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## **IDSF (Italy) Fails in Italian Court Case**

**The World Dance Council (WDC), of London, England – the only worldwide accepted body representing Professional Dance and Dance Sport, advises that one of its constituent body's was suddenly sued in the Court of Modena, Italy on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 by the IDSF member.**

**The IDSF member asked for an Italian Court order (“injunction”) to stop the planned Italian Championships on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007.**

**The IDSF members lawyers argued that these championships were being planned unlawfully, basing arguments on previous claims by the President of their member body in Italy, that the IDSF through their Olympic recognition, had sole rights and that implementation of World Anti-Doping measures were not being enforced. The same President is even on record as having insisted that “in Italian Olympic Sports law the word `Professional` is illegal”.**

**In a very clear judgement, the international implications of which are now being studied, Dr. R. Masoni of the Court of Modena (Civil Section no. II) Dismissed and defeated the IDSF members claim.**

Judge Masoni ruled on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 that the Federazione Italiana Danza Sportiva (FIDS), the IDSF Member for Italy, by being an associated discipline recognised by CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee), was only responsible for carrying out some Amateur sports activities and NOT for carrying out Professional sporting activities.

**The Magistrate further ruled that FIDS cannot replace the inspection or control bodies of the CONI in order to curb violations of advertising regulations that govern sports activities and the relevant athletic competitions.**

This ruling places a clear understanding on what the IDSF, and their Members, under the Membership of the IOC and their respective National IOC bodies and Sports Councils are actually responsible for and able to do,

A part of amateur sporting activities, the advertising, inspection and control thereof.

All the megaphone noises and statements, the prevention of professionals from entering countries from behind the IOC banner are nothing more than “hot air”.

The WDC member event was therefore successfully conducted as planned. Despite short notice, and amidst widespread reports of threats and attempts at “under the table” bribes to entice our Professional competitors to do the opposite, the championships were an undeniable success. The finalists have written that the event was “a historic victory for the free market, Professionalism and a slap in the face for the propaganda of the Italian IDSF President”.

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**This is not the first time that IDSF Members have lost recent court cases. (Italy and the Ukraine are just two examples. The last twelve months have provided several defeats for IDSF members. It is noteworthy that the IDSF Executive and Presidium have a high contingent of lawyers). The potential implications, internationally, from this very clear judgement are many fold.**

This is a clear signal that we, the professionals, can continue going about our business in a professional manner, promoting, organising and presenting Professional Dance competitions without having to pay any attention to the finger wagging that has been going on for so many years from the IDSF and some of their more radical Members.

**Furthermore the statement that the IDSF is responsible for all Dance Sport, even in a country where they claim I.O.C. recognition, may now be seen in its true light as nothing more than a myth.**

After judge Masoni's orders the WDC and the Dance Sport Community would rightfully expect the IDSF member and the IDSF to respect the Court decision. This however, sadly, has not been the case.

This presents a couple of interesting questions.

Can the new self styled label of IDSF, as an affiliate of the IDSF, actually present professional competitions with any connection whatsoever in relation to IOC? Apparently not.

Did the IDSF, bursting with enthusiasm to announce the preliminary judgement from Alcobendas in Madrid deliberately withhold announcement of these court losses?

Apparently so.

*Stuart Saunders*

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