

CHAPTER 6 - WHEELCHAIR DANCE SPORT

1. BASIC RULES

- 1.1. The IPC Wheelchair Dance Committee (IPC-WDSC) is the elected governing body for all International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competitions.
- 1.2. The rules and regulations of Wheelchair Dance Sport shall correspond with the additions laid down in these IPC rules.
- 1.3. The following rules will be used as a compliment to the competition rules of the International Dance Sport Federation (IDSF).
- 1.4. The IPC-WDSC is responsible for working out these rules agreed by its Sports Assembly (WDSA) and that these rules are observed.
- 1.5. For specific competitions the IPC-WDSC may impose supplementary rules on the organizer.

2. WHEELCHAIR DANCE SPORT PROGRAMME

2.1. Official IPC Competitions

Official IPC competitions are :

- * Winter Paralympic Games
- * World Championships

2.2. Sanctioned IPC Competitions

IPC sanction is required for the organizing of:

- * Regional Championships
- * International Invitation Competitions (names such as Cup, Trophy and Grand Prix can be used)
- * Open National Championships

To be qualified as an International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competition' the invitation has to be sent to more than four (4) countries.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Couples

- 3.1.1. A dance couple must be comprised of a male and a female partner, one of them must be a wheelchair user.
- 3.1.2. All wheelchair dancers must have a minimum disability. Standing dancers must be able to perform as an able-bodied dancer.

3.2. Medical Conditions

- 3.2.1. Normal health and to be suitable to do sport from a medical point of view is required.
- 3.2.2. **Eligibility**
Eligible for competition are athletes with loco motor disabilities in the lower part of the body as defined in 3.2.2.1.
- 3.2.2.1. **Main principle**
The athlete must have an impairment of permanent nature in the lower part of the body of such degree that it :
- a) is obvious and easily recognizable
 - b) makes ordinary walking and consequently dancing impossible.
- Interpretation of main principle:
Minimal disability is regarding:
- * Amputation trough the ankle
 - * Paresis loss of 10 muscle strength points in both legs (not counting grade 1 and 2; maximum score 80 points)
 - * Joint Mobility ankylosis (fusion) of ankle joint
 extension defect of at least 30 degrees or ankylosis of knee joint
 - * CP Spasticity/disco-ordination corresponding to CP class 7
 - * Leg shortening at least seven (7) centimeters
- Note:
- (a) Normal upper body function is expected. Any impairment in upper body does not affect requirements of minimum disability in lower body.
 - (b) Persons with hip joint disorders only, i.e. restricted mobility, are not expected to participate and are not eligible.
 - (c) Persons without required minimal disability, but who cannot dance regularly because of chronic post traumatic painful disorders, instability of ankle or knee joints or similar conditions, are not eligible.
- 3.2.3. Doping is forbidden in accordance with the IPC (Section 2, Chapter 8).
- 3.3. **Registration**
- 3.3.1. Applications for an 'International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competition' are exclusively made through the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) or relevant National Sports Organizations for the Disabled (NDSO).
- 3.3.2. The invitations for an 'International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competition' must be arranged between the NPC/NDSO and the IPC-WDSC. The invitation must contain the date of the registration of the competition by IPC-WDSC.
- 3.3.3. Each NPC/NDSO is allowed to send a maximum of three couples per class to the Official IPC Competitions and Regional Championships, provided that the IPC fee is paid.

- 3.3.4. Dancers must belong to an NPC/NDSO to participate at 'International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competitions'.
- 3.3.5. Each competitor shall have a valid national start book mentioning: name, address, NPC/NDSO and club or an ID card.

3.4. **Insurance**

Each competitor should have a personal insurance against accident and liability. Neither the IPC nor the organizer is liable for any accident.

4. **COMPETITION CATEGORIES**

CATEGORIES	
<u>Form</u>	Combi Dance
<u>Kind</u>	Single Couples
<u>Sections</u>	Wheelchair Dance Sport (a) Standard Dances (b) Latin American Dances
<u>Classes</u>	LWD 1 LWD 2

- 4.1. **Form**
Combi Dance: A wheelchair dancer is dancing with a standing partner.
- 4.2. **Kind**
Single Couples: Each couple is dancing independently.
- 4.3. **Sections**
(a) Standard Dances:
Waltz, Tango, Viennese Waltz, Slow Foxtrot, Quickstep.
(b) Latin-American Dances:
Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba, Paso doble. Jive.
- 4.4. **Classes**
Each section can be divided in classes (see 5 Classification).

5. **CLASSIFICATION**

5.1. **General Principal**

- 5.1.1. The classification is a functional classification, which can be adapted to any category.
- 5.1.2. Five criteria are tested to evaluate the function of upper limb and

trunk control using a point system. The point limit depends on the category (see point 4 above).

5.2. Testing Procedure

5.1.3. The athlete has to be tested on a hard floor under competition conditions (in competition wheelchair e.g. straps, supports).

5.2.2. The function is assessed for each side of the body with

2 points	for full function,
1 point	for reduced function,
0 point	for no function.

Maximum points are 20.

5.2.3. The five criteria are:

Wheel Control: the ability to accelerate and stop the wheel by one or the other hand;

Push Function: by pushing in hand contact with the partner with one or the other arm the movement of the wheelchair can be controlled;

Pull Function: by pulling in hand contact with the partner with one or the other arm the movement of the wheelchair can be controlled;

Full Arm Function: the athlete must be able to perform a controlled movement of the free arm reaching full extension of the joints and full co-ordination;

Trunk Rotation: hands in the neck, the athlete must be able to fully rotate the trunk without losing balance.

5.3. Classes

The classes for Wheelchair Dance Sport Competitions in the section Standard Dances and the section Latin American Dances are:

LWD 1	14 points or less
LWD 2	more than 14 points.

5.4. Classification Card

All disabled competitors must present an IPC Medical Classification card prior to competition. After two international classifications the class can be permanent.

5.5. Permanent Classification

* Basis is a disability, which is not likely to improve.

* 'Permanent' can only be given by two (2) different international classifiers from different countries.

* Athletes showing their permanent classification by a valid classification card do not have to be tested before the competition.

5.6. Classification Procedure

5.6.1. Official IPC Competitions

For the IPC Competitions the classifiers can be selected from the official

classifier list by the organiser.

The team of classifiers has to consist of minimum one classifier trainer and one international classifier and one national classifier. Minimum one of them has to be a medical doctor.

The proposed team has to be approved by the Classification Committee.

5.6.2. **Regional Championships approved by the IPC-WDSC**

At least one international classifier from the official list has to lead the classification. Minimum of one medical doctor has to be present.

5.6.3. **Organizing Principles**

- * Sufficient time has to be provided by the organizer, at least two (2) hours before the warm up dancing. The room must be big enough and have a hard floor to test dancing.
- * Only one classifier who is the primarily responsible classifier signs the classification.
- * The team leader of the classified athletes can protest the classification within one hour after classification (see also general protest regulation of IPC).
- * The team of other nations can protest within a half-hour after the competition by their team leader.
- * The protest classification should be done within one hour after protest.
- * The protest classification has to be done by a different team. They have to hear the athlete's explanations as well as the first classifiers opinion.
- * The times can be prolonged for special reasons in agreement with the involved persons.

6. **GENERAL RULES**

6.1. The two sections (Standard Dances and Latin-American Dances) have to be organised in one or maximum two following days.

6.2. **Time Allowed and Tempi**

In all rounds of International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competitions the music played shall be a minimum of one and a half minutes duration for Waltz, Tango, Slow Fox-trot, Quickstep, Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rumba and Paso doble. The time for the Viennese Waltz and Jive shall be a minimum of one minute. In the qualifying rounds the same music must be played for different heats. The tempi are defined in the 'Amendments and Supplements to the Competition Rules.'

6.3. **Type of Music**

In all 'International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competitions' the music must have the character of the dances, for example no disco music in Latin-American Dances.

6.4. **Dance Floor**

The dance floor must have a surface of minimum 200 sqm where no side length is below 10m. Maximum number of couples on the floor are defined in the 'Amendments and Supplements to the Competition Rules.'

- 6.5. **Competition Dress**
Rules are defined in the 'Amendments and Supplements to the Competition Rules.'
7. **RULES FOR ADJUDICATION**
- 7.1. **Rounds**
- 7.1.1. 'International Wheelchair Dance Sport Competitions' shall comprise at least of two qualifying rounds to allow couples the opportunity of dancing twice. It depends on the amount of couples if the competition consist of a first round, second round, semi-final and final. The Technical Delegate shall decide the number of couples to be re-called from the qualifying rounds.
- 7.1.2. At least 50% of participating couples shall be re-called to the next round excluding the Final.
- 7.2. **Adjudication**
- 7.2.1. Only persons from the list of qualified adjudicators can be appointed as adjudicator for Official IPC Competitions and Regional Championships. The proposal from the organiser has to be approved by the IPC-WDSC.
- 7.2.2. The number of adjudicators must be five (5) for Sanctioned IPC Competitions. For Official IPC Competitions the number has to be seven (7). The adjudicators must come from different countries for Official IPC Competitions and Regional Championships. The proposal from the organiser has to be approved by the IPC-WDSC.
- 7.2.3. In the final of Official and Sanctioned IPC Competitions the adjudicators shall place the couples. One (1) is the best place marking. The same place must not be given to more than one couple. The Skating System has to be used.
- 7.2.4. No more than six couples should participate in the final of Official IPC Competitions and Regional Championships, but if more than six couples qualify the Technical Delegate shall decide about the number of participating couples in the final.
- 7.2.5. See 'Amendments and Supplements to the Competition Rules.'
- 7.2.6. The organizer must display marking sheets upon conclusion of the competition.
- 7.3. **Judging Criteria**
The judging criteria are defined in the 'Amendments and Supplements to the Competition Rules.'