

British Dance Council

Limited by Guarantee Registered in England No. 502695 - Established 1929

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Member of the World Dance Council – Member of Sport and Recreation Alliance (formally CCPR) –
Member of the Music Users' Council

Corporate Members of the Council: Allied Dancing Association, Associated Board of Dance, Association of Dance & Freestyle Professionals, Ballroom Dancers' Federation, British Association of Teachers of Dancing, British Competitors' Dancesport Corporation, Crown Entertainment Centres Ltd, Dance Promoters' Association, Dancesport Scotland, Dancesport Wales, Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, International Dance Teachers' Association, National Association of Teachers of Dancing, Northern Counties Dance Teachers' Association, Scottish Dance Teachers' Alliance, United Kingdom Alliance, Welsh Alliance of Professional Teachers of Dancing

11th July 2014

STATEMENT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Proposal for BDC Rule Change

Firstly, I refer you to the BDC Rule Book where it is recorded item 11) on page 2.

"the British Dance Council has adopted a policy of equity which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, disability, sexuality, religion or political opinion"
This is a clear and open statement of where the BDC stands on these issues.

Secondly, to reassure the couples who dance in competitions and championships held under BDC Rules, the BDC will not, as is being claimed be banning same sex couples from competitions they have hitherto been entering.

Competitions and championships held under BDC Rules allow for same sex competitions and there are very many of these throughout the year.

The rules also allow for competitions that are called "Open" competitions in which same sex and mixed sex couples can compete.

It is clear that mixed sex couples cannot compete in same sex competitions. Same sex and mixed sex couples can and do take part in the other events.

Media coverage of a proposed introduction of an additional sector for competitions for mixed sex couples only has produced a great deal of protest seemingly based upon the incorrect to assertion that this would result in all same sex couples being banned from all BDC competitions. If the proposal was passed it would mean that same sex couples would be excluded only from this new proposed section, but not from any other section. Clearly this would result in the same situation where mixed sex couples are excluded from same sex competitions.

As any decision regarding any changes to BDC Rules is a matter for the appropriate meeting and because of the incessant demands for interviews and comment I issue this statement.

Yours sincerely,



BRYAN ALLEN
President

