



A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE IDSF PRESIDENT REGARDING MR. FERRUCCIO GALVAGNO AND F.I.D.S.

As you may now all be aware, IDSF Presidium Member Mr. Ferruccio Galvagno recently voluntarily resigned as President of FIDS, our Italian member body.

The problems for Mr. Galvagno started some months ago, when an organization opposed to FIDS and led by a Mr. Augusto Schiavo, commenced raising issues in the Italian media. In addition, letters were sent to the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) claiming that FIDS was working against the interests of DanceSport.

The main argument in support of these claims was that Italian athletes were not permitted to compete in events in England. However, these English events were not registered by IDSF. In addition, the opposition group used the flawed argument of providing couples with the "freedom to dance". Of course, IDSF believes that couples have the "freedom to choose", if they wish to participate in the IDSF system which complies with universally accepted sports principles and philosophies, including compliance with Anti Doping Programs, and, meets the requirements of National Governments, Sports bodies, the IOC and WADA.

Based on information from Mr. Schiavo, we also understand that Mr. Alberto Pregnolato accused FIDS of manipulating the results of Rimini DanceSport events.

As a result of these allegations, it was decided to act in the best interests of DanceSport and have the allegations independently tested. Therefore, an agreement was reached between our member body FIDS, and CONI. The agreement made it possible for CONI to commence an independent investigation. To facilitate such an independent investigation, CONI has appointed a Special Commissioner, Dr. Luca Pancalli, a former head of the Italian Paralympic Committee, who is familiar with IDSF, FIDS and DanceSport.

During the appointment of the Special Commissioner, Mrs. Carla Giuliani will remain as the FIDS General Secretary to help and provide all necessary assistance.



I also confirm that during this investigation, Mr. Galvagno offered to suspend his activities as a member of the IDSF Presidium, until these matters were satisfactorily resolved. Mr. Galvagno explained that he strongly believes that it is important to demonstrate his personal accountability and transparency. In addition, in Mr. Galvagno believes that during the last ten years he has been in office, FIDS has been correctly and well managed. I can confirm that although Mr. Galvagno's offer was very unselfish and honorable, it was not accepted by the IDSF Presidium.

Mr. Galvagno presented his resignation to FIDS members after a recent successful and productive General Meeting, to promote transparency and so that he could concentrate on proving that the management and remarkable growth of FIDS in the last ten years has (contrary to some reports) been in the best interests of DanceSport and all Italian members.

During the past decade, I understand that FIDS's membership increased from 22,750 to 108,000 and its funds have increased from €0.9 Million to €8.0 Million. Few organizations anywhere can show this kind of success. We attribute much of this success to Mr. Galvagno's personal hard work and leadership. Of course, such success can lead to jealousy and opposition, particularly when significant resources of a body like FIDS are protected for DanceSport and its Italian members, and not for competing commercial interests.

IDSF has been impressed by the tremendous growth and development of DanceSport in Italy and we strongly support the work of FIDS.

I can assure you that IDSF will continue to fulfill its responsibilities as the recognized governing body of our sport. However, we wish to avoid situations developing where similar problems can be created for other IDSF member bodies. Please remember that IDSF Member Bodies are working in the interests of Sport, the Athletes and the Olympic family. As a consequence, our member bodies are unable to allow their athletes to be part of events which are not protected and compliant with IDSF and IOC rules and regulations, including Anti Doping.

In conclusion, I ask you to reserve judgment on these matters until Special Commissioner Pancalli has had the opportunity to report to CONI on the conduct and affairs of FIDS.



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In the meantime, I am confident that you will continue to support our wonderful sport against any people or organizations who believe they can totally ignore internationally accepted Government, Sporting, IOC and WADA requirements.

St. Cugat, SPAIN, February 10, 2011

Carlos Freitag
IDSF President on behalf of the IDSF Presidium