

EDC 2008: The Panel of Experts

Televoting national audiences AND an expert jury made up of four International DanceSport Federation (IDSF) Adjudicators determine the winners of this year's Eurovision Dance Contest (EDC). The Adjudicators' vote equals the weight of four countries.

Four IDSF Adjudicators from non-participating countries act as an independent jury panel in the EDC 2008. After each performance, the members of the panel award points on the established scale of 1 to 12, depending on the technical and artistic merits of the couple's 2-minute routine.

After all couples have performed – and before the televoting starts in the participating countries – the totals awarded by the jury panel are once more converted into Eurovision-style points.

The couple with the highest total receives the coveted twelve (“douze”) points, the runner-up gets 10 points, 8 points go to the couple in third, and then all the way down to 1 point. Yes: four couples are left with zero points – which happen to be “zéro points” in French too!

Television viewers know the count to perfection. It has been used in the Eurovision Song Contest, the sister event of the EDC, since 1975. The often bilingual (English/French) announcements of the scores have shaped the Europe of today nearly as much as some of the legislation coming out of Brussels.

Finally, the jury panel's points are multiplied by four, giving the vote the weight of four countries.

The addition of the independent jury panel not only adds to the drama which unfolds on the scoreboard, it also provides for true experts in DanceSport to express their appreciation of the 14 performances. The four Adjudicators working at the EDC 2008 are among the most experienced of the well over 3,000 who are currently licensed by the IDSF. Meet the experts!

Gladys Tay (SIN)

Gladys Tay is a dance celebrity in Singapore. She won over twenty International DanceSport Championships titles in her career. She runs her own studio together with husband Shawn. And she was the dance consultant, trainer and choreographer in the production of John Radel's recent movie “Dance of the Dragon”.

Gladys adjudicates regularly at IDSF World Championships and Grand Slams, and she appears as a judge on the Singaporean show “The Dance Floor”.

Barbara Nagode Ambroz (SLO)

Slovenian Latin Champion in 1982, Barbara studied pedagogy and Romanic languages at the Faculty of Arts and completed her education as a dance teacher, trainer and adjudicator at the Sports Faculty of Ljubiana University.

With 23 years of experience as an IDSF Adjudicator to her credit, she works at all major competitions and lectures at IDSF Training Congresses for Adjudicators.

She co-owns and operates her own studios and schools across Slovenia, teaching and training approximately 9,000 dancers every year. Some of her students went on to win World Championships in the different age grades.

Michelle Ribas (FRA)

Michelle Ribas is a dancer and dance coach. She was French Champion 1976/7 and a semi-finalist in the IDSF European Cup 1978 in Latin.

Michelle holds Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing diplomas for Latin and Standard.

She focuses on teaching children – together with her husband Patrick. She is an IDSF Chairperson and responsible for supervising the Adjudicators working at the competitions sanctioned by DanceSport's world governing body.

Sven Trout (GER)

Sven has been active in DanceSport since 1984. Together with his partner Sybill Daute he became the 1989 Champion in Latin of the German Democratic Republic. The two were runners-up in Standard the same year. Sven and Sybill continued as perennial finalists in the German Championships after the GDR ceased to exist. Sven's best results: World Champion (1995) and winner of the World Cup (1993 – 1995) in Ten Dance.

Sven is a dance teacher/trainer and serves as the German National Team Coach for Standard since 2007. He lectures regularly at IDSF Congresses.

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International Dance Sport Federation

The International DanceSport Federation (IDSF) is the sport's world governing body recognised by the International Olympic Committee. The mission of IDSF is to regulate, administer and develop DanceSport for the benefit of millions of athletes at every level and on all continents. IDSF has 84 National Member Federations.

IDSF Websites

www.idsf.net

worlddancesportfederation.org