



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

TRAINING	COMPETITION/GALA	SPORT FEE*
NOV 4	NOV 5-8	1,600 : 850 \$ MXN : \$ MXN GENERAL : MEXICANS

*THE FEES WILL BE PER PERSON AND ACCORDING TO THE EXCHANGE RATE OF THE MEXICAN PESO AT THE TIME OF THE SPORT'S REGISTRATION.

REGISTER AT: GGDL2023.org

Logos at the bottom include CODE, Federación Mexicana Deportiva de la Diversidad, Jalisco, IFSSDA, Guadalajara, and Jalisco.

Articles about Dancesport worth reading

Judging Criteria For Non-Traditional Couples

Now that ballroom dance competitions in the U.S. have evolved to allow non-

traditional couples to participate in competitions by placing them onto the same floor as the traditional male/female couples, the judges are faced with a totally new set of dancers competing against each other. Piece of cake, right? Not really? But then again, yes, it is.

Let's examine the criteria most judges use when watching the dancing skills of the dancers. I asked several officials I know who have judged same sex competitions throughout the world what their thoughts are. Of the qualities they mentioned, none of them rely on a particular role being danced by a particular gender...

Timing/Rhythm – Partnership/Connection – Characteristics of the Dance – Footwork – Floorcraft – Technique – Musicality – Costuming – Framework – Action/Reaction – Quality of Movement – Topline/Posture

Here are some of their comments:

"What I look for in gender neutral competing partnerships is not really different than traditional partnerships. The character of each dance should be clear to me." – Dana Edwards

"Quality dancing is quality dancing regardless of gender. Technique is technique. A judge should not see age, color, ethnicity or gender...just who is the best dancer on the floor." – Wendy Johnson

"What I think should be made crystal clear to judges judging same sex couples for the first time is that it's no different. See through the costume to the dancing." – Beth Knoll

Some judges feel there is no way to compare same sex couples to opposite sex couples objectively because they are different. Watching a female lead or a male follow does not compare to the traditional male lead and female follow. However, it's not as if this doesn't happen already among traditional couples.

"Of course, it'll be a bit like comparing 'apples to oranges', but not as much as 'Champion of Champions', 'Grand Slams', or 'Best of the Best' where the winners of the different styles are positioned against each other. I think that the bottom line in this conundrum is the judging criteria 'characterization of the dance', which is basically the final decision maker for judges, when all other criteria are equally level in comparison." – Benjamin Soencksen

Some judges are having difficulty wrapping their brains around the concept of men dancing with men and women dancing with women to begin with. This could be the result of bias (real or perceived) instilled in them from an early age in a world where couples are traditionally one male and one female with little to no exposure to other configurations of a couple.

The BDC (British Dance Council) now has "well-drafted online training that informs/alerts adjudicators to different unconscious bias that could affect a judge's decision during a dance competition and that could lead them to discriminate. Age, size, gender, perceived sexuality were some of the concepts mentioned that could influence but should be overlooked when judging dancing." – Sergio Brilhante

"Judges should be gently reminded that while we may be born with reproductive organs that dictate our biological gender, our notion of what this means and how gender is expressed is determined to a great part by culture. In the 17th and 18th centuries men wore stockings, wigs and make up. Self-evaluation is critical because judging and prejudice are on the same team. As partner dancers, we know that our beautiful dance form requires a special level of cooperation. While the terms 'leader' and 'follower' carry value (again – because of culture), we know that they are of equal worth in a dance partnership. A good team (no matter the gender) will demonstrate a fluid execution of the steps. Most important is for those who are judging to self-assess first as to where they are with regard to their own concept of gender and gender roles in general because when all those bodies get on the floor, it will be a challenge to observe with fresh eyes." – Sarah Billings Wheeler

In conclusion, judges should remember that movement is movement. If they believe

that any school figure demonstrates any kind of gender portrayal, then they're not ready for this evolution. There is always plenty to evaluate as we know from the criteria listed above, but ultimately, the best quality partnership should win.

Lee Fox
Treasurer NASSPDA Board

NASSPDA Inclusivity Statement

In light of recent aggressions targeting specifically transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming folks in several states in the USA and Canada, NASSPDA wishes to make its position explicitly clear. We welcome all gender identities and expressions, including specifically folks who have transitioned or are transitioning and gender non-conforming individuals. NASSPDA has zero tolerance for harassment or discrimination of any of its members.

To create a safer space for trans- and gender non-conforming folk, we invite NASSPDA-sanctioned event organizers to implement the following actions:

Use each dancer's self-disclosed pronouns.

Provide gender-inclusive washrooms, or make reasonable efforts to reserve certain washrooms for all genders in venues that do not have them.

Similarly, provide gender-inclusive change rooms, if applicable.

Offer dancers means of reporting harassment or discrimination safely and anonymously.

Consider developing security protocols that address the physical safety of the event. This could include identification verification during registration, incident response plans at events, evacuation plans, maintaining lists of emergency contacts, etc.



Emma and Kendall dancing International Latin at Boston Open DanceSport 2023

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)*



Competition Calendar

- **IFSSDA Sanctioned Competitions in 2023**

2023 World Championship at The XI Gay Games

From November 5 - to 8, 2023 in Guadalajara, Mexico

<https://gggdl2023.org/en>



New Guadalajara's Gay Games T-shirts are for sale.
<https://nasspda-logowear.myspreadshop.com/>

Outreach and Media



**National Academy
of Health and Physical Literacy**

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>

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