



WDSF PD Acting Director Alexander Melnikov

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS OF PD AND WDSF Shanghai, June 15 & 16, 2013

Dear Delegates, dear Colleagues

Managing Body of the WDSF Professional Division has been consolidated in June 2012 in Berlin where PD Acting Director has been officially nominated and the PD's new Sport Director elected. Newly structured Managing Committee has proven to be an efficient team and thanks to my colleagues we can proudly look back to the positive development of our Division since AGM in Berlin.

I said in my report at the AGM in Berlin that the transformation of former IPDSC into the IDSF PD has shown both, positive and negative effects. I must now say that as time goes on the positive effects are prevailing: number of PD members has been increased from 42 to 47 in 2012, the number of countries with active PD athletes is growing, the number and quality of title events is growing and in 2012 we witnessed some very well organised and successful stand alone professional championships in Germany and Slovenia.

Let me now present an overview of the PD activities during the last year covering the issues of PD membership, competitions, education activities and WDSF technique books, PD adjudicator's licensing, finance and communications, as well as our important future tasks related to the 2013 AGM.

Membership

Four new members joined PD in 2012 (Croatia, Germany, Norway as full and Azerbaijan as provisional member), 2 countries that lost their membership status in 2011 were re-admitted (USA as full and Bulgaria as a provisional member), Australia withdraw from the membership and 2 countries downgraded their membership status from full to provisional (Singapore and Malta). At the end of 2012 we had formally 47 members (46 with paid membership fees for 2012 - 42 full and 4 provisional and Indonesia whose membership fee for 2012 has not been paid till the end of 2012 but Indonesia regulated its financial obligation to PD in March 2013). Out of the 47 members at the end of 2012 there were 34 from Europe, 10 from Asia and 3 from North America and Pacific Area.

In April 2013 the admission of China has been approved while the application of DanceSport Australia for re-admission is still in process.

The great majority of our members are now WDSF members with incorporated professional bodies. The exemptions that exist are due to specific circumstances, e.g. Japan and Russia, however in harmony with the WDSF national member. The dispute about membership has been raised recently in Philippines by the WDSF member (DanceSport Council of Philippines - DSCP) against the existing PD member (Professional DanceSport Association of the Philippines - PDSAP) and we are doing our best to resolve the dispute peacefully for the benefit of the professional dancesport in the Philippines.

Competitions

In 2012 there were altogether 50 PD competitions, 4 of them Super Grand Prix, 8 official PD Championships and Cups in Standard or Latin (2 over 35) and 3 in Dance Show. The remaining 35 competitions were PD Open in Standard or Latin, 1 of them over 35. The PD World Championship in Dance Show Standard scheduled for beginning of December 2012 in Ashdod in Israel was cancelled due to the critically increased hostilities in the region.

Super Grand Prix series was introduced in 2012. Two competitions, one standard and one latin, were held within German Open in Stuttgart and 2 in Moscow in the frame of the Line of Dance event. The significant prize money for the SGP competitions and partly also for PD World and Continental Championships was sponsored by WDSF and we are thankful to WDSF Presidium to be ready to continue this sponsorship in 2013 with the amount increased by 30%.

More details about the PD competitions can be found in the PD Sport Director's report. Let me stress at this point that PD Managing Committee is steadily considering how to make the PD competitions more attractive and one of the important measures is to fix the minimum prize money for each type of the competitions. PD Presidium has in fact already fixed minimum prize money but some of the Presidium members insisted that such an obligation to the organisers can become valid only after being confirmed at the PD AGM. Therefore the appropriate motion will be presented at the AGM by our Treasurer.

Education

As I already indicated in my last year report, I believe that in the future the main focus of the Professional Division should not be in the competition area but in the dance-sport profession, meaning the accumulation of the best of the world's knowledge, which is possessed by the recognised top professionals. The mission of the Professional Division should be the systematic distribution of this knowledge within various areas of the world and between older and younger generations by means of education.

In praxis the above mentioned mission will not be achieved in a short time because WDSF already has a well established structure of licensing within WDSF (organisation of WDSF Congresses), which has always been and still is under the powers of the WDSF Sports Director and WDSF Education Director. For better coordination of the area of education WDSF has recently appointed WDSF General Secretary Shawn Tay to be the Administrative Manager of the educational activities for WDSF licensed teachers, trainers and adjudicators under the title of the WDSF Academy. Mr. Tay began to collect potential candidates from WDSF members to serve as future lectures and examiners. PD Managing Committee responded by appointing Mr Drago Sulek to be PD Coordinator for WDSF Academy and responsible for education and licensing related matters within Professional Division.

WDSF Technique Books

In August 2012 the first two technique books on waltz and Samba, prepared by a team of experts and active PD athletes working at the Academy of Davide Cacciari, were issued and presented at the WDSF Congress in Stuttgart in August 2012. The books were supported and recommended by several eminent professionals. But, on the other hand, the rush issue of the first 2 books was not accepted positively by other professionals working within WDSF and belonging to the Professional Division

as licensed adjudicators. Therefore I was asked by WDSF President to organise the expert's review of the Waltz and Samba books. Mr Sulek was appointed in October 2012 to organize and manage such review. He succeeded to engage altogether 10 experts from 7 different countries and the summarized reviews were presented to our Managing Committee and to WDSF President at the end of 2012.

Mr. Sulek, assisted by Mr. Manfred Orth from Germany, presented at the meeting in January 2013 the reviews of Waltz and Samba books to:

- Carlos Freitag, WDSF President
- Marco Sietas, WDSF Sports Director
- Natasa Ambroz, WDSF Education Director
- Davide Cacciari, assisted by Marina Ferrari, on behalf the group of authors of the books.

The meeting was constructive and long lists of remarks and suggestions for modifications for Waltz and Samba book were presented and discussed in detail.

Professional Division has done what was in its power regarding the project of WDSF technique books by collecting the reviews from the experts of "different schools of thought" and by presenting the summary of such reviews to the WDSF top management and to the authors of the books.

PD Adjudicator's Licenses

PD adjudicator's licensing has been introduced at the end of 2011 as an upgrade of the WDSF adjudicator's license. At the end of 2012 PD had 252 adjudicators with the active PD license.

The PD adjudicator's license is supposed to be the upgrade of the WDSF license and PD competitions can be judged only by adjudicators with an active PD license. We are aware that PD licensed adjudicators expect to get something more for their money than just the right to judge the relatively rare PD competitions. Therefore we have to find a way in the near future to create benefits that we be seen as a real advantage of this license for competitors and for the adjudicators themselves.

PD Finance

The detailed report on the PD finance in 2012 will be presented by the PD Treasurer. At this point let me summarise the most important figures:

- Operating income (without transfers of prize money subsidies from WDSF) amounted to around CHF 93'000.
- Total operating expenses were CHF 59'000.
- Net assets of the PD in 2012 increased for around CHF 34'000 and reached at the end of 2012 the value of CHF 99'000.

PD is increasing its assets to be able to create funds for more effective promotion and to be able to give financial support for better prize money not only at the Super Grand Prix but also at all other PD title events.

Communications and administration support by WDSF

Besides sponsoring prize money for PD Super Grand Prix competitions WDSF supports PD also in the areas of communications and administration.

PD subpage is part of the WDSF webpage without being charged for it and it is up to the PD how effectively this page will be used to promote the professional activities within WDSF. PD arranged the live internet transmission of PD European

Championships Standard and Latin from Velenje, PD World Championship Latin from Leipzig and PD Super Grand Prix from Moscow in 2012 as well as PD World Standard from Bassano and European Championship Latin from Moscow in 2013 over the YouTube Dance Sport portal linked to the WDSF webpage. The videos of these events had remarkable amounts of visitors and are now permanently available at the You Tube DanceSport portal. This praxis of promoting PD has to be continued.

Germán Sal is at the disposal as part time secretary for PD at the WDSF office and is supporting the common administrative needs of the Professional Division. Therefore I am recommending the use PD Office for all official communications between PD and our members.

PD Rules and Regulations and Elections

At several occasions, either in the area of administration or in the area of competitions, the responsible officers or PD managing body found it difficult to make necessary decisions because no provisions within the existing PD Rules and Regulations were available to address various problems.

In particular, PD Administrative Rules have no provisions about the structure and the procedure of the election of the PD Managing Body. The existing PD Presidium has been elected in the former IPDSC and then transferred to the PD when IPDSC was dissolved. Faced with the new elections at the AGM in Shanghai the PD Presidium had to take a decision what structure of the managing body to propose for the forthcoming elections. Due to the fact that PD is no more an independent legal entity the existing Presidium with 11 members is relatively big for effective decision making and also relatively expensive. Therefore the existing Presidium decided at its meeting on January 2013 in Barcelona to propose to the AGM the Managing Body consisting of 7 members and called Management Board to avoid any confusion with the WDSF Presidium. As per Article 17 of the WDSF Statutes the PD AGM will elect only the Management Board and the Board will appoint the PD Director and other officers of the Board.

In order not to leave everything to the pure chance I am herewith declaring that I intend to stand for the position of the PD Director for the next term. My intention is to reveal and to argument my preferences regarding the structure and the persons for the new Management Board during the candidacy procedure in Shanghai.

WDSF Presidium has prepared a motion regarding the future development of the PD Rules. According to this motion a working group will be established, consisting of 2 members on behalf of WDSF Presidium and 2 members on behalf of PD in order to prepare the so called Supplementary Rules of the PD for 2014 AGM. Such Rules will cover all the areas and questions, which will be regulated autonomously by the PD itself, while for all other questions the WDSF Rules will be directly valid also for PD. I find such an approach reasonable and logical and I am therefore supporting it.

Conclusion

Let me use the opportunity to conclude my report with sincere thanks to all who supported me in working for the benefit of professionals within WDSF, above all to my hard working colleagues in the PD Managing Committee and to the WDSF President Carlos Freitag.

Alexander Melnikov
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