Operating Policy

The WDSF Athletes’ Commission

Contents

1. Definitions and Fundamental Principles ................................................................. 1
2. Purpose and Objectives ......................................................................................... 2
3. Composition of the Commission ........................................................................... 2
4 Internal Administration .......................................................................................... 4
5 Meetings .................................................................................................................. 4
6 Work of the Commission ....................................................................................... 5
7 Voting and Decisions .............................................................................................. 5
8 Elections ................................................................................................................... 6
9. Participation in the Work of the Presidium .......................................................... 8
10. Transitional .......................................................................................................... 8

1. Definitions and Fundamental Principles

1.1 The WDSF Athletes’ Commission is a permanent Commission of the WDSF Presidium constituted according to Article 13(8) of the WDSF Statutes.

1.2
The WDSF Associate Members’ athletes’ commissions are subject to this Operating Policy, except that the chair of each Associate Member’s Athletes’ Commission is not a voting member of the WDSF Presidium and all other statutes refer to the member bodies own organization.

1.3
The Members of the Commission are elected by the athletes or appointed by the Athletes’ Commission.

1.4
The WDSF Athletes’ Commission is an advisory commission of the WDSF Presidium.

2. Purpose and Objectives

2.1
The purpose of the WDSF Athletes’ Commission is:

2.1.2
To represent the interests of the athletes;

2.1.3
To advise the Presidium on matters that are relevant to the athletes;

2.1.4
To influence decisions made by the Presidium with respect to the athletes;

2.1.5
To improve the communication between the Presidium and the athletes.

3. Composition of the Commission

3.1
The WDSF Athletes’ Commission consists of a maximum of nine (9) members, eight (8) of whom represent regions or disciplines within the WDSF, all of which are defined from time to time by the Athletes’ Commission, namely:

-- 1 Chair,
-- 1 Representative of Africa,
-- 1 Representative of the Americas,
-- 1 Representative of Asia,
-- 1 Representative of Europe,
-- 1 Representative of Oceania,
3.2 Membership in the Commission is open only to people who have previously competed or are competing in DanceSport in the WDSF system.

3.3 The Chairperson of the Commission must be a former or an active athlete who competes or competed in the WDSF system.

3.4 The Chairperson of the Commission automatically becomes a Member of the WDSF Presidium according to Article 13(3) of the WDSF Statutes.

3.5 Each Commissioner is elected to serve the Commission for four (4) successive years.

3.6 A person ceases to be a Member of the Commission when:

a) a period of one (1) year has passed since s/he retired from competitive dancing, or his/her term of office expires, whichever occurs first. For clarity, this provision does not apply to the position of Chairperson of the Commission.

b) A Commissioner ceases to be a Commissioner if s/he resigns, or clearly communicates intention to cease to be active as a Commissioner, or has missed 2 or more consecutive meetings of the Commission.

3.7 If a Regional Commissioner ceases to be resident in the region s/he represents. S/he will then cease to be qualified to be a Regional Commissioner. His or her position as Regional Commissioner shall then become vacant.

3.8 If a Commissioner resigns or otherwise ceases to be a Commissioner, the Commission may either:

(a) appoint a new Commissioner to serve the unexpired balance of his or her four-year term, or

(b) convene an Athletes’ Forum or other appropriate assembly and conduct an election at that Forum to elect a replacement Commissioner to serve a full four-year term from the date of that election.
3.9 If any Commissioner is declared by the Presidium and confirmed by the Commission not to be in good standing with WDSF, s/he ceases to be qualified to be a Commissioner and his or her position as Commissioner shall then become vacant. Such a declaration by the Presidium may only be made for serious and compelling reasons, which may include suspension from competitive privileges by any competent WDSF body, and which may include having been found to have breached any prevailing Anti-doping code.

4 Internal Administration

4.1 The Athletes’ Commission elects a Chairperson from its members. The Chairperson must be over 18 years of age at the time of the election.

4.2 The Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson for a four-year term from the date of his or her election. The Commission is also authorized to elect a Chairperson at any time to fill the position of a chairperson has resigned or whose position has otherwise become vacant.

4.3 The Athletes’ Commission also appoints a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary. The Secretary may be a person appointed from outside of the Commission and may change from meeting to meeting, provided always that when the secretary is a person who is appointed from outside the Commission, s/he does not become a Commissioner and has no voting rights.

5 Meetings

5.1 The full Athletes’ Commission meets approximately 4 times per year. At least one meeting will be face-to-face while others will be conducted using other means (such as Skype or conference telephone call).

5.2 The chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary & PD representative strive to conduct 2 other face-to-face meetings per year providing budget allocation permits.

5.3 Commissioners’ travel, meal and accommodation costs for the face-to-face meetings shall be reimbursed upon presentation of receipts of costs incurred. Provided always that a Commissioner must attend more than 50% of a meeting to qualify for reimbursement for his/her costs related to that meeting.
6 Work of the Commission

6.1 The work of the Commission is advisory and is limited to advising the athletes, the WDSF Presidium and its other Commissions.

6.2 The advice of the Commission may be given on request of the Presidium or initiated by the Commission itself.

6.3 The Presidium consults with the Athletes’ Commission when the Presidium is planning to take a decision that may have an impact on the majority of the athletes.

6.4 Topics on which the Presidium seeks advice from the Commission are:

- Amendments to the WDSF Athletes Code of Conduct;
- Amendments relating to WDSF Anti-doping Code;
- Amendments to judging criteria and the system of adjudicating;

6.5 The Athletes’ Commission shall take reasonable steps to provide advice within four to six weeks after it receives relevant information from the Presidium.

6.6 The advice presented by the Commission to the Presidium carries significant weight.

7 Voting and Decisions

7.1 Each Member of the Commission has one (1) vote in the Commission’s proceedings.

7.2 Decisions of the Commission are taken by a simple majority of votes.

7.3 When a vote is tied, the topic under discussion shall be adjourned to the next meeting and if it is tied upon being called at that second meeting, then the Chairperson may cast an additional deciding vote.

7.4 A Commissioner may vote in the Commission’s proceedings by:
   
   (a) attending a meeting of the Commission which is held in person and
voting there in person, or by

(b) attending that Commission meeting by remote participation by telephone or other electronic media and voting during that Commission meeting in that way, provided always that no Member of the Commission may give a proxy for or vote a proxy in any of the Commission’s proceedings.

8 Elections

8.1 Election of Commissioners

8.1.1 Elections shall be conducted according to this Operating policy. The Professional representative may be elected during any WDSF PD Championship. Elections may also be conducted at another competition if there are no Championships held within 3 months of the relevant position becoming vacant.

8.1.2 The European representative may be elected during any WDSF European Championship. Elections may also be conducted at another competition if there are no Championships held within 3 months of the relevant position becoming vacant.

8.1.3 The Asian representative Commissioner may be elected during any WDSF Asian Championship. Elections may also be conducted at another competition if there are no Championships held within 3 months of the relevant position becoming vacant.

8.1.4 The Americas, Africa and Oceania representative Commissioners shall be elected during an athletes’ Forum, which preferably will be held at the time and place of an important WDSF-granted competition such as a relevant Regional Championship or equivalent.

8.1.5 In conjunction with any election in which voters are physically present, supplementary digital voting may also be used as defined in paragraph 8.3.1.

8.1.6 An athlete may vote in elections for Commissioners if s/he belongs to the same region or discipline as the candidate for whom s/he wishes to vote, and if s/he has a valid WDSF min number and is at least 18 years of age at the time of the election.
8.2 Elections Processes

8.2.1 Elections processes shall be adopted by the Commission from time to time in its absolute discretion, and may include the use of Internet-based techniques and paper secret ballots.

8.3 Conduct of Elections

8.3.1 Each athlete has one vote.

8.3.2 The candidate receiving the highest number of the votes cast in an election shall take office as an Athletes’’ Commissioner for a term of four (4) years immediately following the final vote count and announcement of the voting results by the Athletes’ Commission.

8.4 Organising Elections

8.4.1 The WDSF Athletes’ Commission shall organize and conduct the Commission’s elections and shall use its best efforts to ensure the integrity of the elections and their outcomes.

8.4.2 To ensure the integrity of the elections and their outcomes, the Athletes’ Commission shall draft the principles and procedures of the elections, and publish them, prior to conducting such elections.

8.5 Candidacy

8.5.1 Candidates for election as Commissioners must be qualified to vote in that election.

8.5.2 Candidates may volunteer for candidacy by submitting their names to the WDSF Athletes’ Commission provided always that candidates who volunteer for candidacy must not be suspended from active competition dancing at the time of submitting their candidacy. The candidates shall be approved by the WDSF Athletes’ Commission before being added to the list.

8.5.3 At or during the elections, athletes are allowed to choose from the candidates on the list provided by the Commission.
8.5.4 In order to provide fair notice and reasonably administrative efficiency, volunteering for candidacy and nominations for candidacy must be communicated to the WDSF Athletes’ Commission at least six (6) weeks before an election. Anyone who is nominated must communicate consent to his or her candidacy to the WDSF Athletes’ Commission at least six (6) weeks before an election, or else that nomination shall be invalid and that nominee may not be a candidate in the election.

8.5.5 A call for candidates will be published on the website of the WDSF at least 8 weeks before the date of election. There will then be a period of 2 weeks following that publication where candidates may submit their names to the Athletes Commission during which candidates may be nominated for election or may submit their names to the Athletes Commission for candidacy.

9. Participation in the Work of the Presidium

9.1 For greater clarity, pursuant to Article 13(3) of the WDSF Statutes, the Chairperson is a Member of the WDSF Presidium, with all the privileges and responsibilities of that office, including being entitled to receive notice of and to attend and vote at all meetings of the WDSF Presidium.

10. Transitional

10.1 This Operating Policy may only be modified with the consent of the WDSF Athletes’ Commission.

10.2 This Operating Policy shall come into effect after approval of the Presidium or the approval of the WDSF Annual General Meeting (AGM), whichever comes first.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDIUM

At Moscow, September 8, 2019