



North American Same-Sex Partner Dance Association

Embracing and Welcoming All Dance Couples and Dancers

Articles from NASSPDA's Website and Newsletter worth reading

Terms Amateur & Professional

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By: Benjamin Soencksen

In the global world of dance generally no distinction is made between a professional and an amateur dancer. Dancers distinguish themselves by their achievements and experience. Everyone continues to take classes from everyone, young dancers get instructed by older dancers and vice versa. Any distinction is fluid and depends on circumstances. The same-sex partner dance community has from the start taken the same position. NASSPDA's Competition Rules start with the statement that one of the differences to the mainstream world of partner dancing is the lack of "distinction between amateurs and professionals," which is in alignment with its counterpart in Europe, ESSDA. Both organizations support "the categorization of dancers by their proficiency level" and strive "to ensure that the values of inclusion, participation, and fairness are upheld in every same-sex partner dance competition," a philosophy in line with and propagated by the Gay Games.

Historically, mainstream partner dance organizations always had very distinct lines of separation between a professional, someone that earns a living through dance (teaching, performing and competing), and an amateur, someone that receives no remuneration through dancing. These lines have significantly blurred over the past decades. However, the concept of an amateur paying a professional to compete with, developed and for the most part only practiced in the USA, is still a very important financial aspect of all competitive events in this country.

Now, it isn't unusual, though possible, that a same-sex dance couple consist of one dancer that is defined in mainstream as a professional, dancing with a partner that is defined as an amateur, though neither pays the other to dance with, therefore being equal partners (there is no guarantee that by those mainstream definitions one is a

better dancer than the other). Such a couple shouldn't and isn't considered a Pro/Am couple, as defined in mainstream. But if within that scenario one "bought oneself an excellent trained partner to win one's category," that wouldn't be fair in competition to any other couple on a purely financial, if not proficiency level. One can dispute the validity of the existence of Pro/Am competition within Dancesport, but it is indisputably a part of and helps to sustain the competitive scene in the USA. In order to incorporate this form of competition (only the amateur gets judged, theoretically) NASSPDA uses now the terms "student" and "teacher," which seems to define more correctly the relationships of such couples. Surely, as with many other issues, this will be revisited again and again, as long as our community keeps growing. And since growth is another never ending concern, the inclusion of "Student/Teacher" categories might be one step that helps the lack thereof.

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!

[Please use this link to access the scholarship application form.](#)

(please contact us if you encounter problems with accessing this form. A Gmail account login is required)*



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](#)

(please contact us if you encounter problems with accessing this form. A Gmail account login is required)*

Online Donations?

Recently, NASSPDA's membership and payment platforms have been under malware attack and as a preventive measure we have taken down the feature from the website temporarily, while we are working on it, that allows to donate, join or renew membership. Any help from our community with advise and knowledge how to permanently resolve this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Thank YOU!

Competition Calendar

- **NASSPDA Sanctioned competitions in 2022**

April Follies, Floorplay LA, and New England Open have been cancelled again due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

Stay tuned for upcoming competitions in 2023.

- **IFSSDA sanctioned competitions in 2022 and beyond**

The XI Gay Games

November 3-11, 2023 Guadalajara, Mexico



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>

NASSPDA | Lee Fox, 160 NE 58th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33334

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