

FOCUS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA LIMITED - THE GOVERNING BODY FOR DANCESPORT IN AUSTRALIA

ISSUE 36 - DECEMBER 2016

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President, Dallas Williams – talks about the future and how we must develop and adapt.

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Read about a proposal for a new concept in competition operation and management as part of a strategy to improve participation in DanceSport.

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DSA invites you to renew your registration / membership for 2017. Register online at www.dancesport.org.au, click on “MyDSA”.

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DSA National Council approved rule changes effective from January 1, 2017.

www.dancesport.org.au

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve, expand, empower and succeed in the promotion and development of Dancesports for all.

DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA IS A MEMBER BODY OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS

WORLD DANCESPORT FEDERATION - AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
- AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION - WDC AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL DANCE COUNCIL

PRO/AM AND TEACHER/ STUDENT-THERE'S A DIFFERENCE

We believe it will be useful if we clarified the intent and composition of these two quite distinct sections of Dancesport events, and how they are evolving.

In 2013, DSA recognised that Teacher and Student competitions were growing sectors of the DanceSport environment.

In early 2014, DSA chose to define a broad structure to support and encourage competition and future growth in these sectors. The aim was to provide incentive for DanceSport students and their coaches to compete by providing a structure that encourages progression and ensures fair competition for all; to provide opportunity for DanceSport students who do not have a permanent competition partners to compete in applicable DSA registered events; and to provide a variety of programming options for event organisers in order to satisfy industry demands and to attract a broader clientele.

This structure was set down in a document entitled “Pro / Am and Teacher / Student Guidelines” published on the DSA web site – which is simply a reflection of DSA Rules of DanceSport Rule No. 24. Those rules were deliberately broadly defined - and have hitherto been also broadly and loosely interpreted - to allow the sector to develop itself in accordance with the aims outlined in the paragraph above.

The pinnacle of this sector of events was always intended to be the ‘Pro / Am’ group – with partnerships consisting of a DSA registered professional competitor and a DSA registered, graded amateur competitor (as has always been defined in DSA Rule 7). And – with the other groups set up to permit various combinations of coach and student categories to compete and gain an ongoing and developing interest in dancesport.

As the sector has evolved, it has become apparent that we have erred in including the pinnacle ‘Pro / Am’ segment in with the more loosely defined ‘Teacher / Student’ category. This has seen ‘Pro / Am’ events being staged with other than the intended participants, and often an unfortunate combination of ill-matched competitors. We believe this is not in the best interests of development of either category, and accordingly - from 1st January, 2017 – we will –

a) Formally remove the ‘Pro / Am’ category from Rule 24, and re-label that Rule ‘Teacher and Student’. The Guidelines will be amended, re-badged as a DSA ‘Rule’ and re-issued (See ‘Rules of DanceSport Amendments’ – this issue).

b) Apply the Rules of DanceSport – Rule 7 for ‘Pro / Am’ and Rule 24 for ‘Teacher / Student’ as they are written.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2016 draws to a close it is fair to reflect on state of DanceSport development, and while overall numbers remain steady there is a slight decline in the Amateur Division nationally.

Essentially this means that competitors retiring from the Amateur Division are not being replaced at the same rate.

The DSA Directors have chosen to address this issue directly with the establishment of a special category of competition that will be branded ‘DanceSport Development-Sport for All’. This category of competition will encourage features that are specifically designed to enhance the experience of competitors & spectators, and are aimed at those newcomers to our sport.

This ‘Development Competition’ category will also allow DSA to trial experimental concepts such as a new criteria based scrutineering system. It is important that existing competitions are not interrupted with R&D proposals but it is equally important that DSA develop infrastructure that will grow numbers and benefit competitors & supporters. An overview of the new concept is provided in the article on page 3. Looking forward to a busy 2017.

Dallas Williams
DSA President

A NEW CONCEPT

DANCESPORT DEVELOPMENT COMPETITIONS

DSA has a significant role to play in the development of DanceSport in Australia. This commitment is present in the funding DSA State Branches receive from their respective state governments, and the maintenance of that funding requires an investment in and an innovative approach to new and suitable structures to provide growth in participation.

As part of this responsibility, DSA is presently moving to define and introduce – a new trial competition format/ structure that is believed will positively affect participation, initially in a controlled environment to test policy and implementation.

Over the past few years there have been several surveys done about DanceSport and the decline in competitor & spectator numbers; we keep getting the same basic answers. These are, in no particular order, length of competitions, Adjudicators, transparency of results and of course the COST. Despite this knowledge we continue to conduct competitions in much the same manner as we did 20 years ago.

The defining of a “DanceSport Development Competition” structure will serve as a pathway to guide Organisers in a non compulsory manner. The “DanceSport Development Competition” will be a separate DSA Competition Registration run under very clear conditions. These conditions will be designed for maximum participation whilst ensuring costs and administration are minimised.

This requires a fundamental change in the “Business Model” used to run competitions. To be clear, we

will not be asking organisers / promoters to change the way they are conducting their existing competitions ... but if organisations want to use the ‘DanceSport Development’ brand/ registration, they will need to adhere to the rules governing that DSA registration.

In the rollout/trial phase of this new competition format, it is expected and likely that only DSA State Branches will apply for running these competitions, although the registration / format in this period will also be available to selected organisers and promoters.

Key features of a Development Competition will be -

- *Free Admission for Spectators* - no ticketing required; reduced administration costs; more business venue/canteen; larger audience, better experience for all.
- *Competitor Entries* – the current direct ‘pre-entry’ / pre-payment further developed; competitors pay a ‘per event’ fee.
- *Awareness of DanceSport* – The challenge is to create awareness on a limited budget that draws attention to our sport. No awareness, no growth, no future for DSA.
- *Sport for All – Branding* – All stakeholders must recognise that DanceSport

by its very nature intersects with the ‘sports for all’ principles. We all must expound to all that DanceSport is healthy for the body as well as the mind; inexpensive, therefore of universal appeal; gender-blind, therefore sociable; ageless and thus SPORT FOR ALL!

- *Short Duration (and/or ‘rolling’ presentations)* – Competitions can be too long, and results delayed; segmentation and rolling presentations can be the answer.
- *Low Cost Budget* - Sounds like a no-brainer, competitions need a low-cost budget. The Italian ‘Trofeo Low Cost’ competition concept has proven it can be done.
- *Sponsorship & Advertising* – We must not underestimate the value that we bring - low cost does not mean low value. Advertising online – the structure is in place.
- *Simple Administration* - Keeping the administration simple for multiple Development Competitions - keep it all on-line, entries, payments, running order, etc.

The fundamentals of Development Competitions are -

- An official DSA registration that specifically targets unregistered and new

competitors. Competitors receive Points from these competitions.

- Growth in the ‘Foundation’ layer of DanceSport development is best served by competitions which have no Admission Fee for spectators.
- The ‘Free Admission’ business model requires that competitors pay an Entry Fee for each event they compete in, for example boy, girl & couple.
- Seating space needs to be rolled over constantly, especially in a small venue, which means that a system of segmentation and rolling presentations be established.
- Simplify all administration processes ... keep everything on-line from entry to Running Order, make running these competitions easy.

Over the next months, DSA will be producing a ‘Development Competition Handbook’ and will release this early in the New Year of 2017.

Interested parties can obtain further / advance information by contacting DSA’s President and Sport Director Dallas Williams via email at president@dancesport.org.au

MEMBERS REGISTRATION PROCEDURES 2017

Registration Renewal of Membership is due on January 1st 2017. It is preferred that all members use the Online Registration System; however the Manual Registration System will also remain in place for 2017. Please follow the instructions below.

Online Registration System

The Online system will accept 2017 renewals of registration from December 14, 2016.

To complete the process members will need their user name, password and credit card.

1. Go to www.dancesport.org.au and click on "MyDSA".
2. Enter 'User Name' and 'Password' to log in.
3. Go to Registration Renewal and follow the prompts ensuring that all details are accurate and correct.

Contact details can be altered but not date of birth or accreditation level. If either is incorrect, members should contact the National Registrar.

For members who registered for the first time in 2017, the relevant State Branch Registrar can provide the 'User Name' and 'Password'.

Manual Registration System

The manual registration procedures will be continued for 2017 as follows:

Competitors and General Member Registration

Complete the pink form and forward it with the appropriate fee payment to the respective State Branch Registrar. Date of Birth details are only required if registering for the first time.

Accredited Member Registration

Complete the white form and forward it with the appropriate fee payment to the National Registrar. (Address shown on the bottom of the form)

Members who hold DSA Accreditation as an Adjudicator, Coach, Instructor, Invigilator, Chairman or Scrutineer should note the "Working with Children" clause may vary from state to state.

A qualification is only recognised if the registration is maintained from one registration period to the next.

If a member is also a competitor, the

same form must be used to register in this category.

NOTE: Amateur Competitors/ DanceSport Instructors

Amateur division competitors, who are DanceSport Instructors please note that, for the accreditation to remain effective, registration in both sections must remain current. Complete the white form "Application for Membership/Registration & Accreditation Renewal". The fee payable covers both competitor and instructor registrations.

General Registration Information

- Membership of DSA is not effective until it has been recorded on the National Database.
- A receipt for fees paid will be issued and all members will receive a registration card.
- Fees are inclusive of GST. Tax Invoice requirements are noted on the receipt.
- Payments made by cheque or money order are made payable to Dancesport Australia.
- Fee increases reflect the national CPI index, and where applicable, increased processing costs.
- Sports Injury Insurance is included in membership fees.
- The registration number remains constant from year to year. Please ensure that this is recorded on the renewal application.
- The address shown on the application form or member portal should be a personal mailing address. A dance studio address is not acceptable.
- It is in everyone's best interest to read the detail on the registration form before completing the registration.

Additional supplies of registration forms can be downloaded from the DSA website.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SUBSIDIES - REINSTATED

DSA's National Council has decided to reinstate a fund for subsidising international travel, to assist those DSA members selected to represent Australia at closed world championships – with \$750 per couple as an initial distribution, with a cap of \$1,000 per couple.

DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA - PLASTIC ID CARDS

For those members who were registered with DSA in 2016, your existing plastic ID card continues in place upon re-registration. For new members joining DSA for the first time in 2017, you will be issued with DSA members ID-Card shortly after registration.

DSA INTERNATIONAL SELECTION POLICY

Both the eligibility criteria and selection procedure for 'International Selection' can be found at

www.dancesport.org.au

click on 'About Dancesport' then 'Other Competition Rules'. Competitors interested in representing Australia at international events should make sure they are familiar with the selection process and plan accordingly.

RULES OF DANCESPORT - AMENDMENTS

The following are the major rule changes made recently by National Council; these will be operative from January 1, 2017; they are shown here in abridged form – the full rule amendments for these and other rule changes can be viewed at Rules of DanceSport on the DSA web site.

Age Group Events: Rule 11.11

Here, the introductory words are changed as follows -

From... "A competitor who has reached his or her fourteenth birthday may compete in"..etc

To... "A competitor whose fourteenth birthday occurs in the relevant calendar year may compete in" ..etc

This action was necessary to bring this rule into line with the change to the "year of birth" rule (11.3)

Teacher/Student Events – Rule 24, Rule 24.3 and Rule 24.6

The words "Pro/Am" are to be deleted from the title of Rule 24, which will now simply read "Teachers/Student Events"; and

Sub-clause (a) of Rule 24.3 - ... Pro/Am - Professional Competitor & Amateur Division Competitor...is removed from this section.

This action was considered necessary as the inclusion of the Pro/Am definition in a section relating primarily to Teacher/Student events causes confusion and incorrect interpretation of the purpose of this rule. The definition of Pro / Am can be found in Rule 7 "Definitions".

That the following be added as Rule 24.6 :-

In events conducted under the terms of this rule, it is the "student" that is being adjudicated.

This needs to be recognised within the rules in order to make a point of distinction between Teacher/Student events and those conducted in the regular partnership / couple events.

Age Group Events: Rule 11

The following is added as Rule 11.11 c) :- In the circumstance where a Juvenile aged competitor has been competing in the Junior Age Group but wishes to revert to competing in the Juvenile Age Group, the grading of that competitor shall be determined by the relevant State Branch Board.

This action is necessary in order to provide the direction required in these circumstances.

**NATIONAL REGISTRAR
ACCREDITED MEMBERS
-DANCESPORT
AUSTRALIA**

All accredited membership renewals and/or questions regarding entries in the national membership register from coaches, adjudicators and scrutineers should be directed to **The Chief Executive Officer, DanceSport Australia, PO Box 7771, Baulkham Hills BC, Baulkham Hills NSW 2153, Office Phone: 02 9836 3337, Mobile: 0402 159 398, Email: ceo@dancesport.org.au** New accreditation applications should be forwarded directly to the Accreditation Officer or the Executive Office of DanceSport in your State. Application forms are available from DSA's State Registrars and/or Executive Officers.



2017 DSA INTERNATIONAL SELECTION EVENTS

JUNE 2017

**DANCESPORT AUSTRALIA NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

AIS ARENA CANBERRA

**JUNIOR, YOUTH, ADULT, MASTERS
1, PROFESSIONAL & TEN DANCE
STANDARD AND LATIN**

DECEMBER 2017

**ADS AUSTRALIAN DANCESPORT
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

HISENSE ARENA, MELBOURNE

**JUNIOR, YOUTH, ADULT, MASTERS 1.
STANDARD AND LATIN**

**Visit the DSA website at
www.dancesport.org.au**

The website is the easy access point for information, news, rules and policy documents plus links to other sites and details of local and international events. The DSA Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/dancesportaus?fref=ts> is a Members Forum for expression of your views.

CONTACT US

NATIONAL AND STATE BRANCHES

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National Office

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National Registrar: Mr Steve Edwards
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NT ADMINISTRATION

Contact WA Executive Officer

NT REGISTRATIONS OFFICER

Contact WA Registrar

SCHEDULE OF FEES

JANUARY 1ST TO DECEMBER 31ST 2017

(ALL FEES ARE INCLUSIVE OF GST)

Ordinary Membership Fee	\$71.00
Competitors	
Professional, Adult, Masters, Youth 16 years and over	\$76.00
Juvenile, Junior and Youth under 16 years	\$48.00
Transfer Fee from Recreational	
First Registration Only Adult, Masters, Youth 16 yrs & over	\$50.00
First Registration Only Juvenile, Junior, Youth under 16 yrs	\$30.00
Recreation Division	
Registration Fee	\$20.00
Accredited Member Renewals	
Accredited Coach	\$184.00
Accredited Coach and Competitor	\$197.00
Licensed Adjudicator	\$149.00
Accredited Coach and Adjudicator	\$197.00
Licensed Adjudicator and Competitor	\$163.00
Coach / Adjudicator / Competitor	\$197.00
Scrutineer	\$97.00
Event Registrations	
National Championships	\$550.00
Championships	\$275.00
Competitions	\$165.00
Development Competitions	\$165.00
Adjudicating	
First Time Adjudicator Accreditation Application	\$134.00
Adjudicator Technical Assessment – Competition	\$200.00
Adjudicator Technical Assessment – Championship	\$250.00
Re-instatement of Accreditation – Up to one year absence	\$33.00
Re-instatement of Accreditation – One to five year absence	\$132.00
Coaching	
Assistant DanceSport Instructor (Single Style)	\$93.00
Assistant DanceSport Instructor (All Styles)	\$133.00
DanceSport Instructor	\$150.00
DanceSport Coach	\$200.00
Other	
Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	\$44.00
Scrutineer Exams	\$66.00
Chairman of Adjudicators – Competitions	\$33.00
Chairman of Adjudicators – Championships	\$44.00
Other Fees	
WDSF Athletes ID-Card Applications	\$25.00
Registered Teaching Facility	\$50.00

www.dancesport.org.au

Our website is the easy access point for information, news, rules and policy documents plus links to other sites and details of local and international events.

Focus Newsletter Editor
STEVE EDWARDS

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