



NATIONAL MEMBER BODY OF THE WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION · RECOGNIZED SPORT ORGANIZATION OF THE US OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE  
DEDICATED TO GROWING THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF DANCE IN THE USA

To: Verena Sulek, WDSF Professional Division Director

Re: 2022 WDSF Professional Division Annual General Meeting – Member Motion of USA Dance

## **MOVED:**

We the National Member Body of the USA, USA Dance, moves to modify and amend the rules of eligibility for professional couples to represent their NMB in a Professional Championships based on the information below:

According to the WDSF PD SUPPLEMENTARY COMPETITION RULES

STATUS: 16 JUNE 2018 – PD AGM LAUSANNE

### **PD-D RULES FOR COUPLES**

Rules PD-D.1 – PD-D.2.3 (Membership / Definition of a Couple / Country Representation)

These PD rules are identical to WDSF Competition Rules D.1 – D.2.3 with the understanding that the term “WDSF Competitions” have to be replaced by the term “PD Competitions”.

### ***Motion to Modify the Rule as follows for the PD:***

Rule D.2 Couples

2.2. Couples representing a country and couples of mixed citizenships.

2.2.1. A couple may **only** represent a country in any WDSF-PD Championship or WDSF-PD Cup if one of the partners holds a valid and subsisting passport **or if both of the partners legally reside in the represented country for at least 183 days during the twelve months preceding at the time of registration and the time of the relevant competition.**

## **EXPLANATION and BACKGROUND:**

The very purpose and mission behind the formation of the Professional Division was to provide opportunity for Amateur Couples to pursue a career as competitive Professional Athletes INSIDE of the WDSF to continue with a competitive career, while coaching, doing shows and even dancing Teacher/Student.

Many of these Professional Athletes pursue new teaching and money-making opportunities in new countries or with new partners and find the rules of the WDSF limiting the actual career

path they were encouraged to follow, since obtaining a passport can take many years in most of these countries.

Almost every country in the world has some form of “legal residency” that permits a person to live, rent or buy a home, work, derive income, pay taxes, own and drive a vehicle, even open their own business like a dance studio. This is not citizenship, therefore, under the current rules this same professional person cannot represent their country in a WDSF championship.

However, sadly, they can represent their country in WDC Professional Championships, WDO Professional Championships, and any of the British Open Championships.

This problem also has a cascading effect because that same professional that **makes a living coaching amateur couples**, will likely bring those amateur couples with him/her to the championships of those other organizations which could lead them to stop dancing WDSF.

It's time to join the world and think like a global organization that recognizes the achievements of our professional members without restricting them based on a photo in a passport. Until the day that Standard and Latin become recognized medal sports in the Olympic Games, there is no reason to base a professional athlete's eligibility on citizenship, when the rest of the world does not.

Finally, we only need to look at the WDSF's own rules regarding adjudicators to recognize that citizenship is not a requirement to work as an adjudicator. In fact, the rule quoted below only requires a certain amount of time being spent residing in a country without any concern for the actual legal status of that residency.

#### **Rules for Chairpersons and Adjudicators**

1.1. Under these **Rules** a Chairperson (non-voting) or Adjudicator is from a country if he or she holds a valid and subsisting WDSF License issued by that country's WDSF Member body and is either a citizen of that country **or resided in that country for at least 183 days** during the twelve months previous to the date on in which the relevant competition is produced.

Therefore, the WDSF-PD should adopt this motion and allow a couple to represent a country in a professional championship or cup provided one member of the couple has a valid passport for the country they will represent or both members of the couple have legally resided in the country they will represent for at least 183 days during the 12-month period preceding the competition. Please support this motion which will bring great growth to our professional divisions of the WDSF.

Best Regards,

*Ken Richards*

President, USA Dance

*Vladimir Karpov*

Vice President Professional DanceSport, USA Dance