



## CODE OF ETHICS

Revision date: Sunday, April 14, 2019

# WCLDSF Code of Ethics

## Preamble

The World Country & Line DanceSport Federation (hereinafter “the WCLDSF”) aims to preserve the image of Line Dancing and Formation Teams as an athletic, dynamic, healthy and aesthetic sport. WCLDSF bears the responsibility to safeguard the integrity and authenticity of DanceSport including its administration and will take all possible measures to eliminate corrupt, immoral or unethical activities, methods or practices which might put the reputation of DanceSport in jeopardy.

The intent of this Code is to ensure that DanceSport is practiced and administered under ideal conditions, which is more than just being in compliance with Rules and Regulations. The values and principles written in this Code reflect the common ethical basis of any person involved in DanceSport. In this regard, the WCLDSF restates its commitment to the Olympic Charter and in particular its fundamental principles. The WCLDSF affirms its loyalty to the Olympic ideal inspired by Pierre de Coubertin.

The WCLDSF, as a world Federation, adopts this **Code of Ethics** based on the principles and rules of the IOC Code of Ethics. The WCLDSF Member Bodies shall adopt and maintain a code of ethics based on the principles and rules in this Code or adopt this Code of Ethics in a written declaration of purpose and intent.

Consequently, the WCLDSF and all persons related to the WCLDSF shall undertake to respect and ensure respect of this Code at all times. The conduct of persons bound by this Code shall reflect the fact that they support the principles and objectives embodied therein.

# 1 Application

1.1 Article 2 of this Code and the implementing provisions which are found after Article 8 of this Code, apply to all persons or legal entities that are or were connected in any way with WCLDSF, including but not limited to elected representatives of the WCLDSF; its Member Bodies and their representatives, and including sub-organizations, Continental Associations and Associate Members; and persons appointed to any position in WCLDSF (including members of WCLDSF Commissions); and other persons who act or acted, or are or were entitled to act for or on behalf of WCLDSF; and WCLDSF staff including consultants, agents and advisors (collectively referred to herein as “WCLDSF Officials”); as well as athletes, adjudicators, chairpersons, invigilators, and any other persons or legal entities who expressly agree or agreed to respect this Code, unless otherwise specified.

1.2 Articles 3 to 8 of this Code and the implementing provisions which are found after Article 8, apply to WCLDSF Officials and WCLDSF Member Bodies (including sub-organizations, Continental Associations and Associate Members), WCLDSF license holders or other people or legal entities who expressly agree or agreed to abide by this Code, where it is specially indicated.

1.3 The jurisdiction of this Code is a continuing jurisdiction for the purposes of enforcing any sanction for an act or omission which occurred before the status or participation of an offender ceased.

1.4 Words used in this Code shall have the same meaning as set out in the WCLDSF **Statutes**, Rules and Regulations, unless otherwise specified.

1.5 Everyone who is subject to this Code is responsible to be familiar with the terms of this Code and particularly with the definitions of conduct or omissions which may constitute a violation of this Code, and shall comply with it fully.

1.6 The provisions of this Code shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with Swiss law.

# 2 Fundamental ethical principles in DanceSport

2.1 **Dignity** Safeguarding the dignity of the individual is a fundamental requirement of DanceSport.

## 2.2 Equality

2.2.1 There shall be no discrimination between the participants in DanceSport competitions on the basis of race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, philosophical or political opinion, marital status or other unfair or irrelevant grounds.

2.2.2 In DanceSport, except for WCLDSF male and female Line Dance athletes, men and women compete against each other as couples at the same time, on the same playing surface, producing 100% gender parity in our sport and making equality between male and female athletes a reality. Nevertheless, unequal treatment of men and women is strictly prohibited.

2.2.3 WCLDSF supports and practices the principle and goal of increasing equal opportunities for its athletes, provided always that no direct claims can be founded on these principles.

## **2.3 Clean sport**

All doping practices are strictly prohibited at all levels. The provisions against doping in the World Anti-Doping Code and the WCLDSF Anti-Doping Code shall be scrupulously observed.

## **2.4 Decency**

Physical, mental, emotional, professional, sexual, and all other forms of harassment or injury of or by any person in DanceSport, are prohibited.

## **2.5 Idealism**

2.5.1 All forms of participation in, or support for, betting or wagering related to the DanceSport, and all forms of promotion of betting related to DanceSport are prohibited. Inside information shall not be used or disclosed for the purpose of betting or wagering. No one who is subject to this Code may have stakes, either actively or passively, in any entity or organization that promotes, brokers, arranges or conducts betting or wagering about or related to DanceSport and may not profit in any related, direct or indirect ways from such activities or transactions. Similarly any person who is subject to his Code who assists any third person to participate in the same kind of activity, shall be deemed to be participating in it for his or her own direct gain and shall be subject to the same sanctions as if s/he were participating directly in such activity.

2.5.2 No one who is subject to this Code may directly or indirectly attempt to influence the course or result of a competition, or any part thereof, or display unsportsmanlike conduct.

## **2.6 Athletes' welfare**

2.6.1 WCLDSF, WCLDSF Member Bodies and all persons affiliated with WCLDSF shall promote and advocate for the safety, well-being and medical care of athletes.

2.6.2 All persons subject to this Code shall give special attention to children's and juveniles' health and security and neither participate nor facilitate the exploitation of young or otherwise vulnerable athletes. In defining and applying Rules, Officials shall strive to prevent the exploitation of athletes in general and protect them from unscrupulous recruiters and agents.

## **2.7 Sportsmanship**

2.7.1 All persons governed by this Code shall act in good faith towards each other, show mutual trust and understanding in all their dealings and behave in a manner that they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of WCLDSF and DanceSport.

2.7.2 Candidates for any sort of elections or appointments, including their promoters and persons representing legal entities wishing to organize competitions or other events, shall respect the procedures set out in WCLDSF's Rules and Regulations and shall conduct campaigning with honesty, dignity, moderation and respect for their opponents and for the voters. They shall refrain from approaching other persons with a view to affecting their freedom of decision or to obtain any undue financial or political support. Promotions shall exclude any form of publicity, including the use of new media or social networks. Persons listed in this sub-paragraph shall not enter into any promise or undertaking to be performed for the direct or indirect benefit of another person or legal entity. They shall not produce any spoken word, written text or representation of any nature likely to harm the image of other candidates or causing prejudice to them.

### 3 Officials' integrity

3.1 WCLDSF Officials shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit, accept or offer any form of remuneration or commission, nor any concealed benefit or service of any nature, connected with the administration of their function within WCLDSF.

3.2 WCLDSF Officials, including candidates for such functions, shall not solicit or accept benefits, entertainment or gifts (or the expectation of a benefit, entertainment or gifts, irrespective of whether such benefit is in fact given or received) in exchange for, or as a condition of, the exercise of their duties, an election or appointment to office, or as an inducement for performing an act associated with their responsibilities. In all circumstances, the giving or accepting of cash by WCLDSF Officials, except for salaries or fees approved by WCLDSF, and business expenses being reimbursed based on WCLDSF's budget, is strictly prohibited. Gifts, hospitality or other benefits associated with their official tasks may be given or accepted as an expression of courtesy or a token of friendship if they are of nominal value, do not bring suspicion on the Official's integrity and impartiality and do not compromise the integrity of WCLDSF. Any other gift must be passed on to the organization of which the beneficiary is a member.

3.3 The hospitality shown to the members and staff of WCLDSF and its Member Bodies, as well as to the persons accompanying them, shall not exceed the standards prevailing in the host country. WCLDSF Officials might be invited to attend sports or social events due to their WCLDSF status. Such invitations may be accepted even if they are of more than nominal value, if they do not compromise the objectivity and integrity of the Official, are disclosed forthwith to the Presidium, mainly serve to promote the best interests of WCLDSF and would not put WCLDSF into disrepute if publicly disclosed.

3.4 WCLDSF Officials, persons holding WCLDSF licenses and any other persons or legal entities who expressly agree to abide by this Code shall act with the utmost integrity, honesty, impartiality and responsibility and use due care and diligence in fulfilling their mission. They are expected to be aware of the trust that has been placed in them, as well as of the importance of their function and concomitant responsibilities. They must not act in a manner likely to tarnish the reputation of the WCLDSF, of DanceSport or the Olympic Movement.

3.5 Assessing the quality of dancers' performance requires judgments by human beings. However, WCLDSF Officials, WCLDSF adjudicators, chairpersons and invigilators, as well as any other person or legal entity who expressly agree to respect this Code distance themselves from any sort of arbitrariness and must not, by any manner whatsoever, try to influence the results of a competition by subjective or unfounded acts.

3.6 WCLDSF Officials, WCLDSF license holders, any other person or legal entity who expressly agree to respect this Code, as well as the representatives or agents of all these persons, must not be involved with persons, firms, companies, associations or other legal entities whose activities or reputation is inconsistent with the principles set out in the Olympic Charter, this Code and WCLDSF's **Statutes**, Rules and Regulations. If it is unclear, whether this kind of inconsistency exists in any given situation, the matter may be submitted to the Ethics Commission for a recommendation.

3.7 WCLDSF Officials shall neither give nor accept instructions to vote or intervene in a specific way within the organs of the WCLDSF, provided always that the right to assign votes in the General Meeting by proxy within the provisions of Article 9 of the **Statutes** remains reserved. WCLDSF Officials may not apply undue pressure on representatives of WCLDSF organs or try to influence the decisions in those organs in any improper or concealed way.

## 4 Conflicts of interest

4.1 WCLDSF Officials shall act for the benefit of WCLDSF and DanceSport when making decisions that affect, or may affect, WCLDSF. WCLDSF Officials shall act without reference to vested interests, either financial or otherwise.4.2 WCLDSF Officials, WCLDSF adjudicators, chairpersons and invigilators, as well as any other person or legal entity who expressly agrees to abide by this Code, shall disclose all possible real or apparent conflicts of interest before being elected, appointed or legally linked to WCLDSF, or immediately after the conflict arises and shall deliver all such information to the body or person that elected or appointed or will elect or appoint the relevant candidate or other relevant person or to the contractual partner. If it is unclear, whether personal involvements may adversely affect the interests of WCLDSF, any such person should always err on the side of caution and ethics, but in any case the question may be submitted to the Ethics Commission for a recommendation.

### 4.2 Possible conflicts of interest

4.2.1 WCLDSF Officials shall avoid any situation that could lead to real or apparent conflicts of interest. Potential conflicts of interest arise:

4.2.1.1 If WCLDSF Officials have, or appear to have, private or personal interests that influence or may influence the performance of their duties for the limited purpose of the benefit of WCLDSF and DanceSport. Private or personal interests include gaining any possible advantage for the persons subject to this Code themselves, their family, relatives, friends and acquaintances, dependents, contractors or any organization the Official belongs to or in which the Official has a leading role, or a direct or indirect interest;

4.2.1.2 If the opinion or decision of a WCLDSF Official is influenced by, or may be reasonably considered as liable to be influenced by relations that the WCLDSF Official has, has had or is on the point of having, with another person or organization that would be affected in any manner by the decision or opinion of the WCLDSF Official;

4.2.1.3 If a Member of the WCLDSF Managing Committee is also involved in the routine business of a WCLDSF Member Body.

4.3 WCLDSF Officials shall not perform their duties when there is an existing or potential conflict of interest. If a real or apparent conflict of interest arises, or if there is a reasonable possibility that such a conflict may arise, the person concerned must refrain from taking any further part in the handling of the issue and must immediately disclose the real or apparent conflict or potential conflict. If it is unclear whether a conflict of interest exists in any situation, any such person should always err on the side of caution and ethics, and shall submit the question to the Ethics Commission for a recommendation.

## 5 Good governance and resources

5.1 WCLDSF Officials respect the basic universal principles of good governance of the Olympic and sports movement, in particular transparency, stability, responsibility and accountability.

5.2 WCLDSF Officials shall respect and abide by public and private legal obligations and shall encourage others to do the same. WCLDSF supports the Rule of Law and bases its activities on legal obligations under Rule of Law.

5.3 The resources of WCLDSF and its Member Bodies may be used only for the benefit of DanceSport.

## 5.4 Accounting

5.4.1 The income and expenditure of WCLDSF and its Member Bodies shall be recorded in their accounts, which must be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. An independent auditor must check these accounts periodically.

5.4.2 In cases where the IOC gives financial support to the WCLDSF for Olympic purposes, the use of these resources for each such appropriation must be clearly demonstrated in the accounts of WCLDSF. The WCLDSF will cooperate with experts designated by the IOC Executive Board to audit the accounts of WCLDSF regarding these Olympic resources. The WCLDSF shall disclose to these experts all information and documents which they may require to perform such audits.

5.4.3 In cases in which the WCLDSF gives financial support to its Member Bodies, the use of these funds for the benefit of DanceSport must be clearly recorded in the accounts of the WCLDSF Member Bodies. The WCLDSF Member Bodies will cooperate with experts designated by the WCLDSF Managing Committee to audit the accounts of the WCLDSF Member Bodies regarding these resources. The WCLDSF Member Bodies will give these experts the information they need.

5.5 The WCLDSF and its Member Bodies recognize the significant contribution that broadcasters, sponsors, partners and other supporters of sports events make to the development and prestige of DanceSport throughout the world. However, these entities must not interfere in the running of sports institutions. Support must be in a form consistent with the rules of sport and the principles defined in the Olympic Charter and this Code. The organization and staging of WCLDSF championships and competitions are the exclusive responsibility of the independent sports organizations recognized by the IOC and the WCLDSF or either of them. In fulfilling their statutory mandate, the autonomy of these organizations within the limits of the applicable legal framework has to be strictly preserved.

## 6 Relations with states

6.1 The WCLDSF and its Member Bodies shall work to maintain harmonious relations with state authorities, in accordance with the principle of universality and political neutrality of DanceSport and the Olympic Movement.

6.2 WCLDSF Officials, WCLDSF Member Bodies and its representatives, as well as any other person or legal entity who expressly declared to respect this Code are free to play a role in the public life of the states to which they belong. They may not, however, engage in any activity or follow any ideology inconsistent with the principles and rules defined in the Olympic Charter and set out in this Code or contravening the principle of political neutrality of DanceSport.

## 7 Sustainability

The WCLDSF and its Member Bodies shall endeavor to protect the environment on the occasion of any events they organize, use resources conscientiously and undertake to uphold generally accepted standards for environmental protection.

## 8 Confidentiality

8.1 WCLDSF Officials shall not disclose information entrusted to them in confidence in connection with their function in DanceSport, unless required to do so by law or consistent

with reasonable and constructive sporting practices. The obligation to respect confidentiality survives the termination of any relationship which makes a person subject to this Code.

8.2 Disclosure of other information by WCLDSF Officials shall not be for personal gain or benefit, nor be undertaken maliciously to damage the reputation of any person or organization.

## 9 Breaches of this Code

9.1 Persons subject to this Code who attempt, or agree with another person, to act in a manner that would constitute or culminate in a violation of this Code, shall be treated as if they had committed a violation, whether or not such attempt or agreement in fact resulted in a violation. However, there shall be no violation where the person who is subject to the Code renounces his attempt or agreement prior to its being discovered by a third party not involved in the attempt or agreement.

9.2 Persons subject to the Code who knowingly assist or are otherwise complicit in any act or omission that constitutes or culminates in a violation of the Code shall be treated as having committed a violation of the Code.

9.3 Accusing someone of a breach of this Code, while knowing that the accusation is false, constitutes a breach of this Code.

## 10 The Ethics Commission

10.1 The Ethics Commission is constituted and shall act according to the corresponding provisions in the WCLDSF **Statutes** and the procedural rules assigned to this Code.

10.2 The WCLDSF Ethics Commission is responsible to investigate possible violations of this Code and to report its verdict to the Presidium, including a suggestion whether or not to impose any sanctions. The Ethics Commission may not impose sanctions.

10.3 The Ethics Commission watches over the provisions in this Code and suggests amendments to the Presidium, if necessary.

10.4 Persons subject to this Code shall make full disclosure of all information, documents and other permanent records reasonably requested by the Commission and shall perform all acts reasonably necessary to assist the Commission to discover all relevant facts, documents and other permanent records reasonably related to any question which is before the Commission or which is reasonably related to any possible violations of this Code. No one may claim remuneration or other compensation or reimbursement from the Commission or any person for performing these duties. The failure, refusal or neglect so to provide information to the Commission, constitutes a breach of this Code, provided always that the right of a person who is subject to this Code to plead the legal doctrine *nemo tenetur se ipsum accusare* to refuse to incriminate herself or himself, shall be preserved and protected.

## 11 Implementation and Enforcement

11.1 The WCLDSF and its Member Bodies shall perform all acts that are reasonably required to ensure that the principles and rules of the Olympic Charter and this Code are applied.

11.2 Persons bound by this Code shall inform the WCLDSF Presidium of any breach of this Code, with a view to possible referral to the WCLDSF Ethics Commission, provided always if the breach is alleged to have been committed by a WCLDSF Presidium Member, then such informed person shall so inform the Chairperson of the WCLDSF Ethics Commission directly.

11.3 When the Commission finds that a person has breached the Code but that s/he cannot be sanctioned by any organ of WCLDSF, the WCLDSF Member body which has authority over that person shall perform all acts required to impose on that person sanctions of the same kind and degree that would be imposed by WCLDSF on a person with whom WCLDSF had a direct legal relationship.

11.4 If an act, behavior or circumstance is prohibited or controlled by a WCLDSF Rule, Regulation or Operating Policy as well as by this Code, the procedures and sanctions of the WCLDSF Rules, Regulations or Operating Policies and in particular the Codes of Conduct for specific groups of persons take precedence over the provisions of this Code. In these cases, the violation of principles set out in this Code merge in the infringement described by the specific Rule or Regulation, but may increase the severity of a sanction. When the Commission finds in these cases that a person cannot be sanctioned by any organ of WCLDSF, the Commission shall in its report refer to any specific rule, regulation or other provision which in its opinion the accused person breached.

11.5 This Code is an integral part of the WCLDSF **Statutes**. Its implementation as well as changes to this Code must be approved by the WCLDSF General Meeting in accordance with the provisions in Article 11 of the **Statutes**. The WCLDSF Presidium may set out the provisions for the implementation of this Code in one of its Operating Policies provided that such Operating Policy is not inconsistent with this Code.

## 12 Effective date

This Code enters into force on ... *(day after its approval by the WCLDSF General Meeting)* and applies to all violations of this Code committed on or after the commencement date.

Adopted by the WCLDSF Presidium, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Amended by the WCLDSF Presidium, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019