Operating Policy
for
General Meetings
of the
World DanceSport Federation

In order to achieve the highest levels of accountability, transparency, integrity, honesty and consistency, the following guidelines were adopted by the WDSF Presidium to assist everyone, including Member bodies, Delegates and staff to understand the Presidium’s administration of WDSF’s General Meetings.

In this Operating Policy, “General Meetings” are as defined in the WDSF Statutes and include all General Meetings of WDSF including Ordinary General Meetings, Annual General Meetings and Special General Meetings.

1. Annual General Meetings -- Bidding and Costs

1.1 One purpose of this Operating Policy is to clarify the costs of conducting an Annual General Meeting.

1.2 Any costs incurred will only be paid by WDSF if they are first approved by the WDSF Vice-President for Finance. However, such costs will only be met if they are in strict accordance with budgets and these Operating Policies.

1.3 For members wishing to apply for Annual General Meetings, WDSF believes that based on sound ethics, corporate governance and fair play, each bidding member needs to supply no more than the following:
• Meeting room for 1 day of MC Meeting at no cost to the WDSF, including tea, coffee, water, biscuit and light lunch.

• Meeting rooms for 2 days of Presidium meetings at no cost to the WDSF including tea, coffee, water, biscuits and light lunch.

• Conference rooms for 2 days to conduct WDSF Forums, DanceSport Asia (DSA) meetings and Annual General Meeting at no cost to the WDSF including tea, coffee, water, biscuits and light lunch for all the delegates and officials.

• A welcome dinner including drinks for all delegates, officials and partners of delegates and officials at no cost to the WDSF. The WDSF will also pay for a dinner.

• The Presidium Meeting, Forums and AGM will have videotape, PowerPoint, DVD and sound equipment available for use at no cost to the WDSF.

• 15 hotel rooms for 3 nights for the Presidium Members

However, the WDSF Presidium can agree to accept less than these maximum conditions in special circumstances.

The WDSF is not permitted to accept any more than the above requirements from any member. The above Operating Policies are not exhaustive. The policies merely provide a framework which members, Presidium members, Commissions and delegates can use as a guide.

If any concern or doubt exists, it is recommended that full disclosure and approval or direction be sought from the WDSF Presidium.

These rules and guidelines shall be applied as far as possible to any General Meeting of WDSF which is not also an Annual General Meeting.

2. Administration of General Meetings -- Delegates

2.1 Article 9 of the WDSF Statutes provides in part:

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 . . .

The primary bona fide purpose of the text of this part of the WDSF Statutes is based on the principle that in order for any General Meeting to be genuinely representative, fair and democratic, it must
consist of Delegates who have a genuine, plausible and primary relationship with the nominating WDSF Member body which is *bona fide* in the context of the standards by which the WDSF Sporting System requires athletes and adjudicators to be registered with WDSF according to their real, genuine and *bona fide* country of residence and connection and according to the true and honest spirit of those standards. In recent years WDSF has had a clear policy of rejecting athletes and judges trying to represent a country where they do not live, or where they do not have a genuine connection, and will not issue them licences or accredit them in competition. That policy is quite strict when the Presidium or its Commissioners detect such facts and is not diluted or diminished even when a WDSF Member body behaves in a way that tends to undermine that policy.

2.2 The *bona fide* exercise by a WDSF Member body of its right to nominate Delegates to General Meetings shall be protected, but because the General Meeting is the primary organ of WDSF and because the office of Delegate to the General Meeting is the supreme power in WDSF, the right of nomination of Delegates who qualify technically for nomination under Article 9(3) of the *WDSF Statutes*, is not unlimited and is subject to interpretation according to the primary *bona fide* purpose of Article 9(1), (2) and (3). “Forum-Shopping” and “Flag of Convenience” nominations of Delegates which undermine the achievement of the primary purpose described above, are even more unacceptable than implausible applications for registration of athletes or adjudicators by persons or bodies who have lost sight of the primary *bona fide* purpose of the *WDSF Statutes*. Such nominations of Delegates are also abuses of the process provided in the *WDSF Statutes*. Subject to the decision of the WDSF Presidium, nominations of such persons as Delegates will not be accepted or accredited by the General Secretary or the WDSF Office, and when they are accordingly not accepted or accredited for attendance at a General Meeting, such persons may not serve as Delegates or attend that General Meeting.

2.3 For clarity, although the *WDSF Statutes* provide for nomination of “Members” this word was always a broad general term which has historically and necessarily been interpreted to describe and define a broad purpose rather than a specific or narrow legal status, because different WDSF Member bodies have different methods of affiliating natural persons e.g. in some Member bodies members can only be clubs or corporations. The intent of the use of the word “Member” is to avoid an exhaustive definition but at the same time communicate that the intent is to avoid *ad hoc* nominations of Delegates who are not true representatives of the body in every way; any other interpretation of the word “Member” would have the effect of circumventing the intent of the “Member” requirement. Insisting on nominating such a Delegate would qualify as an abuse which is contrary to Article 2 of the *Swiss Civil Code*, which governs WDSF’s activities.

2.4 Accordingly, subject to the decision of the Presidium, the nominations of a Delegate which is contrary to the primary *bona fide* purpose of the nomination of Delegates, may be rejected summarily by the WDSF General Secretary, and the WDSF Member body which nominated him or her shall be invited alternatively to nominate as a Delegate someone who fulfils the primary *bona fide* purpose of the nomination of Delegates. Examples of nominations which are contrary to the primary purpose of the nomination of Delegate to the WDSF General Meeting include but are not limited to:

(a) Someone who lives in Country A but is nominated as a Delegate to represent the WDSF Member body for Country B;
(b) Someone who is registered as an athlete representing Country A but is nominated as a Delegate to represent the WDSF Member body for Country B;

(c) Someone who is registered as an adjudicator representing Country A but is nominated as a Delegate to represent the WDSF Member body for Country B;

(d) Someone who is registered as a Chairperson representing Country A but is nominated as a Delegate to represent the WDSF Member body for Country B;

(e) Someone who is an elected representative or is campaigning to be an elected or appointed representative in the presidium or other council or committee of the WDSF Member body for Country A but is nominated as a Delegate to represent the WDSF Member body for Country B;

(f) Someone who is well-known to have a genuine, plausible and primary relationship with Country A but is nominated as a Delegate to represent the WDSF Member body for Country B;

(g) Someone who is nominated as a Delegate to represent more than one WDSF Member body;

(h) Someone who is nominated as a Delegate to represent one WDSF Member body but (for whatever reason or on whatever basis) participates in the business or activities of more than one WDSF Member body;

(i) Someone who claims to be a Member of a WDSF Member body but otherwise clearly does not have a genuine, plausible and primary relationship with that WDSF Member body which nominates her or him as a Delegate, or with the country that body represents; or

(j) Someone who otherwise clearly does not have a genuine, sincere, legitimate, plausible and primary relationship with the WDSF Member body which nominates her or him as a Delegate or whose nomination otherwise lacks credibility according to the principles described in this Operating Policy.

These are examples and are not exhaustive or narrowly definitive, and are only illustrations. The Presidium is not bound by such fact-patterns as if they are limitations.

2.5 The provisions of this Operating Policy apply mutatis mutandis to the appointment of all Delegates to any WDSF Professional Division (“PD”) General Meeting or to participate in any PD postal ballot.

3. Administration of General Meetings -- Attendees

3.1 In order to ensure that the General Meeting is conducted fairly and efficiently and subject to the decision of the Presidium the General Secretary shall do all reasonable things to ensure good order at the location of the General Meeting venue and the precincts surrounding it, at all times before and during the General Meeting.

3.2 Under Article 9(1) of the WDSF Statutes the definition of the General Meeting is that it “. . . consists of the Members’ Delegates and the members of the Presidium.” Subject to the decision of
the Presidium, the admission of any persons in addition to those described in Article 9(1) shall be according to the discretion of the General Secretary.

For clarity, the General Secretary’s discretion to refuse admission to any person other than those described in Article 9(1) of the Statutes, is fully preserved.

Without limiting that discretion, it is further provided for Members’ guidance that the Presidium may accredit a maximum of TWO (2) guests per WDSF Member body for full or partial admission to any General Meeting, free of charge.

With respect to additional guests, the Presidium or the General Secretary is bound by this Operating Policy to require, and the General Secretary or WDSF must receive advance, payment in full to WDSF before the commencement of a General Meeting, of a charge of CHF100.00 per day of attendance, per each additional guest thereat by the WDSF Member body with which such guest is affiliated according to such accreditation by the Presidium or the General Secretary.

As a prerequisite for being considered for such discretionary accreditation (whether free of charge as described above or for a charge of CHF100.00 per day of attendance, per each additional guest as described above), each such guest must have a genuine, plausible and primary relationship with the nominating WDSF Member body which is bona fide in the context of the standards by which the WDSF Sporting System requires athletes and adjudicators to be registered with WDSF according to their real, genuine and bona fide country of residence and connection and according to the true and honest spirit of those standards.

3.3 The provisions of this Operating Policy apply mutatis mutandis to the conduct of any WDSF Professional Division (“PD”) General Meeting or participation in any PD postal ballot.

Effective Date

Version No. 4 of this Operating Policy was passed by the WDSF Presidium on May 1, 2018 to amend and replace the previous version adopted in 2004 and came into full force and effect on May 2, 2018. This Version No. 5 was passed by the WDSF Presidium on February 3rd, 2020 to amend Version No. 4 and came into effect February 3rd, 2020.

By Order of the WDSF Presidium
February 3rd, 2020
Guillaume Felli, WDSF General Secretary

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