



Canada DanceSport

DanseSport Canada

CDS PRESIDENT'S 2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT

April, 2025

Dear Board members

The past year has been an extremely busy year with the first half of the year on Olympics with Canada's Phil Wizard (BC) winning the gold medal in the 2024 summer Olympics!

From looking at the 2025 qualifier results it would appear that the number of competitors is down even in the Seniors in some Regions. At the AGM under new business we need to brain storm solutions so please give it much thought before the meeting.

CDS President's jobs

I know I write this every year but this year I have been kept extremely busy doing the following tasks for CDS:

- Updating the Canada DanceSport Bylaws, Rules, and policies as a result of motions passed at the 2024 CDS AGM. This becomes more time consuming each year, especially when NSOs are instructed to change different policies. I first have to insert all Bylaw & Rule changes in the English Rulebook and send off the changes to the translator for the French translation before making changes to the French Rulebook.
- Helping Sy, CDS secretary, with the minutes from the 2024 CDS AGM
- This past year I have again been working closely with the CDS Breaking Committee, Breaking Canada, and the Breaking Officials due to the Olympics & funding.
- Registering Breaking officials online for many different WDSF Breaking Adjudicators Congresses.
- Informing CDS PD about upcoming WDSF Adjudicators Congresses especially since some need it for their WDSF license renewal.
- Answering numerous emails, and attending Microsoft Teams or zoom meetings with different people from the **Canadian Olympic Committee** regarding preparations for Paris 2024 Olympics and Breaking.
- Answering numerous emails, submitting applications, and attending Microsoft Teams or zoom meetings with different people from **Sport Canada** regarding funding framework, and CDS's obligations in order to receive funding from Heritage Canada for Breaking for Paris 2024 Olympics and the future since Breaking is not scheduled to be in the 2028 Summer Olympics in USA.
- CDS has been working closely with COC on Safety in Sport and funding for Breaking with the COC Own the Podium program.
- Emails and zoom meetings with SDRCC (Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada) regarding OSIC (Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner) and renewing our mandatory Signatory if you want to still receive government funding. Late last year all NSOs were informed that SDRCC as of April 1st 2025, would no longer be responsible for Safe Sport but instead it would come under CCES (Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport) which also looks after Anti-Doping for Canada. As a result of this change it involved many digital meetings, Policy changes & Bylaw changes for all NSOs. This resulted in CDs Board email vote on Bylaw changes to our CDS Bylaws.
- After January 2025, there were meetings with Sport Lawyer, Will Russell, on all the Rule & Policy changes required to switch from OSIC to CCSP (Canadian Safe Sport Program).

- Attending zoom meetings & emails with Sport Canada on the new Canadian Governance Code as it pertains to Canada DanceSport. An urgent motion with Bylaw changes were required to address our shortcomings, if not CDS no longer could receive government funding.
- Compiling and keeping up to date the CDS Amateur Teacher Records. This list is constantly changing since some amateur teachers retire from teaching while other elite athletes decide to complete the application, pay the fee, and start teaching. It is something that our current newly qualified athletes are not doing but I feel some top athletes are teaching without a license. The CDS Treasurer received no Amateur Teaching Licenses for 2024. This topic needs more discussion at the AGM.
- Maintaining the CDS Face Book Account. Regions are encouraged to send me photos, competition flyers, and any upcoming events that they want advertised on the CDS Face Book page. Please send in any additional wording in English & French.
- Although most WDSF World Championships & World Cups were held in 2024 only a few CDS athletes decided to compete in the WDSF World Championships. Many declined some worlds because they did not feel safe travelling to the country where the WDSF World Championship was located. A complete list of 2024 of World results is found later in this report. This year, due to less seniors competing in qualifiers I anticipate less CDS athletes going to WDSF Worlds.
- Answering emails and telephone calls from CDS Registered Athletes and coaches.
- Keeping the CDS website up to date by constantly having the webmaster change different items and having major sections, especially Policies, translated into both official languages.
- Working with the translator to update CDS Rule Book, CDS Policies, and parts of CDS Website.
- Sending out the Notice of CDS AGM by February 15 to all Board members which included Delegate's form, past AGM minutes, Draft Agenda, updated CDS Rule Book and all Motions that were submitted by January 31, 2025.
- Writing and circulating the final Agenda with time allowances for the 2025 CDS AGM.
- Having telephone calls, numerous emails, & texts with CDS Breaking Sport Director, Geoff Reyes.
- Having telephone calls, emails, & texts with CDS VP & DSBC President, Pinky Wong, on many different topics relating to CDS
- Having meetings either by email, text, or on the telephone with CDS PD Executive Director, Patricia Goh, to discuss PD matters.
- Completing any government forms that are required for CDS.
- Receiving and answering emails from **WDSF** member countries on topics affecting many countries.
- Answering emails from WDSF and forwarding any important Press Releases, competition news, WDSF meeting minutes, and WDSF AGM information to all CDS Board members.
- Working on the **WDSF Sports For All Commission** and providing a Canadian prospective on DanceSport in Canada and how it involves all ages & abilities.
- Corresponding with the CDS Board on many matters throughout the year on situations arising, forms, and letters sent out.
- Plus numerous other tasks!

I have found my work load has increased due to Breaking's addition Paris 2024 Olympic and only increased more as the Summer Olympics got closer. This past year again I kept to my personal policy of working regular office hours and therefore only doing CDS work on weekdays and within certain hours. But unfortunately this year I found myself frequently working even on weekends and spending long hours daily due to different government agencies requiring changes.

Unfortunately due to this still happening I find it necessary to repeat this reminder. Please remind your athletes that only the CDS Executive can correspond with the WDSF office. There is a WDSF policy that they do not respond to individual athletes but only to their National Body. Any questions they receive, the WDSF office forwards it to me to answer. Some CDS athletes, without asking their Regional Association or CDS, write emails to the WDSF office with questions that the Regional or CDS Board could easily answer. Of course, unbeknown to the athletes, the WDSF office just forwards their emails to me. If CDS does not know the answer then CDS will write to the WDSF to get the correct answer.

CDS Business

This year a number of issues were discussed by the CDS Board.

1. Annual CCC Trophies

At the 2024 AGM there was a discussion on the CCC National trophies since cost of transporting 24 trophies to the CCC was getting expensive & athletes did not want to transport them home especially if they won more than 1 trophy. No motion was passed at the CCC.

In the summer of 2024 it was decided that each Region would keep any trophies that were donated by either their Association or members of their Regional Association. Regional like DSBC & DSAB would receive 2 other trophies that were either donated by CDS, Atlantic Region, or another Region so that everyone had a minimum of 4 CCC plus the # Annual Trophies when they host the CCC.

That only the 3 Adult trophies/plaques would be awarded annually but not kept by the winner. The producer of the CCC must plate the 3 trophies & ship it to the next CCC producer at their expense as part of the agreement to hosting the CCC.

2. CDS PD

On December 12, 2024 as a direct result of the decision made at the WDSF PD AGM and WDSF General AGM to dissolve the Professional Division, I circulated a Special Resolution.

- a. This Special Resolution would repeal Bylaw 18 (now 19) and the terms of office of the CDS PD Board. This resulted were concerns voiced by Patricia of CDS PD, DSQ, and DSAB.

Both DSQ & DSAB expressed concerns on management of PD members in their Region and DSAB was also concerned on whether it could affect government funding.

- b. This was followed up by a quite heated zoom meeting where nothing was resolved.

- c. In January Gord & I met with Patricia & Phil to discuss this over a supper at a restaurant.

- d. On February 15th I circulated my motion on this matter with a few slight changes to address everyone's concerns. Upon investigation I found that 11 out of 99 WDSF members list as having a Professional Division of which 9 of them are European countries whose Federation are run by Professionals. This is not the model that CDS wants to copy since we have witnessed what CDF/NDCC has done in Canada to amateur and their lack of respect for amateurs. According to the Canadian Sport Governance Code a board member should be independent. It could be a conflict of interest if an active Professional Adjudicator would be a CDS Board member especially on the executive.

I am open to discussion on how we can best achieve the merging of Professionals, even if classified as Officials instead of Regional members.

3. CCES Safe Sport

Geoff, Pinky and myself attended a Teams meeting with CCES regarding the transition of Canada DanceSport from SDRCC (Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada) and their Abuse Free Sport program to CCES (The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport) and their Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) which will come effective April 1, 2025. On February 26th there was an email voting on Bylaw changes whereby:

- a. Canada DanceSport is a federally funded sport organization required to adopt the Canadian Safe Sport Program as a valid policy document incorporated into its rules;
- b. To replace CDS's current Privacy Policy with CCES Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Privacy Policy.

Both of these motions were unanimously accepted.

4. CDS compliance with Canadian Sport Government Code

In March Geoff & myself had talks with Anne from Sport Canada regarding CDS complying with the Canadian Sport Governance Code. An Urgent Motion was circulated addressing these concerns which resulted

- a. in change to Bylaw 13.1 adding a Breaking Athlete to the CDS Board even though we addressed this at last year's AGM
- b. New Bylaw 13.9 addressing diversity and inclusion on the Board to agree with our current Inclusion Policy
- c. New Bylaw 18 called Committees and creating a Nomination committee and a Financial Committee.
- d. Renumbering all Bylaws.

All of these motions were unanimously accepted.

SAFE SPORT

Over the last half of 2024 & beginning of 2025 I attended zoom meetings and emails from SDRCC, (Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada) OSIC (Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner) COC legal advice meetings, and Minister of Sport regarding the governments new Safe Sport initiative to address Abuse in Sport. There were many news stories regarding different sports (soccer in 2024 Olympics) that brought it to MPs attention. This has been a very lengthy & sometimes stressful process changing or adopting new CDS policies, collecting OSIC consent forms, compiling a master list of forms received, informing all now that they must again sign the online form even though they originally signed a hard copy which CDS has, and attending all these meetings. There were quarterly meetings from OSIC & reports published. CDS must continue to educate our coaches, teachers, & athletes about Safe Sport.

In the summer of 2024 all NSOs were informed that CCES, not SDRCC, would be looking after Safe Sport as of January 2025. By the fall that date of the change was changed to April 1st. Again CDS & all NSOs had numerous meeting with CCES to implement Bylaw changes, and submit a list of CDS participants (CDS Board, WDSF Breaking Judges, Canadian Breaking Judges, Breaking National athletes, their coaches, & their support team) to CCES and have everyone complete a different Safe Sport Education course & sign the online consent form.

CDS Recognized competitions.

There have been 8 CDS Recognized competitions (including 2025 CCC) in Canada since the 2024 CCC for International Style Standard & Latin and some Breaking events but so far we have not received the dates of Breaking events scheduled for 2025 due to waiting to see how much funding they receive from Sport Canada for the next year.

June – 30th Island Fantasy Ball, BC
 November- 33rd Annual Snowball Classic, BC
 November- La Relance, QUE

2025

March- Ontario Championships, ON
 March - 60th UBC Gala, BC
 March - Alberta Winter Classic, ALB
 March -La Super-Am, QUE
 April-67th CCC, BC

Each Region will report more on the competitions held in their Region.

This past year we have unfortunately seen less CDS Recognized competitions due to 2 Adjudicators with their students changing to CDF/ NDCC competitions and a definite action by CDF/NDCC in Ontario to run

more events using not only our titles but also annual dates & venues where we run some of our events. The CDF/NDCC promoters in Ontario are running approximately 2 competitions or galas a month usually in hotel venues. The new CDF/NDCC Rule has made it more expensive for our CDS promoters to run competitions due to hiring out of province scrutineers & judges.

I feel that more frequent smaller competitions might be the way to justify to athletes why they need Regional membership. Hopefully we can discuss later today how to increase the number of events offered in 2025/26.

CDS Amateur Teachers

In 2024/25, no Amateur Teachers have paid their Annual fee but I personally know that others are teaching. Others have retired from competing or have stopped teaching.

Breaking

In one short year Breaking has accomplished a lot this past year. Geoff Reyes, the CDS Breaking Sport Director will address everything in his report

Geoff Reyes is taking the lead on working with **Canada DanceSport, Canadian Olympic Committee, and Sport Canada.**

Unfortunately Geoff is unable to attend the AGM since he is CDS's representative to the Canadian Olympic Committee Session (COC AGM) in Ottawa which is held the same weekend as ours.

Eric Zig Martel, event organizer for WDSF BfG Montreal 2 day event in 2023, is a well-respected Bboy from Fresh Format Crew out of Montreal. He is a National Director for BREAKING CANADA. He goes as team leader to some big WDSF competitions with Team Canada Breaking Athletes. In September he organized a team of 5 youth athletes and their parents to attend the WDSF World Youth Breaking Championships in China. Breaking coach & trainer, Thaiyo Seo accompanied the athletes and parents. I had to do all the registering of the athletes etc and use WhatsApp to discuss Team Canada – only problem due to time change I was doing this late at night!

Veronique Labrosse is looking after membership for Breaking athletes and looking after informing all National Breaking athletes & Support team of completing the CCES'CSSP Education & sign the latest consent forms.

Canadian Olympic Committee (COC)

Since Canada DanceSport was made a Session Class A member in the beginning of 2022 we receive an invitation to their AGM and get to vote. The 2024 COC AGM was held in Montreal on the same weekend as our own AGM & CCC therefore we were unable to send anyone. For 2025 the COC Session will be held on the same weekend as the CDS' AGM and we did not want to go 2 years in a row with no CDS representative present. Geoff was the logical choice because he has dealt with many of the different people in the COC due to Breaking at the Summer Olympics. Hopefully he can get some valuable information on what direction the new government will be on the importance of Sports in Canada.

Sport Canada

CDS set up a direct deposit to CDS bank account for different grants for Breaking. In 2024 Breaking received \$175,750 from Sport Canada (Canadian Heritage) & COC (Own the Podium). Phil Wizard was carded by COC so received a monthly Stipend which has now been stopped due to no Breaking in the next Olympics.

In 2025 so far CDS Breaking Division has received no funding but new application has been submitted to Sport Canada for funding from Heritage Canada Sport Support. A decision will be made soon as to how much Breaking will receive since next there is the 2026 Youth Olympics in Dakar. Phil was invited by WDSF to compete at the 2025 World Games but had to decline due to a busy schedule.

WDSF E Cards

A REPEAT MESSAGE

Most CDS WDSF athletes have not renewed their WDSF E-cards since many have not competed in WDSF competitions since COVID in early 2020.

Athletes now must renew online but if once WDSF sends the email warning there is only 3 months to renew, the athlete will then receive a final warning after which the WDSF will retire the athlete. Once an athlete's card is marked expired the athlete can only renew by contacting the CDS WDSF Administrator, Gord, first, and he will then send them a link with a renewal notice from WDSF. Before sending the athlete the link he checks with the Regional Association that they are a current paid member. A problem that athletes have encountered is that their renewal notices often go to their junk mail box or they change their email address but don't update on their WDSF profile so they never receive the renewal notice. Inform any athletes when they do renew to check that none of their information has changed- email address, partner, etc.

If a Canadian Athlete is looking for a new partner outside of Canada remember that there are WDSF Rules governing when they can represent another country. If eligible then they must be transferred in the WDSF Registration System by their country's Administrator to Canada's WDSF Administrator (Gord). Gord will not accept any transfers from another country until he has been assured that they have a CDS Regional membership. It can take up to 30 days for another country to approve a transfer so inform him well in advance of the athletes wanting to compete for CDS.

2024 WDSF CHAMPIONSHIPS/CUPS Results

Only a handful of CDS athletes competed in WDSF World events in 2024. Here are their results. Although official invitations were sent to the CDS Board & qualified athletes many elected not to participate in certain WDSF World events due to location of the event.

Junior

WDSF World Junior II Standard Championship in Timisoara - Romania on 14 September 2024

49/55 Daniel Reunov - Marielle Shvaitser, ON

WDSF World Junior II Ten Dance Championship in Kosice - Slovakia on 28 September 2024

21/26 Daniel Reunov - Marielle Shvaitser, ON

Youth

WDSF World Youth Breaking B-Boys Championships in Wuxi - People's Republic of China on 28 - 29 September

104/138 B-Boy Nightmare - Alexis Gagné, QUE

109/138 B-Boy Sparrow - Laurent Louis Gagné QUE

115/138 B-Boy Isha - Isaac Exner Shabbits, ALB

118/138 B-Boy Taane - Taane Rohan Ji Yu Gibbons, BC

WDSF World Youth Breaking B-Girls Championships in Wuxi - People's Republic of China on 28 - 29 September

49/79 B-Girl Ace - Asiah Teresa Donald QUE

WDSF World Youth Latin Championship in Sarajevo - Bosnia and Herzegovina on 30 November 2024

52/68 Nikita Zhuravlov - Anna Osminin, ON

53/68 Patrick Busoi - Maria Alecia Cernat, ALB

Adult

Olympic Games Adult Breaking 1 vs 1 B-Boys in Paris - France on 10 August 2024

1st B-Boy Phil Wizard - Philip Kim, BC

WDSF World Adult Standard Championship in Leipzig - Germany on 12 October 2024

68/70 Ivan Kolomiyets - Audrey Turcotte-Miao, QUE

70. Ezra Parker - Shantele Cherkasskiy, BC

Senior I

WDSF World Senior I Ten Dance Championship in Rotterdam - Netherlands on 13 October 2024

21/22 Ryan Hung - Heather Jean Nelson, ALB

Senior II

WDSF World Senior II Latin Championship in Bremen - Germany on 02 June 2024

46/65 Victor Tsemko - Sylvie Bourguignon, QUE

WDSF World Senior II Ten Dance Championship in Vagos - Portugal on 27 October 2024

28/31 Alexei Achinfiev - Csilla Kosztak, ON

Senior III

WDSF World Championship Senior III Standard in Bremen - Germany on 31 May 2024

142/208 Victor Tsemko - Sylvie Bourguignon, QUE

WDSF World Senior III Latin Championship in Platja d'Aro - Spain on 02 November 2024

37/99 Victor Tsemko - Sylvie Bourguignon, QUE

Senior IV

WDSF World Senior IV Standard Championship in Vienna - Austria on 26 July 2024

36/208 William Lee - Fiona Tam, ON

40/208 Augustine Wong - Catherine Wong, ON

60/208 Daniel Benjamin - Marjolaine Lagace, QUE

129/208 Harry Knox - Teresa Knox, ON

129/208 Glen Shenton - Isabelle Shenton, ON

190/208 Neil Fleischmann - Carmen Galang, BC

208. Michel Rioux - Sylvie Letendre, QUE

WDSF/CDS Officials

Currently in 2025 we have:

2 WDSF General "A" Adjudicators, both with WDSF PD Adjudicators, 2 WDSF Chairmen

1 WDSF Scrutineer, & 1 WDSF DJ

7 WDSF Breaking Judge "A", & 1 Breaking Head Judges/Chairman

Some CDS officials chose not to renew since:

- (a) No WDSF competition in Canada this past year and they were not asked to judge in another country
- (b) WDSF Adjudicators are required to attend a WDSF Congress once every 2 years and a couple of adjudicators have not attended a Congress since 2019 and no longer are Congresses held virtually. CDS cannot afford to hold an in person Congress for only a couple of people.

WDSF AGM

The 2024 WDSF AGM was held in person this year with the Forum and PD AGM on October 26 & the General AGM on October 27th, 2024 in Warsaw, Poland. It was well attended with Gord & myself as delegates for CDS. At the AGM it was decided by WDSF PD to eliminate the Professional Division. All members present agreed with this decision.

The 2025 WDSF AGM will be held back in June in Bucharest, Romania.

CDS Professional Division

I will allow CDS PD President, Patricia Goh, to inform you about the accomplishments CDS PD has done this year.

Wheel Dance of Canada

Dr Iris Kulbatski has been successful as an Associate Member of CDS. Three Wheel Dance athletes put on demos at the 2024 CCC in Toronto and were well received. One Wheel Dance athletes put on a Standard demo Saturday evening at the 2025 Ontario Championships.

Future Plans

We need to:

- a) Develop a plan to encourage promoters to run CDS Recognized competitions across Canada & entice DanceSport athletes to attend CDS Recognized competitions.
- b) Discuss how we can make competitions more economically feasible.

- c) Brainstorm in our CDS AGM how to attract board members & athletes to join our Regional Associations
- d) Develop a CCC schedule for next few years

A special thank you to Geoff Reyes, the CDS Breaking Sport Director, who has taken over a huge share of the work with the Breaking project, working with COC, Sport Canada, Own The Podium, the SDRCC, and the CCES. Thank you Geoff, I really appreciate all the assistance you have given again me this past year!

Another thank you goes out to my VP, Pinky Wong who also assisted me whenever she could with WDSF, Breaking, Sport Canada, Safe Sport CCES forms & policies, Canadian Governance Code, and CDS discussions to name just a few. Thank you, Pinky.

I would like to thank all the CDS Board members and their CDS Regional Associations Board members for their support and volunteer work that they do on behalf of DanceSport in Canada.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Brittain,
Canada DanceSport President