



April 2014

WDSF PD DIRECTOR'S REPORT to the PD AGM 2014 in BUCHAREST

Dear Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

WDSF Professional Division entered 2013 with the management structure inherited from the International Professional DanceSport Council (IPDSC), the former independent organisation that merged into WDSF PD in August 2011. By the decision of the PD AGM in Shanghai on June 15, the 11-member Management Body with 4-member Managing Committee have been replaced by a single Management Board with 7 members elected in Shanghai.

The newly elected Management Board has been constituted at its first meeting on August 12, 2013 in Stuttgart. Besides PD Director it has a Deputy Director, Secretary General, PD Sport Director and Deputy Sport Director and 2 ordinary Members and Advisors. As it is well known that I have been the Treasurer of IPDSC and PD since the very beginning and taking into consideration that PD Finances are part of the WDSF Finances under the control of WDSF Treasurer and PD Financial Statements are incorporated into WDSF Financial Statements and audited by the same auditor, my Management Board colleagues entrusted me to continue taking care also for financial matters of PD.

Both General Meetings in Shanghai (WDSF and PD) adopted the WDSF Motion that in principle all WDSF Rules apply also for its Professional Division with the provision that necessary specific regulations shall be adopted as PD Supplementary Rules. The draft of such Rules has been prepared for the General Meetings of PD and WDSF in Bucharest and will, if adopted, open the access to all the activities of the PD to all WDSF Member bodies regardless of payment of the PD Registration Fee (until now called PD Membership Fee). The only purpose of PD Registration Fee is supposed to give to the delegates of the WDSF Member bodies the voting rights at PD General Meetings.

In 2013 two new members joined the Professional Division: China as a very important new member and Canada as our welcome returnee. At the end of 2013 we had 45 full and 4 provisional members. The number of PD registered athletes also increases accordingly.

During the past 3 years the number of PD competitions is stable. The majority of the title competitions are concentrated within a 3 month period at the end of the year. Encouraging is the fact that the number of stand-alone PD Competitions is growing and the overall quality of PD couples and good reputation of PD Competitions also. I attended all World Super Grand Prix competitions and all PD World Championships in Autumn 2013 and my impression was that they were all well organised and, even more important, enthusiastically accepted by the audience.

At the beginning of 2013 PD Management Board decided not to run Senior PD Competitions any more. Following the wish of many athletes the newly elected PD MB decided to re-introduce PD Senior Competitions and there were very successful Senior World Championships held in Italy in November 2013. On the initiative of PD athletes PD MB took the decision to change the name: PD Senior is replaced by PD Master Class.

To encourage the Organizers of WDSF competitions PD MB took the decision not to charge the Competition Fee for PD Open competitions in 2014.



WDSF sponsored Prize Money at PD World Super Grand Prix competitions and PD sponsored out of its own funds approximately 50% of Prize Money for PD World and Continental Championships.

PD World Championships in Show Dance in December 2013 in Merano were the first PD competitions where the new WDSF judging system, specially adapted for Show Dance competitions, has been implemented. Our aim should be to use the new judging system at all PD World Championships in 2014 and further.

The Financial Statements for 2013 show around 20% growth of income, 10% growth of expenses and 37% growth of surplus of income over expenses, so we could decide to increase the PD Prize Money contributions for PD Championships and Cups in 2014. PD Section of the WDSF webpage has been significantly improved during second half of 2013 and more active communication with our existing members, athletes and adjudicators will be one of our priorities in the future, PD is actively supporting WDSF communication activities and in 2013 all major PD title competitions have been either broadcasted by the local TV networks or/and live streamed by the internet via WDSF You Tube DanceSport Portal and we will insist on further developing and improving this kind of promotion of Professional Division and its athletes.

WDSF DanceSport Academy is under the direct control of the WDSF Presidium. Since WDSF General Secretary Shawn Tay has been appointed Chair there has been a visible progress in Academy's activities and PD Education Coordinator is actively participating as one of the three Members and two Technical and Performance Advisors of the Academy.

Let me, at this point, report about an issue from the educational area that might become important for the future of PD and WDSF as a whole. It concerns dance teachers and trainers. PD received from ADTV (German Association of Dance Teachers and Trainers) an official inquiry about the possibility to become PD member. Unofficially I have been contacted by several trainers working in the frame of WDSF and eager to get organised. At our MB meeting I opened this question and the standpoint is as follows: WDSF is the Worldwide Federation of the National DanceSport Associations and PD has its membership base as a Division within WDSF. Therefore the only possibility for teachers and trainers to become internationally organised under the WDSF umbrella is to organise themselves within National DanceSport Federations or their professional divisions and to start acting within WDSF PD through their National Associations. If such process starts, PD would be ready to consider the establishment of the Commission of WDSF Dance Teachers and Trainers with the appropriate position within the PD management structure. The first opportunity to open the discussion about this issue through one or more National PD and/or WDSF Members will be at the Open Forum held in the Frame of Annual General Meetings of WDSF and PD, this year in Bucharest on Saturday, June 14.

At the end I am pleased to thank all the colleagues of PD Management Board and PD Office for their dedicated and engaged contributions in running smoothly and constructively our day to day tasks. My special thanks goes to WDSF President Carlos Freitag – by being Member and Advisor in PD Management Board he understands better the problems and the importance of the Professional Division and is constructively participating in developing our ideas and taking our decisions in good faith for the prosperity of professional DanceSport.

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WDSF PD Director