

WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION

STATUTES

*Incorporating all Amendments adopted at the 2016 Annual General Meeting,
Rome, Italy, June 12, 2016*

PREAMBLE

The World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) is the international federation governing all aspects of DanceSport worldwide, either directly through its own organs, or through its national member bodies, or by administrative agreements with other persons and bodies.

The WDSF (formerly ICAD) was founded in 1957 to organize and improve DanceSport. Later it extended its jurisdiction to include DanceSport generally. Its objects are defined in the **Statutes**. The WDSF controls all international DanceSport competitions and the granting of DanceSport competitions, which are subject to WDSF RULES.

Each Member of WDSF is the sole recognized representative of DanceSport in its country or a special multinational sports body, and representatives of each such body attend the General Meeting of the WDSF, which is the legislative organ controlling all DanceSport affairs, based on universal sporting principles.

The purpose of these **Statutes** is:

1. to ensure that WDSF's affairs are based on clear, sound principles and a strict democratic process, and not on other factors;
2. to ensure fairness, openness and principles in the conduct of WDSF's affairs;
3. to assure the free and effective participation of Members in the General Meeting;
4. to ensure accountability by the Presidium to the General Meeting;
5. to ensure the improvement and popularization of DanceSport;
6. to ensure a sound legal basis and modern principles of business administration in WDSF's affairs;
7. to ensure the clear and effective operation of the Presidium as the WDSF's political and strategic organ between General Meetings;
8. to ensure effective management of WDSF by the Managing Committee;
9. to ensure the financial success of WDSF; and
10. to ensure that DanceSport is admitted to and remains in the Medal Programme of

the Olympic Games.

STATUTES

Article 1

Name, Constitution, and Registered Address

1. The name of the federation shall be "World DanceSport Federation" or "WDSF".
2. WDSF is constituted as a separate legal person in Switzerland, with limited liability under Articles 52-59 and 60-79 of the **Swiss Civil Code**, and its registered address shall be in Lausanne, Switzerland, or as determined by the Presidium. The Presidium may apply for registration of WDSF in the Register of Commerce of a Canton of Switzerland in which it has its registered address.

Article 2

Objects

The WDSF is a non-partisan, non-profit-making body. The objects of the WDSF are:

- a) to organize, govern, represent, produce and promote DanceSport;
- b) to unite in recognised WDSF member Federations, and to maintain jurisdiction over all DanceSport athletes, trainers, coaches, adjudicators, scrutineers, administrators, or other technical officials and allied sportspeople, including all amateur and professional competitors;
- c) to enact, administer, and enforce standardized rules to which all international competitions organized by it or its members are subject based on sporting principles, and in the best interests of DanceSport;
- d) to obtain the admission of DanceSport to the Medal Programme of the Olympic Games; to support and promote Olympism in DanceSport and the world; and to support the objectives of the International Olympic Committee; and
- e) to advise and assist its members with their work in their own countries.

With reference to the purpose of the **WDSF Statutes**, found in its preamble, WDSF shall take action especially, but not exclusively, against doping and any sort of irregular and corrupt practices relating to DanceSport, including but not limited to improperly influencing the outcomes and results of an event or competition, activities that suggest or promote such improper influences and any sort of betting activities. These actions are prohibited and subject to sanctions.

Article 3

Financial Year

The financial year shall be the calendar year.

Article 4

Membership

Members of WDSF shall fall into one of the following classifications:

1. Full Members

Full Members shall be DanceSport bodies of countries which are recognized by the WDSF. Only one such body from any country may become a member.

2. Associate Member

Associate Members shall be bodies which have aims and objectives declared and agreed by the General Meeting to be beneficial to the aims and objectives of the WDSF, and shall have full voting rights in the General Meeting and partial voting rights in the WDSF Presidium as set out herein.

3. Provisional Members

Provisional Members shall be bodies which only partially fulfil membership qualifications. A Provisional Member does not have voting rights, but does have the right to nominate delegates to attend and speak at the General Meeting. Provisional Members can nominate couples to all WDSF-granted competitions according to Rule 5 of the **WDSF Competition Rules**. [Editor's Note: this Rule was replaced by the new **WDSF Competition Rules**]

4. Honorary Members

Honorary Members are individuals who have rendered outstanding services to international DanceSport and who are voted Honorary Membership by the General Meeting.

Article 5

Admission and Termination of Membership

1. Applications

Applications for Membership must be submitted to the General Secretary. The following must be included with an application:

- a) a copy of the applicant's Constitution;
- b) a list of the applicant's members;
- c) the names and addresses of the applicant's Executive Committee; and
- d) the following statement: "we agree to abide by the WDSF's **Statutes**, Rules and Regulations, and to abide by decisions of the WDSF's General Meeting and Presidium and its Professional Division."

The Presidium may require the applicant to answer questions and provide further financial and other information, including proof to the satisfaction of the Presidium that it does not conflict with, or is not in rivalry with an existing member of WDSF.

2. Admission is decided by the Presidium. No reason need be given when refusing an application. If an application is rejected, the unsuccessful applicant is entitled to require the General Secretary to present **its** application to the next General Meeting, which may admit any applicant by a two-thirds majority vote.
3. Admission occurs when an applicant's application for membership has been accepted by the Presidium.
4. Admission to membership, and renewal of membership by payment of the annual Membership fee, constitutes a contract between the WDSF and the Member. The terms of that contract include the term that in return for membership in WDSF, Members agree to abide by the WDSF's **Statutes**, rules and regulations, and to abide by decisions of the WDSF's General Meeting and Presidium, and to comply with the **World Anti-Doping Code**, the **WDSF Anti-Doping Code**, including requiring all athletes and support personnel within their jurisdiction to recognize and be bound by the **World Anti-Doping Code** and the **WDSF Anti-Doping Code**.
5. All members must be notified in writing of any new admission and of any change in membership and any change in the WDSF Professional Division. It is a condition of membership of the WDSF that the policies, rules, statutes and programs of the member comply with **World Anti-Doping Code** (WADC).
6. Members may renew their Membership annually by payment of the annual Membership Fee on or before March 31st. Membership Fees may not be set off by a Member against any other debt or claim.
7. A member may resign from the WDSF at any time by registered letter or facsimile transmission addressed to the General Secretary who may accept or decline to accept such resignation. Such resignation does not affect the member's financial obligations for the current calendar year.
8. A Member may be expelled by a two-thirds majority vote of the General Meeting, or by a vote of the Presidium as set out in these **Statutes**. A Motion to expel a Member is not in Order unless the proposer has given the Member at least one month's notice of the proposer's motion to expel, by registered letter or facsimile transmission. A decision by the General Meeting to expel a Member is final.

Article 5 bis

Continental Associations

1. The Members of WDSF may form Continental Associations (CAs) and apply to the WDSF Presidium for recognition of such CAs in accordance with this article 5 bis. The purpose of a recognized CA shall be to develop and strengthen WDSF DanceSport in the relevant continental area in accordance with the Statutes, Rules and Regulations, strategy and policies of the WDSF.
2. The WDSF Presidium may recognise one CA for each of the following continental areas: Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia and Oceania. The Presidium may define which countries may join each CA according to geography, past practice and other relevant factors.
3. Articles 5.1 to 5.3 of these Statutes shall apply mutatis mutandis to an application of a CA for recognition by WDSF.
4. In order to be recognized by the WDSF Presidium, a CA shall satisfy the following conditions, both at the time of its application for recognition and subsequently:
 - (a) Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the WDSF Presidium, the membership of each CA shall be comprised solely of (i) Full Members and Provisional Members of the WDSF belonging to the relevant continental area and (ii) the Associate Members of the WDSF. In principle, membership of a CA shall be open and accessible to all such Full Members, Provisional Members and Associate Members without discrimination of any kind.
 - (b) The majority of the Full Members of WDSF from a relevant continental area must be members of the CA.
 - (c) Each CA must keep the WDSF Presidium informed as to the identity of its members.
 - (d) A CA must be a legal entity distinct from its members.
 - (e) The Statutes of the CA must be and remain fully compliant and consistent with these Statutes and other WDSF Rules and Regulations.
 - (f) A CA shall act in accordance with these Statutes, other WDSF Rules and Regulations and any decisions of the WDSF General Meeting, Presidium or Professional Division. A CA shall not act in any way which undermines, or is contrary to, the best interests of WDSF.

- (g) Before a CA organizes any DanceSport competition or event, the relevant CA and the WDSF shall first enter into a hosting agreement with respect to such event or competition. Furthermore, all CA events must be organized in accordance with the WDSF Rules and Regulations and the relevant hosting agreement. DanceSport competitions or events organized by a recognized CA must be limited to athletes belonging to a country comprised within the continental area of the relevant CA.
5. The administrative activities of each CA shall be directed by a Managing Committee elected by the members of that CA. The Managing Committee of each CA shall coordinate its activities and closely cooperate with the WDSF Presidium. In particular, the Managing Committee of each CA shall report in writing on its activities biannually to the WDSF Presidium and annually to the WDSF General Meeting.
6. The recognition of a CA may be suspended or withdrawn by the General Meeting for just cause including, without limitation, any breach of the recognition conditions set out at sub-article 4 (a) - (g) above. If the circumstances so require, the WDSF Presidium may also provisionally suspend the recognition of a CA provided that, if the relevant CA remains provisionally suspended at the time of the next WDSF General Meeting, that General Meeting shall decide whether the CA's recognition should be reinstated, further suspended or withdrawn.
7. A decision to suspend or withdraw the recognition of a CA may be appealed exclusively to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration.

Article 6

Disputes

In view of the international composition of the WDSF and the resultant difficulties in settling disputes judicially where problems arise between members or between the WDSF and either Members or recognized CAs, Members and recognized CAs waive the right to take such disputes to law, and agree that such disputes shall be subject to the binding decision of the WDSF Disciplinary Council, the General Meeting or the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Article 7

Membership Fees

1. Members are required to pay an annual fee to renew their Membership, according to the Financial regulations.
2. The amount of the annual Membership Fee shall be decided or amended by simple majority of the General Meeting and subject to amendment at any time by the General Meeting.

3. The Membership Fee for any year is due on January 1st of that year.
4. Membership Fees paid after March 31st of any year are overdue.

Article 8

Organs of the WDSF

The organs of the WDSF are:

- a) the General Meeting
- b) the Presidium
- c) the Managing Committee of the Presidium
- d) the Disciplinary Council

Article 9

General Meeting

1. The General Meeting is the principal and original organ of the federation and consists of the Members' Delegates and the members of the Presidium. Each Member is entitled to send two Delegates to the General Meeting.
2. Each Member must provide one of its delegates with written power of attorney which constitutes the authority to vote. Only one delegate per Member may vote.
3. A Delegate must be a member of the body he or she represents as a Delegate and must be at least 18 years of age and legally capable of managing all of his or her personal and business affairs, and may not be:
 - (a) a corporation;
 - (b) an undischarged bankrupt;
 - (c) someone convicted anywhere of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation, or involving fraud, or whose registration to trade in the stock of corporations has been revoked, within five (5) years of the date of the General Meeting at which he or she proposes to serve as a Delegate.
4. Assignment of votes by proxy is permitted, but only in the following written form:

(beginning of form)

WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION
FORM OF PROXY
FOR THE MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF
WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON (DATE OF MEETING)
AT (PLACE OF MEETING).

The undersigned signatory of (NAME OF WDSF MEMBER) hereby appoints (PROXY HOLDER'S NAME), or in his absence (ALTERNATE PROXY HOLDER'S NAME) as the proxy holder for and on behalf of (NAME OF WDSF MEMBER) to attend, act and vote for and on behalf of (NAME OF WDSF MEMBER) at the above meeting and at any adjournments thereof, to the same extent and with the same powers as if the authorized Delegate of (NAME OF WDSF MEMBER) were present at the said meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

(Please print)

Signature of Authorized Signatory

Printed Name

Address

Date

(end of form)

Proxies are not valid and may not be used unless they are assigned to a duly authorized Delegate to the Meeting, completed and signed in this form, and delivered to the General Secretary or the fax number or address permitted by the General Secretary at least twelve (12) hours before the scheduled time of the Meeting, provided always that if the General Secretary is not satisfied with any form of proxy submitted to him or her then the General Secretary shall submit the proxy for the approval of the Meeting as the first order of business of the Meeting after ascertainment of Members present, and the decision of the Meeting on the question shall be final.

5. No Delegate may represent more than two further Members by proxy in addition to his or her own Member body.
6. Honorary Members may serve as Delegates. Honorary Members may receive and vote proxies.
7. At the General Meeting each Member has two votes. Honorary members have one vote. Provisional members have no vote.

8. An Ordinary General meeting must be held in every financial year.

Article 10

Convocation of the General Meeting

1. The General Secretary shall convene an Annual General Meeting by notice in writing to all Members by electronic mail ("e-mail") on or before January 15th every year.
2. The General Secretary shall communicate the date and venue for the General Meeting by notice in writing to all Members by e-mail at least four (4) months before the General Meeting.
3. Motions for the agenda must be submitted to the General Secretary in writing by mail, facsimile transmission ("fax") or e-mail not later than three (3) months before the General Meeting and accompanied by a brief background statement by the proposer explaining the reason for the proposed intended effect of the Motion.
4. The General Secretary shall communicate the final agenda and motions on notice for the General Meeting by sending e-mail at least two (2) months before the General Meeting to notify all Members of the internet address of an internet web site where the said agenda and motions have been posted.

Article 11

General Meeting Procedure

1. The General meeting shall be chaired by the President, or alternatively the First Vice President, or alternatively a Delegate elected by the Meeting for the whole or any part of the Meeting.
2. The General Meeting is duly constituted if at least one quarter (1/4) of the voting Members is represented by Delegates or proxy. If the General Meeting is not duly constituted then a new General Meeting may be convened according to Article 10 with the same agenda, and that General Meeting will be duly constituted regardless of the number of the members represented.
3. In order to ensure a fair and democratic process and the efficient conduct of business, the proceedings of the General Meeting shall be governed by the following Rules of Order:
 - (a) motions may be made by any Delegate, Presidium Member, or Honorary Member;
 - (b) the following take precedence over all other matters before the Meeting, in the following order: Points of Order (i.e. questions or objections regarding the proper order to be followed in the Meeting, including motions to close debate on any question), Points of Privilege (i.e. questions or objections touching on the privileges of a Delegate or a Member), and Points of Information (i.e. questions seeking further and better information and explanation of any matter before the Meeting);

- (c) every Member of the Presidium may speak at the General Meeting, and in the event of a dispute, the following is the order of precedence for speaking and proposing motions:
 - (i) the Chairman;
 - (ii) Presidium Members;
 - (iii) Delegates;
 - (iv) Honorary Members; and
 - (v) guests
- (d) the Chair shall recognize Delegates in order of their request to speak;
- (e) subject to the vote of the Meeting, the Chair may impose time limits on debate and on proposers making and speaking to motions, and may impose equal time limits on any speaker wishing to speak to any matter;
- (f) motions may only be tabled, amended, withdrawn or otherwise disposed of by vote of the Meeting as required in these **Statutes**, called by asking "who is in favour of this motion?";
- (g) debate may only be closed by majority vote of the Meeting on a Point of Order; and
- (h) other Rules of Order adopted by the General Meeting on Points of Order,

provided always that in the event of a dispute over any Rule of Order, the General Meeting may submit the dispute to the ruling of the Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

- 4. Except as otherwise provided in these **Statutes**, the General Meeting passes its resolutions by simple majority of votes of the voting Delegates, including proxy holders. Resolutions to amend these **Statutes** require three (3) months' written notice to the General Secretary and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. In any vote, abstentions and invalid votes are disregarded. If there is equality of votes, the President or in his or her absence the Chairman may cast a deciding vote, but otherwise the motion fails.
- 5. Voting is by a show of hands, unless one-third of the Delegates present request a secret ballot.
- 6. The General Meeting elects Members of the Presidium according to Article 13 and the Auditor according to Article 18 respectively of these **Statutes**. Elections shall not be held until after debate and voting on Motions of the Presidium and Motions of the Members.

7. Minutes must be taken in writing at every General Meeting and verified by two (2) Presidium Members forthwith after any adjournment thereof. They must be transcribed within one (1) month and signed by the President and another member of the Presidium. A copy shall be sent to all Members by ordinary mail, fax, or e-mail without delay and in any event within two (2) months of the end of the Meeting.
8. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary in these **Statutes**, the Presidium may submit urgent motions to the General Meeting without prior notice, with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
9. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened by a decision of the Presidium and must be convened if at least one-third (1/3) of the Members entitled to vote requests such a meeting in writing, stating their reasons.
10. The Extraordinary General Meeting must be convened immediately per Article 10.
11. For greater certainty, the Extraordinary General Meeting is a General Meeting and is subject to the same requirements as an ordinary General Meeting.

Article 12

Postal Ballots

In addition to the procedures available in the General Meeting, the Presidium may conduct votes on motions by post or fax, provided always that it may not do so regarding any motion to amend the **Statutes**. Members shall be allowed a minimum of two (2) months to vote, failure to reply shall constitute abstention, and if there is equality of votes, the motion fails. This procedure is called a "postal ballot". A postal ballot is valid provided that 50% of the membership has voted at the end of the period which the Presidium orders for voting.

Article 13

Presidium

1. The Presidium is the secondary political organ of the WDSF and is subordinate to the General Meeting.
2. Subject to the will of the General Meeting, the Presidium is empowered to govern WDSF's affairs between General Meetings and to represent WDSF in any manner, in the best interests of DanceSport.

3. The Presidium consists of:

- the President
- the First Vice President
- the Second Vice President
- the General Secretary
- the Treasurer
- the Sports Director
- the Professional Division Director
- up to 6 Ordinary Members

the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission
1 representative nominated by each Associate Member
and any Honorary Life President or Presidents.

The Ordinary Members, the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, and the Second Vice President are responsible to undertake various functional activities as directed by the President or the Presidium.

4. The Presidium, other than the Honorary Life President, the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, the representatives nominated by the Associate Members, and the Professional Division Director, is elected by secret ballot at the Annual General Meeting every fourth year.
5. Successful candidates for election to the Presidium shall be those obtaining the greatest number of votes. If there is a tie between two or more candidates a second election shall be held. If the tie persists, lots will be drawn to decide the successful candidate. In an election for Ordinary Members of the Presidium, anyone who casts a ballot must vote for the same number of candidates as the number to be elected; and, e.g. for greater certainty, if six (6) Ordinary Members of the Presidium are to be elected, then a ballot will be invalid unless it is marked for the election of six (6) different candidates out of the total of the candidates nominated for the position of Ordinary Member of the Presidium.
6. Anyone who is legally capable of managing all of his or her personal and business affairs, and is not:
 - (a) a corporation;
 - (b) an undischarged bankrupt; or
 - (c) someone convicted anywhere of an offence in connection with the promotion, formation or management of a corporation, or involving fraud, or whose registration to trade in the stock of corporations has been revoked within five (5) years of the date of the General Meeting at which he or she is nominated for election to the Presidium,

may be elected to the Presidium or the Managing Committee, or appointed as Professional Division Director, or appointed as Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, or appointed by an Associate Member to be its representative on the Presidium, whether or not he or she is a Delegate or Presidium Member, provided always that no one may be elected to the Presidium unless she or he is present at the General Meeting where such elections are held or unless she or he has previously consented in writing to election to the Presidium.

7. If the office of any elected Presidium member becomes vacant, the Presidium may appoint a successor to that office to hold that office until the next General Meeting, at which time an election must be held to fill that position for the balance of the four-year term.

8. The Presidium shall constitute and appoint members to Commissions to assist it in its work, including the Sports Commission, the Finance Commission and the Press Commission, and these Commissions shall be responsible to and report to the Presidium.
9. The Presidium may appoint and dismiss members of a Council of Advisors of up to fifteen (15) members to advise and assist it in the development of DanceSport.
10. Every Presidium Member owes WDSF the duties of Good Faith and Competence.

Article 14

Powers of the Presidium

1. When the General Meeting is not in session, the Presidium possesses all of the powers which are not specifically reserved to the General Meeting by law or under these **Statutes**, and is empowered to make any decision which is not specifically reserved to other bodies under these **Statutes**, including taking action against Members, athletes or other persons who violate or may violate the **Statutes** or the Rules, or harm or may harm WDSF. In such cases the Presidium may take any action within its powers, including but not limited to:
 - a) prohibit the organizing or production of international competitions or the participation of a Member's athletes in any competition,
 - b) reprimand a Member,
 - c) suspend some or all of the membership privileges of any Member,
 - d) enforce any appropriate sanctions against individuals, and
 - e) expel a Member, provided always that the Presidium may only expel a Member for important reasons, which important reasons comprehensively include the following behaviour of the member in question or its representatives:
 - (i) repeated or serious violations of the **WDSF Statutes** and associated codes, rules and regulations;
 - (ii) repeated or serious contraventions of decisions taken by competent WDSF organs or arbitral courts;
 - (iii) failing to pay fees before they are overdue;
 - (iv) any criminal act;
 - (v) any act that seriously harm the reputation of WDSF or its organs;
 - (vi) any act that causes serious damage or harm to the cooperation between WDSF members;

- (vii) providing substantially incorrect or misleading information about its activities and basic data to WDSF organs, or
 - (viii) not primarily pursuing its membership in WDSF to support the objects set out in Article 2 of these **Statutes**.
2. An appeal against a decisions by the Presidium under Article 14(1)(a) through (d) may be brought by the Member or individual affected by such decision to the WDSF Disciplinary Council, the decision of which shall be final, subject to the provisions of Article 6. An appeal against a decision by the Presidium under Article 14(1)(e) may be brought only to the General Meeting, the decision of which shall be final; if the General Meeting allows the appeal by revoking the Presidium's decision to expel, the appellant Member is readmitted to its former Membership on the date of the General Meeting's decision to revoke expulsion, subject to payment of Membership dues for the current year. An appeal by a Member must be made in writing and delivered either to the Chairman of the Disciplinary Council or to the General Secretary (as the case may be) within two (2) months of receiving notice of the Presidium's decision. The appeal must be reasonably clear. For further clarity, filing an appeal of such a decision does not suspend or affect the Presidium's decision, which shall be remain in full force until the next formal decision of the competent body has been taken unless that decision is varied by the Presidium.
 3. The Presidium may adopt its own Operating Policies in order to ensure the more democratic, collegiate and efficient conduct of WDSF's affairs.
 4. Subject to any decision of the General Meeting, the Presidium has exclusive authority to issue WDSF Adjudicating Licences.

Article 15

Work of the Presidium

1. The work of the Presidium shall be conducted by correspondence by mail, fax and e-mail. Meetings of the Presidium shall only be convened if more than half the elected members can attend. Travelling expenses for such meetings will be paid as far as possible from WDSF funds.
2. Decisions of the Presidium require a simple majority. Except for the representatives appointed by the Associate Members, each Member of the Presidium has one vote. Each representative of an Associate Member has a vote only on those matters which directly affect that Associate Member's sporting activities; in the event of a dispute about the right of such a representative of an Associate Member to vote with respect to a specific motion, all elected Members of the Presidium may vote to allow or deny such representative a vote on that specific motion, and the decision of the elected Members of the Presidium in that regard shall be final. The President shall have a casting vote in any tied vote of the Presidium. The result of any vote must be made known to all members of the Presidium without delay.

Article 16

Management and Representation

1. The President, the First Vice President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and the Sports Director constitute the Managing Committee, and, subject to the discretion of the Presidium, represent the WDSF.
2. The Managing Committee has the duty and the authority to manage and conduct WDSF's affairs according to Modern Sports Principles and modern Management Principles.
3. The President is the chief political representative of WDSF and has the duty and authority to lead and to try to build consensus within WDSF. The President is also the Chief Executive Officer of WDSF and has full authority to manage the day-to-day business and sport affairs of WDSF.
4. The First Vice President is the deputy chief political representative of WDSF and, subject to the President's directions, has the duty and authority to lead and to try to build consensus. The First Vice President is also the Assistant Executive Officer of WDSF and, subject to the President's directions, has authority to manage the day-to-day business of WDSF. In the event of the resignation, termination, death or incapacity of the President, the First Vice President has the duty and authority to fully assume the office, authority and title of the President.
5. The Second Vice President is a political representative of WDSF and is subject to the Presidium's directions.
6. The General Secretary is in charge of the WDSF's office and its World Wide Web site, and acts according to the President's instructions.
7. The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of WDSF and has the duty and full authority to manage the day-to-day financial and accounting affairs of WDSF according to modern Management Principles. The Treasurer has the duty to report to the General Meeting and the Presidium regarding WDSF's accounts and financial affairs.
8. The Sports Director is the Chief Sports Officer of WDSF and has the duty and full authority to manage the day-to-day sports affairs of WDSF according to Modern Sports Principles and modern Management Principles. The Sports Director has the duty to report to the General Meeting and the Presidium regarding WDSF's sports affairs.
9. The Professional Division Director is in charge of the Professional Division and has full authority to manage the day-to-day business and sport affairs of the Professional Division, subject to the directions given to him or her by the Professional Division.

Article 17

Professional Division

1. The Professional Division is responsible for the internal administration of WDSF with respect to professional DanceSport competition rules and professional DanceSport competitions, including licensing professional athletes, teachers, trainers, coaches and adjudicators, establishing and administering the **WDSF Professional Division Rules**.
2. The Professional Division is authorized to govern its own administration of professional DanceSport as set out in these **Statutes**, and may establish its own Managing Body ("the WDSF PD Managing Body"), Departments and Commissions as part of that work, but it shall at all times respect WDSF's general internal and external administrative jurisdiction, the modern democratic principles of free societies, modern sporting principles, modern management principles, all relevant laws and tribunals of competent jurisdiction, and WDSF's universal requirements with respect to ethics, Anti-doping, and other financial, administrative and sporting policies, regulations and requirements established by WDSF or the WDSF Presidium from time to time.
3. The Professional Division General Meeting is composed of two Delegates selected by each WDSF Member body registered with Professional Division from that Member body's own professional division, department or commission, and is convened at least once a year. Each WDSF Member body registered with Professional Division must provide one of its Delegates with written power of attorney, which constitutes the authority for that Delegate to vote. Only one Delegate per Member may vote. The Professional Division Director, Managing Body and Delegates may carry on the business of the Professional Division at meetings or by mail, telephone, e-mail or fax transmission, or other form of electronic communication, according to the procedural rules which they establish themselves.
4. The Professional Division General Meeting shall elect at least every four (4) years the WDSF Professional Division Director and up to four (4) members of the WDSF PD Managing Body and may do so more frequently according to its discretion. The WDSF Professional Division Director is the Professional Division's principal political representative, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The WDSF PD Managing Body assists the WDSF PD Director in managing the Professional Division according to the principles established by the Professional Division's Administrative Rules.
5. The Professional Division is self-financing, and shall maintain a separate fund, and, if it wishes, a separate bank account or accounts, to receive and administer any funds it receives or collects, and that fund shall be administered solely by the Professional Division, subject only to WDSF's general rules for administering and accounting for its own funds and subject to the Professional Division Director's duty to make full disclosure of such administration and accounts to WDSF Treasurer every six (6) months.
6. The Professional Division Director must present the Professional Division's financial report to every Ordinary General Meeting and every meeting of the Presidium.
7. In view of the international composition of the Professional Division and the potential

difficulties which could occur in settling disputes when disagreements arise between the Professional Division and (a) the General Meeting, (b) the Presidium (including its Commissions) or (c) an other person or body which WDSF or the Presidium decides is affiliated to WDSF, the Professional Division shall attempt to settle all such disagreements in good faith by negotiation, provided always that in the event of a disagreement which any party to it decides cannot be resolved by negotiation, such disagreements and disputes shall be subject to the binding decision of the WDSF Disciplinary Council.

8. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary in these **Statutes**, no part of this Article 17 may be changed by the WDSF General Meeting without the consent of the majority of the Delegates to the Professional Division General Meeting, provided always that such consent may be given prior to, concurrent with or subsequent to such General Meeting.

Article 18

Finances

1. WDSF's books and accounts will be managed by the Treasurer according to good commercial procedures.
2. The Treasurer must present the financial report to every Ordinary General Meeting and every meeting of the Presidium.
3. At least every fourth Annual General Meeting shall appoint an Auditor. The Treasurer shall obtain the Auditor's signed Report prior to every Annual General Meeting and distribute it to Delegates prior to the beginning of the Annual General Meeting.

Article 19

Disciplinary Council

1. The Disciplinary Council ("the DC") is the independent jurisdictional organ of WDSF. It considers and renders judgments on the subjects referred to it by the **Code** of the WDSF Disciplinary Council and the provisions of the **Anti-Doping Code**.
2. The composition of the Disciplinary Council and the required profile of its members shall be defined in the provisions of the **WDSF Disciplinary Council Code** ("WDSF DC Code").
3. Members of the Disciplinary Council may not at the same time be a member of the WDSF Presidium or of the Managing Committee or the Professional Division. Members of the Disciplinary Council exercise their duties independently according to the doctrine of *trias politica* and are not bound by any instructions of other WDSF organs

regarding these duties.

4. The members of the Disciplinary Council are elected by the General Meeting.
5. The Chairman of the Disciplinary Council must present a report on its decisions during the previous year, to every General Meeting.

Article 19bis

The Ethics Committee

1. The Ethics Committee is an independent organ within WDSF, which is authorised to investigate cases of alleged violations of the WDSF **Code of Ethics**.
2. The Ethics Committee reports to the General Meeting and to the Presidium according to the detailed provisions in the **Code of the Ethics Committee**.
3. The Ethics Committee is composed of four ordinary Members, a Chairperson and a Secretary. All six are elected by the General Meeting for a term of office of four years. Each may be reelected. The Chairperson has the right to propose a person for election to the office of Secretary of the Ethics Committee.
4. The Members of the Ethics Committee, its Chairperson as well as their family members and life partners may not be Members of the Presidium, of the Disciplinary Council or Members of the executive power in a Continental Association, an Associate Member or a Full or Provisional Member Body at the same time.

Article 20

Honours

1. Honorary Life Presidents and Honorary Members may be appointed by the General Meeting. At the request of the President, they may perform advisory and ceremonial functions.
2. The General Meeting and the Presidium may create and confer upon any person such Honours as they deem to be deserved and advisable in the interests of DanceSport.

Article 21

Rules and Regulation

1. The WDSF has the following Rules and Regulations:
 - a) **Financial Regulations**
 - b) **Competition Rules**
 - c) **Professional Division Rules**
 - d) **Rules for Adjudication**
 - e) **Regulations for Television, Broadcasting, New Media, Advertising and Sponsorship**
 - f) **Anti-Doping Code**
 - g) **Disciplinary Council Code**

- h) **Code of Ethics**
 - i) **Code of the Ethics Committee**
2. The **Anti-Doping Code** and the **Disciplinary Council Code**, the **Code of Ethics** and the **Code of the Ethics Committee** are integral parts of the **Statutes**.
 3. The **Professional Division Rules** may only be amended by postal ballot or the General Meeting with the consent of the majority of the Delegates to the Professional Division.
 4. The other Rules and Regulations are not an integral part of the **Statutes** and may be amended by postal ballot or by the General Meeting.
 5. Athletes, teachers, trainers, coaches and adjudicators can be bound to WDSF Rules and Regulations by forms of consent approved by the Presidium.

Article 22

Liquidation of the WDSF

1. The dissolution of the WDSF may be decided only by a General Meeting called specifically for the purpose and requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority, subject to at least two-third (2/3) of the Members being present or represented.
2. In the event of the WDSF being dissolved or of its objects becoming invalid, its assets will be assigned to the International Olympic Committee or to any other internationally recognized sport body or bodies recognised by the Olympic Family. No monies will be paid to Members of the WDSF.

Article 23

Common Language in WDSF

1. The official language of the WDSF is English.
2. In any question of interpretation of the **Statutes, Competition Rules** and any of its Rules and Regulations, the English version shall be binding.