



Constitution of the United Kingdom Equality Dance Council

Ratified December 2007 (formerly known as UKSSDC)

Amended at the AGM held on 16th February 2020

1. Title

The Association shall be known as the United Kingdom Equality Dance Council, abbreviated where necessary to 'UKEDC' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Council'). It was initially founded in May 2006 and the 1st General Meeting was held on 18th February 2007 in London.

2. Objects

2a. The Council is a not for profit organisation which seeks to support, encourage and grow equality dancing, and work towards a climate in dancing where people can express themselves regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, religion, marital status, age, nationality, language or disability.

2b. The Council seeks to provide a forum for communication, support, coordination and development for our members and other people and organisations interested in equality dancing.

2c. The Council aims to raise the level of equality partner dancing amongst its members and other affiliated organisations that share its aims;

2d. The Council seeks to represent the interests of UK equality dancers, trainers, adjudicators and competition organisers on a worldwide basis.

2e. The Council will work in collaboration with other international organisations to bring UK opinions and concerns to the table in a unified way.

2f. The Council will bring visibility and prominence to UK competitors, adjudicators and organisers to afford us the authority and credibility which we deserve.

2g. Although the Council recognises that same-sex competitions are for two dancers of the same gender, we support the idea that the style of dance goes beyond this to embrace the historical development of same-sex dance which reflects a gay and lesbian identity. We recognise that the choreography and the interpretation of choreography should continue to reflect this.

3. Members

3a. All members must accept, abide by and comply with the Objects of the Council.

3b. Types of membership; -

- i) Ordinary Members – individuals who either live in the UK or work in the UK or represent the UK in competitions
- ii) Affiliated Members – groups and clubs located in the UK, who share a concern in equality dancing
- iii) Founder Members – individuals who were involved in the founding of the Council, who are obligated on the same basis as Ordinary Members

- iv) Honorary Members – individuals who have rendered outstanding services to the equality dance community in the UK

4. Membership

4a. One can become: -

- i) An Ordinary or Affiliate Member by submission of a written application to the Committee which has to be accepted by the Committee or a Membership Committee.
- ii) An Honorary Member upon nomination by a member or by the Committee and by appointment of the AGM with a majority of two thirds of the cast votes.

4b. There is an obligation to pay an annual membership fee, should one be set in the bylaws.

4c. New Members: two weeks must elapse from acceptance before New Members are entitled to vote.

4d. Rejection of a written application by the Committee – In case of refusal of Membership, the Committee or a Membership Committee will report to the applicant and also to the Members at the next General Meeting, giving the reasons for the denial of the applicant. The General Meeting may still grant membership to the applicant by 50% plus one vote of those present.

4e. Membership ceases when: -

- i) Affiliate Members are deemed to be bankrupt.
- ii) A written resignation of membership is received.
- iii) A Member fails to pay annual membership fee within specified time (see Bylaws).
- iv) Exclusion by the Council. This occurs when the member acts contrary to the Constitution, or when the member harms the Council in an unreasonable way. The Committee shall inform the member in due course of this decision in writing. The excluded member shall have the right to appeal this decision and address the General Membership at the following General Meeting.

5. Office Bearers and Management Committee

5a. The Office Bearers of the Council will consist of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and other such Office Bearers as may be deemed necessary by the Committee.

5b. The management of the Council shall be vested in the Committee. The Committee should consist of Office Bearers and Ordinary Committee members.

5c. The Committee should consist of 9 members and be elected for a two year term. Elections shall take place at the AGM every two years.

5d. Office Bearers shall be appointed by the Committee by simple majority. They shall be in post for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. Any vacancies shall be filled at the earliest convenience.

5e. The Committee shall fill any vacancy occurring within the Committee on a temporary basis until the next AGM.

5f. The Committee shall meet a minimum of 4 times annually or when it is felt a meeting is necessary

5g. The Committee may co-opt any members or persons for special purposes (unless persons co-opted are members then they will be deemed not to have voting rights).

5h. The Committee shall have all the powers necessary for the full and efficient conduct of the and shall of the affairs of the Council, and for that purpose may do any act or thing which they deem appropriate for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Council.

5i. The Committee may appoint Sub-Committees as may be considered appropriate and shall determine their respective terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. All acts and proceedings of such sub-committees shall be reported back to the Committee as soon as possible.

5j. The Quorum at a meeting of the Committee shall be 5, at least 2 of whom must be office bearers, and of any sub-committee shall be one third, or such other numbers as the Committee may from time to time determine.

6. Meetings

6a. The Membership is the highest decision making body of the association.

6b. The Membership makes its decisions per vote in the General Meetings of through referendums initiated by the Committee.

6c. The elected Chairperson, or in their absence, the Vice Chairperson or a person appointed by the Committee shall chair the meetings of the Council.

6d. Decisions of the members are made with a minimum of an absolute majority (one vote more than 50%) of the members participating at a General Meeting or a separate referendum. Decisions about changing the constitution, dissolving the association, decisions about further Committee Membership of a Committee member or an honorary membership are made with a majority of 2/3 of the members participating.

6e. Quorum: A minimum number of votes must participate at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting in order to make valid decisions. Details about participation, majority and Quorum are specified in the Bylaws.

6f. Annual General Meeting (AGM) – The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council shall be held every twelve months when a statement of any accounts will be given, the Committee appointed and any other competent business transacted. At least 21 days notice of the AGM shall be given to the membership and suitable notice will be given by email or by other means (see Bylaws for further details governing the AGM)>

6g. Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) – The Committee, with a simple majority shall have the power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Council at any time for any specific purpose on giving 21 days notice to the members. Ordinary members of the Council who wish to call an EGM on any specific issue may do so. 20% of the members must inform the Committee in writing.

6. Accounts and finance

The Committee shall keep such books of account as are necessary to exhibit and explain the transaction and financial position of the Council in regards to the sum of money received and expended by and on behalf of the Council. Accounts of these transactions shall be made available at each and every AGM.

7. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendments to the constitution may be made only by a two third majority of the voting members attending an AGM or EGM called for this purpose. Notice of this meeting and the purpose for which it was called shall be circulated to all members of the Council 21 days before the meeting.

8. Dissolution of the Council

9a. If the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Council, it shall call a special meeting of the

Council. Not less than 21 days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed at the meeting) shall be given.

9b. If such a decision is confirmed by a two thirds majority of the votes cast in relation to the resolution at such a meeting, the Committee shall sell such of the assets of the Council as they may consider appropriate for the best price reasonably attainable and settle the debts and liabilities of the Council. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of such debts and liabilities shall: if originally received by grant, be returned to the awarding body, or otherwise be given or transferred to such other charitable organisation or organisations having similar objectives to the Council as the Committee may determine.