



New Zealand DanceSport Association (Inc.)

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Dear Members and other interested parties

PRESS RELEASE: New Zealand Dance & DanceSport Council 2010 AGM

Recently the New Zealand Dance and DanceSport Council failed to reach a quorum at its AGM. Over many years a number of basic fundamental rights have been denied to Council delegates in total disregard of common governance principles and practices. Council and its office holders cannot continue to operate as they have done over many years and ignore their responsibility to uphold and enforce these basic rights.

Half of Council's member associations are now left with no option but to insist on the restoration of their basic rights. Until these rights are restored and guaranteed, there can be no point in continuing the current unconstitutional state of affairs.

Basic rights compromised or refused:

1. Unrestricted access to records of Council including registers and financial books by all Council delegates.
2. Distribution of all correspondence as required by Council Rule 14(d). For example, no WDC correspondence is circulated to at least 50% of Council delegates including notices of meetings, minutes, agendas and invitations to adjudicate at WDC events.
3. Adherence to all Council meeting resolutions. For example, it was unanimously decided at the half yearly meeting of council that the registrar was to be subject to a fixed one year employment contract. This has not been acted upon, nor have the minutes of that meeting been circulated to date. Minutes are required to be circulated under Council rule 14(c) within one month of the meeting.
4. Adherence at all times to the disbursement of registration fees at two monthly intervals as required by Council Rule 21(b)(ii). For example, disbursements to DanceSport New Zealand in 2009 occurred only three times instead of six. In 2008 it was not disbursed for many months taking DanceSport New Zealand to the brink of insolvency.
5. Right of Member Associations to appoint their own delegates without influence or interference from other Council delegates or officers as guaranteed under Council

Rule 5. The week leading up to the Council 2010 AGM witnessed unacceptable interference to our right to appoint delegates to represent us at that meeting. The night before the AGM it was communicated to the DanceSport NZ secretary that one of our two delegates would not be accepted. All DanceSport NZ delegates unanimously took the decision to join with NZFATD to insist on a written guarantee of basic rights before entering the AGM. We were prepared to enter the meeting at anytime over the weekend once this issue had been resolved satisfactorily. We were notified that the meeting was called off at lunchtime on the first day but remained in Auckland until the Sunday.

6. Right to a transparent and fair election of officers and procedures for appointments.
7. Approval or ratification of all payments by way of resolution assented to by a majority of Council delegates.
8. The right to authentic minutes. There is an issue surrounding the authenticity of the minutes and changes made after the fact. This has resulted in repeated requests to record the meeting from NZFATD delegates that have been denied.
9. Right of all Council delegates to transparency. For example, a significant ongoing history of correspondence with Council on the recent de Joux hearing was only disclosed after Notice of Proceedings with the disputes tribunal was received and disclosure was unavoidable.

Until these rights are restored and the supreme collective authority of the delegates is respected, there can be no basis upon which to build trust and confront the real and important issues facing the New Zealand DanceSport sector.

It is extremely regrettable that some Council members have been left with no choice but to make a stand. If fundamental governance principles and procedures cannot be adopted by Council then it faces a very bleak future.

Subsequently, in clear violation of Council Rule 8 we have been notified that DanceSport New Zealand and the NZFATD have been expelled from Council. DanceSport New Zealand has taken advice on this matter with a view to achieving acknowledgement of its Council membership and to seeking mediation to resolve these long standing serious governance issues.

Nevertheless, DanceSport New Zealand and the NZFATD remain members of Council. We hope that all Council members can collectively resolve these serious matters in the best interests of dance athletes and coaches.

Yours sincerely,



William Joyce
President