



National Governing Body of DanceSport, Member
Organization of the US Olympic Committee, and the
World DanceSport Federation



Executive Committee

Bylaw and Rulebook Interpretation

December 19, 2018

Inquiry:

Review the Bylaws and Rule book to determine if a USA Dance Member submitting a Rulebook complaint may submit a DanceSport or Professional Council, Executive Committee, or Governing Council decision pertaining to such a complaint to the American Arbitration Association for arbitration provided that the complaint does not relate to an issue of either:

- Any controversy involving USA Dance's recognition as a national governing body as provided in the USOC Constitution or
- Involving the opportunity of an athlete, coach, organizer, or official to participate in DanceSport competitions.

Interpretation:

The only USA Dance Rulebook rules relating to the use of arbitration are rules 4.11.4 and 7.3.1.

The USA Dance Rulebook clearly limits the use of arbitration to an athlete's opportunity to participate in competitions in rule 4.11.4.

Similarly, as reiterated in Rule 7.3.1 the USOC also limits the use of arbitration to instances regarding an athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate opportunity to participate in an athletic competition. Furthermore, Rule 7.3.1 also specifies that USA Dance agrees to arbitration for any controversy involving USA Dance's recognition as a national governing body as provided in the USOC Constitution.

The only USA Dance Bylaws relating to the use of arbitration are Articles XIV and XVII.

As stated in Rule 7.3.1 in the USA Dance Rulebook, USA Dance Bylaw Article XVII agrees to the use of arbitration under limited circumstances which are as follows:

- Any controversy involving USA Dance's recognition as a national governing body as provided in the USOC Constitution or
- Involving the opportunity of an athlete, coach, organizer, or official to participate in DanceSport competitions.



National Governing Body of DanceSport, Member
Organization of the US Olympic Committee, and the
World DanceSport Federation



Article XIV specifies the process followed by the Ethics Committee when handling complaints brought to that body. Article XIV.C specifically excludes Rulebook violations from the purview of the Ethics Committee. This exclusion was specifically included in this Bylaw since:

1. the intent when creating these procedures was to limit the scope of the Ethics committee to non-Rulebook related issues and
2. processes to handle rule violations were already in place in the Rulebook when the Ethics Committee was formed in 2017.

As Bylaw Article XIV.C excludes Rulebook violations from Ethics Committee review the remaining process steps outlined in Bylaw Article XIV do not pertain to the processing of Rulebook Violations which includes Article XIV.K.

Conclusion:

The Executive Committee concludes that Rulebook violations are not subject to arbitration unless they relate to the specific conditions as specified in Bylaw Article XVII.

Executive Committee
USA Dance, Inc.