



North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association
Embracing and Welcoming All Dance Couples and Dancers

Announcements

Annual NASSPDA Board Election

The terms of NASSPDA's Directors of the Board, Eddie Alba, Debbie Esparza, Lee Fox, Horace Luong and Kalin Mitov, to serve on the Board are expiring. With the exception of Horace Luong, all others are running to serve again (Thank you Horace for your invaluable services!!!). Everyone is welcome to run for these positions, whether self-nominated or nominated by others (see <https://nasspda.org/board-member-election>). Though this year's deadline has past (see below), NASSPDA is always looking for new candidates that want to lend their skills to its mission. The timeline for this year's election is as follows:

- Candidate application deadline – April 18
- Ballots will be sent April 23
- Voting ends May 7
- Confirmation of election results and voting of officers in the Board Meeting on May 15

If you are a NASSPDA member with an updated membership, please look for your ballot in April and make your voice heard by casting your votes for the listed candidates.

NASSPDA Competition Rules

The Board of NASSPDA finalized the process of aligning NASSPDA's competition rules to those that had been adopted over a year ago by IFSSDA. The changes involve mostly renaming Formation Team categories and the judging criteria for these as well as Showdance. The updated version will be published on NASSPDA's website shortly and a link will be included in the next eNewsletter.

Scholarships for 2022 NASSPDA Sanctioned Events

NASSPDA's Board of Directors is currently reviewing the process and levels of support of NASSPDA's Scholarship Program, considering a broader approach that might include support for attending international events and different levels of financial assistance. Please stay tuned for updates!



Ambassador Program

In need of broader visibility, better promotion in the DanceSport world and advocating for same-sex competitive dancing, NASSPDA is looking to engage Ambassadors.

As many North American DanceSport organizations have changed their definition of a dance couple, we are witnessing interest and participation of newly formed same-sex, reverse role, and gender-neutral couples at their events. Many of those couples haven't been introduced or exposed to NASSPDA as an organization; hence, they also do not know the benefits of being a member of NASSPDA.

[Please use this link to access description and details as well as the application form](#)

Donation

A Big Thank You!

The Board of Directors would like to sincerely thank all the [individuals and businesses](#) who have donated to NASSPDA in our recent fundraising drive. Through the generosity of our community, we've exceeded the match offered by NASSPDA Vice-President Debbie Esparza and have raised a total of over \$4100 ! The funds will be used to support programming, scholarships, maintaining our presence in the dance community and beyond and to help further our mission to expand.

[The donation link is still open to anyone who wishes to contribute.](#)

Articles from NASSPDA Website and Newsletter worth reading

Originally published in 2017 NASSPDA Newsletter

By: Benjamin Soencksen

The formation of NASSPDA was prompted by calls for unified standards of same-sex competitions.



From event to event, categories, levels and procedures differed, making it difficult for participants following any strategies for their own development.

Part of controlling the standard of NASSPDA sanctioned events is that all invited adjudicators have to be approved by NASSPDA. There are distinct differences to consider in judging a NASSPDA from a mainstream event. When formulating the qualification requirements and judging criteria for NASSPDA's Competition Rules, these differences were a main focus.

By being presented with different gender configurations and the possibility of switching lead within a dance at NASSPDA sanctioned competitions, adjudicators are faced with differing interpretations of these dances and presented role perceptions from mainstream.

Having a clear understanding of our community's dynamics is key to being a fair and effective judge at NASSPDA's events. It is therefore deemed helpful to have experience within our community, by having actively participated either as a dancer, teacher and/or activist.

NASSPDA created a committee with four members of the elected Directors of the Board and two non-Board members that have had a longstanding and successful engagement within the community as a competitor. Adjudicators that have been invited to judge at a NASSPDA sanctioned event or want to be added to NASSPDA's roster of approved judges have to submit an application to the committee, citing information on prior experience within the dance community and our community at large. Once an application has been received, the committee discusses the merits of the applicant (often, a member of the committee can contribute personal experiences with the applicant) and formulates a recommendation for approval or disapproval by NASSPDA's Board of Directors. Based on their background, the approval for some adjudicators is limited to a specialty, a particular style of dance.

As we all know, judging dance is quite a subjective way to achieve results. There are no distances or times to be measured. It's comparative judging, taking into account some of the basic, more calculable aspects, such as basic rhythm, characteristic step patterns for a dance and style and the technical execution, as well as those not as clearly definable, such as musicality and presentation. That is why at titled events, whose results are deemed of greater importance to the competitors, NASSPDA requires a minimum of five judges, guaranteeing a wider range of opinions, and IFSSDA a minimum of seven judges at an international event..

Adjudicating partner dancing takes a keen eye for all the elements mentioned above as well as for the counterbalance within a couple, signifying partnering (as supposed to just dancing next to each other), which differs from qualifying other forms of dance. As with teaching, not every talented, successful dancer makes a good candidate for this job, which is why NASSPDA's Judges Committee tries to take into account all aspects of the applicants' engagement in our community and which is why NASSPDA states in its rules regarding the qualifications necessary, either a "license for judging from an official dance sport association" or "prior experience competing in same-sex competitions at top level," that "NASSPDA reserves the right to reject a judge, even if

all criteria are met, and to accept a judge not meeting all the listed criteria."

Additionally, at most NASSPDA sanctioned competitions, the head judge will have a meeting with all invited adjudicators prior to the start of the event stressing all the points that make NASSPDA events special, such as that competitors will present a great variety of body shapes and gender identification, which shall not taint the judges' perception and assessment of dancing skills; that a change in lead can change the characterization of a dance by breaking a harmonious continuum and, if done well, shall be reflected in a higher score; and that the "student" identified in a student/teacher category shall be the only one judged, not the "teacher." The head judge typically cites examples and reasons for these notes and ensures application throughout the event, which includes giving advice on good grading practices based on the field of dancers present as well as making judgement calls when an unusual situation presents itself.

All NASSPDA approved adjudicators have to be active members of NASSPDA at the time of judging a NASSPDA sanctioned event, unlike the participating competitors. Everyone though is encouraged to become a member, so that you have a voice within your community by electing your representatives and adding to the weight of their engagement.

Competition Calendar

NASSPDA Sanctioned competitions in 2022

"April Follies" as well as "Floorplay LA" have been cancelled again due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

Stay tuned for any upcoming events for the remainder of the year.

2022 Competitions Not Sanctioned by NASSPDA (featuring same-sex dance categories)

ESSDA sanctioned competitions

Eurogames 2022

July 27-30, 2022

Nijmegen, Netherlands

[Ballroom dancing - Eurogames 2022](#)

IFSSDA sanctioned competitions in 2022 and beyond

The XI Gay Games - November 3-11, 2023 Guadalajara, Mexico

PLEASE NOTE: Hong Kong declined to host Dancesport, due to the associated expenses and organization.



Membership Information

Membership Directory

Have you checked out the [NASSPDA Membership Directory](#)?

This is a resource to allow NASSPDA members to connect with others in the community. Please contact Webmaster and their email webmaster@nasspda.org if you'd like to be added to the directory (being added is a privilege available to NASSPDA members only).

Dance Partner Connections

We understand how hard it can be to find a dance partner. Therefore we'd like to help by offering this connection service where individuals in our community interested in searching for a partner can proactively post an ad and/or passively review ads.

If you'd like to post an ad, [please complete this form](#). It does not cost anything and you can share as much or little information as you want.

Here is the Dance Partner Connections webpage: nasspda.org/dance-partner-connections

Outreach and Media



New partnership with The National Academy of Health and Physical Literacy (NAHPL)

NAHPL is a diverse organization that seeks to advance health and physical literacy in our society, especially in K-12 schools, higher education, and in dance and sport venues. NAHPL seeks to grow and advance professional leaders who will interact and

network on regional, national and global levels to expand health and physical literacy opportunities for all children and adults.

As a member and mission centered organization, NAHPL encourages and facilitates active participation by all members, advocating for health and physical literacy. NAHPL leadership and members plan and implement professional learning opportunities and events at the regional and national levels, and advocate for health and physical literacy in Pre-K-higher education and across society.

<https://nahpl.org>

