



Canada DanceSport Professional Division DanceSport Canada Division Professionnelle

CDS PD Executive Director's 2024-2025 REPORT

1. Statistics

Summary:

- As a member of CDS, CDS PD had renewed its 2025 membership with CDS (C\$250).
- CDS Professional Registry fee (CRAD equivalent) for each professional member of CDS PD had been paid to CDS. Total fees remitted \$940.
- CDS PD Membership numbers remained stable in reporting year – 36 members.
- CDS PD financials remained stable.

Details:

- CDS PD has 18 National Championship Adjudicators, 27 Adjudicators, 2 Scrutineers, 2 WDSF Chairpersons, 2 WDSF Adjudicators, 2 WDSF PD Adjudicators, 5 WDSF Breaking Adjudicators and 1 WDSF DJ.
- This past year, CDS PD welcomed 2 new national championship adjudicators (**Petre Samoila** and **Normand Fortier**), a new adjudicator (**Sergey Kyrychenko**) and a non-certified member. This is contrary to negative comments from misguided individuals that PD board was not able to recruit new adjudicators. CDS PD membership, contrary to unsubstantiated rumours, is not in grave situation.

2. CDS PD Election

Summary:

- CDS PD election took place in September 2024.
- Current CDS PD Board Members are Patricia Goh (Executive Director), Directors – Ralph Yuan, Phil Lee and Yuriy Shelkovyy.
- I would like to thank CDS President, Sandy Brittain, for administering the nomination and voting process.

Details:

- Announcements of election and nominations were sent out to all members in August 2024. There were PD members who had previously agreed to stand for election had subsequently declined at time of nomination due to personal commitments or could not commit to expected workload.

3. CDS PD AGM

Summary:

- CDS PD held its AGM in November 2024 which saw involved discussions among its member.
- Myriad of topics pertinent to Professional dancesport ranging from standardising guidelines for invigilation, challenges of getting students, challenges of judging solos, better way is to increase members and not just focus on increasing the number of judges, etc were covered.

Details:

- Being a nationally unified group, we were successful in discussing following key matters:
 - What makes PD attractive to join? Many of the professionals in competing organization do not get to judge as compared to CDS PD members that are qualified with licentiate or associate qualifications get to judge.
 - PD has accelerated professional certification path for elite competitors.
 - Elite amateur competitors are to be encouraged to continue in Canada DanceSport instead of moving over to other organizations after they have achieved pinnacle in their amateur career. These competitors have no interest to pursue professional certification. They can teach and compete in teacher-student events without a professional certification currently as compared to judging at competitions. Judging is not their priority.
 - PD members pointed out that PD already has enough judges to adjudicate the declining pool of competitors and competitions. The better way is to increase members and number of competitions, and not just focus on increasing the number of judges.
- I would like to thank Yuriy Shelkovyy, Wayne Becker, Marjolaine Lagace and Diane James for leads of potential PD members who are members of other organizations. This had enabled me to follow-up with them one-on-one resulting in successful recruitment of new members; a team effort success story.

4. Motion

Summary:

- In October 2024, WDSF PD members at WDSF PD AGM in Poland voted on a motion that would move management of professional competitions from WDSF PD to WDSF.
- In December 2024, CDS President circulated a special resolution that would result in dismantling CDS CDS PD as a national group. **CDS PD members voiced serious concerns about the special resolution. CDS may face the risk of losing PD members to other organizations.**

Details:

- In October 2024, WDSF PD members at AGM voted to move management of professional competitions from WDSF PD to WDSF. This motion was raised last minute by WDSF PD at start of the WDSF PD AGM. WDSF PD is a sub-group within WDSF. It was only responsible for managing professional competitions. The rationale for the motion was the management activities could be

managed by WDSF which already has the organization structure, infrastructure and procedures to support all professional related matters for many years.

After the motions was passed, the structure of WDSF remains unchanged that is Professional Officials (adjudicators, scrutineers, DJ and chairpersons) are still separate from amateur athletes and professional athletes. However, in WDSF, professional officials, professional athletes and amateur athletes are eligible to run for any positions on the WDSF Presidium (governance board).

- In December of 2024, a special resolution was circulated by CDS President which would result in dismantling CDS PD as a national group. CDS PD has been a national group that governs its own administration of professional dancesport since Oct. 4, 2015 as per CDS Bylaws. As this impacts all PD members, a members meeting was called immediately and the CDS President was invited to attend to clarify. CDS President stated to the members that the rationale for this restructuring was due to WDSF PD had been dissolved.

CDS PD members subsequently have voiced their sentiments about this special resolution to change PD's structure. More than half have voiced that this would result in negative consequences in various aspects and raised the following serious concerns:

1. **Professional members do not agree with the proposed restructuring and question if it is required.** As mentioned above, after the motion was passed, the structure of WDSF remains unchanged. Professional Officials (adjudicators, scrutineers, DJ and chairpersons) are still separate from amateur athletes and professional athletes. However, in WDSF, professional officials, professional athletes and amateur athletes are eligible to run for any positions on the WDSF Presidium (governance board).
2. **Professional members do not want to be governed by amateurs.** Amateurs and professionals have respective diverse interests. Since the members meeting, more than 50% of the members have voiced concerns and are not in favour of the restructuring. **A potential negative effect is current CDS PD Professionals may leave CDS and move to other organizations.**
3. **Conflict of interest may exist.** Professionals / Judges who are under the management of amateurs, may have to judge the same amateurs in competitions.
4. **PD professional members are being discriminated as professionals.** They have to pay membership fees but are not allowed to run for president and vice president positions and would have no voice at the CDS board table. Professionals would have no vote in matters that concern them, unlike Breaking and Wheel Dance who have a voice on CDS board.

In conversation with WDSF President, Shawn Tay and WDSF VP Legal, Jim Fraser, my WDSF Presidium colleagues, they commented WDSF has not communicated that CDS is to disband and dismantle CDS PD from CDS Board.

5. **2025 CDS PD Membership Fee**

CDS President, Sandy Brittain, has communicated to PD members that PD members' 2024 membership is valid until decisions are made at the CDS AGM in April 2025. **Hence, no fee should be collected for PD individual membership at this time.**

6. **Other Activities**

Most recently, CDS PD conducted its first scrutineer exam. I would like to thank Stephen Johnson, Phil Lee and Normand Fortier for their contribution in this initiative.

Lastly, I would like to thank my board for their dedication and commitment, and CDS PD members for their support in the PD activities which has helped to advance professional dancesport in Canada.

Patricia Goh

Patricia Goh
Executive Director, Canada DanceSport Professional Division