



# Dancesport Technical Officials' Code of Conduct and Standards of Ethics For Adjudicators

## Contents

1.	Preamble	Page 2
2.	Conflict of Interest	Page 2
3.	Rules of Adjudicators	Page 3-4
4.	General Behaviour of Adjudicators	Page 4-5
5.	Complaints About Adjudicators During Competition	Page 5
6.	Other Complaints About Adjudicators	Page 6
7.	Disciplinary Action Against Dancesport Officials	Page 6

Revised and Compiled: January 2006

## **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 International DanceSport Federation and subsequently its member Federations – FEDANSA and its PAB' s 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 DanceSport Technical Officials. It has been developed as an Operating Policy of Fedansa in recognition of the fundamental and overriding responsibility of all officials to maintain the integrity, competence and effectiveness of technical officials and judging panels as a whole.

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

It must be recognised that the *Code* cannot anticipate all possible situations in which officials may be called upon to exercise judgement. In all cases, it remains the ultimate responsibility of each individual 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 treated and judged on their merits free from any bias or coercion.

Adherence to the standards reflected in the *Code* is essential to Fedansa’s future success. All DanceSport Technical Officials must become familiar with the contents of this Policy. Fedansa expects every official to take personal responsibility for complying with the *Code* and acting in a manner consistent with Fedansa, Sascoc, IDSF and IOC values and principles.

The *Code* applies to all DanceSport Officials licensed by FEDANSA.  
The *Code* may be amended from time to time by the FEDANSA Presidium.

## **2. Conflict of Interest**

A Conflict of Interest is any interest, relationship, association or activity that is incompatible with a DanceSport Official’s obligations to ensure that all competitors are treated on their merits, free from any bias or coercion.

Conflicts of Interest arise in particular when the personal interests of an official influences that DanceSport Official’s judgement or ability to act in the best interest of FEDANSA, which is the same as the best interest of the competitors.

A DanceSport Official must adhere to the rules set out in this *Code*, and shall retire from the decision making where any potential Conflict of Interest arises.

### **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 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.
- (d) 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.
- (e) 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.
- (f) An adjudicator shall not coach, teach, or give any advice to any participating couple during an event at which he/she is judging.
- (g) An adjudicator shall not threaten to mark a couple in a particular way.
- (h) 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.
- (i) An adjudicator shall refrain from publicly taking any partisan position in respect of any couple he/she may judge in any competition.
- (j) An adjudicator shall not seek by any means to improperly influence, or to intimidate, another adjudicator.
- (k) 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.
- (l) 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.
- (m) An adjudicator shall not seek to influence the outcome of a competition other than by marking all couples in the competition on their merits

- (n) An adjudicator when appointed to judge a FEDANSA event has to judge strictly according to FEDANSA rules and policies.
- (o) An adjudicator shall not engage in any conduct that is intended to gain an advantage for any competitor
- (p) An adjudicator shall not falsely claim to officially represent FEDANSA in any capacity.
- (q) 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.

#### **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 DanceSport 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 the *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 FEDANSA 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 FEDANSA or DanceSport into disrepute.

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

- (a) Arrive on time at the venue in reasonable physical and mental condition.
- (b) Report his/her presence to the organiser and Chair of Adjudicators.
- (c) Ascertain the timetable of the competitions.

- (d) Be available to perform the duties of FEDANSA adjudicator as scheduled.
- (e) Behave in such a way during the competition as to preserve the good reputation of DanceSport and the FEDANSA.

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

- (a) Stand apart from one another and at such locations that they do not interfere with the competitors.
- (b) Move to whatever position is required to see all of the couples.
- (c) Judge independently and not compare notes with the other adjudicators.
- (d) Mark and sign their score cards in ink, including their code letter, and initial each and every alteration s/he makes to the score card.
- (e) 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.
- (f) Follow any instruction given by the Chair.
- (g) Be concentrated on judging only and not have any communication with the audience, fellow adjudicators or couples and not do anything that might distract him/her (mobile phone, camera...).

#### **5. Complaints about Adjudicators during a Competition**

During a competition the Chair nominated by FEDANSA is authorized and obliged to observe the compliance of all FEDANSA licensed adjudicators, may they be engaged in the competition or not, with the *Code*.

Any complaints regarding the breach of *Code* during the competition should be made in writing and shall be addressed to the Chair.

If the Chair has reason to believe that there has been a breach of the *Code* by an adjudicator on the panel of which s/he is Chair, then s/he is empowered and obliged to notify such adjudicator of the complaint against him/her, hear him/her in reply, and then take appropriate action immediately according to the terms of the *Code*. This may include a disciplinary enquiry.

The Chair shall have the power to reprimand or replace the adjudicator by an appropriate substitute for the remainder of the competition.

The Chair shall document any incident or observation of alleged or suspected misconduct by an adjudicator, and any reprimand or replacement of an adjudicator, and include it or them in the competition report to the FEDANSA Presidium who shall decide whether there is the need to initiate a further investigation or enquiry. FEDANSA Presidium shall refer each such case to the DanceSport Technical Officials, with or without recommendations, for consideration.

## **6. Other Complaints about Adjudicators**

Any other complaints about an alleged breach of the *Code* after the results of the competition have been announced must be submitted in writing to the FEDANSA PRESIDIUM.

A complaint shall not be considered unless the following lodgement criteria are met:

- (a) The complaint must be made in writing signed by an official of the complainant and must be lodged with the FEDANSA PRESIDIUM within 21 (twenty one) days of the date of the alleged breach together with any supporting documentation.
- (b) The complainant must specify the full name, address and contact details and must agree in writing to give evidence and to take all steps in his/her power to require persons with knowledge of the matter of the complaint to be cross examined on that evidence.

If a complaint meets the lodgement criteria, the FEDANSA Presidium shall forward the complaint to the DanceSport Technical Officials for further consideration. If the lodgement criteria are not met, the FEDANSA Presidium shall write to the complainant advising that this is the case.

Nothing in this rule shall prevent the FEDANSA Presidium from initiating an investigation at any time where the DanceSport Technical Officials believe there has been a breach of rules, and referring it to the FEDANSA Presidium for consideration.

The FEDANSA Presidium has to consider any complaint made under this section. The Presidium may give a complaint lesser weight or no weight based on the degree to which that complaint is based on hearsay rather than proof. In all cases the decision of the Presidium shall be final.

## **7. Disciplinary Actions against DanceSport Officials**

If a DanceSport Official

- (a) Manifestly contravenes the *Code*, or otherwise commits gross misconduct;
- (b) Wilfully infringes any of these rules; or
- (c) Is found to have engaged in any conduct which in the opinion of the FEDANSA Presidium is prejudicial to the interests of FEDANSA;

then the FEDANSA Presidium shall have the power to reprimand or impose a disciplinary action on the DanceSport Technical Official, or otherwise to suspend or cancel or revoke the DanceSport Officials' license, provided always that no disciplinary action shall be taken unless such adjudicator shall by notice, in writing, be notified of the complaint against him/her before the Presidium meeting at which such complaint is to be considered. The DanceSport Official has a right to appear before the presidium and defend his/her case, be represented by another person or send his/her comments in writing. If the DanceSport Official does not appear or fails to supply his comments in reply without reasonable excuse, the complaint shall be heard and dealt with by the Presidium according to its absolute discretion and its decision shall be final, provided always that it shall give written reasons for its decision.