



Sant Cugat, December 22, 2009

Dear Friends

I have prepared this detailed Christmas/New Year mid year report to share with you the great many opportunities which the IDSF Presidium has been developing to progress DanceSport. But first, please accept my very best wishes for the coming festive season.

I would like readers to understand that all the items mentioned in this report are helping to develop and implement a new "Vision 2012" for IDSF and DanceSport. Therefore, please do not view each of the items in this report in isolation. However, as you know, the 2009 AGM unanimously agreed to establish a "working group" of members and Federations representing other DanceSport disciplines to develop a pathway for the future development of IDSF and DanceSport.

Let me start by saying that I believe that most people understand that DanceSport is required to make significant changes to achieve all of the many goals and objectives we have for our sport. Of course, there will always be many opinions of which direction we should go in, how long it should take, and when we should make changes. However, we need to have courage and vision and act in a timely basis to do what needs to be done to develop DanceSport and IDSF.

Since I have been President of IDSF, it has been my sincere desire to work diligently with my fellow Presidium members to not just talk about how we need to develop, but to show tangible results of our work each and every year to improve DanceSport worldwide.

The Presidium is elected to work for DanceSport and for all members and, as President. I insist that we must face all our challenges to fulfil our roles and responsibilities as a Recognised International Sports Federation.

Amongst the many projects which we currently have in progress, I provide the following alphabetical list and I will then briefly expand on each:

- **Academy**
- **Adjudication**
- **Artistic Sports Games**
- **Athletes Commission**
- **Championship Bidding Procedures & Protocols**
- **IDSF - Registration and Licensing System for athletes (RLS)**



- **IOC Recognition**
- **IPDSC - International Professional DanceSport Council**
- **Membership Issues**
- **Mediterranean Games**
- **Rimini Pilot Project**
- **Vision 2012**
- **World Games 2009**
- **World Masters Games 2013 in Turin**

The Academy

IDSF needs to evolve our Education Directorate into a fully fledged Training and Research Institute for DanceSport. As such, we will be seeking the approval of members at the 2010 AGM for budget increases for the Education Directorate and a change in name to assist in the development of IDSF's "Academy". Of course, the Academy will grow cautiously and by evolution. However, over time, we expect our Academy to grow and prosper and to be recognised as an elite level of DanceSport training and learning.

It is anticipated that the additional budget requirements to evolve the Education Directorate to the Academy will only be CHF15,000 per year in the first three years. The Academy will also commence offering courses, as well as expanding the conferences and congresses currently conducted by the Education Directorate. These activities will be used to assist in meeting the additional costs of gradually and cautiously developing the Academy over time.

Adjudication

I would like to firstly express our sincere thanks to the dedicated team from our Japanese member which over the last years, has been diligently developing a new Adjudication system based on the ISU system of Adjudication as accepted by the IOC.

I present below an extract of the presentation prepared by Natasa Ambroz, our Education Director, relating to the development of a new Adjudication system for DanceSport:

"Why do we need a new Judging System?"

The existing judging system that we have been using for years is working well and it is practical, but there are areas that could be improved.



- Better transparency
- Higher level of objectivity
- Easier to understand for the audience, press TV and IOC
- Accountability of adjudicators
- Constructive feedback to athletes and trainers

The proposal for the new IDSF judging system is based on the Japanese DanceSport Federation (JDSF) rules for a new judging system, that were first presented to the IDSF Presidium in 2008. The system uses ISU judging system as a framework.

The ISU judging system has two main parts

- 1 Programme Components Score - PCS
- 2 Technical Elements Score – TES

The PCS is based on evaluation of 5 programme components. Each of the components is marked on an absolute scale of points. This used to be called the artistic impression under the old ISU system.

The TES is based on the evaluation of specific standardized elements (jumps, spins...). Each element has a base value expressed in points, the judges have to mark the Grade of Execution – GOE. This used to be called technical value under the old ISU system.

After a long discussion, we came to the conclusion that we have to base our new judging system on an existing system used by one of the other artistic sports and Ice Dance was the closest to our needs. The ISU system has been tried and accepted by the IOC. Of course, DanceSport has it's own demands and specifics so we needed to make some modifications.

The decision was made to propose the new system in two phases. The first phase is the Programme Components Score that can be implemented relatively quickly after approval.

The second phase - the Technical Elements Score presents some difficulties at this moment in time.

In Standard dances we have technical definitions for all syllabus figures and also for a large number of variations and lines. The situation is different for the Latin American dances where we only have the technical definitions of basic figures.

The name of the figure and it's technical definition is needed in order to give it a Base Value which is a reflection of the grade of difficulty. We will have to involve our top Latin experts to give us technical definitions of Latin variations.



At the moment, the TEC is being tested in Japan using basic figures only. The couples have to include a specified number of obligatory figures in their choreography. As the IDSF system that is only being proposed to be used in top level competitions only such as the World Games, IOC events, World Championships and Grand Slams, it seemed inappropriate to limit the couples to only basic figures.

The ISU Programme Components is what we in DanceSport know as Judging Criteria. The new IDSF Judging system proposes that 5 programme components be used, each to be marked separately on a scale of 1 – 10, with a possibility of half points.

The five components proposed at this moment are:

- PB Posture .Balance and Coordination
- QM Quality of Movement
- MM Movement to Music
- PA Partnering
- CP Choreography and Presentation

They are to be marked on the following scale separately for each couple

10	Outstanding
9	Superior
8	Very good
7	Good
6	Above average
5	Average
4	Fair
3	Weak
2	Poor
1	Very poor

The points received from the judges will be added up for each individual couple, and converted into places (the highest number of points - 1st place etc.).

To be able to implement this new way of marking, we need to change the format of the final. This is only possible if each of the finalists dances solo in every dance. The semi-final round will be judged in the traditional way .The decision has been made to test this new judging system together with the new format at the Final of Grand Slam in Shanghai in December 2009. "



This new proposal was presented in Stuttgart at an IDSF Adjudicators Congress during the German Open Championships. Another similar presentation of the system was presented at the IDSF Adjudicators Congress in Maribor in November, which was connected to the IDSF World DanceSport Championship Latin. This again provided the opportunity to as many interested parties as possible to participate in discussions on the proposed new system. We also have made presentations in Bologna, to the Italian Professionals and Adjudicators and now in South Africa. We plan to make further presentations in Adjudicators Congresses in 2010. I also expect that a presentation will again be made to IDSF members at the 2010 AGM. Therefore, we will have many presentations within 10 months. This provides plenty of time and opportunity for members to consider what is being proposed.

Artistic Sports Games

After our great success in the World Games in Kaohsiung, I would like to share with you an exciting new opportunity for DanceSport. In my new position as Vice President of ARISF, there is a unique opportunity for us to be the leading Federation to create a new Multisport Games. Such Games could possibly combine a number of "Artistic Sports" such as:

DanceSport ... different disciplines
Gymnastic ... Acrobatic, Aerobic, Artistic and Rhythmic....
Artistic Roller Skating
Artistic Cycling
Artistic Ice Skating
Synchronised Swimming
Wushu ... Taijicduan... and Chang Quan
Equestrian Vaulting

I confirm that Nolvonn Dufay de Lavalaz, the responsible person from Sportaccord (previously known as GAISF) for Multisport Games, is very impressed with such a concept and has immediately agreed that such a Games could be exceptional.

At this time, Sportaccord is prepared to support this concept, but we first have to secure the support and agreement of all involved Federations. I can confirm that I have already had preliminary talks and agreement with some Federations during the World Games in Kaohsiung. However, we still need to continue discussing this concept and I hope to have some indication of the level of support in the next two or three months.

Nolvonn offered to organise a first official meeting to be conducted inside Sportaccord in April, 2010 in Dubai.



Athletes Commission

One of the main issues discussed at the last IOC Congress in Copenhagen related to Athletes Commissions.

Frankie Fredericks, as Chair of the Athletes Commission of the IOC, presented a very important lecture about what the IOC expects from Athletes and, what athletes have to do in order to be more involved and active in all the different levels of a Sport.

From the presentation, it was clear that Athletes as the heart of a Sport should receive support from clubs, national and international federations and of course, also from the Olympic Movement.

We need to allow our Athletes to be able to make a major contribution to our Sport by raising their profile.

The Athletes should also be encouraged to play an integral and important role in the organization and development of our Sport.

It was confirmed that our Athletes have to be included within Decision Making Structures through the Athletes Commission and that they should have full voting rights in the Council.

Another important matter raised during the lecture was the fight against Doping. There can be no doubt that this should be an absolute priority for our Sport. We have to fight for zero tolerance and equally the Athletes and their representatives should contribute to ensure that cheating has no place in our Sport. In addition, we must maintain the highest ethical and sporting standards and fight to ensure that the sport and our athletes benefit through fair play at all levels.

It is also important to consider and protect the physical and psychological health of all Athletes, and specific attention must be given to Athletes with disabilities.

Mr. Fredericks also proposed that all Federations involved with the Olympic Movement should develop and implement a Standard Code of Conduct and Certification System, in order to protect the rights of Athletes with regards to Agents, Managers and Sponsors.

It was also suggested that high priority should be given to develop a user friendly and accessible channel for Athletes to disseminate and share information on a regular basis.



The IOC again reaffirmed that all international federations should establish Commissions in charge of matters relating to coaches, trainers and the Athletes. The IOC also reaffirmed its strong opposition to the trading of nationalities and passports.

Please find below a brief summary of the most important points coming from the Copenhagen meetings for consideration in relation to an Athletes Commission:

- Athletes have to be represented in all federations with a voice and a vote.
- It is vital to reinforce the fight against Doping.
- The Athletes have to be integrated into the Presidium (Council), and they have to be aware of what is happening around them.
- Sport should be a universal language which unites people and makes bridges for the future.
- The main objectives of all Sports which have to be defended by all Athletes are excellence, friendship and respect.
- The Oath before the Championships is not enough and the Athletes have to work by the Code of Ethics and Conduct and have to fight for a clean Sport in all senses.

Championship Bidding Procedures & Protocols

IDSF has now defined the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved in securing IDSF Championships. By presenting new Championship Bidding Procedures, it is our opinion that this will assist in the development, preparation, organisation, protocols and running of future IDSF Championships.

We believe that having one set of guidelines and requirements is essential for the development of IDSF and the growing acceptance in the most important family of Sports, the IOC. Although the full requirements only apply to events televised with our television partners IEC, we hope that all organisers and members seek to work within the spirit of the new framework.

We also understand that the new bidding process sets very high hurdles for members. However, we needed to start from somewhere and it was logical and in the interests of all IDSF members to try to secure the best possible product. The new procedure and protocol documents should be seen as "living documents" which will be revised and improved over time. For this reason, we need input and suggestions from members to continually improve these systems and procedures.



IDSF - Registration and Licensing System for athletes (RLS)

I present below slightly amended extracts of a letter prepared by Presidium member, Petr Ostrcil and our Sports Director, Heinz Spaeker to report on this item:

“As we explained in our letter of 31st May 2009, the IDSF Registration and Licence System was being tested in the period October – November 2009.

I am now pleased to inform you of the results of the testing:

1. The tests were successful and have confirmed that the IDSF-RLS works and can be implemented.
2. Only a sample number of IDSF members took part in the testing project.
3. Not all IDSF members taking part in the testing used correct procedures and some mistakes were made.
4. All necessary procedures as described in the letter from 31 May 2009 will start from 1 Jan 2010. This means that we will be able to comply with the decision of the June, 2009 IDSF AGM in Macau.
5. There will be some small changes which you will be you will be advised of over time.

The basic policy as adopted by the 2009 IDSF AGM, is that couples will not be able to compete in IDSF competitions from 1st January, 2010 without first being registered in the IDSF-RLS database. National Federations are obligated to register couples before they can compete in any IDSF competitions commencing from 1st January, 2010. This system creates a similar obligation for Federations and athletes as that which currently exist in most international sports. The system will help us to:

- comply with our WADA Anti-Doping obligations.
- possibly offer at some point in the future an opportunity to member Federations to provide basic insurance coverage for their athletes.
- ensure that we can confirm in advance of events athletes dates of birth.

The new IDSF-RLS can be managed in one of two ways:

1. Member Federations can appoint their own national administrator. The national administrator will be required to notify the IDSF Sports Director and then immediately start to fulfil all duties to maintain your own National database. or
2. Member Federations can delegate the national administrator's functions to the IDSF administrator.



Of course in both cases, it is essential that athletes are urgently advised of these new requirements via the web, email, mail or any other form of communications.

So that it is clear, it is essential that couples are aware that from 1st Jan 2010, they will not be permitted to compete in any IDSF competition in the categories of Adults, Senior I, Senior II and Senior III unless they are in the IDSF-RLS database. The same applies for couples in Youth category who wish to compete in the Adult category. Other categories will be added to the IDSF-RLS system later."

IOC Recognition

The IOC Sports Department has been encouraging IDSF to develop a new Adjudication System for implementation prior to 2011. In 2011, the IOC will again be reviewing all its Recognised Sports Federations and determining which sports could be considered for the 2020 Olympic Program. It is in DanceSport's interest to ensure that we have our new Adjudication Project in place as soon as possible. It is also essential that a new Adjudication system is already based on one which is already accepted by the Olympic movement.

In addition, the IOC Sports Department and the International Paralympic Committee enthusiastically supports IDSF's **Vision 2012** where we open the door to all DanceSport disciplines including Rock n' Roll, Wheelchair, the IDO dances, Line Dancing and Cheerleading.

With regards to Wheelchair DanceSport in particular, one of our goals is to ensure the social inclusion and participation of our wheelchair athletes into mainstream DanceSport Championships. Some Championships will also be developed to showcase all the different DanceSport disciplines.

In order to progress our vision, IDSF's members agreed at the June IDSF, AGM to establish a "working group" of our members and Federations representing other DanceSport disciplines to continue developing the concepts behind **Vision 2012**. This **Vision 2012** will be the tool used to significantly expand the definition of disciplines covered by the term "DanceSport" and, will unify all competitive DanceSports' under one World DanceSport Federation (WDSF). I also confirm that the working group has already met in October. Please see the separate Minutes of that Meeting.

IPDSC - International Professional DanceSport Council

The IPDSC was established some three years ago under President Peter Maxwell, as a means of providing a pathway for professional competitors and Adjudicators to be part of the Olympic Family through IDSF. Although the pathway has been difficult, Peter Maxwell the former IPDSC President



and his team, need to be congratulated on their excellent efforts to establish such a professional body based on internationally accepted sports principles. However, as time has progressed, it has become clear that there are significant advantages for IPDSC to become a strong part of IDSF.

I can advise that there is now a desire from Danielle Tondon, the new IPDSC President and his Executive and IDSF to find a means of unifying the two bodies.

Membership Issues

As you would know, the IDSF Presidium has without controversy for many years determined Membership issues for IDSF including, the acceptance of new members, changes of members, status of members and termination of members.

As a result of an Appeal to the DC from a disgruntled member earlier this year, it has now become clear that we need to strengthen IDSF's Constitution to ensure that there can be no doubt that this power can be efficiently and correctly exercised in a timely manner.

Of course, if an IDSF Member body has been unhappy with a membership decision of the IDSF Presidium, then they have the right to take the concerns directly to the IDSF AGM. Some of you may remember the former Greek member did exactly this but the AGM overwhelmingly supported the Presidium's decision.

I confirm that IDSF expects to be able to communicate with its members on a timely basis and that members are expected to respond on a timely basis. In addition, as an Internationally Recognised Sports Federation, we have the responsibility to ensure that IDSF and its members fulfil a range of obligations including the adherence to democratic sports principles and philosophies, including support for Anti Doping.

IDSF has also made it very clear that we cannot and will not accept any direct or indirect linkages between IDSF members and the WDC Amateur League.

Mediterranean Games

The next Mediterranean Games are to be held in Greece in 2013. IDSF is working to be part of these Games, if not as Medal Sport, at least as a Demonstration Sport.

It is a difficult task but, we are working very hard with the President of the Mediterranean Games and with the Responsible person for the Games in Greece. Our Member, Dano Pavlidis is helping us and we hope that with his support, we will have some good news soon.



If this is not possible, we expect that we will be part of the next Mediterranean Games in 2017.

Rimini Pilot Project

The IDSF Presidium was asked in January, 2009 by our Italian member FIDS and the Rimini Fiera, to agree to a Pilot Project to combine a range of IDSF World Championships in Rimini in 2011.

In June this year, members of the IDSF Presidium had the benefit of attending important competitions in Rimini, organized by FIDS and the Rimini Fiera. It was our observation in Rimini, that the combination of all kinds of DanceSport taking place, with the participation of some 30.000 athletes, in 4 important halls with more than 2.000 spectators per hall, in the incredible Congress Centre in Rimini, provided a wonderful opportunity for DanceSport.

The IDSF Presidium had the belief and conviction that in agreeing to a Pilot Project in Rimini in 2011, it could have been incredibly successful for DanceSport and it would have created one very important DanceSport extravaganza.

Subject to how successful such a Pilot Project was, it could have been the start of organising this kind of combination of World Championships every four years in another country, organized by the Rimini Fiera or directly with other organizers.

It was proposed that this concept would be organized in the first part of September 2011, over probably 4 days.

Although we believed that this Pilot Project could be very successful, the Presidium decided in July to ask our members for their views. Based on the members who responded, the majority were in favor of proceeding. However, I must say that for such a controversial proposal, there were not enough members who responded to encourage the Presidium to proceed.

The Presidium will once again consider our position on this or an alternative proposal from our Italian members at our January 2010 meeting. However, if another proposal is forthcoming from our Italian member, it will not be for 2011.

Vision 2012

As unanimously agreed by members at the 2009 IDSF AGM in Macao and mentioned earlier in this report, we have commenced the process of bringing together the Presidents of Germany, Italy and France to be part of the process with Lukas Hinder and myself to be part of a committee with



representatives of IDO, Rock n Roll, Line Dancing & Wheelchair to develop the concepts, structures and implementation strategy for Vision 2012.

We will be providing reports as matters progress.

World Games

The World Games were conducted in July 09 in the city of Kaohsiung in Chinese Taipei and, I can confirm to you that they were a very big success.

DanceSport was able to present a perfect image and I can also advise that we had a sell out audience on the final night of some 13,000 persons which included a significant number of NOC and IOC Members. The athletes and officials were inspired by the enthusiastic audience which eventually rose to their feet for the final honour dances. It was a truly spine tingling experience that I have never experienced.

I would also like to explain to you that what also contributed to the success of DanceSport events in Latin, Standard and Rock n' Roll, was the uniformity of the Judges, including WRRRC judges which presented as a perfect team during the Games. This uniformity included the Adjudicators dress, their presentation and their location. I believe that everything was perfect and all the NOC and IOC members that we spoke to were favourably impressed.

It was also pleasing to see Presidium members present in Kaohsiung were dressed in the same way that we are asking the judges. That is, wearing dark suits and the IDSF tie or scarf. This presented a wonderful and unified image from IDSF's officers to the public and to other officials and sports connected with the Games.

For your further information, of the 36 sports which make up the World Games, DanceSport was only one of 6 televised live. In addition, we were only second to Rugby in relation to the size of our audience and we were responsible for some 25% of the ticket turnover for the entire World Games excluding the Opening and Closing ceremonies of some 50,000 persons each.

World Masters Games 2013 in Turin

I confirm that we have been in contact with the President of the World Masters Games, which as you know are recognized by the IOC.

We have great expectations that we will be able to be part of the next Games which are to be held in Turin (Italy) in 2013. I have presented our application and all the necessary supporting documents which, hopefully, will help us to gain the acceptance of DanceSport as an additional Sport.



There are a number of conditions which we need to totally fulfil. One of these is that we have to send a minimum of 500 athletes, which, I think will not be too difficult to meet for our Athletes who are over 35 years of age.

We will keep you informed, but the expectations are very positive.

FINAL OVERVIEW

As you can see from the above, we live in exciting times which hold enormous opportunities for DanceSport and, the IDSF Presidium is determined to work and to deliver ongoing tangible results – action not just words!

We continue to dream a bold and challenging future Vision for DanceSport with our eyes wide open!

I am therefore personally asking each of you, to show strong vision and leadership and to secure the support of all members of the DanceSport fraternity, to work with IDSF to achieve something great as represented by **Vision 2012**. From our discussions with many influential sports persons at the World Games, Sportaccord and the IOC, there is no doubt that IDSF has chosen the correct pathway.

We have a unique and timely opportunity to create something special that we can all look back with pride and say that we were responsible for the biggest and most constructive developments in the history of DanceSport. Developments which I believe from discussions with influential persons within the sporting community and the Olympic movement, will keep improving our chances for inclusion first in the Youth Olympics and then the Olympic Games proper.

The Presidium and I welcome and encourage any and all feedback whether positive or negative on any issues even if they are not mentioned in this report. Please refer to the IDSF website at idsf.net for all our contact details.

Seasons Greetings

Carlos Freitag
IDSF President