

WDSF Press Release 2017/04 ::: Issue 23/05/2017

DANCESPORT | UNIVERSITY SPORT

The decision of the International University Sports Federation to grant DanceSport recognition makes it eligible as an optional sport for the programme of the Universiade.

The [International University Sports Federation](#) (FISU) has attributed its recognition to DanceSport, thus endorsing it for a possible inclusion into the programme of future editions of the FISU World University Games (Universiade) as an optional sport.

The status of “recognised sport” is new and the direct outcome of a process which had FISU review its overall strategies as well as the sports programmes for the different events held under its auspices.

The decision was communicated to World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) President Lukas Hinder in a personal letter by FISU President Oleg Matysin. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between WDSF and FISU in the near future to outline the parameters for the future collaboration as well as the many development opportunities that will arise from it.

WDSF had sought FISU’s embrace of DanceSport for quite some time, compiling, with the help of its National Member Bodies (NMB), a comprehensive dossier on the practice of dance disciplines at the university level. While many top athletes are in fact students, and while varsity leagues prosper in number of countries, an international competition structure was never created beyond the university championships held by the continental associations in Asia and Europe.

WDSF President Hinder thanked his counterpart at FISU, President Matysin, for granting recognition to DanceSport. *“We gladly take on the challenge of working our way up from being one of the new recognised sports to one that will eventually feature in World University Championships and – in due time – in the Universiade.”* Hinder said. *“This recognition should provide our global community with the momentum needed to strengthen the competition structures at this specific level – for the benefit of many university students who are top-level dancers too.”*

Hinder also thanked each NMB which has contributed with its own experience in conducting collegiate leagues and championships to make DanceSport’s cause so compelling. “It couldn’t have been done without you,” he summarised the experience.

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WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION – WDSF

WDSF is the world governing body of DanceSport. Founded in 1957, it administers, develops and promotes the different forms of dance practised as sport for the benefit of millions of athletes around the globe. WDSF and DanceSport are recognised by the International Olympic Committee since 1997. It has its headquarters in Lausanne, SUI.

www.worlddancesport.org

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS FEDERATION – FISU

Founded in 1949, FISU stands for *Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire* (International University Sports Federation). FISU's main responsibility is the supervision of both the Summer and Winter Universiades, as well as the World University Championships. The General Assembly representing its members (170 National University Sports Federations) is FISU's main governing body.

<http://www.fisu.net/>

DANCESPORT IN MULTI-SPORT GAMES

WDSF and DanceSport are recognised by the International Olympic Committee too. Breaking – one of the disciplines that make up the diverse artistic sport – will premiere in the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games in October next year.

<http://buenosaires2018.com/en/>

Four other disciplines – Acrobatic Rock ‘n’ Roll, Latin, Salsa and Standard – are featured at The World Games 2017 in Wroclaw, POL, this July.

<https://theworldgames2017.com/en/>

The 2017 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Ashgabat, TRM, include Latin and Standard during the second half of September.

<http://www.ashgabat2017.gov.tm/>

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