



**Invitation to the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
of the
European Same-Sex Dancing Association (ESSDA)
At 10:00am BST, 11:00am CEST on Sunday 18 August 2024**

The meeting will be held by Zoom – please click on [this link](#).

(1) Opening

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Confirmation that the AGM is quorate and properly convened
- (c) Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM (draft minutes here) and matters arising

(2) Reports

- (a) Board's Annual Report (Appendix 1)
- (b) Financial Report (Appendix 2)

(3) Approval of the annual and financial reports and discharge of the ESSDA board for 2023/2024

(4) Elections (Appendix 3)

- i. Elections for the open positions on the ESSDA board
 - (a) Tom Dane (for re-election)
 - (b) Mark Hebell (for re-election)
- ii. Approval for the ESSDA Board to co-opt further Board Members

(5) Budget for 2024/2025 (Appendix 4)

(6) Vote on membership fees

As changes to the fees were approved in a referendum in December 2023, the Board proposes that the fees remain at the level determined in the referendum (see Appendix 1).

(7) Constitutional amendments arising from the work of the Diversity Working Group: discussion and voting

- (a) Explanation and discussion of the key changes (Appendix 5)
- (b) Proposed changes to the constitution to be voted on (Appendix 6)
- (c) Answers to some questions raised during the consultation on the changes (Appendix 7)

(8) Member proposal from Mark Hebell to amend the definition of “Europe” in the ESSDA Constitution (Appendix 8)

(9) Member proposal from Mark Hebell to include European licensed adjudicators in the list of people eligible for ESSDA Membership (Appendix 9)

(10) Any other business

a) Issues raised by UKEDC to be passed to the Competition Rules Working Group (Appendix 10)

(a.1) Competition rules for Viennese Waltz

(a.2) Reconsider the senior age cut off

(a.3) Reconsider the descriptors for competition classes

Davy Brocatus, ESSDA President



Annual Report of the ESSDA Board presented at the AGM on 18 August 2024

(1) ESSDA Board

During the year to 18 August 2024 the ESSDA Board comprised:

Name	Nationality	Role	Date (re)elected
Davy Brocatus	BE	President	20.08.2023
Tessa Cleaver	UK	Vice-President	20.08.2023
Tom Dane	UK	Membership Officer	20.08.2022
Janina Dobberschütz	DK	Treasurer	20.08.2023
Mark Hebell	DE	General Member	20.08.2022
Diana Vinke	NL	Secretary	20.08.2023

At the 2024 AGM, Tom Dane and Mark Hebell will stand for re-election. The Board has received no nominations for new candidates for election to the Board but will request permission at the AGM to co-opt, at the Board's discretion, up to three Board Members during the year.

(2) ESSDA Board Meetings

The ESSDA Board has held five online meetings since the ESSDA AGM 2023. These meetings took place on:

- 1 October 2023
- 26 November 2023
- 25 February 2024
- 28 April 2024
- 30 June 2024

Critical matters discussed:

Recurring topics at the board meetings included the discussion, preparation, organisation and evaluation of international competitions (EuroGames/ESSDA European Championships, Gay Games and application to host the IFSSDA 2024 International Cup), progress of the three Working Groups (Competition Rules, Finance, and Inclusion and Diversity), and the Grand Slam. These topics are briefly discussed below.

Membership number

As of 2nd August 2024, there were 19 paid-up individual members and 9 paid-up extraordinary members. This compares to 20 individual members and 7 extraordinary members the previous year.

(3) International Competitions

- **Gay Games 2023 Guadalajara**

The Gay Games took place in Guadalajara, Mexico from 3 to 11 November 2023 and was an International Federation of Same-Sex Dance Associations (IFSSDA) World Championships.

A number of European dancers attended the event and while the numbers were low compared to Paris Gay Games in 2018, overall, it was a successful event with some very strong competitors from Europe, North America and Oceania. The venue for the dance competition was very impressive and there was a large dancefloor.

Although there were some challenges with the organisation of the competition on the first day, these were largely resolved on the following days with the organising team taking on board a lot of the feedback back provided by ESSDA and DVET.

On the day before the competition, two of the judges, Isaac Rovira and Desirée Martin ran technique workshops that were very well received.

In summary, despite the low numbers, this was a very enjoyable event with good levels of competition in the higher categories. The full results are available [here](#).

- **EuroGames/ESSDA European Championships 2024 (Vienna)**

The 2024 EuroGames and ESSDA European Championships took place in July 2024 in Vienna. The organising team, led by Roswitha Wetschka, found a magnificent ballroom for the event, and with around 180 competitors, this was the largest European Championship since before the covid pandemic.

The event was very well run and huge thanks to Janina Dobberschütz who stepped in at the last moment to act as the ESSDA representative following Mark Hebell falling ill just before the competition.

Thanks to the Vienna Dance team for all their hard work and we were sorry to learn that this will be the last Viennese competition that they will organise. This is not goodbye to Austria, however, as Thomas Marter and team are looking to organise a competition in Linz in 2025.

Links to the results and photos can be found on the dedicated website [here](#), congratulations to all the competitors and especially the new ESSDA champions!

- **EuroGames/ESSDA European Championships 2025 (Lyon)**

We continue to have detailed discussions with Patrice Naudier, the organiser of the dance event at the EuroGames 2025 in Lyon, to finalise the licence agreement for the 2025 European Championships. We have every confidence in Patrice and his team and firmly expect that the event will be designated a European Championship. We hope to be able to finalise the agreement in Autumn 2025.

We encourage everyone to hold the dates for Lyon, and we will provide further updates as soon as we can.

- **Gay Games 2026 Valencia**

We've had informal discussions with the Valencia organising team and members of the Federation of Gay Games, but we are now waiting for Valencia to confirm who on their team will have responsibility for the dance event at the Games. Once we have that confirmation, we will be liaising closely with the organiser, on behalf of IFSSDA, to provide guidance on how to run the event. Under the terms of the IFSSDA rules, the presumption is that the event will be an IFSSDA World Championships and we will work closely with the Gay Games to support them in running a great dance event.

Please note, that we are waiting for Gay Games Valencia to confirm the exact dates of the event in June 2026.

- **EuroGames/ESSDA European Championships 2027 (Cardiff)**

Cardiff was awarded the EuroGames 2027 at the EGLSF AGA in March 2024 and we understand that Peter Meager will be in charge of the dance competition. We have already had an initial conversation with Lou Englefield of Pride Sports which is the body organising the EuroGames Cardiff. Lou is extremely supportive of the dance competition and is keen to offer as much help as possible. We very much look forward to working with Lou and Peter and will provide further updates in due course.

- **Application to host IFSSDA 2024 World Championships in US**

In March 2024, Eddie Alba approached IFSSDA to have his Floorplay LA event in September 2024 sanctioned by IFSSDA. The matter was discussed by the ESSDA board which was of the view that given the relatively short notice, it may be difficult for European competitors to attend the Floorplay LA event. Therefore, while the Board had every confidence that the event would be of a high standard, it could not support the event being designated a world championship. It was agreed with the IFSSDA Board that the event would be sanctioned by IFSSDA and that an IFSSDA International Trophy would be awarded. In the discussions with IFSSDA, it was agreed that we would explore other opportunities to hold IFSSDA sanctioned events and world championships in addition to those held at the Gay Games.

(4) Working Groups

(a) Competition rules WG

The competition rules working group did not meet in the year as it was felt that it would be better to wait until the outcome of the work of the diversity working group had been presented at the 2024 AGM. That work is likely to have a significant impact on the work of the competition rules WG.

In 2023, the working group on Competition Rules comprised Tom Dane (UK; ESSDA board member and working group chair), Mark Hebell (GER; ESSDA Board Member), Kerstin Kallmann (GER; Pink Ballroom), and Thorsten Reulen (GER; DVET Board Member). If anyone else would like to join the group, please let Tom know,

In 2024/2025 the working group plans to look at the following:

- Implementing changes arising from amendments to the constitution made at the AGM following the recommendations of the diversity working group.
- Considering changes to the dress code rules primarily with a view to ensuring the safeguarding of those under eighteen and other vulnerable people.
- Considering the thresholds for the senior age category
- Confirming the scoring method for combining the results for the Grand Slam
- Clarifying the rules for the calculation of combined results at European Championships
- Explaining the differences between, and the benefits and disadvantages of, the UK and German systems of running a competition – i.e the use of a second classification round and the option for winners of one category to dance-up into the next category.

(b) Finance WG

The Working Group on Finances & Funding comprises Cornelia Wagner (DE; DVET), Diana Vinke (NL; ESSDA board member), and Janina Dobberschütz (DK; ESSDA board member). The Finance WG has met online followed by email correspondence.

ESSDA has experienced a decline in revenue over the years, attributable to a decrease in competitor numbers and rising costs. To maintain a sustainable budget that can effectively support the organization of European and World Championships, an increase in membership fees for both individual and organizational members is necessary. These fees have not been revised since the foundation of ESSDA in 2007.

The working group sought feedback from organizational members on a draft proposal. This consultation led to a proposal to members to increase the number of votes for clubs or associations in proportion to their membership, concurrent with a rise in membership fees. The final proposal on the changes to the fees were approved in an online referendum in December 2023. A total of 25 out of a potential 37 votes were submitted. Of these 25 votes, 22 endorsed the proposal to raise the fees for both individual (ordinary) and organisational (extraordinary) members, while 3 were against.

The fee increase for individual members is from 10 EUR to 12.50 EUR. Individual ESSDA members will continue to benefit from reduced registration fees for the EuroGames, courtesy of an agreement with EGLSF.

The fee structure for extraordinary members (clubs/associations) changes as follows:

0 – 50 members:	EUR 30 fee with 2 votes
51 – 100 members:	EUR 60 fee with 3 votes
101 – 150 members:	EUR 90 fee with 4 votes
151 – 200 members:	EUR 120 fee with 5 votes
201 or more members:	EUR 150 fee with 6 votes

[The Bylaws](#) have been amended according to the outcome of the referendum.

The resolution to increase membership fees has had a substantial effect on ESSDA's income. From period 22/23 to 23/24 the income through membership fees increased from 360 EUR to 892,01 EUR.

Other sources of revenue such as sponsorship have not been explored yet. A co-operation on this matter between the Finance WG and the Marketing WG to-be is recommended.

(c) Inclusion and diversity WG

In October 2023, the Board directed the ESSDA diversity working group to consider changes to the constitution to allow for more inclusive language and approach, drawing from the work already done by FGG, EGLSF, UKEDC, DVET among others.

It is the Board's belief that the current language and rules either exclude and/or are unclear and not welcoming in particular to non-binary, intersex, and trans people, and that in line with its constitution, ESSDA should be welcoming to these people. The language of 'same-sex' contributes to this lack of inclusiveness and that therefore we need to consider changes to the ESSDA constitution before addressing any other change implications, including competition rule changes.

The Diversity group met 7 times, also inviting views from outside the group. Following discussion and approval by the Board, an initial draft was sent out in April 2024 for consultation to our nine member organisations. This initial draft was amended on the basis of these comments and a final draft is being presented for consideration by the membership at the AGM, August 2024. The changes include a name change from ESSDA to European Equality Dance Association (EEDA).

The Diversity working group would like to thank all member organisations for their thoughtful and helpful responses. The group considered all of the comments in great depth and in most instances amended the proposed wording as a result.

The amended Mission and Goals as proposed in the final draft, are incorporated into the proposed changes to the constitution to be discussed at the AGM. There are some other associated proposed changes to the constitution in order to align with the proposed mission and goals statement.

The proposed changes are detailed in the supporting papers that accompany the AGM Agenda (Appendices 5, 6 and 7).

(5) Grand Slam:

At the 2023 AGM, there was broad support for holding an ESSDA Grand Slam to encourage dancers to attend more of the smaller competitions. Unfortunately, it was not possible to organise the Grand Slam for 2023/2024, but it will take place in 2024/25, with the results announced at EuroGames 2025 in Lyon.

The Grand Slam will be open to competitors competing as male/male-identifying or female/female-identifying couples in at least three of the following five competitions:

- The UK Equality Open – November 2024
- Pink Jukebox Trophy – February 2025
- Rendez-Vous de Paris – April 2025
- Berlin Open – June 2025
- A second German competition to be confirmed by the DVET.

If couples compete in more than three competitions, then their best three results will be taken. The Grand Slam will be awarded in Latin, standard ballroom and combined in the adult categories for both male/male-identifying or female/female-identifying couples.

The exact method of calculating the overall score will be confirmed by the competition rules working group, and will follow the method used for the last Grand Slam in 2017.



Financial Report 2023/2024

Start Balance 04/08/2023	€ 3.921,78
Membership fees 2023	€ 70,02
Membership fees 2024 - bank	€ 821,99
Membership fees 2024 - cash	€ 25,00
Licence fee EC 2024 - VIENNA	€ 800,00
Refund Travel Participation GA EGLSF 2024	€ 16,58
TOTAL IN	€ 1.733,59
Bank Costs	-€ 44,52
Membership fee FGG 23/24	-€ 46,11
Membership fee EGLSF 2024	-€ 200,00
Travel Participation GA EGLSF 2024	-€ 65,00
Medals EC 2024 - VIENNA	-€ 250,00
Site visit/Travel EC 2024 - VIENNA	-€ 847,97
Hosting/Domain Website	-€ 140,40
TOTAL OUT	-€ 1.594,00
End Balance 06/08/2024	€ 4.061,37

Candidates standing for re-election

Tom Dane – standing for re-election



Tom had his first dance lessons in 1999 while studying in Germany and subsequently competed in waltz for Bristol University. A few years later he discovered the same-sex dance scene in London and went on to compete in the EuroGames in Barcelona, Helsinki, Stockholm, Rome, Copenhagen, Nijmegen, Bern and Vienna, the World Outgames in Miami, the Gay Games in Paris and Mexico as well as smaller same-sex competitions across Europe.

Tom joined the ESSDA Board in February 2022 and took on the role of Membership Officer. Tom is also the chair of the UK Equality Dance Council and in his professional life is a chartered accountant.

Tom is re-standing for election as he wants to continue supporting equality dancing across Europe with a view to making the world of equality dancing more inclusive and to encourage greater participation at all levels. Tom tries to apply his professional business experience to develop rules and processes for ESSDA that are clear, practical and reflect the views of ESSDA members. He firmly believes that as a membership organisation, ESSDA should seek to understand and act upon the views of its members.

Mark Hebell – standing for re-election



Mark Hebell has been an active participant in both Ballroom and Latin competitions representing German Dance Sport Federation (DTV) from 1996 to 2008. Since retiring from his active career he concentrates on working as a professional coach, choreographer and adjudicator. He has been judging same-sex competitions since 2011, including the German Open Championships (2015, 2021, 2023), Le Rendez-Vous de Paris (2014, 2019), Pink Jukebox Trophy London (2019), and the Nordic Open (Helsinki 2018; Copenhagen 2019).

In addition to his work in dance sport, Mark Hebell has broadened his knowledge of human movement by qualifying as an Alexander Technique Teacher in 2005 and as a Laban Movement Analyst in 2023. He is currently preparing for the MA program in Cinétopographie Laban at the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris.

After relocating first to Vienna/Austria in 2020, then to Salzburg/Austria in 2023 he is completing his BA Dance Science and his BA Art History at Paris Lodron University Salzburg, but keeps working in Berlin/Germany, too, where he has been living the past twelve years.

Mark Hebell's motivation to stand for re-election at the 2024 ESSDA AGM after four years on the ESSDA Board comes from his wish to bring his experience of over 25 years in dance sport and movement related areas to the table in order to help further improving and strengthening equality dancing in Europe.



Budget 2024/2025

Start Balance 2024	€ 4.061,37	
Membership fees 2024/2025		€ 915,00
Licence fee EC 2025 - LYON		€ 500,00
TOTAL IN	€ 1.415,00	
Bank Costs		-€ 50,00
Membership fee FGG 24/25		-€ 50,00
Membership fee EGLSF 2025		-€ 200,00
Participation General Assembly EGLSF 2025		-€ 250,00
Medals EC 2025 - LYON		-€ 300,00
Site visit/Representative/Travel EC 2025 - LYON		-€ 500,00
Hosting/Domain Website		-€ 141,00
TOTAL OUT	-€ 1.491,00	
End Balance 2025	€ 3.985,37	

Proposal for changes to ESSDA Constitution for discussion and voting at Annual General Meeting 18th August 2024

In October 2023, the Board directed the ESSDA Diversity Working Group to consider changes to the constitution to allow for more inclusive language and approach, drawing from the work already done by FGG, EGLSF, UKEDC, DVET among others.

It is the Board's belief that the current language and rules either exclude and/or are unclear and not welcoming in particular to non-binary, intersex, and trans people, and that in line with its constitution, ESSDA should be welcoming to these people. The language of 'same-sex' contributes to this lack of inclusiveness and that therefore we need to consider changes to the ESSDA constitution, before addressing any other change implications, including competition rule changes.

Following an initial proposal, consultation with our 9 member organisations and consequent amendments, the Board is proposing the changes to the constitution including our mission and goals, as set out in the table below. The changes include a name change from ESSDA to European Equality Dance Association (EEDA). This is being sent out prior to the AGM, to give members time to consider the changes before the meeting.

The mission and goals set out high level principles which are designed to guide ESSDA activities, including the competition rules. Work on the latter will be undertaken by the Competition rules working group following the AGM. Comments and conclusions that arose from the work of the Diversity working group, as well as rule-related comments submitted by member organisations, will be forwarded to the Competition rules working group to be taken into consideration.

The Diversity working group would like to thank all member organisations for their helpful responses. The group considered all of the comments in great depth and in most instances amended the proposed wording.

The amended Mission and Goals are incorporated into the formal constitution (see Appendix 6), which also sets out the associated changes to the formal constitution in order to align with the proposed mission and goals statement.

Original Constitution Text	Proposed text agreed by the Board 30.6.24	Notes
1. ESSDA is the European Same-Sex Dance Association.	EEDA is the European Equality Dance Association. Equality dance means partner dancing in which dancers can dance with whomever they like, and in whichever role (leader or follower) they like, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.	1. This is a definition of Equality dance in general, including social dancing, not competitive dance sport only.
2. ESSDA will respect differences as they may occur between people, concerning race, gender, sexual or political orientation, religion, nationality or language, disability or any other base.	EEDA will treat everyone with the same courtesy and respect regardless of their actual or perceived sex, gender identity skin colour, ethnic or national origins, sexual or political orientation, religion, nationality, language, disability, or any other characteristic.	1. Discrimination is not only based on actual characteristics but also on perceived ones. <i>Accepted.</i> 2. 'race' in many languages is a discriminating or toxic word. Instead of the word 'race', equivalent wording (skin colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins) from the Equalities and Human Rights commission UK has been used. This is In conformity with EU legislation. 3. Disability does not have a negative connotation in the English language. (The meaning is a social construct of disability ie people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference)
3. ESSDA will respect differences as they may occur between organisations, concerning nationality, language, political orientation, liaisons with other dance (sport) or sport organisations or organisations for LGBT emancipation.	EEDA will respect differences as they occur between organisations, concerning nationality, language, political orientation, liaisons with other dance (sport) or sport organisations or organisations for LGBTQIA+ emancipation.	
4. ESSDA acknowledges that the roots and base of same-sex dance and same-sex dance sport are the expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities and relationships. This will be considered as part of any decisions, guidelines and developments for the future.	EEDA acknowledges that the base of Equality dance and Equality dance sport is the expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, inter and asexual identities and relationships. This will be considered as part of any decisions, guidelines and developments for the future.	

Original Constitution Text	Proposed text agreed by the Board 30.6.24	Notes
The Mission and Goals of ESSDA are:	The Mission and Goals of EEDA are:	
5. to encourage the same-sex ballroom and latin dance sport	To encourage a thriving Equality ballroom and latin dance sport environment, including the grassroots dance community that supports competitive dance sport.	1. The Constitution should allow for activities to support grassroots or social equality dancing.
6. NEW	To work towards events and tournaments being a safe space for all, especially LGBTQIA+ people.	
7. to develop and maintain a level of quality and attractiveness of competitions to dancers and audiences and to encourage the use of guidelines for same-sex dance competitions	To develop and maintain a level of quality and attractiveness of competitions to dancers and audiences and to encourage the use of guidelines for Equality dance competitions	
8. to encourage the use of these guidelines as standards, specifically at, but not limited to, the ballroom and latin dance events at the EuroGames	To encourage the use of these guidelines as standards, specifically at, but not limited to, the ballroom and latin dance events at the EuroGames	
9. to provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in same-sex dance sport	To provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in Equality dance sport	
10. to work towards a climate in dancing and dance sport where people can express what they are, regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnic origins, religion, gender and disabilities	To work towards a climate in dancing and dance sport where people can express who they are, regardless of sexual orientation, skin colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, nationality, sex, gender identity, disability, or any other characteristic.	1. See paragraph 2.
11. to work towards universal acceptance of “leader” and “follower” as teaching terms	To promote the use of inclusive language, in the context of Equality dancing.	Languages are developing at different paces with regard to inclusive language, and there is not yet agreement on how to be inclusive when one speaks. This states the principle of inclusiveness to work towards. rather than a prescription.
12. to support other individuals and organisations with similar goals	To support other individuals and organisations with similar goals.	

Original Constitution Text	Proposed text agreed by the Board 30.6.24	Notes
NEW	Gender Policy of EEDA	
13. NEW	<p>EEDA affirms and supports together with FGG and EGLSF the rights of dancers to dance and compete as their true selves and to compete as a dancer in their self-identified gender or the gender with which they feel most comfortable.</p> <p>EEDA also recognises that in order to safeguard fair play in a competitive scenario, the introduction of certain competition categories may be necessary.</p>	The implications of this principle for competitions will be worked through by the Competition rules working group as soon as possible after the AGM. The board acknowledges the concern and questions about competition rules, and asserts this principle of being inclusive while preserving the rights to fair play is paramount.

Proposal for Changes to the ESSDA Constitution by the Board at the AGM 18th August 2024

	ESSDA CONSTITUTION	EEDA CONSTITUTION
	<p>Agreed by the ESSDA Members in the General Assembly 12.07.2007, Antwerp.</p> <p>Last amended by ESSDA Members in the General Assembly held by video conference on 20.08.2022</p>	<p>Agreed by the ESSDA Members in the General Assembly 12.07.2007, Antwerp.</p> <p>Last amended by ESSDA Members in the General Assembly held by video conference on 18.08.2024</p>
1.	TITLE	
1.1	The name of our association is European Same-Sex Dance Association, also to be known as ESSDA.	<p>The name of our association is European Equality Dance Association, also to be known as EEDA.</p> <p>Equality dance means partner dancing in which dancers can dance with whomever they like, and in whichever role (leader or follower) they like, regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.</p>
6.	GEOGRAPHY	
6.1	ESSDA concentrates its efforts within Europe as a geographically defined continent. However, ESSDA supports other individuals and organisations with similar goals throughout the rest of the world.	EEDA concentrates its efforts within Europe as a geographically defined continent. However, EEDA supports other individuals and organisations with similar goals throughout the rest of the world
8.1	Association: European Same-Sex Dance Association, also to be known as ESSDA.	Association: European Equality Dance Association , also to be known as EEDA .
	8.2. Board: The Board of the association.	8.2. Board: The Board of the association.
	MISSION AND GOALS	
9.	RESPECT DIFFERENCES	
9.1	ESSDA will respect differences as they may occur between people, concerning race, gender, sexual or political orientation, religion, nationality or language, disability or any other base.	EEDA will treat everyone with the same courtesy and respect regardless of their actual or perceived sex, gender identity skin colour, ethnic or national origins, sexual or political orientation, religion, nationality, language, disability, or any other characteristic.
9.2	The association will respect differences as they may occur between organisations, concerning nationality, language, political orientation, liaisons with other dance (sport) or sport organisations or organisations for LGBT emancipation.	EEDA will respect differences as they occur between organisations, concerning nationality, language, political orientation, liaisons with other dance (sport) or sport organisations or organisations for LGBTQIA+ emancipation.
10.	LGBT IDENTITIES	LGBTQIA+ IDENTITIES
10.1	ESSDA acknowledges that the roots and base of same-sex dance and same-sex dance sport are the expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identities and relationships. This will be considered as part of any decisions, guidelines and developments for the future.	EEDA acknowledges that the base of Equality dance and Equality dance sport is the expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, inter and asexual identities and relationships. This will be considered as part of any decisions, guidelines and developments for the future.

11.	OUR MISSIONS AND GOALS ARE:	The Mission and Goals of EEDA are:
11.1	To encourage the same-sex ballroom and latin dance sport. NEW	To encourage a thriving Equality ballroom and latin dance sport environment, including the grassroots dance community that supports competitive dance sport. 11.2 To work towards events and tournaments being a safe space for all, especially LGBTQIA+ people.
11.2	To develop and maintain a level of quality and attractiveness of competitions to dancers and audiences and to encourage the use of guidelines for same-sex dance competitions.	11.3
11.3	To encourage the use of these guidelines as standards, specifically at, but not limited to, the ballroom and latin dance events at the EuroGames.	11.4
11.4	To provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in same-sex dance sport.	11.5 To provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in Equality dance sport.
11.5	To work towards a climate in dancing and dance sport where people can express what they are, regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnic origins, religion, gender and disabilities.	11.6 To work towards a climate in dancing and dance sport where people can express who they are, regardless of sexual orientation, skin colour, ethnic or national origins, religion, nationality, sex, gender identity, disability, or any other characteristic.
11.6	To work towards universal acceptance of “leader” and “follower” as teaching terms.	11.7 To promote the use of inclusive language, in the context of Equality dancing.
11.7	To support other individuals and organisations with similar goals.	11.8
12	NEW	Gender Policy of EEDA EEDA affirms and supports together with FGG and EGLSF the rights of dancers to dance and compete as their true selves and to compete as a dancer in their self-identified gender or the gender with which they feel most comfortable. EEDA also recognises that in order to safeguard fair play in a competitive scenario, the introduction of certain competition categories may be necessary.
Note number change to the remaining paragraphs of constitution document.		
Constituency of Membership is now 13		
12.1.2	Extraordinary membership is open to: all legal entities, clubs and groups located in Europe, whose main concern is same-sex dancing or LGBT sports including same-sex dancing or are organizing an international same-sex competition, who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the association.	13.1.2. Extraordinary membership is open to: all legal entities, clubs and groups located in Europe, whose main concern is equality dancing or LGBTQIA+ sports including equality dancing or are organizing an international equality dance competition, who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the association.

Recurring on every page in the footer, before the page number: EEDA Constitution 18 August 2024

APPENDIX 7 – Item (7)(c)

Additional Questions and Comments from member organisations during the consultation.

Question	Action
How will the new mission statement address and ensure fair competition categories for all participants, particularly considering diverse gender identities?	This is referred to the rules working group. All member organisations are encouraged to engage with the rules working group.
How will the changes in the mission statement impact the rules and regulations governing competitions?	This is referred to the rules working group
Will EEDA consider implementing a rule stipulating a minimum number of participating couples required for a dance competition to be designated as a European Championship or World Championship?	This is referred to the rules working group
Will there be any changes to membership requirements or processes to better align with the new mission statement?	To be considered by the Board following the AGM 18.8.24
EEDA.eu is not available as a domain.	Note and seek alternatives eg. equalitydanceeurope.org is available, as are others. Recommend the board investigates the options.
We want to ask ESSDA/EEDA to initiate a renaming of IFSSDA as well	This has been agreed and is being actioned by the Board.
It is not clear how these categories could look like. It is correct to change the wording and include all people, but it will not be easy to be correct to everybody. And doing a championship will be probably more complicated. If the classes are very small, it is not so interesting to watch. We do not wish another wording. It was just to say we will not see clearly how it could look like	Swiss members are encouraged to participate in the rules working group.

Member proposal from Mark Hebell to amend the definition of “Europe” in the ESSDA Constitution, paragraph 6 “Geography”

Proposition

The ESSDA AGM 2024 adopts the following resolution:

1. Paragraph 6.1: “6.1. ESSDA concentrates its efforts within Europe as a geographically defined continent. However, ESSDA supports other individuals and organisations with similar goals throughout the rest of the world.”

to be changed to

Paragraph 6.1: “6.1. ESSDA concentrates its efforts within Europe. However, ESSDA supports other individuals and organisations with similar goals throughout the rest of the world.”, thus omitting the words “as a geographically defined continent”.

2. To insert the following paragraph:

Paragraph 6.2.: “Europe in the context of this Constitution and its By-Laws means the following states or their future successor states: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark (incl. Faeroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, Finland (incl. Åland), France (incl. Overseas France/France d'outre-mer), Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands (incl. the Caribbean Netherlands and ABC Islands), Northern Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia (incl. the Province of Kosovo/Republic of Kosovo), Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (incl. Ceuta, Melilla, and Canary Islands), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (incl. British Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies), Vatican City State.”

Explanation:

The current wording in the ESSDA Constitution “Europe as a geographically defined continent” is imprecise and leaves too much room for interpretation and discussion. It raises questions both with regard to states that are partly located outside Europe, i.e. on the Asian continent, and with regard to overseas territories or non-European exclaves of European states, as people from these overseas territories and non-European exclaves are citizens of the respective European states.

The motion put to the vote adopts the list of national bodies that are members of major European sport organisations:

- of the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) sub-organisation "Dancesport Europe": Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, Northern Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine.
- of the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA): Andorra, Azerbaijan, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Portugal, Russia, San Marino, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the associations of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
- of Tennis Europe, the European continental body of the International Tennis Federation (ITF): Monaco
- additionally and for the sake of completeness: the Vatican City State

Adding this proposed Paragraph 6.2. would be in line with the European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation (EGLSF) of which the following countries are ordinary members: Austria, Belgium,

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

APPENDIX 9 – Item (9)

Member proposal from Mark Hebell to include European licensed adjudicators in the list of people eligible for ESSDA Membership as defined in the Constitution paragraph 12.1.1

Proposition:

The ESSDA AGM 2024 adopts the following resolution:

“12.1.1. Ordinary membership is open to: all individuals who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the association and who live in Europe or elect to dance for a European club or country. (Details in Bylaws)”

be changed to

“12.1.1 Ordinary membership is open to: all individuals who accept, abide by and comply with the mission statement of the association and who live in Europe or elect to dance for a European club or country or hold a license (teacher/coach/choreographer/adjudicator) from a European dance organization. (Details in Bylaws)”

thus adding “or hold a license (teacher/coach/choreographer/adjudicator) of a European dance organization”.

Explanation:

The current wording in the ESSDA Constitution focuses on people living in Europe in general and specifically on active dancers competing for a European club or country. In doing so the Constitution does not cover the vast number of former dancers, who have retired from their active careers but are still connected with the dance community as teachers, coaches, choreographers, or adjudicators. Still holding the licenses issued by the countries they competed for in the past and under whose regulations they received said licenses, a number of these dancers might have - perhaps only temporarily - relocated to non-European countries. But as they neither live in Europe anymore, nor dance for a European club or country due to their retirement, these dancers are under the current ESSDA rules prohibited from becoming members of ESSDA.

APPENDIX 10 – Item (10)

The UKEDC asks that the Competition Rules Working Group builds the follow issues into its work for the next year:

(a.1) Competition rules for Viennese Waltz:

It would be helpful to have clarity on whether choreography is kept restricted (as is the case with many mainstream competitions, depending on the governing body) or not as some competitors have started to introduce extended choreography. If the steps are not to be restricted it would be good to have clarity on what is permitted - so for example if lines are to be allowed, they should be performed so as not to restrict the flow of other dancers around the floor.

(a.2) Reconsider the senior age cut off:

At the moment, the senior category is a combined age of 90, with a minimum individual age of 40. A Senior 2 was trialled a long time ago (Antwerp) but abandoned, maybe through lack of numbers. Given that numbers are not expected to increase significantly it is proposed that we stay with just Senior , but increase the threshold to an individual minimum age of 45 and a combined age of 100. It is argued that no-one is significantly disadvantaged in the Open competitions at 45 years old but that at 50 more people are.

(a.3) Reconsider the descriptors for competition classes

It is an observation that couples tend to be placed in the classes A-D on the basis of their performance/ability rather than their experience on which Rule 4 classes are based. This is particularly noticeable in the lower classes where, for example, Class D couples are meant to be those, according to the rules descriptor 'just beginning to dance in competitions' and yet sometimes couples are placed in this category when they have been dancing for many years. Is this fair on couples who are genuinely just beginning to compete? Are adjudicators able to determine competitors' length of experience? We believe that the class descriptions should be reviewed, taking in to account how they appear to be interpreted by adjudicators in practice, compared to the wording of the rules.