



INTERNATIONAL DANCESPORT FEDERATION

Recognized by the IOC

Member: GAISF, ARISF, IWGA

Avenue Mon Repos 24, C.P. 83, 1005 Lausanne 5 / Switzerland

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December 29, 2005

International DanceSport Federations President's New Years Message

I write to all of you at the most festive time of the year, when we take time to remember the most important things in life: family, friends, good health, kindness to others, peace on earth. These things are uppermost in my mind as I write another New Year's Message as your President, as we say in German, "mit freundlichen Grüßen" -- 'with friendly greetings'. Looking at my family around me and thinking of the **DanceSport** friends in my own community in Switzerland, this year I wish to call to mind and honour all of the people around the world who work so hard for our Sport all year long, organizing large and small competitions, maintaining competition ratings -- all the jobs without which our Sport would not function and IDSF would not exist. These people are our friends, our 'family', and part of a great world community of which we are so privileged to be a part.

One of the issues I would like to discuss in this message is the question about "personal freedoms". I think that we would all welcome the ability not to pay taxes, or to ignore laws which we did not agree with. However, laws, rules, regulations and obligations provide a framework which exists to protect and guarantee the very personal freedoms which we all cherish.

An example of the need to work within established structures relates to the fact that there are many Sports which have as a goal acceptance of their Sport in the Olympic Program. However, just because the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is not prepared to accept a particular Sport does not mean that these Sports should go out and establish their own structure to try to compete with the IOC. Rather, all these Sports accept that we must work within the Olympic family to show the value of our particular Sport to gain acceptance into the Olympic Program.





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We live in a society which works not because we can all do what we want to do when we want to do it, but because as individuals or sporting, business or cultural organizations, we must all abide by laws, rules, systems and structures which mould our behaviour to ensure that society is able to function properly. It is for this reason that as a **DanceSport** community we cannot tolerate anarchic groups or organizations that use shallow arguments about "personal freedoms" to justify their existence.

The International **DanceSport** Federation (IDSF) is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the peak International Federation covering all aspects of **DanceSport**. As such, we have detailed rules in accordance with IOC practice and requirements including the World Anti-Doping Code, Competition Rules, Adjudication and Codes of conduct, to name just a few.

Let me also remind you that it was IDSF which in 1990 created and made popular the use of the term "**DanceSport**" worldwide. Although we are happy for people to use this term in connection with our sport, we will not accept people taking advantage of our vision, foresight and rights to undermine the philosophical sports basis upon which we continue to develop **DanceSport**.

We look forward to working with any individual or group or body that is prepared to work within our framework for the development of **DanceSport** - the ultimate mixed contact artistic sport!

Let us take time at this year-end to remember that our first goals must always be fairness, friendship and good will in Sport, and in all our other activities. I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season, and a Happy New Year in 2006!

Rudolf P. Baumann
President
International DanceSport Federation (IDSF)

