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## **The Legal Commission**

April 11, 2012

To the Delegates to the  
2012 Annual General Meeting of the  
World DanceSport Federation (WDSF),  
Berlin, Germany:

### **Report of the WDSF Legal Commission Chair**

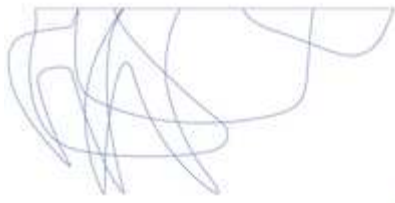
Dear Friends:

It is a great honour to be one of your WDSF Presidium Members, and an honour to have chaired the WDSF Legal Commission again this year.

I am reporting to you again as Chair of this Commission, to cover the period ending April 11, 2012.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the Legal Commission's service to WDSF. It is a working Commission, which works nearly every week of the year, and which advises WDSF officials and deals with legal problems and questions about WDSF's relations with other people and organizations e.g. WDSF Member Federations, WADA, television businesses, or WDSF's insurers.

The Commission has four Members, from Canada, England, Slovenia and Switzerland.



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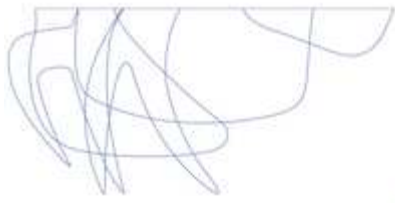


The Legal Commission promotes consistent methods of reviewing and approving WDSF's contracts and correspondence, analyzing the application of the law and our **Statutes** and **Competition Rules** to all of our activities, and providing a safer, better way to review applications for WDSF Membership, and it plans for the growth of services such as our Internet work and our adjudicating system.

My work as Chair of the Legal Commission has increased noticeably this year. I say sincerely that the past year was probably the most absorbing and challenging year in the history of this Commission, mainly because of the VISION 2012 issues which the WDSF President has described at length in his comprehensive and very fine President's Report, and because of the major changes which the Presidium is making under the leadership of the President, the Sports Director and the General Secretary in the way we are governing and reforming DanceSport. In those matters and in more familiar situations we again gave numerous opinions about the legal interpretation and application of the **WDSF Statutes** and the **WDSF Competition Rules**, and other legal questions, to WDSF officials who asked for advice, including many WDSF Commissions. We also negotiated and supervised WDSF's Insurance Affairs.

The business of the Managing Committee and the Presidium is extremely varied. It changes regularly, and the activities in DanceSport around the world create numerous legal questions that must be considered and answered.

This Commission exists to provide support and consultation to Members of the WDSF Presidium, and to Members of the various Commissions of the WDSF Presidium. It also receives questions from officials in the WDSF system such as Presidents, Members' lawyers in countries where there are particular problems governed by local law, and other people who are inside and outside the WDSF system. Its work is based on this Presidium's fundamental principle that WDSF and DanceSport must be governed according to law, the **WDSF Statutes**, the Rules and Regulations which flow from the **Statutes**, and the resulting modern WDSF system of the Presidium's Commissions, Operating Policies and business management, according to the democratic decisions of the WDSF Annual General Meetings; and not for *ad hoc* or personal reasons.



This Presidium's policy is to promote clear understanding of WDSF's legal status, to protect and develop the legal framework of DanceSport, and to conduct all of WDSF's business thoroughly, carefully, and as safely as possible.

This year we worked particularly hard with Carlos Freitag, Marco Sietas, Tony Tilenni, Shawn Tay and Heidi Goetz regarding their areas of expertise and responsibility. They are all exceptional colleagues and I am very proud to be working with them both as a Presidium Member and as Chair of the WDSF Legal Commission.

### ***Meetings With Presidium Members***

According to the WDSF Statutes the Presidium is required to carry on its business by e-mail and telephone as much as possible. During the past year I conferred with one or more WDSF Presidium Members by e-mail nearly every day.

I met personally with Members of the Managing Committee and the Presidium in Stuttgart, Germany last August and I also attended the Presidium's annual Winter Meeting in Barcelona in January, 2012 and held meetings with MC and Presidium Members before and after that Winter Meeting.

### ***Revision of WDSF Statutes***

The Legal Commission includes a working WDSF Statutes Revision Department, and is responsible to advise about the **WDSF Statutes** and related rules and regulations, the WDSF Presidium's Operating Policies, and any changes that are proposed to them. This includes providing advice about the meaning and effect of the numerous Motions that are being made at this year's Annual General Meeting by the Presidium and by some Federations.

One of our most important jobs this year was to assist the WDSF Sports Commission to work on amendments to the **WDSF Competition Rules**. We took this assignment very seriously and we did a great deal of work on it.



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I look forward to the AGM's consideration of the excellent work the Commission has done.

We also worked on matters involving the WDSF Athletes' Commission.

After assisting in introducing the major changes to our legal structure by which the Annual General Meeting created the WDSF Professional Division ("WDSF PD"), I followed its progress with great interest. I wish to advise you that, consistent with the new parts of the **WDSF Statutes**, from my point of view the PD has proceeded very independently and without interference from the Presidium.

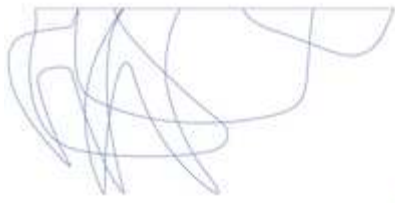
### ***Anti-Doping***

The WDSF Anti-Doping Commission (AADC) continues to be an important part of the Legal Commission's work. Some of the AADC's work has legal aspects. Consequently, I have been a Member of the AADC since it was first created in 2001. I was also its first Chair.

I again want to thank Mr. Ko de Mooy, Chair of the WDSF Anti-Doping Commission, for the exceptional work and assistance he has provided to WDSF and to the WDSF Legal Commission. It helps that he is also a working legal professional in his personal career in The Netherlands.

### ***Insurance***

As I have emphasized in previous Reports, the WDSF Legal Commission is available to consult with you about insurance coverage, which is becoming more important every year. We encourage you to do this. One Member of our Commission, David Corfield, of England, is a very experienced retired insurance industry executive who worked extensively with Lloyd's of London during his career. He has been a Member of this Commission since 2005. He has a lot of knowledge about this subject.



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I am certain that David would be very pleased to consult with you about this subject to assist you to make your Federation and activities more secure in your own countries.

### ***WDSF Disciplinary Council***

Whenever an Appeal is filed with the WDSF DC, I am notified and we give careful attention to the progress of the Appeal, although of course we do not interfere in the Disciplinary Council's work or decisions.

I wish to thank DC Chair Erich Staeldi for his long service to WDSF and for his particularly helpful advice to me on various matters over the years. We will miss him very much.

### ***Other Work***

New Members and old Members frequently consult the Legal Commission about legal and jurisdictional problems regarding competitions, contracts, controversies and disciplinary questions, conflicts of interest, international law and even criminal law. We have answered questions about all of these things.

This service is available to all WDSF Members. You are welcome to write to me if you would like to discuss such questions. We can provide Federations with an unbiased and experienced answer, free.

Legal developments in one country are often important for all countries. If something important happens in your country in a Court case, or regarding a new law made by your government or your national sport organization, please inform me so that we may review it for the benefit of all of DanceSport.



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## ***Generally***

Activities in DanceSport around the world create numerous legal questions that must be considered and answered and make the Presidium's work much more complicated. This results in new legal relationships and discussions, and I expect that the Commission's workload and responsibilities will continue to increase.

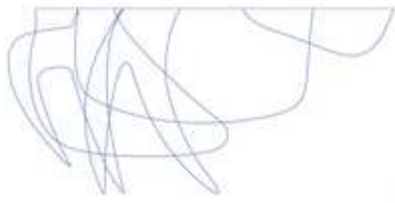
So the Legal Commission is regularly asked for advice and assistance. As Chair, I regularly review certain correspondence and WDSF Press Releases, before they are sent or published.

We review many of WDSF's important documents and draft contracts, answer many telephone calls and respond to requests for advice. In particular, the WDSF Membership Commission's work, including its success in greatly increasing the number of WDSF Members, results in more supervisory work for the Legal Commission.

During the past year, the General Secretary's work has also increased a lot for several reasons, and I have been very pleased to assist him with his workload.

For various reasons, during the 2011-2012 year I worked most closely with the WDSF Managing Committee, at least two or three times a week and sometimes more often. They are very hardworking and productive Members of the Presidium and I have developed a strong and cooperative relationship with each of them.

I have also worked a great deal with representatives of our new DanceSport disciplines as they brought their organizations into the VISION 2012 system. It has been pleasant and stimulating to learn more about their ways of doing things and to help them in their ambitions to work more closely with all of us.



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I came to WDSF in the same way as all of you; I was working for our philosophy of DanceSport in my own country. Attending the WDSF Annual General Meeting was one of the most helpful experiences I ever had in that kind of work, because I was able to meet and talk with so many people from other countries who were doing the same thing. I learned from WDSF that the most important thing in sport is not how we are different, but rather how we share common values and ambitions that really do unite us, and how working together builds strength in our sport. The most important and powerful thing in sport is the friendships and relationships that we develop and enjoy as part of our service to our athletes and friends.

I hope that we will continue to do that at our 2012 Annual General Meeting. Thank you for taking the time to read this Report. I hope it will receive your approval. I look forward to meeting all of you in Berlin.

Yours truly,

**Jim Fraser**  
**Chair, WDSF Legal Commission**  
**Member, WDSF Presidium**