



## **A PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO IDSF MEMBERS & ATHLETES REGARDING EVENTS REGISTERED BY IDSF**

October 1, 2010

Dear Members, Athletes, Officials and friends:

I am writing to you to clarify IDSF's longstanding position on the conduct of DanceSport events.

IDSF consists of member bodies from 86 countries and is the only worldwide internationally-recognised peak sports federation for DanceSport. There is no similar organization in the world. As a result, IDSF is a member of or formally involved in:

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC),
- SportAccord (the parent body of all World Sport Federations),
- The Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) - IOC Recognized,
- The International World Games Association (IWGA),
- The International Masters Games Association,
- A range of Games in Asia including the Asian Games, the Asian Indoor Games and other events organized by the Olympic Council of Asia,
- Is currently involved in the development of a future World Artistic Sport Games organized by SportAccord and,
- Will be involved in future Mediterranean Games, organized by the European Olympic Committee.

All these memberships, recognitions and participations allow IDSF to provide authority, reputation and legitimacy to our member DanceSport federations to achieve recognition from governments, sports bodies and National Olympic Committees, and this assists many of them to obtain access to sports and government funding for DanceSport.

Affiliation with IDSF also provides member federations with greater credibility and assistance to comply with national and international laws and sporting requirements on such issues as Anti-doping, quality & fair accreditation, judging and scrutineering systems, and these policies assist IDSF and members to maintain status, funding and recognition.



As a result, everyone in DanceSport has responsibilities and obligations to adhere to a set of sporting principles and comply, adopt and implement the policies supported by these strong, influential organizations. We all need to support them consistently in the best interests of DanceSport.

However, I can understand that for some IDSF Members and Athletes, the policy of IDSF to restrict competitions and competitors is difficult to understand. Some people are attracted to simplistic and highly misleading slogans like "freedom to dance". But such a slogan is very misleading. In IDSF we are organized under the category of the law called "Freedom of Choice", which means that we can choose to join or work with strong international organizations to practice sport in the best possible way, with clean rules, Anti-doping, anti-harassment, and other modern and positive principles. It is clear to everyone that some kind of unlimited "freedoms" to swim, run, play football or, be a triathlete, do not exist for any athletes of Recognized Sports Federations. Athletes in sports that are organized on a national and international level must agree to national and international rules. There are always structures & rules which need to be followed by all persons to participate in competitive sport and in life generally.

During our last Annual General Meeting in Vienna, I mentioned to members that our relationship with the IOC Sports Department is very good. This is a huge advantage and results in strong, sometimes automatic, support from all the other recognized international sports organizations and most governments. But we recently received confirmation from this IOC department that we must ensure that all our members and athletes strictly follow IDSF's Rules and policies, most importantly Anti-doping.

Obviously, this requirement means that IDSF must take steps to ensure that our athletes only compete in events controlled by IDSF. In this way, athletes and our member federations can be protected through IDSF's International compliance with Anti-doping systems and procedures. So IDSF athletes cannot generally participate in events in which organizers or athletes may decline to accept Anti-Doping tests, which is a serious violation of the **World Anti-doping Code**. Again, obviously, no group or athlete can ignore basic international government and sports obligations. This is not possible any more for any Sport in the modern world.

So athletes who are registered with IDSF member bodies can only compete in competitions controlled or registered by IDSF and our members if they choose to participate in the clear, correct IDSF DanceSport system supported by all the major sport and government authorities in the world. This is the true "freedom to dance" – the freedom to participate in the most modern, clear, respected system in the world. That choice requires athletes to be members of our IDSF Member bodies in their own countries and to follow IDSF Rules and regulations and the policies approved by the IDSF Annual General Meetings and the IDSF Presidium. And of course this is exactly what all other recognized international sport federations in this



Recognised by the IOC · Member of GAISF, ARISF and IWGA



respected system do. IDSF cannot continue to allow exceptions. However, we would like to reach agreements to protect existing and respected DanceSport events like the Blackpool Festival, the UK and International Championships and their respected organizers.

I hope that I have provided enough background and information so that we all can appreciate and understand the need for IDSF to continue to work effectively for DanceSport and all people who love and respect DanceSport.

Best Regards,

Carlos Freitag  
IDSF President