

WDSF PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

BRIEF HISTORY 2007 - 2024

BEFORE 2010

For several decades World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) with its ancestors, the International Council of Amateur Dancers (ICAD) followed by the International DanceSport Federation (IDSF), has been developing competition dancing as a sport discipline under the umbrella of International and National Sport Authorities and therefore named it **DanceSport**.

Many top couples, after several years of dancing and reaching whatever seemed possible in the WDSF adult category, were deciding to become DanceSport professionals. To enhance their reputation and experience some of them wanted to compete for a further few years. Before 2007, they had no other option but to leave IDSF and join another worldwide association, which used to be specialized for professional competitions and had no sport principles as its priority.

Therefore, in 2006 IDSF Presidium decided to establish the professional association affiliated to IDSF, named **International Professional DanceSport Council (IPDSC)**. In December 2006 the representatives of 33 IDSF Member Bodies met in Rome and nominated the Temporary Managing Group for the establishment of IPDSC.

An important and straightforward decision of the Rome meeting was the organization of the **first IPDSC World Championships in Standard and in Latin**, organized in January 2017 in Madrid. The first IPDSC World Championships were very successful with the attendance of 47 couples in Standard and 43 couples in Latin.

The **first General Meeting of the International Professional DanceSport Council** was held in Barcelona on **9th June 2007** in connection with the IDSF AGM at its **50th Anniversary**. At this AGM Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC President at that time, was a special guest. At this General Meeting IPDSC had been officially established and the delegates elected its first Presidium with **Peter Maxwell** as the **first IPDSC President**.



The first IPDSC Presidium had the President, 3 Vice Presidents, the Treasurer, Sport Director, General Secretary and further 6 ordinary members. The photo above shows the first IPDSC Presidium in the informal meeting straight after the elections in Barcelona.

In 2009 Peter Maxwell stepped down as IPDSC President due to his health condition and **Daniele Tondon** became **Acting IPDSC President**.

IPDSC BECOMES WDSF PD IN 2010

IDSF AGM in June 2010 in Vienna amended IDSF Statutes to prepare the legal ground for the establishment of the IDSF Professional Division. At the same time the new IPDSC Presidium was elected with **Danielle Tondon as 2nd IPDSC President**.

Only 2 months later, **on 15th August 2010, the Extraordinary IPDSC General Meeting** held in Stuttgart **decided to dissolve IPDSC**. All IPDSC assets became assets of the **IDSF Professional Division** and the existing IPDSC Presidium became the first Managing Body of the IDSF PD. When IDSF changed its name to WDSF in June 2011 also the division's name was changed to **WDSF Professional Division**.

WDSF PD MANAGEMENT

In August 2011 Daniele Tondon stepped down and **Alexander Melnikov** from Russian DanceSport Federation became the **Acting WDSF PD Director** until June 2013.

In June 2013 at the PD AGM in Shanghai the new, 7-member Management Board has been elected. The members were: **Verena Šulek, Alexander Melnikov, Suto Ok, Hubert de Maesschalck, Martin Pastor, Carlos Freitag and Shigemitsu Tanabe**. According to the WDSF Statutes valid at that time the PD Management Board has been constituted by itself and at its first meeting in Stuttgart in August 2013 **Verena Šulek** has been within PD Management Board elected **WDSF PD Director**.

In June 2017 in Singapore, **Verena Šulek** has been elected directly by the PD AGM to the position of the WDSF PD Director for the next 4-year term and the newly elected **PD Management Board** had since that AGM only 4 members: **Sergey Belyaev, Davide Cacciari, Marek Chojnacki and Alexander Melnikov**.

At the 2021 AGM, held online due to the Covid-19 pandemic, **Ms Šulek** has been again elected the **WDSF PD Director** and the new **PD Management Board** had the following 4 members; **Timo Kulczak, Davide Cacciari, Alexander Melnikov and Mircea Gavrilă**. Mr. Cacciari stepped down in 2023 at the PD AGM in Madrid.

WDSF PD MEMBERS, OFFICIALS, ATHLETES AND COMPETITIONS

In the period 2017 to 2019 WDSF PD reached its highest level with **52 registered Member Bodies over 770 registered PD Athletes**, giving **370 active couples**, over **400 WDSF adjudicators had also active PD Adjudicators' license**.

Since 2010, WDSF PD World Championships and Cups, PD European Championships and PD Super Grand Prix Competitions were held regularly. **In July 2017 the only PD Asian Championships in Standard and Latin** were held in Hong Kong although the number of PD couples in Asia, especially in People's Republic of China has been growing significantly. The attempts to widen the number of Dancesport disciplines governed by PD with the introduction of **Teacher-Student and Smooth** started with the support of Russian DanceSport Federation but finished with **the outburst of the Covid-19 worldwide pandemic in February 2020**.

Due to Covid there were no WDSF competitions from March 2020 until the middle of 2021. In the 2nd half of 2021 the recovery began and, in autumn 2021, out of 5 major PD World Championships 4 were held. **The post pandemic recovery in the terms of number of competitions and number of couples was slow and additionally hindered with the beginning**

of the war between Russia and Ukraine in February 2022, when the participation of Russian athletes and officials at sport events was banned.

THE FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF IPDSC AND WDSF PD

Financially IPDSC started from zero. At the very beginning the members of its Presidium had to pay by themselves their travelling and accommodation at the meetings of the Presidium until enough money had been collected by membership fees and adjudicators' and athletes' license fees. In the year 2010, when merged into WDSF, IPDSC brought as its dowry CHF 55'095 and EUR 488. WDSF PD remained financially independent and in its best years the annual budgets exceeded CHF 200'000.

In IPDSC and at the beginning of WDSF PD the prize money at PD competitions was totally at the discretion of the organisers. Since 2013 the minimum prize money at PD competitions was prescribed and for the most important PD Title competitions PD contributed 50%. Initially, the highest prize money was prescribed for PD Super Grand Prix competitions and for these competitions the PD's 50% share had been sponsored by WDSF. In the best pre-pandemic years the highest annual PD share exceeded CHF 130'000, meaning that the total annual prize money, including organisers' shares, distributed to the finalist and semi-finalist of PD Title competitions exceeded CHF 260'000. In the period 2013 to 2024 the cumulative PD share amounted CHF 935'000 in which the WDSF contribution represented 47.6%.

In PD Budgets prize money represented on the average well over 50% and therefore PD annual financial results were not always positive. However, **PD accumulated reasonable capital reserves, finishing the year 2024 with zero debts or credits and with CHF 169'748.58 and EUR 5'392.19 at its bank accounts.**

RESTRUCTURING OF WDSF PD

In the contemporary sport movement the distinction between amateurs and professionals almost disappeared and that several hundreds of top couples in the WDSF General Division are in fact professionals in terms that they do nothing else but dancing for their living. Therefore, it was a reasonable decision taken at the 2024 WDSF PD AGM and confirmed at 2024 WDSF AGM to finish the managerial and financial independence of Professional Division and join it tighter into the WDSF retaining the PD as an established brand name.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF IPDSC AND WDSF PD

Three persons were awarded for their outstanding contributions to IPDSC and WDSF PD:
Mr. **Peter Maxwel from England as Honorary President of IPDSC** and thereby of WDSF PD
Mr. **Shigemitsu Tanabe from Japan as Honorary PD management Board Member**
Mrs **Verena Šulek from Slovenia as Honorary President of WDSF PD**

IPDSC & WDSF PD WORLD CHAMPIONS 2007 – 2024

To get an impression about the top PD couples and main organisers through the 18 years of existence the list of IPDSC and WDSF World Champions is added below.

IPDSC

2007

Alexei Galchun - Tatiana Demina	Russia	Standard	13.01.2007	Madrid	Spain
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Benedetto Capraro - Marta Faiola	Italy	Latin	14.01.2007	Madrid	Spain
Stanislav Bekmametov - Natalia Urban	Russia	Ten Dance	29.09.2007	Reghin	Romania
2008					
Alexei Galchun - Tatiana Demina	Russia	Standard	12.01.2008	Madrid	Spain
Benedetto Capraro - Marta Faiola	Italy	Latin	16.02.2008	Bassano	Italy
Stanislav Bekmametov - Natalia Urban	Russia	Show Classic	22.11.2008	Moscow	Russia
2009					
Roberto Regnoli - Tania Berto	Italy	Show Classic	12.04.2009	Megeve	France
Paolo Bosco - Silvia Pitton	Italy	Standard	12.12.2009	Ashdod	Israel
Evgeniy Imrekov - Elizaveta Divak	Russia	Latin	13.12.2009	Ashdod	Israel
2010					
Paolo Bosco - Silvia Pitton	Italy	Show Classic	03.04.2010	Sitges	Spain
Stefano Di Filippo - Olga Urumova	Italy	Latin	04.04.2010	Sitges	Spain
Paolo Bosco - Silvia Pitton	Italy	Standard	13.06.2010	Olsztyn	Poland
WDSF PD					
2010					
Luca Bussoletti - Tjasa Vulic	Slovenia	Ten Dance	05.12.2010	Salu	Spain
2011					
Paolo Bosco - Silvia Pitton	Italy	Standard	23.04.2011	Tallinn	Estonia
Alexey Silde - Anna Firstova	Russia	Latin	21.05.2011	Bertrange	Luxemb.
Saverio Loria - Zeudi Zanetti	Italy	Show Latin	11.12.2011	Ashdod	Israel
2012					
Domenico Soale - Gioia Cerasoli	Italy	Standard	18.03.2012	Moscow	Russia
Zoran Plohl - Tatsiana Lahvinovich	Slovenia	Latin	03.11.2012	Leipzig	Germany
Luca Bussoletti - Tjasa Vulic	Slovenia	Ten Dance	01.12.2012	Milan	Italy
Sergey Tatarenko - Viktoria Tatarenko	Germany	Show Latin	15.12.2012	Bad Pyrm.	Germany
2013					
Mirko Gozzoli - Edita Daniute	Lithuania	Standard	10.02.2013	Bassano	Italy
Salvatore Caruso - Concetta Cultrera	Italy	Ten Dance	29.11.2013	Pomezia	Italy
Paolo Bosco - Joanne Kirsty Clifton	Italy	Show Standard	15.12.2013	Merano	Italy
Saverio Loria - Zeudi Zanetti	Italy	Show Latin	15.12.2013	Merano	Italy
2014					
Janick Loewe - Pia Lundanes Loewe	Norway	Ten Dance	20.09.2014	Brasov	Romania
Giacomo Lucchese - Francesca Berardi	Italy	Show Latin	04.10.2014	Ostrava	Czech R.
Mirko Gozzoli - Edita Daniute	Lithuania	Standard	01.11.2014	Nanjing	China PR
Francesco Decandia - Sabrina Laconi	Italy	Show Standard	06.12.2014	Salou	Spain
Martino Zanibellato - Michelle Abildtrup	Denmark	Latin	13.12.2014	Horsens	Denmark
2015					
Steeve Gaudet - Marioara Cheptene	France	Ten Dance	16.05.2015	Böblingen	Germany
Vadim Garbuzov - Kathrin Menzinger	Austria	Show Latin	07.06.2015	Vienna	Austria
Benedetto Ferruggia - Claudia Koehler	Germany	Standard	10.10.2015	Leipzig	Germany
Andrey Zaytsev - Anna Kuzminskaya	Russia	Latin	07.11.2015	Dresden	Germany
Vadim Garbuzov - Kathrin Menzinger	Austria	Show Standard	22.11.2015	Vienna	Austria
2016					
Donatas Vezelis - Lina Chatkeviciute	Lithuania	Show Standard	08.05.2016	Kaunas	Lithuania
Anton Belyayev - Antoaneta Popova	Canada	Ten Dance	15.10.2016	Leipzig	Germany
Emanuel Valeri - Tania Kehlet	Denmark	Standard	11.11.2016	Horsens	Denmark
Vadim Garbuzov - Kathrin Menzinger	Austria	Show Latin	20.11.2016	Vienna	Austria
Andrey Zaytsev - Anna Kuzminskaya	Russia	Latin	04.12.2016	Moscow	Russia

2017

Vadim Garbuzov – Kathrin Menzinger	Austria	Show Latin	09.04.2017	Vienna Austria
Benedetto Ferruggia – Claudia Köhler	Germany	Standard	16.09.2017	Prague Czechia
Björn Bitsch - Ashli Williamson	Denmark	Ten Dance	07.10.2017	Marseille France
Pavel Pasechnik – Marta Arndt	Germany	Latin	21.10.2017	Leipzig Germany
Vadim Garbuzov – Kathrin Menzinger	Austria	Show Stand.	09.12.2017	Vienna Austria

2018

Alexandr Shmonin - Maria Shmonina	Russia	Show Latin	08.04.2018	Chelyabinsk Russ.
Gabriele Goffredo – Anna Matus	Moldova	Latin	05.05.2018	Shijiazhuang China
Björn Bitsch – Ashli Williamson	Denmark	Ten Dance	03.11.2018	Vila Nova Portugal
Björn Bitsch – Ashli Williamson	Denmark	Standard	02.12.2018	Moscow Russia
Steeve Gaudet – Marioara Cheptene	France	Show Stand.	16.12.2018	Riga Latvia

2019

Gabriele Goffredo – Anna Matus	Moldova	Latin	01.09.2019	Bangkok Thailand
Dmitry Zharkov - Olga Kulikova	Russia	Standard	19.10.2019	Leipzig Germany
Björn Bitsch - Ashli Williamson	Denmark	Show Stand.	02.11.2019	Dresden Germany
Alexandr Shmonin – Maria Shmonina	Russia	Show Latin	02.11.2019	Usti /Labem Czechia

2020

There were no WDSF competitions due to Covid 19 Pandemic

2021

Mario Cecinari - Rosaria Messina Denaro	Italy	Ten Dance	21.10.2021	Cagliari Italy
Gabriele Goffredo – Anna Matus	Moldova	Latin	23.10.2021	Leipzig Germany
Valentin Lusin – Renata Lusin	Germany	Show Stand.	23.10.2021	Leipzig Germany
Dmitry Zharkov - Olga Kulikova	Russia	Standard	18.12.2021	Dubai UAE

2022

Andrea Silvestri - Martina Varadi	Hungary	Show Latin	24.07.2022	Vienna Austria
David Odstrcil - Tara Bohak	Czechia	Ten Dance	27.08.2022	Hradec Kralove CZ
Gabriele Goffredo – Anna Matus	Moldova	Latin	15.10.2022	Leipzig Germany
Alexandru Ionel - Patricia Ionel	Germany	Show Stand.	15.10.2022	Leipzig Germany
Nikolay Darin - Natalia Seredina	Moldova	Standard	23.10.2022	Toronto Canada

2023

Gabriele Goffredo – Anna Matus	Moldova	Latin	16.04.2023	Chisinau Moldova
Vaidotas Lacitis - Veronika Golodneva	Lithuania	Standard	07.05.2023	Kaunas Lithuania
Szabo Viktor - Vanja Vujic	Croatia	Ten Dance	27.05.2023	Zagreb Croatia
Matej Štec - Elena Popova	Slovakia	Show Stand.	14.10.2023	Leipzig Germany

2024

Andrea Silvestri – Martina Varadi	Hungary	Latin	23.03.2024	Budapest Hungary
Matej Štec - Elena Popova	Slovakia	Ten Dance	08.06.2024	Košice Slovakia
Evaldas Sodeika – Ieva Sodeikiene	Lithuania	Standard	09.11.2024	Dresden Germany
Matej Štec – Elena Popova	Slovakia	Show Stand.	30.11.2024	Šamorin Slovakia
Sergiu Maruster – Anastasia Stan	Moldova	Show Latin	30.11.2024	Šamorin Slovakia