

# WDSF Operating Policy

## WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List and participation in World and Continental Championships

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The World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) recognizes the importance of nurturing emerging talents within the disciplines of DanceSport. To promote and support the growth of Rising Star couples, the WDSF introduces the Rising Star Ranking List. This operating policy outlines the conditions, procedures, and benefits associated with the WDSF Rising Star Ranking List for the Standard and Latin disciplines within the Adult Age category. The policy aims to provide a clear framework for the qualification and participation of couples within the Rising Star category, motivating them to reach their potential and beyond, in WDSF World and Continental Championships.

## **1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- 1.1 A couple should have an Active status of both Athletes' ID cards
- 1.2 A separate WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List will be created for Standard and Latin DanceSport disciplines.
- 1.3 The WDSF Rising Star Ranking List is applicable to the Adult Age category in accordance with Rule E.2 of the WDSF Competition Rules.
- 1.4 Only couples participating in the Standard and/or Latin disciplines are eligible for inclusion in the ranking list.

## **2. RANKING CALCULATION:**

- 2.1 The ranking will be based on the couples' 4 best results achieved in the last 12 months.

## **3. WILD CARD ALLOCATION:**

- 3.1 The Top 6 couples in each discipline (Standard and Latin) on the WDSF Rising Star Ranking List will earn a Wild Card.
- 3.2 These Wild Cards will grant the nominated couples eligibility to participate in WDSF World and/or Continental Championships.

## **4. NOMINATION PROCESS:**

- 4.1 The nomination process will be carried out automatically on the first day of the previous month of the respective event.

*Example: if the World Championship is on 15 of November 2024 the nomination will be performed automatically based on the WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.*

- 4.2 Nominated couples will receive an email notification, and the National Member Body (NMB) will be copied on this notification.

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF ATTENDANCE:**

- 5.1 Nominated couples must confirm their attendance via a provided link, sent to their official email address, on the WDSF website within 7 clear days from the date of nomination.
- 5.2 Failure to confirm within the stipulated time frame will result in automatic reallocation to the next best ranked couple.
- 5.3 The update of the email address within the WDSF database is the sole responsibility of the athlete.

## **6. REALLOCATION AND FURTHER REALLOCATION:**

- 6.1 In case the nominated couple didn't confirm its nomination, the reallocation to the next highest nominated couple will be made.
- 6.2 Only one reallocation per couple will be made.
- 6.3 Subsequent reallocations will be at the discretion of the WDSF Vice-President for Sport.

## **7. QUOTA OF NATIONAL MEMBER BODY (NMB):**

- 7.1 The Wild Card nominations through the Rising Star Ranking List will not affect the NMB's existing quota of 2 couples per country for World and Continental Championships.
- 7.2 NMBs can have a maximum of 2 couples per Championship through their quota, plus the couples qualified via the WDSF Rising Star Ranking List.
- 7.3 A maximum of 2 additional couples per NMB will be able to qualify through the WDSF Rising Star Ranking List.

## **8. STAR COUPLE STATUS:**

- 8.1 Couples listed on the WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List and eventually making it into the Top 50 of the WDSF World Ranking List will be considered Star Couples.
- 8.2 The couples listed in Top 50 of the WDSF World Ranking List will be automatically removed from the WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List.
- 8.3 Star couples will no longer be eligible for participation in World or Continental Championships through the WDSF Rising Star Ranking List, even though the nomination was already sent out, but still not confirmed.
- 8.4 In the event that a couple confirmed their nomination for a World or Continental Championship via the WDSF Rising Star Ranking List and in the meantime earned a position in the Top 50 of the World Ranking List, the last competition's results that elevated them to the Top 50 will be disregarded for ranking purposes.

## 9. ORGANIZER OBLIGATIONS:

9.1 This Operating Policy will not impose any financial burden to the Organisers of the World and Continental Championships with regard to the couples qualified through the WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List, such as accommodation, transportation, etc. The provision of benefits to couples who qualify through the WDSF Rising Stars Ranking List remains at the discretion of the Championship organizers.

## 10. IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:

10.1 The Rising Star Ranking List will commence on September 1, 2023, with the first World and/or Continental Championship featuring qualified couples scheduled for 2024.

10.2 No retroactive calculations will be made since the date of publication of this Operating Policy.

This policy aims to provide a fair and transparent process for the qualification of Rising Star couples, motivating them to realize their potential through the possibility of participation in the World and Continental Championships in DanceSport. It also allows NMBs to maintain their existing quotas, encourages development and progression within the discipline, and rewards couples who achieve exceptional performance, without imposing any additional financial burden to the organisers.

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