

Operating Policy

Adjudicators' Code of Conduct And Standards of Ethics

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prepared by
Natasa Ambroz (Slovenia) / Helmut Baumann (Austria) / Antero
Koponen (Finland) / Marco Sietas (Spain)

Amended June 14, 2015

1. Preamble

As we work towards our goal of becoming an Olympic Program sport, it is now more important than ever that we preserve and enhance the reputation upon which the World DanceSport Federation was built. Our reputation demands that we conduct our business ethically and legally, and that our conduct always reflects the values and principles enshrined in the **Olympic Charter**.

This **Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics** (“the **Code**”) is intended to provide a framework of standards for conduct and ethics for adjudicators. It has been developed as an Operating Policy of the WDSF Presidium in recognition of the fundamental and overriding responsibility of all adjudicators to maintain the integrity, competence and effectiveness of judging panels as a whole.

The rules and standards set out in the **Code** are intended to assist adjudicators to establish appropriate standards of conduct in order that they have the confidence of their peers, the competitors they are judging, the WDSF and WDSF member federations utilising their services, other sports administration bodies including IOC, and the sports media and general public.

It must be recognised that the **Code** cannot anticipate all possible situations in which adjudicators may be called upon to exercise judgement. In all cases, it remains the ultimate responsibility of each individual adjudicator to consider the intent as well as the letter of the standards, which have been set, to conduct himself/herself in an ethical and professional manner, and to ensure all competitors are judged on their merits free from any bias or coercion.

Adherence to the standards reflected in the **Code** is essential to WDSF’s future success. All adjudicators must become familiar with the contents of this Operating Policy. WDSF expects every adjudicator to take personal responsibility for complying with the **Code** and acting in a manner consistent with WDSF and IOC values and principles.

The **Code** applies to all adjudicators and Chairmen (hereinafter referred to collectively as “adjudicators”) licensed by the WDSF.

The **Code** may be amended from time to time by the WDSF Presidium.

2. Conflict of Interest

A Conflict of Interest is any interest, relationship, association or activity that is incompatible with an adjudicator's obligations to ensure that all competitors are judged on their merits, free from any bias or coercion.

Conflicts of Interest arise in particular when the personal interests of an adjudicator influence that adjudicator's judgement or ability to act in the best interest of the WDSF, which is the same as the best interest of the competitors.

An adjudicator must adhere to the rules set out in this **Code**, and shall retire from the panel where any potential Conflict of Interest arises. If an adjudicator is uncertain if a situation constitutes a Conflict of Interest, he or she may ask the Chairperson of a competition or the WDSF Sports Director who shall note it in the Chairperson's report.

3. Rules for Adjudicators

- a) An adjudicator shall not judge in any event and shall retire from the panel, if s/he knows or believes that his/her physical or mental condition does not allow him/her to perform the job properly without any limitations.
- b) An adjudicator shall not judge any event, and shall retire from the panel, where any person competing in that competition is a member of his/her immediate and extended family, including de facto relationships, or where s/he has a personal relationship to any competitor in the competition which makes it inappropriate for him/her to serve as an adjudicator.

For greater clarity, the words "immediate and extended family" include anyone to whom that judge is related by blood or marriage, to the degree of first cousin or closer, or adoption order, or with whom the judge lives or cohabits.

- c) An adjudicator who has a personal relationship with an active athlete cannot at any time be accompanied by this athlete in any official area during a WDSF event where he or she is acting as an adjudicator. This includes the hotel accommodation, VIP areas, restaurants and official facilities.

Once the athlete retires from active competition dancing this rule will no longer be applied.

- d) An adjudicator shall not judge any event, and shall retire from any panel, where any person acting also as adjudicator is a member of his/her immediate and extended family, including de facto relationships, or where she/he has a personal relationship with any adjudicator in the competition which could make it inappropriate for him/her to act as such.
- e) An adjudicator shall not accept money, awards, articles or things of substantial material value, or favours or promises of any future consideration, whether as gift or as payment for services, from any competitor or organiser, or from any other third party, who may be or may have been affected directly or indirectly by the adjudicator's decision.
- f) An adjudicator shall not make any false representation in respect of his/her accreditation level or experience and in relation to his/her adjudicators licence.
- g) Once an adjudicator is engaged to officiate at a particular event s/he can only act as an adjudicator throughout the event and this Code applies to the event as a whole.
- h) An adjudicator shall not coach, teach, or give any advice to any participating couple during an event at which he/she is judging, and shall not coach, teach or give any advice at any lesson, camp, workshop or other training function which is affiliated in any way with a WDSF-granted competition at any time during the two-week period prior to the start of that competition if s/he has accepted an invitation to adjudicate at that competition.
- i) An adjudicator shall not threaten to mark a couple in a particular way.
- j) An adjudicator shall not in any way threaten a couple during the conduct of a competition s/he is judging and in which the couple is competing.

- k) An adjudicator shall refrain from publicly taking any partisan position in respect of any couple he/she may judge in any competition.
- l) An adjudicator shall not seek by any means to improperly influence, or to intimidate, another adjudicator.
- m) An adjudicator who is not a member of the judging panel for an event, shall not discuss with any adjudicator who is a member of the judging panel for that event the merits of the performance of a competitor in that event or any previous performances or results, before the completion of the event.
- n) An adjudicator shall not discuss the merits of a competitor's performance with the competitor before the end of the event in which s/he is judging.
- o) An adjudicator shall not seek to influence the outcome of a competition other than by marking all couples in the competition on their merits.
- p) An adjudicator when appointed to judge a WDSF event has to judge strictly according to WDSF rules and policies.
- q) An adjudicator shall not engage in any conduct that is intended to gain an advantage for any competitor.
- r) An adjudicator shall not falsely claim to officially represent WDSF in any capacity.
- s) If an adjudicator converses with fellow adjudicators, spectators, competitors or coaches during an event, s/he may not discuss the performance of any couple s/he is judging or any of their previous performances or results, until after the end of the event.
- t) An adjudicator may not use mobile telephones or portable digital-information devices of any kind on or near to the competition floor during judging, and on any questions arising from this policy the Chairman's decision shall be final.

- u) Adjudicators who are present at an event without being an official judge at the competition itself are subject to letters f, i, k, l, m, o, q, r and t of this Article as well.

4. General Behaviour of Adjudicators

Adjudicators shall comply with the following rules of conduct so as to uphold the highest standards of behaviour:

- a) An adjudicator's behaviour both on and off the dance floor must be consistent with the principles of good sportsmanship. An adjudicator must not behave in a questionable or unseemly manner in public or at any Dance Sport related function or occasion where members of the public (including competitors, spectators and the media) are present in any capacity.
- b) An adjudicator must be consistent, objective and neutral in his/her decisions. Biased judging undermines the whole basis of competition.
- c) An adjudicator must not publicly question his/her fellow adjudicators' judgement, honesty or good faith.
- d) Where an adjudicator is permitted by this **Code** to judge the couples s/he coaches or has coached in the past, the adjudicator should not allow this relationship to influence his/her judgement.
- e) An adjudicator must maintain and develop his/her judging skills by keeping himself/herself informed on developments in technique and style, and any changes in WDSF rules and policies on judging.
- f) Where judging responsibilities have been assigned to an adjudicator for a competition, regardless of the status of that competition, the adjudicator shall not consume any alcoholic beverage or recreational drugs before and during any period of the event, until the end of the event.
- g) An adjudicator shall not otherwise act in any way that may bring the image of WDSF or Dance Sport into disrepute.
- h) Adjudicators who are present at an event without being an official judge of the competition itself are subject to letters a, c

and g of this Article and any instruction of the Chairperson as well.

It is a basic requirement of the adjudicator's licence that any adjudicator engaged to judge at a competition shall

- i) Arrive on time at the venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.
- j) Report his/her presence to the organiser and Chair of Adjudicators.
- k) Ascertain the timetable of the competitions.
- l) Be available to perform the duties of a WDSF adjudicator as scheduled.
- m) Behave in such a way during the competition as to preserve the good reputation of Dance Sport and the WDSF.

During the conduct of a competition, the adjudicators on the judging panel shall:

- n) Stand apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
- o) Move to whatever position is required to see all of the couples.
- p) Judge independently and not compare notes with the other adjudicators.
- q) Mark and sign their paper score cards in ink, including their code letter, and initial each and every alteration s/he makes to the score card.
- r) Not make any attempt to become familiar with names, numbers and nationalities of the participants by using the official programme and with any intermediate results or marks of other fellow adjudicators of the competition before the end of the competition.
- s) Follow any instruction given by the Chair.

- t) Concentrate on judging only and not have any communication with the audience, fellow adjudicators or couples and not do anything that might distract him/her, including by the use of any electronic device or camera.

Amended at Rome, Italy, June 10, 2016.