

USA Dance Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Web Conference
February 17, 2014

Present: Yang Chen, Shawn Fisher, Michael Brocks, Greg Warner, Jean Krupa, Ken Richards, Inna Brayer, Roger Greenawalt

Agenda:

- Bob Blank USA Dance Facebook Restrictions
- DanceSport International Ltd. Update

Blank Social Media Restrictions

- On January 2 Mr. Blank submitted a request to Yang Chen, President, to reverse the decision of the Governing Council (GC) in December 2013 to restrict any and all of his activities on the USA Dance Inc. Facebook Groups, including USA Dance National, Competition and Chapter Facebook pages.
- This request was treated under the USA Dance Bylaws Article III.F.7 as a complaint about an administrative procedure and it was referred to Shawn Fisher, Senior Vice President and GC member, as Investigating Officer to resolve his inquiry. Shawn completed his investigation and submitted his report and recommendation to the EC in early February.
- Upon review of the bylaws, the EC determined that it did not have the power to reverse a decision of the GC. The GC is the policy-making body of USA Dance. The EC executes the decisions of the GC and does not have the authority to undo a directive of the GC.
- During the meeting, the EC members who were familiar with the facts and circumstances leading up to the motion in December to restrict Mr. Blank's activities on any and all of USA Dance Facebook Groups recounted the year-long history of what specific members of the GC, including Angela Prince, Jean Krupa, Ken Richards and others experienced as inappropriate, discourteous, harassing and hateful remarks by Mr. Blank that consumed many hours of USA Dance time and resources to attempt to resolve. According to these GC members, Mr. Blank was told that his posts violated USA Dance Facebook Group policy and he was asked time and again to refrain from his actions but he continued to post comments that were negative and led to numerous complaints from other members of USA Dance and the Facebook Groups. The motion before the GC in December to restrict any and all of Mr. Blank's activities in the USA Dance Facebook Groups was a culmination of his conduct spanning many months.
- The EC concluded that Mr. Blank's request to reverse the GC's restriction of his Facebook activities should be made to the GC. Mr. Warner was requested to communicate with Mr. Blank that should he wish the GC to reconsider its decision from December 2013, he submit a letter to Greg, explaining why he believes the GC decision was incorrect and why it should be lifted. Mr. Blank will be instructed to prepare and submit his letter within 30 days from his receipt of Greg's communication.
- Mr. Blank's letter will be shared with the GC for review and consideration and the GC will issue its determination within 30 days after receipt Mr. Blank's letter.

DanceSport International Update

- A draft agreement from DanceSport International (DSI) was received in late 2013.
- Although there has not been a deadline for action or response received from DSI, some concerns have been raised that failure to act soon may result in loss of this potential agreement.
- Yang explained that the draft agreement has been forwarded to the Membership Task Force for inclusion in their discussions on membership benefits.
- It was also noted that there are some provisions contained in the draft agreement that would require negotiations before any contract could be considered such as disputes being resolved according to the laws of the United Kingdom and the requirement that all USA Dance chapter websites include a link to DSI.
- However, the potential for revenue cannot be ignored and the Membership Task Force is requested to consider this in a timely manner.

- If preliminary discussions with DSI are necessary for preserving this opportunity, Greg will work with Ms. Prince to communicate with DSI.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory J Warner
National Secretary