

# International Federation of Same Sex Dance Associations

## Constitution

August 7, 2013

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### 1. Title

- 1.1. The name of our association is International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations, also to be known as IFSSDA.

### 2. Location

- 2.1. The location of the organisation is London, England, UK.

### 3. Foundation and Duration

- 3.1. It was founded on the 06 August 2010 in Cologne, Germany and established for an indefinite period.

### 4. Introduction and Summary

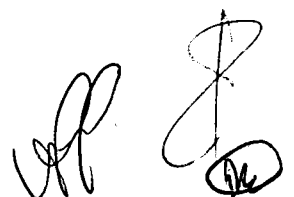
- 4.1. The membership is the highest decision making body of the association.
- 4.2. The membership makes its decisions per vote in the General Meetings or through referendums initiated by the Board.
- 4.3. Decisions of the members are made with a minimum of an absolute majority (one vote more than 50%) of the members participating at a General Meeting or a separate referendum.
- 4.4. Decisions about changing the constitution, dissolving the association, decisions about further Board membership of a Board member or a honorary membership are made with a majority 2/3 of the members participating.
- 4.5. Further details about these and other decisions (Participating, Quorum, etc.) are specified in other articles of the Constitution and the By-Laws.

### 5. Language

- 5.1. The official language of the association in correspondence, General Meetings and meetings is, in principle, English.

### 6. Geography

- 6.1. IFSSDA is a worldwide organisation.



## **7. Organisational Year**

- 7.1. The organisational year of the association starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

## **8. Definitions**

- 8.1. Federation: International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations, also to be known as IFSSDA.
- 8.2. Constitution: this document.
- 8.3. By-Laws: A supporting document where in details of rules, policies and procedures that govern the actual operations of the Federation are defined.
- 8.4. Member Organisation: A continental or national organisation who's Delegates have full voting rights.
- 8.5. Provisional Member Organisation: A member organisation who's Delegates have limited voting rights.
- 8.6. Affiliate Member: An organisation, group or individual member who's Delegate(s) have no voting rights.
- 8.7. Delegate: A person who is an authorised proxy of a Member Organisation, looks after the rights of the Member Organisation, and cast its votes.
- 8.8. Provisional Delegate: A person who is an authorised proxy of a Provisional Member Organisation, looks after the rights of the Member Organisation, and casts its votes.
- 8.9. Representative: A person who is authorised to represent an Affiliated Member. Representatives do not have the right to vote.
- 8.10. General Assembly: The sum of the members participating at a General Meeting, the Annual General Meeting or an Emergency Meeting.
- 8.11. General Membership: The sum of all members. It is the highest decision making body of the association.

## **9. Mission and Goals**

### **9.1. Mission**

- 9.1.1. The mission of IFSSDA is to serve as a worldwide umbrella organisation for same-sex dancing.
- 9.1.2. It shall be composed of regional or continental associations/ federations that represent the interests of same-sex dancers in their respective geographical areas.



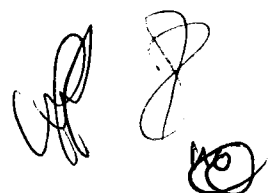
## 9.2. Goals

9.2.1. IFSSDA has identified a number of initial goals, which may be altered or expanded in the future, they are the following:

- 9.2.1.1. To encourage same-sex dancing worldwide in all different styles, such as, but not limited to International Style Standard and Latin, American Style Smooth and Rhythm, Square Dancing, Country/Western, New Vogue, sequence dancing, Argentine Tango, and any other forms of partner and group dancing that wish to participate in the furtherance of IFSSDA's goals.
- 9.2.1.2. To encourage and include all same-sex dancing in social dance classes worldwide regardless of the style and/or combination.
- 9.2.1.3. To seek the universal adoption of the terms "leader" and "follower" to refer to the roles, rather than the traditional gender-specific roles of male-leader and female-follower.
- 9.2.1.4. To develop and maintain standards and guidelines relevant to the specific needs of same-sex dancing competitions.
- 9.2.1.5. To encourage the use of the standards and guidelines referred to in paragraph 9.2.1.4. for same-sex dance competitions.
- 9.2.1.6. To promote a consistent level of quality at same-sex dance competitions.
- 9.2.1.7. To provide an attractive environment for both competitors and spectators.
- 9.2.1.8. To provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for dancers and other people and organisations interested in same-sex dancing worldwide.
- 9.2.1.9. To support other individuals, associations, federations and organisations with similar goals.

## 9.3. Respect Differences

- 9.3.1. IFSSDA shall respect any differences among people in relation to their race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age, religion, nationality, language, disability or any other basis.
- 9.3.2. IFSSDA shall also respect any differences among organisations in relation to their nationality, language, political affiliation and on the basis of their association with other dance and/or sport organisations and, but not limited to,



organisations for LGBTQI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer and Intersex) emancipation.

9.4. IFSSDA acknowledges that the roots and foundation of same-sex dance and same-sex dance sport lie in:

9.4.1. The expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities

9.4.2. The relationships of LGBTQI people

9.4.3. The expression of their sensitivities through dancing both as a couple and/or as a group (defined as more than two people)

9.5. These considerations shall inform any decisions, guidelines and developments in the future. IFSSDA shall, nevertheless, act in accordance with the spirit of inclusivity and shall not discriminate against any same-sex couple or group on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

## 10. Constituency of Membership

10.1. The Federation consists of:

10.1.1. Founding Organisations (FO): The three organisation who founded IFSSDA (ESSDA, NASSPDA, IAGLCWDC) each with two voting Delegates.

10.1.2. Member Organisations (MO): Qualifying dance organisations each with two voting Delegates.

10.1.3. Provisional Member Organisations (PMO): Non-qualifying organisations each with two provisional Delegates with limited voting rights, as specified in the section on voting rights.

10.1.4. Affiliated Members (AM): Non-qualifying national organisations, dance style or special interest groups, or individuals who wish to be affiliated with IFFSDA to further IFFSDA's goals. Affiliated Members each with one Representative with no voting rights.

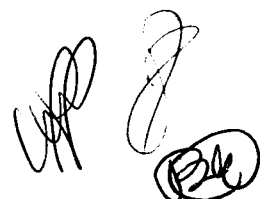
## 11. Membership

11.1. To become a member an organisation must submit a written application for consideration by the Board.

11.2. The Board will use the information provided to determine membership status (Member Organisation, Provisional Member Organisation, Affiliate Member).

11.3. Rejection of an application shall be provided in writing.

11.4. The rejection shall include the reason(s) why the application for membership was rejected.



## 12. Termination of Membership

### 12.1. Membership of the Federation ends by:

12.1.1. Bankruptcy or dissolution of the legal body of the Member Organisation.

12.1.2. Written withdrawal of membership.

12.1.3. Exclusion from membership by a written notice of the Federation.

12.1.4. Failure to pay the annual membership fee in time.

### 12.2. Voluntary Withdrawal by a Member Organisation

12.2.1. A Member Organisation must withdraw one month prior to the start of the new association Federation's fiscal year.

### 12.3. Exclusion by the Federation

12.3.1. Exclusion from membership by the Federation occurs when the Member Organisation acts contrary to the Federation's rules or decisions, or contrary to the constitution, or when the Member Organisation harms the Federation in an unreasonable way.

12.3.2. The Federation shall inform the Member Organisation of this decision in writing.

12.3.3. The excluded Member Organisation shall have the right to appeal this decision.

### 12.4. Obligations of Membership

12.4.1. There is an obligation to pay an annual membership fee as determined by the Membership.

12.4.2. There is no principle right to recover the membership fee when the membership has ended.

12.4.3. The amount of the membership fee for the members is set by the Membership during the Annual General Meeting.

## 13. Rights of Membership

### 13.1. All Members are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

13.1.1. All Members are entitled to express their opinions at the AGM and other meetings.

### 13.2. Voting rights

13.2.1. Founding Member Organisations and Member Organisations have one vote per Delegate.



13.2.2. Provisional Member Organisations have one vote per provisional Delegate.

13.2.3. Provisional Delegates are guaranteed the right to vote for Officers of the Federation.

13.2.4. Any other voting rights for Provisional Delegates shall be specified in the By-Laws.

13.3. Voting by proxy, if it is possible, is described in the By-Laws.

#### **14. Rights of Representatives of Affiliate Members**

14.1. Representatives of Affiliate Members have the following rights:

14.1.1. To submit a written request to address the Delegates, when submitted in time (see By-Laws).

14.1.2. To have an item added to the agenda as specified by the By-Laws.

14.1.3. To address the Delegates as specified in the By-Laws.

14.2. Obligations of the Federation to the Representatives:

14.2.1. The Federation will grant a response to all requests no later than the following AGM.

14.3. Representatives have no right to vote.

#### **15. Meetings**

15.1. There are three types of meetings:

15.1.1. General Meeting

15.1.2. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

15.1.3. Emergency Meeting

15.2. Unless otherwise specified, rules that apply to meetings apply to all other types of meetings.

15.2.1. Chair and Minutes

15.2.1.1. One of the outgoing Co-Presidents or a chairperson to be appointed by the Board will chair the meeting.

15.2.1.2. The General Secretary or a person to be appointed by the Board will take the minutes of the meeting

15.2.2. Quorum and Majority



15.2.2.1. A minimum of 50% of the Delegates of Full Member Organisations representing no less than 2/3 of the Full Member Organisations.

15.2.2.2. Procedure for voting and the definitions of participation and majority are specified in the By-Laws.

### 15.3. General Meetings

15.3.1. General Meetings will be held quarterly.

15.3.2. A General Meeting will be held when either one item is raised by two Delegates or two separate items are raised by one or more Delegates.

15.3.3. The AGM counts as one of the quarterly General Meetings.

15.3.4. The AGM must be held each year between 1st April and 31st August.

15.3.5. Delegates, Provisional Delegates, Representatives and interested parties may attend all meetings electronically.

15.3.6. A quarterly General Meeting may be skipped if no items have been raised by the Delegates.

15.3.7. The Annual General Meeting cannot be skipped.

15.3.8. Dates for General Meetings will be published no later than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled date of the General Meeting.

15.3.9. The agenda for a General Meeting shall be published at least 7 days prior to General Meeting date.

### 15.4. Annual General Meeting

15.4.1. The AGM counts as one of the quarterly meetings.

15.4.2. The AGM must be held each year between 1st April and 31st August.

15.4.3. Dates for AGM will be published no later than 4 weeks prior to the scheduled date of the AGM.

15.4.4. The agenda for a Annual General Meeting shall be published at least 14 days prior to Annual General Meeting date.

15.4.5. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting covers at least:

15.4.5.1. The Federation's Annual report.

15.4.5.2. The Financial Report presented by the Treasurer or by his/her designee



- 15.4.5.3. The budget for the forthcoming year.
- 15.4.5.4. The determining of the annual membership fee.
- 15.4.5.5. Election of Officers.
- 15.4.5.6. Discharging outgoing Officers after approval of the Annual Report.
- 15.4.5.7. Any agenda submitted by Representatives during the prior year, which have not yet been addressed.
- 15.4.5.8. Time shall be allocated for Representatives who have submitted a request to address the Delegates to do so.
- 15.4.5.9. Plans for the coming year

#### 15.5. Emergency Meetings

- 15.5.1. An Emergency Meeting may be called with a minimum of 7 days notice.
- 15.5.2. The agenda must be provided at the time notice is given.
- 15.5.3. The agenda for the Emergency Meeting cannot be amended.

#### 16. **Officers**

##### 16.1. The Office Bearer of the Federation shall consist of:

- 16.1.1. Female Co-President
- 16.1.2. Male Co-President
- 16.1.3. Treasurer
- 16.1.4. General Secretary

16.2. The Female Co-President and the Male Co-President must be from different Member Organisations.

16.3. The Treasurer must be from a Member Organisation.

16.4. The General Secretary may be Provisional Member Organisation.

16.5. Any Delegate in good standing who accepts, abides by and complies with the mission statement of the Federation, with the Federation's Constitution and decisions, and does not harm the Federation in an unreasonable way is eligible to run for office.

16.6. At the annual AGM, each Delegate and Provisional Delegate has one vote per office.

16.7. Officers are elected by a plurality of vote cast (the largest number of votes even if it is not a true majority).



- 16.8. In the case of a single candidate for an office, all Delegates are required to vote yes or no and the candidate is elected if a simple majority (50% plus 1 vote) is cast in favor of that candidate.
- 16.9. In the event that a single candidate did not receive a majority of votes, the current Officer shall remain in office for one additional year.
- 16.10. A special election shall be held in the next AGM to fill that position as if it was vacant.
- 16.11. Newly elected Officers assume their responsibilities 2 weeks after the day of the AGM.
- 16.12. Officers are elected on a rolling base (as defined in the By-Laws) and are eligible for immediate re-election.
- 16.13. The term of office for all positions shall be 4 years.
- 16.14. In the first election cycle all 4 positions shall be elected.
- 16.15. The male and female Co-Presidents shall serve their normal 4-year term.
- 16.16. The Treasurer and General Secretary shall serve a 2-year term, and thereafter all Treasurers and General Secretary shall serve a 4-year term.
- 16.17. In the event of a vacancy, a special election shall be held at the next AGM to fill that office.
- 16.18. The term of that Officer shall be the remaining term of the Officer they are replacing.
- 16.19. Rights and obligations of the Officers:
- 16.19.1. The Officers are responsible for the management of the Federation and to guide it in the direction of its missions and goals.
- 16.19.2. The specific responsibilities for each Officer are detailed in the By-Laws.
- 16.19.3. No Officer shall enter into agreements in which the Federation commits itself to guarantee or share other parties' debts, in which the Federation supports third parties, or in which the Federation vouches for the debt of a third party.
- 16.19.4. The Treasurer can represent the Federation in all financial matters up to the sum specified in the By-Laws.
- 16.20. Resignation of officers:
- 16.20.1. An Officer may resign from the Federation at any time by presenting his or her notice of resignation in writing to the other Officers of the Federation.
- 16.20.2. The resignation shall be effective upon acceptance by the Federation.



**16.21. Filling a Vacancy on the Board**

16.21.1. The rules for filling a vacancy are in the By-Laws.

**16.22. Rules of Conduct:**

16.22.1. The Rules of conduct are defined in the By-Laws.

**17. Committees With Special Tasks**

17.1. The Officers may by consensus create committees as may be appropriate, with a specific task like for example membership administration or drawing up guidelines for competitions.

17.2. The respective terms of reference, powers, duration and composition of such committees shall be determined at the time the committee is appointed.

17.3. All acts and proceedings of such committees shall be reported back to the Federation Membership as soon as possible.

17.4. Committees report at all scheduled meetings.

17.5. The findings of committees shall be taken in consideration by the Delegates' Membership in the business of the Federation.

**18. Voting**

18.1. All votes are open unless otherwise requested by any Delegate up to 72 hours before the meeting is scheduled.

18.2. Procedures for electronic voting shall be specified in the By-Laws.

18.3. The Chairperson of a meeting shall be the tie breaker for all votes that take place until the next meeting.

**19. Accounts and Finance**

19.1. The Federation shall keep such books of accounts as are necessary to exhibit and explain the transaction and financial position of the Federation with regard to the sums of money received and expended by and on behalf of the Federation.

19.2. An audited record of the accounts of these transactions shall be made available at each and every Annual General Meeting.

**20. Representation**

20.1. The Delegates may by majority vote designate one or more persons to act as proxy of the Federation.

**21. By-Laws**



21.1. The Delegates determine the By-Laws of the Federation, which may not knowingly include regulations that contradict the laws of the country in which the Federation is incorporated by Law or this Constitution.

21.2. The By-Laws regulate everything this Constitution enforces to be regulated in the By-Laws, and everything of which regulation in or with the By-Laws is desired.

21.3. Proposals about changes to the By-Laws shall only be considered at the AGM.

21.4. Proposals about changes to the By-Laws must be submitted for publication two months in advance of the AGM.

21.5. Decisions regarding changes of or amendments to the By-Laws are made by a majority (50% plus one vote) of participating votes of the Delegates.

## 22. Changing of the Articles and Dissolution of the Federation

22.1. Proposals to change the Constitution or to dissolve the Federation shall only be considered at the AGM.

22.2. A proposal to change the Constitution or to dissolve the Federation must be submitted at least two months prior to the AGM.

22.3. A vote to dissolve the Federation requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

22.4. In the event that it is not possible to attain a quorum at the AGM to consider a proposal to dissolve the Federation, an Emergency Meeting may be convened to consider that proposal.

## 23. Other Business

23.1. The Federation shall operate in an open and transparent manner.

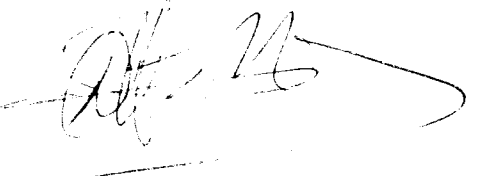
23.2. The Federation shall make available all records of its business in a timely fashion.

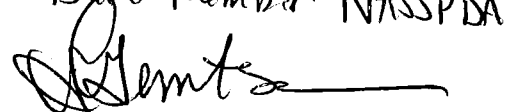
23.3. In all situations that are not covered by the Constitution, the By-Laws and the laws of the country in which the Federation is incorporated, the Delegates are entitled to decide.

## 24. Adoption and Presentation of This Document

24.1. This Constitution is in force and becomes valid after its adoption by the Delegates.

24.2. The Constitution has to be presented to the appropriate authority or government office as soon as possible after its adoption.

DARY BROOKES  
CO PRESIDENT ESSDA  


Garret Gerritsen  
Board Member NASSPDA  


Bruce E. Townsend Jr  
VICE-CHAIR  
IAGLCWDC  
