Minutes of the WDSF Presidium Meeting held at Marriott Park Hotel, Rome on June 10 and 13, 2016

Resumption of WDSF Presidium Meeting which was begun before the 2017 WDSF AGM

June 13, 2016

9:00 A.M., Monday, June 13, 2016

Present:

Lukas Hinder, WDSF President
Jim Fraser, WDSF 1st Vice-President
Tony Tilenni, WDSF Treasurer

Shawn Tay, WDSF General Secretary
Marco Sietas, WDSF Sports Director
Michael Eichert, WDSF 2nd Vice-President

Vasile Gliga, WDSF Presidium Member
Heidi Goetz, WDSF Presidium Member
Ken Richards, WDSF Presidium Member
Sergio Rotarís, WDSF Presidium Member
Keiji Ukai, WDSF Presidium Member

Mirjam Kerpan-Izak, WDSF Presidium Member for WRRC
Setsuo Nakamura, President, IFC, WDSF Presidium Member for IFC
J.P. Oster, WDSF Presidium Member for WCLDSF
Verena Sulek (WDSF PD Director), WDSF Presidium Member
Ashli Williamson (Chair, Athletes Commission), WDSF Presidium Member

Guests: (not necessarily during the whole Meeting)

Grethe Andersen, IPC Wheelchair DanceSport Technical Committee
Jeff Bartholomew, retired WDSF Presidium Member for WCLDSF

Jean-Laurent Bourquin, Advisor
Raluca Cret, Translator (for Mr. Gliga)
Declan Hive, 2016 WDSF AGM Delegate from the Trinidad & Tobago

Michael Shelton, Minutes Secretary
Daniel Stehlin, Chair, WDSF Disciplinary Council

Roland Hilfiker, WDSF Advisor

Excused:

Tommy Shaughnessy, WDSF Presidium Member, due to his mother’s serious illness.
The President reconvened the meeting which began on Friday, June 10, at 9:00 A.M. this morning by thanking all who have been present in Rome this weekend for their work at and in connection with the very successful 2016 WDSF AGM.

Jeff Bartholomew, retired WDSF Presidium Member for WCLDSF, announced that he has resigned his position on our Presidium on his physician’s orders, for health reasons, and introduced J.P. Oster of WCLDSF as his successor as WDSF Presidium Member for WCLDSF. The President welcomed Mr. Oster as the representative of the WCLDSF. He was unanimously confirmed as the new Presidium Member for WCLDSF.

At the President’s request the Meeting agreed to amend the previously-approved Agenda to make time for a brief address from the 2016 WDSF AGM Delegate from the Trinidad & Tobago WDSF Member, Mr. Declan Hive, at about 10:00 A.M..

**Appointment of New Project Officer in our Lausanne Office**

MR. TILENNI circulated a document listing all available qualified candidates for the post of Project Officer at our Lausanne Office, including the *curriculum vitae* of candidates who were interviewed by the WDSF’s Advisor Mr. Bourquin. He invited proposals for amendments to the Job Description for this position.

**Appointment of New WDSF Chief Executive Officer**

MR. TILENNI suggested that the process of selecting the new WDSF CEO be changed i.e. that because of his experience and his connections in the sporting world Jean-Laurent Bourquin be offered the position of CEO immediately, first on a part-time basis. MR. TILENNI offered to circulate MR. BOURQUIN’s *curriculum vitae*.

MR. SIETAS commented on the difficulties of selecting the best candidate in this manner and said he supported MR. TILENNI’s recommendation.

MR. FRASER pointed out the dangers of selecting a candidate by this process but said that he felt that this opportunity was too good to refuse.

MR. BOURQUIN explained briefly to the Presidium that he cannot work full-time at present due to other commitments and that he was not a “candidate” for the post of CEO, but that he would put himself at the disposal of WDSF generally. He could not promise anything more as the determination of some of his other responsibilities were subject to discussions with other Sport Organisations for which he is delivering services and with which middle/long-term cooperation agreements are in place, but said that he would do his best. MR. BOURQUIN then said that he would leave the room so that the Meeting could discuss this matter in his absence.

MR. RICHARDS asked whether MR. BOURQUIN would be instructed and would be able to communicate and manage the Presidium’s work with the Members, the WDSF’s Barcelona Office, assist in the preparation of future WDSF Annual General Meetings, or whether the proposed
appointment as WDSF CEO was “only an Olympic job”. MR. HINDER answered that MR. BOURQUIN worked well with everybody at this Meeting and at all levels.

MR. TILENNI asked whether the CEOs of other Sports organizations could interact with their organizations’ Members or whether they were selected for appointment as CEO for their other qualities? MR. RICHARDS suggested that administrative functions could be exercised separately by a Chief Operating Officer (“COO”) or assistant CEO.

MS. WILLIAMSON said that after attending two SportAccord Meetings she could not think of anyone who would be better for this job than MR. BOURQUIN.

MR. TILENNI said that there was great time pressure to make a decision on this question, and invited further comment from the Meeting. MR. HINDER told the Meeting that in his opinion Mr. Bourquin is the best qualified and experienced person for this job. He thinks we are extremely lucky and is very proud that Mr. Bourquin is prepared to offer his services to WDSF. He added that MR. BOURQUIN is a Swiss citizen and reported that in Switzerland there are very strict restrictions on any organization’s legal ability to employ non-Swiss citizens.

MR. TILENNI circulated paper copies of MR. BOURQUIN’s curriculum vitae and the several curriculum vitae of the candidates for Project Officer.

MOVED by MR. TILENNI that MR. BOURQUIN be appointed CEO of WDSF effective immediately; UNANIMOUS.

MR. BOURQUIN was invited to rejoin the meeting and the President informed him of the appointment and congratulated him.

Trinidad & Tobago.

Mr. Hive was invited to join the Meeting. MR. FRASER introduced Mr. Hive, from Trinidad & Tobago (“T&T”). Mr. Hive said that for the past six years he had been responsible for the T&T Member NABDATT’s DanceSport programme in the T&T school system. Last year the government agreed to fund development of DanceSport in cooperation with WDSF. The T&T government has offered to a national centre for DanceSport and an international DanceSport event. There are 23 Caribbean countries and it is hoped that T&T could become the regional centre. There are 10,000 interested DanceSport athletes in T&T, a lot of clubs, freestyle competitions, but no structure. The principal challenge is to sustain a training programme. Coaches are needed on a continuous basis. The T&T Ministry of Sport has offered very significant funding and the Minister has even told his staff that they will all have to learn how to dance, including himself. There are 50 police youth clubs organized under the auspices of the Ministry of National Security, with whom NABDATT is supposed to start a programme in July, 2016 to instruct them in three dances, to keep young people off the streets and away from crime. Mr. Hive wishes to report to NABDATT’s 2016 AGM on June 25, 2016 about what happened at the 2016 WDSF AGM and this Presidium Meeting.

MOVED by MR. FRASER that this Meeting declare its cooperation with and support for the development of DanceSport in the Caribbean with T&T at its centre. AW offered the assistance of
the WDSF Athletes Commission and MR. FRASER suggested that our Members and Associate Members could assist. Mr. Hive left the room for the airport.

MR. SIETAS reported that WDSF has sent trainers to T&T and connected them to other countries, and that WDSF has spent a lot of money doing this; he also reported that the T&T Sport Ministry had promised to pay for airline tickets and accommodation for these trainers but that the Ministry cancelled this support with only one week’s notice and that WDSF was able to use the airline tickets for travel by trainers to another country.

MR. FRASER read the Motion again and the Chair called for a vote; **UNANIMOUS**.

**J6. Sport**

MR. HINDER referred to the June 9, 2016 draft version of the amended WDSF Presidium Operating Policy Re: Adjudicators Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics, which was previously MOVED; **ADOPTED**, with 1 abstention.

**J7. 2017 IWGA World Games, Wroclaw.**

MR. SIETAS reported on a test event which was held in May, 2016, the WDSF European DanceSport Championship Standard, which was satisfactory, although there were some technical problems which can be corrected for the IWGA World Games. MR. SIETAS will attend the next IWGA World Games technical meeting in Wroclaw, Poland.

**J8. WDSF Championships and Cups.**

MR. SIETAS has received 12 bids since June 9, but has not yet had time to review them carefully. He will report to the Presidium via BOX.

**J9. WDSF Organizer Commission.**

There is a problem that some Members are not sufficiently prepared in advance to enable the Presidium to grant major WDSF title events as far in advance as we would like.

**J10. Manipulation.**

It was recommended that we should start in 2017 at the latest to separate WDSF Adjudicating Licences because the WDSF Judging System 2.1 is complicated. Chairpersons are having trouble dealing with the technical complications from this system. MR. TAY will work with MR. SIETAS on any procedures which are necessary to upgrade WDSF Adjudicating Licences and commented that our examiners are doing a very good job. MR. EICHERT was not in favour of dividing the Licences at this time and said that this subject requires a serious discussion in the Sport...
Commission. He is concerned that if we give people a choice they will resign as Chairperson in favour of being Adjudicators because there is much more work for Adjudicators.

MR. SIETAS was concerned that Manipulation can occur too easily under the current system. MR. TILENNI said that the German Member’s Motion which was passed by the WDSF AGM relates, according to its wording, to those countries which have established a training-and-licensing system.

MS. KERPAN-IZAK said that WRRC had changed to a system that only permitted one Adjudicating licence, and that there was “two-way traffic” between the two types of licence, so that people could resign their technical observer licence to become an adjudicator, and vice versa.

MR. ROTARIS said that there had been a separation of judging “careers” in Italy for four years and that it worked well.

MR. GLIGA asked who appointed Chairpersons for Championships. MR. SIETAS replied that the decision for the PD should be made by the PD Board.

MR. HINDER said that this topic requires detailed discussion in the Sport Commission and that it needs to be returned to the Presidium as a proposal for our January, 2017 Meeting, by December 1, 2016 if we are to make a proposal to the 2017 WDSF AGM to change the system.

**J11. Dress Regulations for 2017 IWGA World Games**

MR. SIETAS suggested that in Standard competition men should be restricted to wearing “jacket suits”, also referred to as lounge suits or business suits. He also suggested that limits should be placed on women’s makeup. MR. TAY and MS. WILLIAMSON supported this suggestion.

MR. FRASER spoke against the proposal. He said that our Standard costuming had been use for very many years and that to make costumes less distinguished and formal would provide opportunities for those in other systems to take away from WDSF athletes who want to compete partly because of the costuming associated with the activity. MR. SIETAS said that we are now discussing the Olympics and compared our costuming rules to dress regulations in Ice Skating. MR. TAY disagreed with some of MR. FRASER’s arguments but agreed with others. He said that e.g. in China the numbers of competitors in Standard are diminishing because young men do not like to wear tails suits, but the numbers are increasing in Latin. He felt that there would be opposition to limiting stones on women’s dresses to one colour; MS. WILLIAMSON agreed. MR. HINDER suggested that the proposal about the Standard suit is something that is concrete but that we need detailed discussion with the Athletes Commission about this proposal.

MR. RICHARDS pointed out the need to attract the sponsors that Athletes need, including makeup sponsors. MR. UKAI responded by saying that in many Games sponsorship advertising is not permitted.

MR. EICHERT supported MR. FRASER’s opinion.

RH said that interest in Standard is 50% of interest in Latin and that the cost of a tails suit is too high. MR. FRASER responded that we should not “throw out the baby with the bathwater” and that many men in dancing were proud and ambitious to buy a tails suit as a kind of promotion or
graduation. The cost of a woman’s dress is double or triple the cost of a tails suit, but should we require women to dance in black trousers?

MR. BOURQUIN said that the Presidium should not decide to do anything that would detract from the sport itself.

MOVED that it be mandatory for men to wear “jacket suits” as defined in the WDSF Competition Rules when competing in the 2017 IWGA World Games; ADOPTED with a vote of 11 YES, 3 NO.

K. Urgent matters arising from WDSF Managing Committee Meeting, 9 June 2016, and brought forward to WDSF Presidium

No proposals, no discussion.

L. Review of the 2016 WDSF AGM

MS. KERPAN-IZAK said she wished to politely correct what was said in the AGM yesterday because the decision to send the letter to Russian DanceSport Union (RDSU) was not completely unanimous.

MR. HINDER said that he knew the AGM lasted a long time but said that we had to permit full discussion.

There were suggestions that the Presidium Members’ seating positions at the Friday and Saturday dinners needed better planning.

DS suggested that the reason for so many “blank” ballots in the Presidium election may have been that Delegates did not understand that they were required to mark a box on the ballot.

MS. KERPAN-IZAK suggested that considering the length of time required to complete three elections yesterday, the Presidium needs to consider how the procedure could be made less time-consuming next year. MR. TAY commented that we have no regulation regarding the numbers of observers and that some countries had up to six observers in the AGM this year. He proposed a maximum of three observers per country. More observers cause more problems in administration, disruption when they leave or re-enter the AGM Meeting room for various reasons, and suggested that observers must be nominated a minimum of one month before the AGM except in extraordinary situations.

We need to ensure that proxy votes are not accepted after the deadline for submission.

The Treasurer commented that every year there is a problem about money and that some countries, usually the same ones, never seem to “receive the invoice” and do not react to reminders sent by the Barcelona Office or the Perth Office. Members should be told clearly that their Delegates will not be able to vote unless their liabilities to WDSF are paid in full before the AGM. MR. RICHARDS suggested that non-paying countries’ Delegates receive a copy of outstanding invoices rather than a voting card.
MR. RICHARDS said that e.g. in Canada the PD representatives want to observe the WDSF AGM.

MR. BOURQUIN said that the Presidium should preview the presentations to the Open Forum to focus on sport.

MR. RICHARDS emphasized the benefit of Presidium Members being accessible to Delegates at the AGM-weekend dinners. He also suggested that a moderator be appointed for the Open Forum. The formality of Commission Reports could be reviewed.

MR. TAY is concerned about the number and lengths of other AGMs. This year the PD AGM took 50 minutes. MR. GLIGA said that was because of a lack of Motions. It was suggested that the PD AGM could be scheduled for the Friday before the WDSF AGM.

MR. FRASER suggested that we do more to encourage Delegates to mix with Delegates from other countries.

M1. Membership Commission.

MOVED that Tommy Shaughnessy be appointed Chair of the WDSF Membership Commission when Marco’s resignation becomes effective on July 1, 2016; **ADOPTED** with 1 abstention.


There was discussion. MOVED that Tommy Shaughnessy be appointed as a Member of the Sport Commission. KR commented on the lack of diversity in the Commission’s membership. On a vote, the Motion **FAILED**, 5 votes YES, 6 votes NO, 5 abstentions.

N. Communications

MOVED to approve the draft WDSF Presidium *Operating Policy Re: Editorial Guidelines* and the WDSF Communications Commission’s *Mission Statement; UNANIMOUS*.

O. Sustainability

MOVED to approve the draft WDSF Presidium *Operating Policy Re: Sustainability and Associated Sustainability Menu; ADOPTED* with 1 abstention by MR. FRASER

[at this point MR. SIETAS was given permission to leave the Meeting to go to the airport to catch his flight on time – Ed.]
R. 2017 WDSF Winter Presidium Meeting

Presidium Meeting January 21-22, 2017, venue to be decided later. Motions for this Meeting (including Motions for the Presidium to recommend to the 2017 WDSF AGM) must be submitted to MR. TAY by December 1 so that the Presidium has time to discuss them, provided always that urgent Motions will still be considered.

Q. 2017 WDSF Winter Presidium Meeting, 2017 WDSF Annual General Meeting

MS. KERPAN-IZAK expressed a preference to hold WDSF’s 60th Anniversary AGM in Lausanne.

[at this point MS. KERPAN-IZAK was given permission to leave the Meeting to go to the airport to catch her flight on time – Ed.]

MR. TAY wants the 60th Anniversary AGM to be memorable and has suggested a commemorative necktie or scarf and a special article of some kind for Presidents of WDSF Member bodies who are in office at the time of the 2017 AGM.

Suggestions for venues:

Aarhus, Denmark; MR. TAY believes that the offer of this venue has expired and advised that anyway air travel to this city is more complicated and the airport is 40 km from the venue/hotel.

Tokyo, Japan, Shinagawa Prince Hotel. The hotel is not too expensive, hotel room cost is sponsored in part for 3 nights only, and the length and difficulty of transfer from the airport is a concern (1 hour from Narita Airport, 20-30 minutes from Hanada airport). SN suggested that there could be a special celebration if Tokyo is chosen, perhaps a river cruise. There are no other terms offered, i.e. WDSF must pay all other expenses.

Lausanne, Switzerland; this city is very expensive, there will be no subsidy and in Switzerland all hotel and other costs must be paid in full in advance; dinners will also be very expensive.

Vienna, Austria, Park Hotel (built in 1907); available dates not yet confirmed.

Singapore, Capitol Theatre; formerly a cinema, now a conference centre with flexible seating; several hotels, restaurants, everything within walking distance, with the hotel immediately opposite to the meeting hall, but the date must be May 27-28. A welcome dinner could be held on Sentosa Island.

MR. RICHARDS has been asking for an opportunity on similar terms in the USA but has always been told that it is not possible. USA Dance has asked to bid for 2018.

On a vote between awarding the AGM to Singapore or Vienna, RESOLVED that the 2017 60th Anniversary WDSF AGM be held in Singapore on May 27-28, 2017 – 8 YES votes.
P. International Pole Sports and Arts Federation (IPSAF)

Pole athletics has grown immensely in recent years and pole athletes have created the IPSAF to ensure recognition of pole as a sport, to unite, regulate, organize, lead, and develop the practice and competition of pole sports and pole art around the world. All affiliated competitions are standardized in athlete expectations and judging methods.

There was general discussion about whether WDSF should consider pole for inclusion in the WDSF, including re: the merits vs. concerns about the image of the sport. The Meeting decided to consider other organizations. The Meeting agreed that MR. RICHARDS would remain in charge of Pole Athletics.

S. Miscellaneous

WDSF Adjudicators Commission

Due to the lateness of the hour and because of the importance of this initiative, which was adopted by the 2016 WDSF AGM, a full discussion of implementing the AGM’s Resolution was deferred until the next Presidium Meeting.

Russia

There was discussion about the steps which the Presidium and the Managing Committee should take. MR. EICHERT commented on the differences between what RDSU said in its letter of June 11th to the Presidium, and what was said by various Russian speakers at the AGM yesterday. MR. GLIGA, MR. HINDER, MR. TILENNI and MR. EICHERT all thought that there should be an extension of time for the current RDSU President Ms. Petrova to resign, until a later date. RDSU has its AGM from June 22-28. The Presidium agreed by informal vote to approve a deferral for Ms. Petrova’s resignation to September 1, 2016.

Designating a “City of Dance”

MR. TAY has received a request from the City of Chengdu, China, for designation as a “City of Dance”. Other cities should also be considered and proposals should be made about how to proceed.
Adjournment

Due to the lateness of the hour and because many Presidium Members needed to depart for the airport to catch their flights home, the Meeting was adjourned by consent.

Zurich and Vancouver, December 31, 2016

Michael Shelton, Harrow, England, Minutes Secretary

Jim Fraser, Vancouver, Canada, WDSF 1st Vice President, Editor