



# Adjudicators' Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics

## 1. Preamble

- 1.1. As we work towards our goal of becoming an Olympic Program sport, it is now more important than ever that we preserve and enhance the reputation upon which the World DanceSport Federation was built. Our reputation demands that we conduct our business ethically and legally, and that our conduct always reflects the values and principles enshrined in the **Olympic Charter**.
- 1.2. This **Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics** ("the **Code**") is intended to provide a framework of standards for conduct and ethics for adjudicators, including their participation in events not organised or sanctioned by WDSF or one of its Member federations.
- 1.3. The Code was originally developed as an Operating Policy of the WDSF Presidium *inter alia* in recognition of the fundamental and overriding responsibility of all adjudicators to maintain the integrity, competence and effectiveness of judging panels as a whole. In further 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.
- 1.4. The rules and standards set out in the **Code** are intended to assist adjudicators to establish appropriate standards of conduct in order that they have the confidence of their peers, the competitors they are judging, the WDSF and WDSF member federations utilising their services, other sports administration bodies including IOC, and the sports media and general public.



- 1.5. It must be recognised that the **Code** cannot anticipate all possible situations in which adjudicators may be called upon to exercise judgement. In all cases, it remains the ultimate responsibility of each individual adjudicator to consider the intent as well as the letter of the standards, which have been set, to conduct himself/herself in an ethical and professional manner, and to ensure all competitors are judged on their merits free from any bias or coercion.
- 1.6. Adherence to the standards reflected in the **Code** is essential to WDSF's future success. All adjudicators must become familiar with the contents of this Code. WDSF expects every adjudicator to take personal responsibility for complying with the **Code** and acting in a manner consistent with WDSF and IOC values and principles.
- 1.7. The **Code** applies to all adjudicators and Chairmen (hereinafter referred to collectively as "adjudicators") licensed by or affiliated with the WDSF or a WDSF member federation.



## 2. Conflict of Interest

A Conflict of Interest is any interest, relationship, association or activity that is incompatible with an adjudicator's obligations to ensure that all competitors are judged on their merits, free from any bias or coercion.

Conflicts of Interest arise in particular when the personal interests of an adjudicator influence that adjudicator's judgement or ability to act in the best interest of the WDSF, which is the same as the best interest of the competitors.

An adjudicator must adhere to the rules set out in this **Code**, and shall retire from the panel where any potential Conflict of Interest arises.

## 3. Rules for Adjudicators

- (a) An adjudicator shall not judge in any event and shall retire from the panel, if s/he knows or believes that his/her physical or mental condition does not allow him/her to perform the job properly without any limitations.
- (b) An adjudicator shall not judge any event, and shall retire from the panel, where any person competing in that competition is a member of his/her immediate and extended family, including de facto relationships, or where s/he has a personal relationship to any competitor in the competition which makes it inappropriate for him/her to serve as an adjudicator.

For greater clarity, the words "immediate and extended family" include anyone to whom that judge is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.

- (c) An adjudicator shall not accept money, awards, articles or things of substantial material value, or favours or promises of any future consideration, whether as gift or as payment for services, from any competitor or organiser, or from any other third party, who may be or may have been affected directly or indirectly by the adjudicator's decision.



- (d) An adjudicator shall not make any false representation in respect of his/her accreditation level or experience and in relation to his/her adjudicators licence.
- (e) Once an adjudicator is engaged to officiate at a particular event s/he can only act as an adjudicator throughout the event and this Code applies to the event as a whole.
- (f) An adjudicator shall not coach, teach, or give any advice to any participating couple during an event at which he/she is judging.
- (g) An adjudicator shall not threaten to mark a couple in a particular way.
- (h) An adjudicator shall not in any way threaten a couple during the conduct of a competition s/he is judging and in which the couple is competing.
- (i) An adjudicator shall refrain from publicly taking any partisan position in respect of any couple he/she may judge in any competition.
- (j) An adjudicator shall not seek by any means to improperly influence, or to intimidate, another adjudicator.
- (k) An adjudicator who is not a member of the judging panel for an event, shall not discuss with any adjudicator who is a member of the judging panel for that event the merits of the performance of a competitor in that event or any previous performances or results, before the completion of the event.
- (l) An adjudicator shall not discuss the merits of a competitor's performance with the competitor before the end of the event in which s/he is judging.
- (m) An adjudicator shall not seek to influence the outcome of a competition other than by marking all couples in the competition on their merits
- (n) An adjudicator when appointed to judge an WDSF event has to judge strictly according to WDSF rules and policies.



- (o) An adjudicator shall not engage in any conduct that is intended to gain an advantage for any competitor
- (p) An adjudicator shall not falsely claim to officially represent WDSF in any capacity.
- (q) If an adjudicator converses with fellow adjudicators, spectators, competitors or coaches during an event, s/he may not discuss the performance of any couple s/he is judging or any of their previous performances or results, until after the end of the event.

#### **4. General Behaviour of Adjudicators**

Adjudicators shall comply with the following rules of conduct so as to uphold the highest standards of behaviour:

- (a) An adjudicator's behaviour both on and off the dance floor must be consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. An adjudicator must not behave in a questionable or unseemly manner in public or at any Dance Sport related function or occasion where members of the public (including competitors, spectators and the media) are present in any capacity.
- (b) An adjudicator must be consistent, objective and neutral in his/her decisions. Biased judging undermines the whole basis of competition.
- (c) An adjudicator must not publicly question his/her fellow adjudicators' judgement, honesty or good faith.
- (d) Where an adjudicator is permitted by this **Code** to judge the couples s/he coaches or has coached in the past, the adjudicator should not allow this relationship to influence his/her judgement.
- (e) An adjudicator must maintain and develop his/her judging skills by keeping himself/herself informed on developments in technique and style, and any changes in WDSF rules and policies on judging.
- (f) Where judging responsibilities have been assigned to an adjudicator for a competition, regardless of the status of that



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competition, the adjudicator shall not consume any alcoholic beverage or recreational drugs before and during any period of the event, until the end of the event.

- (g) An adjudicator shall not otherwise act in any way that may bring the image of WDSF or Dance Sport into disrepute.

It is a basic requirement of the adjudicator's licence that any adjudicator engaged to judge at a competition shall

- (a) Arrive on time at the venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.
- (b) Report his/her presence to the organiser and Chair of Adjudicators.
- (c) Ascertain the timetable of the competitions.
- (d) Be available to perform the duties of an WDSF adjudicator as scheduled.
- (e) Behave in such a way during the competition as to preserve the good reputation of Dance Sport and the WDSF.

During the conduct of a competition, the adjudicators on the judging panel shall:

- (a) Stand apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
- (b) Move to whatever position is required to see all of the couples.
- (c) Judge independently and not compare notes with the other adjudicators.
- (d) Mark and sign their paper score cards in ink, including their code letter, and initial each and every alteration s/he makes to the score card.
- (e) Not make any attempt to become familiar with names, numbers and nationalities of the participants by using the official programme and with any intermediate results or marks of other fellow adjudicators of the competition before the end of the competition.



- (f) Follow any instruction given by the Chair.
- (g) Concentrate on judging only and not have any communication with the audience, fellow adjudicators or couples and not do anything that might distract him/her, including by the use of any electronic device or camera.

## 5. Complaints about Adjudicators during a Competition

During a competition the Chair nominated or confirmed by the WDSF is authorized and obliged to observe the compliance of all WDSF licensed adjudicators with the **Code**, whether they be engaged in the competition or not.

Any complaints regarding the breach of **Code** during the competition, should be made by an official representative of an WDSF Member body in writing and shall be addressed to the Chair, provided always that anyone may make such a complaint to the Chair when an official representative of an WDSF Member body is unable or unwilling to do so.

If the Chair has reason to believe that there has been a breach of the **Code** by an adjudicator on the panel of which s/he is Chair, then s/he is empowered and obliged to notify such adjudicator of the complaint against him/her, hear him/her in reply, and then take appropriate action immediately according to the terms of the **Code**.

The Chair shall have the power to reprimand or replace the adjudicator by an appropriate substitute for the remainder of the competition.

The Chair shall document any incident or observation of alleged or suspected misconduct by an adjudicator, and any reprimand or replacement of an adjudicator, and include it or them in the competition report to the WDSF Sports Director who shall decide whether there is the need to initiate a further investigation. The WDSF Sports Director shall refer each such case to the WDSF Presidium, with or without recommendations, for consideration.

## 6. Other Complaints about Adjudicators

Any other complaints about an alleged breach of the **Code** after the



results of the competition have been announced must be submitted by an WDSF Member body or another person in writing to the WDSF Sports Director.

A complaint shall not be considered unless the following lodgement criteria are met:

- (a) The complaint must be made in writing and signed by the complainant, and must be lodged with the WDSF Sports Director within ten (10) days of the date of the alleged breach together with any supporting documentation.
- (b) The complainant must specify the full name, address and contact details of the complaining person or persons and must agree in writing to give evidence and to take all steps in its power to require persons with knowledge of the matter of the complaint to be cross examined on that evidence.

If a complaint meets these criteria, the WDSF Sports Director shall forward the complaint to the WDSF Presidium for further consideration. If these criteria are not met, the WDSF Sports Director shall write to the complainant immediately advising that s/he has failed to meet these criteria and inviting a revised complaint that meets these criteria.

Nothing in this rule shall prevent the WDSF Sports Director from initiating an investigation at any time where the WDSF Sports Director believes there has been a breach of this **Code** or any rule or policy of the WDSF, and referring it to the WDSF Presidium for consideration.

The WDSF Presidium shall consider any complaint (or referral from the WDSF Sports Director) made under this section. The Presidium may give a complaint lesser weight or no weight based on the degree to which that complaint is based on hearsay rather than direct evidence.

## **7. Non-WDSF Events**

No adjudicator 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.

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 the participation of the relevant adjudicator(s) in such Non-WDSF Event does not disrupt the organisation or staging of an event listed on the official WDSF Competition Calendar.

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 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.

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

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).

## **8. Disciplinary Actions against Adjudicators**

If an adjudicator

- (a) contravenes the **Code** or;
  
- (b) Is found to have engaged in any conduct which in the opinion of the WDSF Presidium is prejudicial to the interests of WDSF;

then the WDSF Presidium shall have the power to reprimand or impose a disciplinary action on the adjudicator, including a suspension from participating in any events organised or sanctioned by WDSF or its Members, provided always that no disciplinary action shall be taken unless such adjudicator shall by notice, in writing, be notified of the alleged violation (pursuant to a complaint or otherwise) against him/her before the Presidium takes any action.

The adjudicator has a right to appear before three Members of the Presidium who are chosen by the Managing Committee, to defend his/her case, be represented by another person or send his/her comments in writing, provided always that this right shall not restrict or delay the Presidium from acting prior to such appearance if the Presidium decides that it is in the best interests of DanceSport to do so.

The adjudicator must pay the costs of appearing before the Presidium.

The Presidium will use reasonable efforts to help the adjudicator to minimize such costs (but shall not itself cover or reimburse any such costs).

All alleged violations of this **Code** (pursuant to a complaint or otherwise) shall be considered and decided by the Presidium according to its absolute discretion, provided always that it shall give written reasons for its decision.

