



INTERNATIONAL DANCESPORT FEDERATION

Recognized by the IOC

Member: GAISF, ARISF, IWGA

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Page 1 of 2

Press Release 02/2007

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WDC Fails In Spanish Court Case

The IOC-recognised International DanceSport Federation (IDSF), of Lausanne, Switzerland, was suddenly sued in the *Juzgado de Primera Instancia* Law Court in Madrid, Spain by the World Dance Council (WDC) of London, England on January 11, 2007.

WDC asked for a Spanish Court Order (“injunction”) to stop the planned Inaugural IPDSC World Professional Championships in Madrid on January 13th & 14th, 2007.

WDC’s lawyer argued that these IPDSC Championships were being planned by IDSF, and that certain agreements between IDSF and WDC (called “the General Agreement”) in 1992 and 1997 prevented IDSF from conducting professional championships.

IDSF succeeded in persuading Her Honour Judge Carolina Garcia Durriff to dismiss the WDC’s claim.

Judge Garcia Durriff found that the Championships were not produced by IDSF but by a separate body – The International Professional DanceSport Council (IPDSC).

The Court also ordered that since 2002, the General Agreement was cancelled and cannot be enforced against IDSF.

At the end of the case, Judge Garcia Durriff ordered WDC to pay all Court costs to IDSF.

The IPDSC, which was established by a group of prominent professionals and IDSF’s Italian Member “FIDS” in Rome, Italy on December 12, 2007 is a separate legal person from IDSF. IPDSC was formed to support professional competitors based on democratic sporting principles.

See next page





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The Inaugural IPDSC World Professional Championships were successfully conducted in Madrid on January 13 & 14, 2007. Despite short notice and the threats and attempted intimidation by WDC, the Championships attracted over 180 professional couples. The winning couple commented that this was "...a historic moment in the development of DanceSport".

IDSF expects that IPDSC will partner with it to develop DanceSport as the only sport which guarantees 100% gender equality in sporting competition.

WDC's reaction to its failure in the Spanish Court disappointed IDSF.

WDC decided to appeal the Court's very clear decision, and some of its executive members have also tried to influence important professionals to stop the establishment of IPDSC.

After Judge Garcia Durriff made Her Orders, IDSF expected WDC to respect the Court decision. However there is some evidence that after the case, WDC tried to use "pressure tactics" to compensate for its loss in Court, to continue to try to stop the IPDSC Championships.

The IDSF's "open door" policy for continuing talks and co-operation with WDC has not changed. However, in order to keep our obligations as an internationally-recognised sports federation, we must also work clearly and correctly to develop the sport with professionals who accept modern sporting principles and practices like democratic decision-making and IOC/WADA Anti-Doping codes and controls.

WDC was unable or unwilling to accept such sporting principles and practices. On the other hand, IPDSC does accept these principles and practices. If future talks are to occur with WDC, there will now be three groups at the table – IDSF, IPDSC and WDC, and WDC must be prepared to seriously negotiate about the issues and stop supporting puppet organisations which were established to undermine IDSF's and DanceSport's legitimate interests.

Carlos Freitag
President, IDSF
Barcelona, February 1, 2007

