

**Press Release by Sammy Stopford – president of the WDC Amateur League.  
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***Happy New Year.....***

The new year has just started and it looks already as if it is going to be a memorable year. Where only two years ago the IDSF stated in an official letter to the British Dance Council that the “English Competitions” would be respected by the IDSF because of their long history and reputation, now this seems no longer true. The occurrences at the UK prove the value of the promises of IDSF.

IDSF states they “rule the world” and in my opinion therefore can be held responsible not only for the acts of herself, but also for the acts of her members. I say this because it seems an official policy of IDSF to stay in the clear and let others do their dirty and destructive work. Very often however initiating it and in any case acting in support.

Where couples and officials were punished before for participating in Paris, without any explanation other than that they danced or officiated there, the IDSF has now reached a new level of punishment: if a couple dances a competition without permission of the IDSF or her national member, not only the couple is punished, but the ***whole club*** and also the ***trainers*** are punished!!

Of course nothing on paper but still 100% true. And of course strictly at will.

The effects of this measure were visible at the UK; a selection of couples were threatened and felt they had to decline competing.

***Threatening children is bad enough, but just because they belong to the same club??***

If individuals are bad, you can choose not to be associated with them and still be part of our beautiful world of dance and think nothing further of it. If, like here, a ***“superior, world governing, athlete orientated body” (IDSF)*** is acting badly, it’s a different issue altogether.

***We (you) can no longer turn a blind eye to this.***

This is pure dictatorship of a totalitarian system and the fact that IDSF is a worldwide and recognized institution makes it worse. To allow yourself to be associated with it in any way and for whatever reason is simply no longer defensible. To state (as I’ve heard many times) “we will work to change the system from the inside” has been proven a mission impossible. The IDSF simply doesn’t listen or doesn’t even have the courtesy to reply to any written message. Instead they will threaten you into silence.

It is time to ask yourself the question if you will allow yourself to be associated with this system. It is time to open your eyes and see that by allowing them to use your numbers, be it active or passive, you contribute to their policy of destruction and punishment. You are part of it.

***I can think of no excuse to do so....***

Even more if you realize that there are options; there is a different world and more and more of the leading people in our world turn their backs on the IDSF and join our Amateur League and are free to dance and work where they want to.

***JOIN THE MAINSTREAM.***

We invite you all, dancers, trainers, organisations and others, to come and be part of our Amateur League.

Let us work with you to keep dancing a wonderful activity and make your own choice where to go and where not, where to spend your money.

History has shown that no dictatorial system is forever. But it can only come to an end when support fails.

***Come and join us to make things better!***

Sammy Stopford.

President WDC amateur League.