

**Press Release 13/2005**

December 6, 2005

**Meeting with WDDSC**

IDSF 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Vince Bain and IDSF Treasurer Lukas Hinder recently met with WDDSC representatives (Donnie Burns President, Fred Bijster Dancesport Chairman, and Stanislav Popov Vice President) in Zurich.

A positive aspect of the meeting was the willingness of the WDDSC representatives to depart from their proposed agenda and to agree to discuss some basic principles about DanceSport. In terms of specific agenda items at the IDSF/WDDSC meeting the issues discussed were the **IDU, IDSF bans and judging**.

**IDU**

The WDDSC representatives could not give a commitment that they would reject the IDU application for membership of WDDSC. This was a disappointment to us and the IDSF's strong opposition to the IDU remains unchanged. The IDSF Presidium meeting in January will be considering our options regarding this matter.

**Bans**

The WDDSC requested that the IDSF remove all bans on non compliant events. The IDSF believes that the WDDSC has forgotten its own long history of both official and unofficial bans and boycotts of events, especially judging bans and boycotts.

The WDDSC is proclaiming a new philosophy of a so called free market for open competitions. We therefore expect that the WDDSC will now apply this same "free market" approach to professional couples and to adjudicators holding IDSF licences but not WDDSC licences.

For the IDSF, the question is one of ensuring compliance with the IDSF's obligations as the IOC recognised International Federation for Dancesport, and of ensuring compliance with the principles and policies that flow from the IDSF's obligations.

**Judging**

Regarding the question of judging the meeting agreed unanimously that there is no difference in methodology between judging an amateur or a professional event. The judging skills required are the same. This means that the old WDDSC policy of refusing to agree to IDSF judges judging professional competitors, is now consigned to history's waste bin.

This depoliticising of the question of judging professional competitors is a welcome step forward by the WDDSC and hopefully will ensure that we never again see the fiasco in 2001 of threatened bans and boycotts by the WDDSC over World Games participation by professional couples.

see next page =&gt;





INTERNATIONAL DANCESPORT FEDERATION

Recognized by the IOC

Member: GAISF, ARISF, IWGA

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Press Release 13/2005

Page 2 of 2

Even though there was good progress on the question of judging professional competitors, the possibility of formalising this approach into mutual recognition of qualification by the IDSF and the WDDSC, which the meeting readily agreed was worth exploring, was subsequently found to be impossible to implement because of the inherently linked question of licences.

We are disappointed by the WDDSC Press Release about this matter, which states that the IDSF decision to maintain its requirement for judges at IDSF events to hold an IDSF licence is coercion on IDSF's part. This could be considered hypocritical given that the WDDSC has exactly the same requirement for its judges at WDDSC events.

However, the practical difficulties of processing all IDSF licence applications by 31 December was acknowledged, and accordingly the IDSF has decided to extend its 31 December deadline to 31 March 2006. Thereafter we will strictly apply the policy that only adjudicators with IDSF Adjudicators licenses will be permitted to judge IDSF competitions.

The IDSF's position is that in the same way that the WDDSC needs to have a direct relationship with its judges, so too must the IDSF have a direct relationship with its judges at IDSF events. This direct relationship is established via a licence.

The direct relationship via a licence underpins the standards required for excellence in judging practices and ethics. It is a widely acknowledged fact that the development of ever higher standards in judging, both from a technical point of view and in terms of judging practices and ethics, is critical to the development of DanceSport. This issue shows up as the top issue in every survey of Dancesport competitors and spectators and is the regular target of commentary by media commentators.

IDSF has recognised this and wants to progress this matter. Sadly the question of judging excellence has in the past been clouded by political arguments over who has the right and responsibility to decide the path forward for judging development. As a result the progress required to fix this problem has not been achieved.

It is with this in mind that the IDSF was pleased to recently reach an agreement with the International Dancesport Judges and Trainers Association (IDJTA), Monaco.

This non political body IDJTA will undertake training of judges at the highest level, as well as commission studies and undertake research of judging issues and the development of all of the supporting infrastructure for judging excellence. Every type of judging issue is potentially on the agenda and will be given due priority based on the IDJTA's assessment of its contribution to advancing judging excellence in Dancesport.

The IDSF hopes that the WDDSC will join in support for this fantastic development for Dancesport.

Rudi Baumann  
President IDSF

