

Lausanne, Switzerland

Monday, 6 January 2025

Dear Fabian,

Please find our final answers to your questions below.

We have been forthcoming in providing you answers over the holidays to questions obviously fed by anonymous sources. These are clearly parties frustrated by the fact that they did not prevail in open discussions at our General Assembly (nor, in fact, did they even attempt to bring these issues up at all).

We note that each organisation has the right to choose the way it conducts its activities. As part of its activities, the WDSF had the responsibility to prepare and support Breaking's debut at the Olympic Games. We believe that this important objective was objectively successfully achieved. This is ultimately what counts most.

In this perspective and with due respect, we do not understand what interest a media like SRF can see in investigating and reporting on unverified and anonymous claims of some disgruntled parties (who are in a clear minority) raising accusations of little actual overall relevance and hardly any interest to the general public.

Please also bear in mind that this is an election year for the WDSF and you should be extremely careful regarding the true motivations of your sources.

We believe that the answers you have been provided on a goodwill basis demonstrate that there is no actual material substance in the issues behind your questions and certainly nothing that justifies a programme to be made, let alone broadcast.

At this stage, it is up to you to consider whether these issues – the interest of which arguably does not extend beyond those agitating them – are indeed worth a broadcast. We frankly doubt it and we note that the mere fact of reporting on them is already giving them a significance that they truly do not have. Should you nevertheless proceed with your programme, we appeal to your professionalism to report on all matters objectively.

Q: In the last question of the questionnaire I pointed out that the WDSF is criticized for not sufficiently including the Breaking community and for

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appropriating Breaking in the way it proceeded to bring it to the Paris Olympics.

You replied by pointing out various involvements with the breaking community and by mentioning milestones achieved in the development of the discipline. Concerning the allegation regarding appropriation brought forward by different parties:

SRF Investigativ is in possession of an internal e-mail by president Shawn Tay with the title “Our Future with Breaking” sent to presidium members in 2018. The wording in this e-mail can be interpreted in a way that Breaking as a discipline is subordinate to other disciplines like Standard and Latin and that Breaking’s primary purpose is merely to be used and/or appropriated for the Olympic acceptance of the other disciplines. This is further supported by the wish to manage Breaking without “draining the finances” and by wanting “to protect it from the hand of others”. In the light of this e-mail how do you further comment on the allegation of appropriation brought forward by various parties?

A: An isolated email dating back almost seven years and considered out of context is certainly not providing any basis for drawing any valid conclusions.

This is especially true if your entire narrative is based on a drip-feed of one-sided information from the anonymous source that has purportedly provided you this communication, which is taken out of a communication meant to be confidential.

But to put this matter to rest once and for all, this confidential and internal email must be considered in the context it was written.

At the time, the WDSF had already spent a considerable amount of its own money (1.2 million CHF) over two years to organise the Breaking competition at the Youth Olympic Games in 2018. This was money entirely taken from WDSF funds earned through Standard and Latin competitions. Some of our almost 100 National Member Bodies were understandably concerned that our Standard and Latin events and athletes could suffer as a result of this focus and spending on Breaking.

The leadership was therefore under great pressure from a number of National Member Bodies raising concerns in this respect. The email from Mr. Tay was an attempt to address and allay these concerns.

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As you can read, he began by challenging the prevailing assumptions and providing a number of options that the Presidium could choose to follow. As you can readily infer from reading the rest of the email, Mr. Tay clearly indicates his support for the WDSF to continue backing Breaking to its fullest extent. For proof of his and the Presidium's commitment to Breaking, one need look no further than the successful organisation of the **2019** WDSF World Breaking Championship the very next year in China, or the 68 Breaking competitions leading up to the Olympic Games, or indeed the Breaking event at Paris 2024 itself.

The WDSF has and continues to treat all our disciplines equally. Rather than leveraging Breaking as a means to introduce other disciplines to be included on the Olympic programme, it was instead a call to all Presidium members to study the reasons why Breaking was being considered for inclusion in the Olympic Games and not our other disciplines. Mr. Tay saw a tremendous learning opportunity in this for DanceSport in general, with many valuable lessons that could be applied to our other disciplines in order to improve wherever possible. With the first step successfully achieved in Paris, the WDSF can also confirm that it will continue to strongly advocate for Breaking's re-entry to all future editions of the Olympic Games.

Q: The WDSF denies having violated its statutes in the pre-selection process. However, we know of a formal complaint that criticizes exactly that. A complaint that was apparently never answered by the WDSF. How do you comment on this?

A: Regarding the pre-selection tool calculations, the former system we employed produced a number of tied results, which were then settled using a "sum of scores," which caused confusion among the athletes.

The WDSF Breaking Core Group immediately took steps to improve the situation and proposed adjustments to the BRRM. Please bear in mind that the Olympic qualification period was a short and particularly intense time for our entire team, being only a year out from Paris 2024.

This ongoing adaptation process served the sport and certainly did not violate the WDSF Statutes. Any claim thereof is completely pointless.

As mentioned previously, this was Breaking's first journey on the road to the Olympic Games, and it was only natural that changes would need to be made along the way. Rest assured that every change made by the WDSF was done so with the best interests of all athletes in mind.

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Finally, as you chose not to reveal your source, we are left with assumptions. There is a possibility that your information could be coming from the head of the Breaking Association in Switzerland. If this is indeed the case, you should be made aware of a possible conflict of interest regarding the judging system – as this person has a working relationship with another scoring provider, a competitor of the company that officiated at the European Championships. Given the identity of your source, we thought this information could be relevant.

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