



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

Articles from NASSPDA Website and Newsletter worth reading



Introduction to Dancesport

By: Horace Luong

Dancesport is the competitive side of ballroom dancing. Over the next couple of months we will be sharing articles with you from our seasoned judges and competition organizers of Dancesport in our community. So if you'd like to learn more about how couples are judged or how a Dancesport competition is organized, stay tuned!

For those unfamiliar with Dancesport, this is an event where couples come together and are partitioned off to compete against each other of the same level. Dancesport competitions can be for smaller, local communities, but the organizers can also apply for state or continental championship titles so that winners of these competitions can don a prestigious champion title. Depending on the dancers' calibre, they may dance one dance or up to five dances for the judges to evaluate their dancing against their competition. There are usually several judges posted around the dance floor perimeter who have mere seconds to evaluate each couple. Those results are sent (electronically or physically) to the scrutineer who tallies up the scores. Due to capacity limits on the dance floor, when the number of competitors warrants, rounds may be held to slowly whittle away competitors until six couples remain in the final round.

As a recently reborn Dancesport competitor, I love the NASSPDA competitions as compared to my experience in the mainstream competitions. Just like mainstream competitions, competitors will spend months training for the competitions. Some folks dance with their romantic partner however there are others, like myself, have had the privilege of our community members answering my call for an ad hoc dance partner for a competition. My partners have been guys in other Canadian provinces and even in America. So where there's a will, there's a way! For me, whilst the 'hardware' and title may be nice, I participate in our Dancesport events to support the community and it's for my personal growth. Some competitors have the luxury of having a local coach whereas others, like myself, will need to travel a few hours by

plane to a location where there is a dance partner and coach available. One of the elements I like about NASSPDA competitions is the camaraderie with other competitors as well as the freedom in choreography and costuming. Gone are those mainstream days where a couple can enter a bronze-level competition and only dance up to and including the bronze syllabus dance figures. At the NASSPDA Dancesport competitions I've attended, it's not unusual to see competitors dancing syllabus figures against those dancing open figures in championship events. I'll leave it to our expert judges to comment on what takes precedence - flashy open syllabus figures or technically solid syllabus figures.

As with any Dancesport competition, NASSPDA competitions are not quiet as the audience is typically very supportive, calling out their favorite couples' numbers to show support and perhaps to catch the judges' attention.

NASSPDA Dancesport events have had categories such as American smooth, Rhythm, International standard, International Latin, and Argentine Tango. The NASSPDA North American same-sex championships and the NASSPDA USA same-sex championships alternate from coast to coast to give these competitions the most exposure.

Why participate in Dancesport? Whilst there are several motivations, I would believe the most common being an intrinsic enjoyment of the processes of preparing for and participation in the competition. Some folks may also enjoy working hard to get recognition of their dance skills. At times I attend Dancesport competitions not to dance myself but I'm there to capture the moments with a camera. I love the challenge of timing couples' figures and practicing being in the moment.

If you are at all interested in Dancesport but have questions, feel free to reach out to the NASSPDA board, we are comprised of competitors, judges and organizers and I'm sure someone will be happy to address your questions.

I look forward to seeing you at a NASSPDA Dancesport competition soon!



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. Except 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>). 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 update will be published in March issue of the e-Newsletter.

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.](#)



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 exceed 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.](#)

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, rather than stating The upcoming competitions for 2022 will be confirmed by NASSPDA Competition committee and will be announced. Stay tuned for upcoming events later in the year.

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

Rio Grande Dance Classic

March 31-April 3, 2022

<https://riograndedanceclassic.com>

Vancouver Challenge Cup 2022

February 26-27, 2022

[Vancouver Challenge Cup 2022](#)

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 Hong Kong



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. This page is maintained by Horace (hluong@nasspda.org) so please contact him if you want your ad removed or edited.

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>

