



World Dance Council

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The President Donnie Burns MBE

7th December 2006

PRESS RELEASE – unanimously agreed by WDC Presidium

The WDC Competitors Commission in June, free of pressure or interference, voted unanimously NOT to support the IDSF Italian members alleged "Professional" events. In so doing, the Professional competitors have demonstrated exemplary loyalty to the WDC and the profession, and we in turn are honour bound to protect them, and their efforts and assets, together with our own.

The recent announcement of IDSF that an Italian non-presidium member, a person therefore NOT internationally elected to any position of authority by the IDSF membership, but simply appointed by a core of the Presidium without recourse nor consultation with member-federations, will be allowed to run IDSF professional World titles in Ballroom and Latin, is a direct attack on our own couples` efforts and an attempt to devalue their titles, ergo an attack on the titles and assets of the profession itself.

Whilst it could be argued that it is not strictly WDC business, the situation of an unelected radical tail waving the IDSF dog and dragging the dance world down a disruptive road to conflict is great cause for the concern of all responsible people who sincerely care.

For a WDC Professional competitor, and even more so for a *bona fide* World Professional Champion, it is most disheartening to see different professional Champions in the same category of Ballroom Dance.

The World Dance Council is on record as supporting the open-market system, a position which still today in consistence remains. The "free market" means couples rights to choose where and when they spend their money, and the freedom of transparent information.

It is strange that, just when IDSF and WDC have finally made the historic joint decision to collaborate as equal partners on a joint education, accreditation and eventual global licensing-system that a new step appears with the intent of destabilising the progress , and threatening to throw recent detente into dispute more serious than pre-existed prior to same. Whilst the WDC acknowledges that some jaundiced professionals may have played their part in this process, the placement of a non-presidium member of IDSF in an unelected position as

decision-maker in this radical project is viewed with concern by the profession and many IDSF members alike.

The WDC wishes to extend their gratitude to the many, many reasonable and responsible IDSF member federations who have contacted us registering their opposition and offering pragmatic measures as support.

We do however welcome what the *de facto* represents in terms of a u-turn in decades of IDSF insistence that "The distinction between amateur and professional no longer exists", even if this appears at odds with IDSF Olympic criteria as repeated ad infinitum over the years.

Nonetheless, many competitors have contacted us asking for guidance. They have many unanswered concerns, such as:-

How are the couples chosen?

Which members select the couple to represent a (if any) nation, and on which criteria?

Which rules will be used? Decided by whom?

Which registration is acceptable?

If competing, will participants then be open to sanctions if they dance IDSF "unrecognised"-(WDC) events?

Will my professional status be affected?

What kind of World Championship can it be if nations are not at all represented?

The WDC shares their concerns, and with the above in mind, has no option in our mutual interests to implement the following measures:-

In protection of our competitors and in principles of the transparency of information, The World Dance Council will forward a list to all registrants world-wide, all adjudicators and all organisers of professional events, including but not restricted to World Series, of any competitors who participate in these IPDSC alleged "professional" events.

Furthermore, the names of these dancers will be removed from the ranking-system of the World Series, with all monies due being forfeited, since they will no longer feature in the list. Many of the lucrative contracts and demonstrations in Asia and beyond will also be informed as to those names which may have participated, and will be able to book/re-schedule in accordance.

Any title-holder of WDC granted title events, e.g. World Champion, may forfeit their title and the title will be transferred to the next placed couple who did not re-instate themselves as amateurs.

Due to the fact that these are amateur events, any couples will find that they will have to re-apply, without guarantee of outcome, for instatement as

professionals, since they will have competed as amateurs in the eyes of WDC and its members.

Adjudicators will find also that their names will be forwarded to all registrants world-wide, all organisers, all competitors and member-countries as having participated in events attacking the competitors` interests and assets of WDC. **The WDC will pursue a policy of non-use of those who support the downfall of our couples and our profession for a period of years after the committing of the act, and will also give preference to those without IDSF registration, with further preference to those who adjudicate IDU, IDSA, and WDC` s own future-possible Amateur events.**

British Council rulings for example, do not permit professional competitive couples and amateur couples to compete against each other under the current structure., nor the adjudication of such.

As an example, the official position of the British Dance Council is as follows:

“The BDC is a member of the World Dance Council. Our official position is that we do not recognise the organisation nor the events and we strongly urge all registrants, competitors and/or adjudicators not to participate”.

The World Dance Council will use all measures, legal and political, to protect the *status-quo* which has stood us in such good stead throughout the decades of history, and reserves the right to injunct, appeal to the ethics-commissions of the International Olympic Committee and C.O.N.I., and will undoubtedly institute our own Amateur-Division immediately, together with our partners, should the IDSF insist on following this course of monopoly and domination.

The widening of Non-IDSF amateur events to accommodate the desire of couples to compete every weekend world wide can be easily implemented, and with utmost speed.

We at the World Dance Council urge the IDSF and their member countries to step back from this ill-timed and potentially hazardous course and in practical pursuit of this, we make the following offer as an initiative to defuse the escalated tension:-

We offer the IDSF to join us in the administration of our newly-formed Amateur Commission as partners in the project, and hope that IDSF will accept and reciprocate on their side re. IPDSC.

This substantial offer would send out the clear signal that *agent provocateurs* will not succeed to the detriment of the dance world, and that rather negotiation diplomacy and collaboration, even eventual merging in our microcosm, will prevail.

With this last hope in mind, the WDC intended to delay implementation of the above until one day after the proposed IPDSC meetings in December in Italy, and planned to finish with the following statement.

However unless a press-release is issued to the contrary, these measures will take effect on 13th December 2006 and will be valid and governed by English Law.

However, we sincerely wish to hold out our hands in partnership with IDSF and invite them to take the floor as our partners in dance and co-operation. To this end we shall delay the above implementation until shortly after the December meeting to facilitate and allow time for negotiations.

We hope and trust that common sense prevails. Should we be left with no alternative but to follow the above path, it will be on record in the worlds of Dance Sport, Entertainment and Olympics that IDSF forced the entire world against their wishes into this situation.