WDSF Social Media Rules

Preamble

WDSF encourages and supports everyone to take part in social media and to post, blog or tweet his or her experiences with DanceSport. WDSF commits itself to such media activities as a part of the popularity of DanceSport. As WDSF is also the highest governing body for DanceSport worldwide, WDSF concurrently bears the responsibility to safeguard the reputation of the Federation, its representatives and Members and of DanceSport itself. In this sense, the freedom of expression shall be maintained as long as no legitimate interests have to be protected. This document sets up basic rules in order to bring these two efforts in accordance with each other.

1 Application

1.1 These Rules apply to WDSF Officials in the sense of Article 1.1 of the WDSF Code of Ethics, representatives of WDSF Member Bodies, WDSF license holders including Athletes, Adjudicators, Chairpersons and Invigilators, any other persons or legal entities who expressly agreed to comply with the requirements of these Rules, unless otherwise specified.

1.2 These Rules apply to any sort of communications in social media, entries in blogs (including tweets) and comments in public media (including the WDSF website) that affect WDSF or DanceSport, but are not done in the name or on behalf of WDSF (therefore hereinafter collectively referred to as: “third party communications”). Communications of WDSF and its representatives are covered by the separately published WDSF Media Relations Code.

2 Basic principles

2.1 WDSF encourages any person or organisation subject to these Rules to post third party communications. It is entirely acceptable for any person anyhow connected to WDSF to do personal postings, blogs or tweets.

2.2 Third party communications must respect the WDSF Code of Ethics and the following provisions. They must preserve good taste and may not contain vulgar or obscene words or images.

2.3 Third party communications must be in a first-person, diary-type format. This means that they should express a personal view or experience and shall not comment activities of specific persons.

2.4 Third party communications may include photographs taken at WDSF events, but no audio or video content taken at WDSF activities. However, this Article does not restrict recordings for personal and non-commercial use. Likewise, video and audio content taken outside of WDSF venues are not subject to the restrictions of this Article.

2.5 Third party communications shall not be for commercial and/or advertising purposes and shall not have the only purpose to harm, denounce or depreciate persons or organisations. Third party communications shall not compromise the rights of broadcasters and sponsors.

2.6 Third party communications may not disclose any information which is confidential or private in relation to any other person or organisation. Pictures showing persons outside of the floor and public areas at competitions require the consent of the shown persons prior to their posting.
2.7 Third party communications, including short- and nicknames, hashtags, URL’s and websites, may not create or imply an unauthorised association with WDSF. Therefore, third party communications may not include the WDSF Logo or the Logo of WDSF brands. The use of Logos of National Member Bodies requires their prior consent. However, WDSF acclaims the inclusion of links to the official DanceSport website (www.worlddancesport.org) in third party communications.

3 Liability
Whoever publishes third party communications bears the responsibility for its content and can be held personally liable for it. Third party communications are released at the risk of their publishers, who should emphasise that they express their own views.

4 Monitoring
The Commission shall monitor the WDSF website, all other WDSF publications such as YouTube-channels and know platforms dealing with DanceSport in order to ensure that the principles set out in these Rules are followed.

5 Enforcement
5.1 If this Code is violated by an act contrary to the WDSF Code of Ethics, such violations shall be investigated by the Ethics Committee before the Presidium takes any further actions. However, Article 11.4 of the WDSF Code of Ethics applies.

5.2 Notwithstanding Article 5.1 above, the WDSF Communications Commission and the WDSF Presidium may take provisional measures regarding third party communications in order to enforce the governing documents of WDSF. Provisional measures as well as decisions not to take provisional measures are no subject to any sort of legal remedy.

5.3 The Presidium may sanction persons or organisations contravening these Rules according to WDSF’s governing documents. However, if Article 5.1 above applies, the Presidium shall not take initial actions based on Articles 14(1) letters a) and c) to e) of the WDSF Statutes before the WDSF Ethics Committee reported on the regarding issue. Sanctions due to violations of this Code are subject to an Appeal to the WDSF Disciplinary Council, according to Chapter 7 of the WDSF Internal Dispute Resolution Code.

5.4 The WDSF Communications Commission may invite the audiences to report content violating these Rules.

6 Effective Date and Transitional Provisions
6.1 This document is a Rule according to Article 21 paragraph 1 of the WDSF Statutes.

6.2 These Rules enter into force on 13 June 2016 and apply to all activities covered by these Rules exercised on or after the commencement date. A retroactive effect of these Rules prior to their effective date is excluded.

These Rules were adopted by the WDSF Annual General Meeting on 12 June 2016 in Rome, Italy (Version 1.0), and amended on the occasion of the WDSF Annual General Meeting on 12 June 2017 in Singapore (Version 1.1).