



WDSF Athletes' Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics

1. Preamble

1.1. A good reputation is the foundation of every sport and should be preserved by its federations. In order to continue to enhance the good reputation of DanceSport and its athletes as well as the World DanceSport Federation, the WDSF Presidium originally adopted this ***WDSF Athletes' Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics*** as an Operating Policy.

1.2. In recognition of its importance in the fulfilment of the mission and objectives of WDSF, this Code has since been approved by the General Meeting and belongs to the Rules and Regulations of WDSF.

1.3. This Code shall be binding on all DanceSport athletes in the WDSF DanceSport system around the World. WDSF Members shall integrate this Code, whether by reference or otherwise, into their own rules and regulations and agree to give effect to and enforce the terms of this Code within their jurisdiction.

2. General Conduct of Athletes

2.1. DanceSport competition is a pleasure and a privilege, and is based on the Olympic principle of joy through effort. It can be practised by people of all ages and backgrounds.

2.2. Athletes occupy a position of trust and are significant role models to their peers and to the world generally. A high standard of



good conduct before, during and after any DanceSport competition is required of any athlete in the WDSF DanceSport system.

2.3. An athlete's conduct both on and off the dance floor must be consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. An athlete participating in DanceSport:

- will always give his or her best performance regardless of any other considerations
- will always be gracious and conduct himself/herself in a sportsmanlike manner, whether in victory or defeat, and in a way that inspires fellow competitors and future competitors to attain the highest level of sportsmanship
- will always compete without the use of prohibited substances and will actively fight against doping, respect WADA and act in the spirit of fair play
- will always respect the property of others, whether it is private property or public property
- will always respect his or her dance partner, other competitors, spectators, organizers, and officials
- will not engage in discriminatory conduct
- will not engage in violent or abusive conduct whether verbal or physical or in sexual harassment or abuse of any kind
- will comply with the rules, regulations, policies and decisions of WDSF, the WDSF Presidium and WDSFs Commissions
- will at all times act as an exemplary ambassador for DanceSport, WDSF, and his or her own country

2.4. An athlete must not behave in a questionable or unseemly



manner in public or at any DanceSport competition or DanceSport-related function or occasion where members of the public (including athletes, spectators and the media) are present in any capacity.

2.5. All members of the DanceSport Community, whether coaches, organizers, fellow athletes or others, have an obligation to encourage high standards of good conduct, and discourage unacceptable conduct, by athletes.

3. Rules of Conduct

3.1. Athletes who enter any event listed on the official WDSF Competition Calendar, are governed directly by the WDSF Statutes and all other Rules and policies adopted by WDSF. WDSF can take all appropriate action to ensure that any athletes' conduct is in the best interests of DanceSport.

3.2. Non-WDSF Events

3.2.1. No athlete may participate in any way in a DanceSport competition or event which is not (i) with respect to International Events (as defined below), listed on the official WDSF Competition Calendar, or (ii) with respect to National Events (as defined below), organised or sanctioned by a WDSF Member (any competition or event not falling within (i) or (ii) being a "**Non-WDSF Event**") unless s/he has obtained advance written consent for such participation from WDSF in the case of an International Event and from the Member of WDSF in the relevant country in the case of a National Event

For the purposes of this Code, a "**National Event**" is an event or competition featuring only dancers who are either (i) primarily affiliated (whether directly or indirectly) to the WDSF Member or other national dance or DanceSport association in the country in which such event is staged (the "host country") or (ii) not affiliated to any national dance or DanceSport association (in the host country or elsewhere) but have their primary affiliation to a dance school,



club, group or other organisation in the host country; an “**International Event**” is any event or competition which is not a National Event. For the avoidance of doubt, a dancer shall not have a “primary” affiliation to an association, school etc in the host country if s/he has a closer or more significant affiliation to an equivalent institution in a different country.

3.2.2 With respect to participation in Non-WDSF Events which are National Events (i.e. all dancers primarily affiliated to national DanceSport organisations or schools/clubs etc in the host country, as set out above), the criteria for obtaining permission and the applicable sanctions in the event of participating without such permission shall be within the discretion of the relevant Member (such discretion to be exercised giving due regard to the WDSF Sporting Calendar and the interests of DanceSport generally).

3.2.3. With respect to participation in Non-WDSF Events which are International Events, the WDSF may consider granting such consent only if it is satisfied that (i) the organisation ultimately responsible for the regulation of such Non-WDSF Event not only has in place Anti-doping rules which comply with the **World Anti-Doping Code** but which also implement an effective Anti-doping programme based on such rules and (ii) the participation of the relevant athlete(s) in such Non-WDSF Event will not disrupt the organisation or staging of an event listed on the official WDSF Competition Calendar.

3.2.4. The grant or refusal of WDSF consent in respect of International Events shall be within the absolute discretion of the WDSF Presidium and grounds need not be given in the event of refusal; for the avoidance of doubt, the WDSF may decide to refuse consent for reasons unrelated to Anti-doping and/or the disruption of an event listed on the official WDSF Competition Calendar. In the event that the WDSF does not respond to a given request, it shall be deemed that such request for consent has been refused.

3.2.5. The WDSF may maintain, and publish on its website, a register of Non-WDSF Events (being International Events) which it



deems not to satisfy the criteria set out at 3.2.3 (i) and (ii) above (any such event being a "**Specified Event**"). Athletes should not request consent to participate in Specified Events as such consent will not be granted under any circumstances.

3.2.6. Requests for consent from WDSF to participate in a Non-WDSF Event which is an International Event shall be sent by e-mail no later than two months prior to the commencement of such event to the WDSF Sports Director at the current address shown for him or her on the WDSF Web Site.

3.3. Athletes must sign an acknowledgement of WDSFs jurisdiction over them if they are asked to do so.

3.4 An athlete must not make any false statement in relation to his or her competition licence.

3.5. An athlete must not make any false statement in relation to his or her application to compete in any competition.

3.6. An athlete must never threaten any person immediately before, immediately after, or during any competition in which s/he is competing, including by using body language, facial expressions, orally or in writing, in order to improperly affect the outcome of a competition.

3.7. An athlete must never seek by any means to improperly influence, or to intimidate, any adjudicator, athlete or other person involved in any way in a competition.

3.8. An athlete must not publicly question an adjudicators judgement, honesty or good faith, except in writing addressed in good faith to authorities of competent jurisdiction.



3.9. An athlete must dance at competitions in which s/he is registered to compete, or else give reasonable prior notice in writing that s/he will not compete.

3.10. An athlete must arrive on time at the competition venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.

3.11. Subject only to exceptions permitted by law, or innocent accident or mistake, an athlete must not cause damage to property, or take property without lawful excuse, or injure any person, before, during or after a competition.

4. Complaints

4.1. Complaints are received, reviewed and decided by either the WDSF Presidium, a responsible WDSF Presidium Member or by any other official responsible to deal with the matter (e.g. the Chairperson of a competition).

4.2. Decisions which are made about complaints may be appealed to the WDSF Disciplinary Council, according to the **WDSF Disciplinary Council Code**.

4.3. Any urgent complaints by athletes about adjudicators or any other aspect of a competition must be addressed only to the Chair during the competition.

4.4. Complaints are decided by WDSF and its Members based on



the facts, by applying the relevant governing competition Rules, and not on subjective grounds.

4.5. Unless it is urgent, a complaint:

- must be in writing
- must be completed with a name, address (postal and email), and contact numbers, and must be dated and signed
- must be more than an accusation
- must not be made on condition of anonymity, or on any other condition
- must be clear and specific, including dates, places, etc., and giving reasons
- may be supported by documents, photographs, names, and contact information of witnesses
- must be made within twenty (20) days of the occurrence of the act or omission which is the subject of the complaint, or within twenty (20) days of the time at which the complainant became aware of the same act or omission, provided always that no complaint may be submitted more than 90 days after the act or omission which is the basis for the complaint.

4.6. It is unfair, unsportsmanlike, and unacceptable to make an oral complaint (unless it is urgent and addressed to the Chair during a competition), or to circulate anonymous complaints.

5. Sanctions

5.1. Any athlete, whose conduct is determined by the Presidium to



be contrary to this Code, is subject to penalties, including but not limited to one or more of the following penalties: an order for compensation (if property is damaged or destroyed and the costs should be reimbursed); disqualification from a competition; a temporary suspension from the right to compete in some or all of the National Events and/or International Events on the official WDSF Competition Calendar; and in case of recurrent or very serious misconduct a permanent suspension from the right to compete in such events.

5.2. For the avoidance of doubt, the imposition of a sanction in respect of a violation of this Code does not require a complaint (within the meaning of section 4).

5.3. The minimum penalty considered by the Presidium will usually be a 3-month suspension from the right to compete.

5.4. In general the first sanction of any conduct contrary to this Code will be a letter of reprimand. In more serious cases the Presidium may apply a more severe level of sanction, even for a first offence or act of misconduct. For example, participation by an athlete in a Non-WDSF Event which is an International Event without obtaining the requisite consent from WDSF shall constitute a serious case and may result, even for a first offence, in a suspension from competing in all National Events and International Events on the official WDSF Competition Calendar.