IPDSC AGM will also be the forum to democratically elect a Presidium.

The IPDSC Foundation Meeting was also encouraged by the news of the rapid formation of new IPDSC bodies in many of the IDSF Member Nations. In this regard, many prominent DanceSport Festivals such as the Russian Open DanceSport Championships will now include IPDSC events.

The IDSF Presidium read with regret the contents of the recent World Dance Council press releases and the reaction to the conduct of the January, 2007 IPDSC World Championship in Madrid. The IDSF Presidium also expressed concerns over the extent of proposed punitive actions threatened by WDC on the couples, officials and adjudicators who participate in the 2007 IPDSC World Championship in Madrid. In the first instance, there are laws in most countries dealing with Restrictive Trade Practices. It is also our view that the proposed actions also contravene the Treaty of Rome.

We ask all couples/officials & adjudicators who have now been threatened in writing to consider if these threats are consistent with the doctrine as expressed by WDC of a " Free Market "? It would appear that WDC is happy to try and undermine IDSF by promoting and using the bogus IDU and IDSA, but objects to couples participating in IPDSC

events. In our opinion, a “Free Market ” is just that. It is a two-way street, not a one-way street.

The IDSF also finds it interesting that the WDC is so insecure in its own position. That is, the only way it can stop the small group of professional competitors which currently supports WDC Professional Championships from competing at the IPDSC event is by commercially and legally questionable sanctions. This is surely not a sound basis for claiming support from these competitors or the DanceSport fraternity or having the long-term interests of DanceSport at heart.

We also believe that WDC has little or no interest in DanceSport as a sport based on democratic sports principles and philosophy including adherence to Anti-Doping policies required by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), National Olympic Committees (NOC's) and many if not all Governments. The World Dance and DanceSport Council has dropped the word DanceSport from its title and are now known as the World Dance Council. Therefore, they appear to want to concentrate their efforts towards the artistic aspects of Dance rather than DanceSport. If this is the case, then maybe WDC should disband their DanceSport Council and this branch could join and work with IDSF.

IDSF has shown that it is prepared to work with WDC with regard to the recent agreement to establish a joint working group on various DanceSport matters including adjudication. However, as the worldwide recognised International Sports Federation, IDSF has no interest in joining with WDC's newly-created Amateur Commission, and for the reasons set out in this Press Release, IDSF views that body with scepticism. This offer from WDC shows that WDC is still seeking to play games to forward their political ends and that it is extremely difficult to negotiate for the future while these views and actions prevail.

In our opinion, WDC cannot say that they will negotiate while they continue to seek to undermine IDSF through their actions with their puppet organisations IDU and IDSA. The IDSF AGM has confirmed that we will no longer accept that WDC can conduct a guerrilla war and say that they want to negotiate but only their terms.

In light of the threats and legal action from WDC, the Foundation meeting of IPDSC also discussed the conduct of the inaugural IPDSC World Open Championships to be held in Madrid (ESP) on January 13/14, 2007. After the discussions and due to the fact that the event is in early January, a vote was taken which overwhelmingly supported conducting these Championships.

In order to support the long-term sporting interests of the DanceSport fraternity, the IPDSC meeting also decided to launch a series of IPDSC competitions and championships.

As a gesture of goodwill, IDSF again confirms that we offer the hand of friendship to WDC and all members of the DanceSport community to work together. In this regard, we publicly declare that our policy of seeking to find a means of working together has not and will not change.

In conclusion, we thank the DanceSport community for their continued support and understanding.

*Presidium of the  
International DanceSport Federation (IDSF)*