



polesports.org

Competition Rules and Regulations

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1. Definition

- 1.1) “Competition” shall refer to the World Pole Sports Championships (WPSC).
- 1.2) “Athlete” shall refer to the person invited to participate in the competition.
- 1.3) “Document” shall refer to this entire document.

2. Venue

2.1) The following venues are appropriate for hosting an IPSF competition:

- Sports centre
- Gymnasium
- Dance auditorium
- Leisure facility
- Conference centre
- Concert arena
- Theatre

2.2) The venue must hold the appropriate insurances and fire precautions.

2.3) The venue should have ample changing and toilet facilities.

2.4) Those with disabilities should be provided for.

2.5) The venue should be secure at all times.

2.6) The venue should have secure changing facilities for the athletes and these should be restricted to athletes, coaches, and officials only.

2.7) The venue should have a fully trained medical team on hand when members of the public and athletes are on site.

2.8) The event must be covered by events public liability, property damage, and workman compensation insurance for a minimum cover of £1 million or the equivalent. National competitions may hold cover which will meet national standards.

2.9) The venue must not have restriction on age.

3. Stage

3.1) For international competitions the stage should have three (3) meters clearance in front, side and behind of each pole. There should be exactly three (3) meters between each pole. In national competition, there should be a minimum of two (2) meters between and around the poles.

3.2) The stage or seating should be elevated so spectators and judges have the best view.

3.3) The judges should be seated preferably in the centre front of the stage with an unobstructed view. At international level it must be centre and unobstructed.

3.4) Judges should preferably not be in close proximity to the audience. At international level the judges must not be in close proximity to the audience.

4. Poles

4.1) All national competition poles should be between 40 and 45mm in diameter. International

championships will be strictly 45mm only.

- 4.2) The pole must be a minimum of three (3) meters of usable height.
- 4.3) The pole should be no higher than five (5) meters of usable height.
- 4.4) The pole should be fixed securely and have no more than 2cm lateral movement.
- 4.5) If there is a rigging or truss system to secure the poles, this should not be used as part of the performance equipment and should be erected by qualified persons.
- 4.6) Single pole sports require one (1) spinning pole and one (1) static pole.
- 4.7) Double pole sports athlete may choose either spinning or static poles.
- 4.8) The spinning pole should be placed on the right hand side of the audience view.
- 4.9) The poles can be stainless steel, chrome, brass, or titanium and professional grade. The poles must be selected from one of the IPSF endorsed safe pole list. Please contact the IPSF for list and recommendations. WPSC pole will be brass.
- 4.10) Stage poles or pole with only one fixed point are not suitable at international level. They may be used at national level.
- 4.11) All poles must be cleaned by a minimum of two people per pole who are competent at climbing. They should take turns in cleaning the top of the pole. Poles should be cleaned in their entirety with a grease remover and making sure all spillages of product are cleared from the competition area.

5. Selection Process

- 5.1) Athletes participation in the WPSC is via invitation from the IPSF only.
- 5.2) Athletes or pairs must be the overall winner or placed second in a recognized regional, national, or international competition to be allocated a place in the IPSF world qualifiers. For 2012 a place will be given to the best performer in a country that has not been represented or does not have a competition.
- 5.3) All eligible athletes must compete in the qualifiers in order to win a place in the final.
- 5.4) The IPSF recognizes endorsed competitions as a qualifier and therefore the winner of the endorsed competition gains automatic entry to the WPSC finals
- 5.5) In order to qualify for automatic entry into the WPSC, the competition must have been running for a minimum of two (2) years using the IPSF Rules and regulation and been overseen by the IPSF for quality assurance.
- 5.6) Athletes are allowed one (1) performance in the heats to win a placement in either the semi final or final.
- 5.7) Athletes must be 18 or above on the date of the competition.
- 5.8) The title of male, female and doubles World Pole Sports Champion 2012 will be a lifetime title.

6. Application Process

Failure to comply with the following may result in disqualification from the competition:

- 6.1) All invited athletes must complete and sign the IPSF application form.
- 6.2) All athletes must produce a copy of their passport with their application form.
- 6.3) All athletes must represent the country that issued their residency. Proof of residency of said country must show a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to the commencement of the IPSF qualifiers.

- 6.4) All athletes must read the rules and regulations and sign a copy for confirmation.
- 6.5) All athletes must disclose medical information which will be held confidentially.
- 6.6) All athletes must disclose if they have been previously disqualified from any competition.
- 6.7) All athletes must represent their legal gender. A copy of the birth certificate must be submitted upon request.
- 6.8) Each athlete must perform with the same gender except in the case of doubles.
- 6.9) All athletes must conduct themselves in accordance with the IPSF Rules and Regulations.
- 6.10) All expenses incurred by the athlete are the responsibility of the athlete and not the IPSF.
- 6.11) All athletes must arrive and register at the time designated by the IPSF.
- 6.12) All athletes must read the IPSF Code of Ethics and behave in a manner befitting an international athlete.
- 6.13) All athletes confirm by taking part in the IPSF WPSC that they waive all image rights and will not receive any compensation for photos and videos taken during the event. They agree that the images can be used for commercial use.
- 6.14) All athletes agree to be interviewed, filmed and or photographed by the media.
- 6.15) All athletes must be present at the medal ceremony unless a medical emergency has occurred.
- 6.16) All athletes must agree to take part in drug testing, for banned or controlled substances. For a list of controlled substances please see www.polesports.org.
- 6.17) All athletes must submit electronically, one photographic head shot and one full length shot on the pole. The athlete must follow the IPSF competition standard clothing in their photos (13.1/13.3). All photos must have photographers consent along with their name.
- 6.18) All applications should be completed in English.
- 6.19) All athletes must have personal insurance that covers them from their duration of the competition. This should start one day prior to the competition to two days after the competition has completed.
- 6.20) All athletes must produce documentation from a doctor as confirmation of good health to compete.
- 6.21) All athletes are required to hold a sports visa for entry to the United Kingdom and to partake in workshops. IPSF can assist with paper work upon request.

7. Filming

- 7.1) The athlete agrees to filming/photography at any event in which they appear before, during or after the competition which is related to the competition – i.e.: workshops, interviews, performances, etc.
- 7.2) The athlete waives all rights of filming and photography
- 7.3) All filming and photography is not permitted in the changing areas unless with express permission of the IPSF.
- 7.4) All photography and footage remains the property of the IPSF.
- 7.5) All athletes agree that photos and footage can be used by the IPSF for advertising, promotional and commercial purposes.

8. Categories

The following categories will be included in the 2012 WPSC. Future competitions will also include disabled and youth categories:

Female

- a) Female athletes over the age of 18

Male

- a) Male athletes over the age of 18

Doubles

- a) One male and one female
- b) Female and Female
- c) Male and Male

9. Qualifiers and Finals

- 9.1) It is preferred that the qualifiers should be on a different day to the finals.
- 9.2) If the above is not possible a minimum of three (3) hours between each qualifier be given.
- 9.3) A minimum of five (5) hours between the last qualifier and the final should be given.
- 9.4) The top ten (10) competitors with the highest point score in each category will go through to the final.
- 9.5) Individual sponsor logo wear may not be worn at national or international level unless approved by the IPSF 30 days prior to the national, international or world competition.

10. Disqualification

The athlete will be automatically disqualified from the event for the following:

- 10.1) Intentionally removing items of clothing.
- 10.2) For directly contacting the judging panel to discuss the competition or to directly or indirectly influence the judging decision prior to or after the competition.
- 10.3) For bringing the competition or the name of the IPSF into disrepute.
- 10.4) For providing false or inaccurate information on the application form.
- 10.5) For proving a positive results in the controlled substance test.

11. Performance Time

- 11.1) The performance should last no longer than three minutes thirty seconds (3:30) for the qualifier due to time constraints of the first competition. This will be extended to four (4) minutes for the finals.
- 11.2) The start of the first note of music the athlete has chosen is the start of the three minutes thirty seconds (3:30).
- 11.3) The last beat of the athletes chosen music should not exceed three minutes thirty seconds (3:30).

12. Music Choice

12.1) Entrants have a personal choice of music, which can be a mix of various music and artists.

12.2) The music should be without lyrics at the WPSC. No words, only instrumental music. At national level lyrics may be included however, they must not be of an expletive or offensive nature.

12.3) Music must be submitted twenty one (21) days prior to the competition or entry is revoked.

12.4) The same music can be used for both the heats and final.

12.5) Music must be submitted in MP3 format only.

12.6) All athletes must own the copyright of all music used at all IPSF competition. This should be royalty free music.

13. Costume

13.1) Costumes should not be intentionally removed, must fit correctly (13.1/13.3), and not used in an erotic manner.

13.2) Female costumes can include:

No less than a crop top with:

- a strap size of no less than twenty (20) millimetres in diameter.
- a neck line of no lower than eighty (80) millimetres from clavicular notch.
- Sports shorts, leotards or sports knickers that cover the gluteal crease all the way across. Shorts and sports knickers should not be lower than eighty (80) millimetres from the navel.
- Sequins, diamante, tassels or fringing.
- Gymnastic/ballet foot protectors or flat or split soled dance or gymnastic foot wear.
- Any colour

13.3) Female costumes should NOT include:

- Underwear
- Swimwear or bikinis
- Transparent clothing that does not cover the breast or the pelvic area
- PVC or rubber
- Heels or footwear not considered to be of athletic or dance origin
- Jewelry of any type, cuffs or any item worn that is not attached to the costume
- Excessive cleavage on show
- Any clothing that interferes with the performance or can be considered a health and safety issue
- Fire
- Paint, oil, or water
- Props such as hats, canes and anything that is not considered attached to the costume

13.4) Male costumes can include:

- Vest, crop top or topless if preferred. If performing topless the athlete must start topless.
- Sports shorts that cover the gluteal crease all the way across. Shorts should not be lower than eighty (80) millimetres from the navel.
- Gymnastic/ballet foot protectors or flat soled dance or gymnastic foot wear.
- Any colour.

13.5) Male costumes should NOT include:

- Underwear.

- Swimwear.
- Transparent clothing that does not cover the pelvic area.
- PVC or rubber.
- Heels or footwear not considered to be of athletic or dance origin.
- Jewelry of any kind.
- Anything that interferes with the performance or can be considered a health and safety issue
- Fire.
- Paint, oil or water.
- Props such as hats, canes and anything that is not considered costume.

13.6) It is expressly forbidden to perform semi nude, improperly dressed or in an overtly erotic manner (i.e.: Stroking the body suggestively, fondling the breast, chest and groin area, performing a gluteal dance and shaking the chest or gluteus in a suggestive manor. Please be advised body rolls are not included in the above).

13.7) The IPSF reserve the right to disqualify an athlete for improper dress, removing costume, intentional costume failure or the use of body paint (face make up can be used on the face only).

13.8) Clothing that is used for extra grip on the body, hand or feet is forbidden.

13.9) Clothing should be free from logos, imagery and writing other than the IPSF event sponsors or written IPSF permission.

13.10) IPSF approved grip aids can be used and will be supplied by the IPSF. Those found to be using non-approved grip aids may be disqualified. For a list please see www.polesports.org.

13.11) It is forbidden to apply any grip aid to the pole. Grip aids may only be applied to the athlete's body.

14. Single Pole Sports

(Please see judges manual for further criteria breakdown and scoring table)

14.1) Technical Presentation

A maximum of 50 points are awarded in the Technical section. This section is to judge pole tricks, the combination of pole tricks, level of difficulty, the execution, and the transitions in and out of the pole tricks. The judges will look for tricks performed with ease and grace.

The following points are taken into consideration when scoring:

- The execution of a trick or a combination of tricks.
- The level of difficulty of tricks and combinations.
- The quality execution, control, stamina, strength, and flexibility of a trick.
- Demonstration of flexibility, dead lifting strength, clean lines, and foot and toe point.

14.2) Artistic presentation

A maximum of 25 points are awarded in the artistic section. This section is to judge the athlete's artistic presentation and interpretation. This is the way in which the athlete presents his or herself to the judges and captivates them in their performance. The judges will assess the athlete's ability to convey emotion and expression through movement. They should be confident, engaging, and entertaining, in each element of their performance. The costume, music, and performance should be reflective of each other. The athlete should create an original performance and display a unique

style making sure to use both the spinning and static pole equally. The overall performance should flow seamlessly and effortlessly ensuring that highs and lows (shades) are demonstrated. This section is broken down into the following areas:

The following points are taken in to consideration when scoring:

- Originality of the overall performance.
- Presentation of the overall performance.
- Confidence of the athlete.
- Interpretation of the music reflected in the costume, choreography, and performance.
- Character and stage persona.

14.3) Stage Presentation

A maximum of 25 points are awarded in the stage presentation section. This section is to judge the athletes stage performance, this can be defined by all moves perform around the pole and stage area or stage surface, but not in contact with the pole. The judges will assess the athlete's ability to perform dance and or gymnastic choreography that are performed with imagination, flow, and flair.

The following points taken in to consideration when scoring:

- Movement and dance performance
- Flow
- Floor Work
- Use of stage
- Balanced Chorography

14.4) Compulsories

A maximum of 40 points can be deducted from a performance score. Two separate judges will solely judge this section of the criteria. This section is to deduct points for compulsory moves performed with poor technique or not at all. Judges are also asked to deduct points for loss of balance, falls, and costume malfunctions; these distract from the performance and therefore require point deductions. Compulsory movements are broken down into the following sections:

One (1) Point Deduction

The athlete has attempted a compulsory move however they have performed it with incorrect technique, flow, or flexibility.

Two (2) point deductions

The athlete did not attempt the compulsory move during their routine.

- Spin – 2 Point Maximum Deduction

One spin combination of two (2) or more spins in an upright or inverted position.

- Trick - 2 Point Maximum Deduction

A trick combination of three (3) or more moves in an inverted position with an aerial transition.

- Aerial Dead Lift - 2 Point Maximum Deduction

An aerial dead lift is defined by the starting position of the body. No parts of the body must be in contact with the floor.

- Flexibility – 2 Point Maximum Deduction

An aerial flexibility move must be performed either in contact with or not in contact with the pole.

- A Fall – 10 Point Maximum Deduction

A definition of a fall is to drop from a position rapidly and freely without control.

- A loss of balance – 10 point maximum deduction

A definition of loss of balance or a slip is when an athlete performs a move and they lose their equilibrium or positioning on the pole by not having the grip.

- Costume malfunction – 10 Point Maximum Deduction

The definition of a costume malfunction is when a part of the costume accidentally falls down, falls off, becomes revealing or distracting to the athletes performance. This should not be confused with the willful removal of clothing which is a direct abuse of the IPSF rule (13.1)

15. Double Pole Sports

15.1) Technical

The way the athlete presents the acrobatic and gymnastic element of pole sport. The level of difficulty, originality, execution, and strength combined to create a technically difficult move on the pole. How both performers work together performing tricks and the way in which they mount and dismount from their partner tricks.

The following points are taken into consideration when scoring:

- The execution of tricks and combinations.
- The level of difficulty of doubles tricks and combinations.
- The synchronization of tricks and combinations.
- Interlocking and transitioning or entries and exits of partner tricks and combinations.

15.2) Artistic presentation

A maximum of 25 points are awarded in the Artistic section. This section is to judge the athlete's Artistic presentation and interpretation. This is the way in which both athlete's presents themselves to the judges and captivates them in their performance. The judges will assess both athletes' ability to convey emotion and expression through movement. They should be confident in themselves and each other, engaging and entertaining, in each element of their performance. The costume, music and performance should be reflective of each other. The athlete's should create an original performance and display a unique style making sure to use both poles equally. The overall performance should flow seamlessly and effortlessly ensuring that highs and lows (shades) are demonstrated. This section is broken down into the following areas:

The following points are taken in to consideration when scoring:

- Originality of the overall performance.
- Presentation of the overall performance.
- Confidence of the athlete.
- Interpretation of the music reflected in the costume, choreography and performance.
- Character and stage persona.

15.3) Stage Presentation

A maximum of 25 points are awarded in the stage presentation section. This section is to judge both athlete's stage performance. This can be defined by all moves perform around the pole and

stage area or stage surface, but not in contact with the pole. The judges will assess the athlete's ability to perform dance and gymnastic choreography that is synchronized and performed with imagination, flow, and flair. This section is broken down into the following areas:

The following points taken in to consideration when scoring:

- Movement and Dance Performance
- Flow of Stage Performance
- Floor Work
- Use of Stage
- Balanced Chorography

15.4) Compulsories - Doubles

A move that must be performed in any order or combination throughout the performance. They must be performed a minimum of one (1) time each for doubles unless otherwise stated. Failure to perform a compulsory move will result in point deduction.

The following moves must be performed:

- A spin combination of two (2) or more spins in an upright or inverted position with an aerial transition (no grounded footwork between the combinations). The spin combination should be performed on the static pole. Each spin of the two-spin combo had to last one full rotation around the pole. Example: Front hook 360 degrees into back hook 360 degrees.
- A trick combination of three (3) or more moves in an inverted position with an aerial transition.
- An Air dead lift (performed without touching the floor, i.e.: from up the pole, the pole should NOT be used to assist dead lift and the legs should not be used to swing into position).
- A split on the pole with both feet off the floor either horizontally up or down the pole or laterally.
- A partner trick.
- A minimum of twenty (20) seconds of synchronized choreography. This can be performed in two (2) ten (10) second increments.

16. Judges Criteria

16.1) All IPSF judges must have worked as an instructor or pole athlete for a minimum of three years.

16.2) All judges must have judged a minimum of two recognized competitions prior to the IPSF WPSC.

16.3) All IPSF judges are required to complete the judge's pre-competition training course.

16.4) Judges must declare any personal or business relationship with any athletes.

16.5) Judges must be over the age of 18 and under the age of 70 on the date of the competition.

16.6) Judges must have no criminal records or records pending.

16.7) Judges must represent the country of their passport.

16.8) Judges must speak, read, and write English fluently.

16.9) Judges must be competent at using computers and the Internet.

16.10) Judges must wear black formal clothing of a non-revealing nature and be presentable at all times.

16.11) Judges must not consume alcohol on the day of judging.

16.12) Judges must not comment publicly about their decision without permission of the IPSF.

- 16.13) Judges must sign the IPSF judging ethics.
- 16.14) Judges must allocate a higher number of points for those athletes with a higher skill level.
- 16.15) Judges must not discuss judging or results with athlete.
- 16.16) Judges must take the IPSF Judges Certification and pass in order to become an IPSF Recognized Judge.

The six (6) judges will be as follows:

Four judges judging all technical, artistic, and stage performance.
Two judges to mark compulsory moves.

Technical Overseer – to train judges, oversee the judging, and look after judges.
Technical Collator – takes in all of the scores and checks them.
Timekeeper – Watch for time penalties.

17. Judges

- 17.1) The judge's decision is final.
- 17.2) Appeals and complaints procedures must follow the correct format within 7 days of the scores being announced.
- 17.3) A decision appeal fee of \$500 will apply and must be paid at the time of appeal. The fee has been implemented so that genuine complains are heard and not complaints heard from an emotional viewpoint.
- 17.4) All judging is completed via computer.
- 17.5) Judges may not return to previous performances to update their scoring system.
- 17.6) Judges must not talk to each other or confer during the performances. The judges may converse when the performance is over but not about judging.
- 17.7) Judges requiring assistance must raise their hand. They may only talk to the Technical Overseer.
- 17.8) Judges must be separated from the athletes and spectators at all times.
- 17.9) Judges and performers will be disqualified if they confer at any time during the competition.
- 17.10) Judges must not leave their seat at any time unless with the permission of the Technical Overseer
- 17.11) Judges must be seated in a position with the best viewpoint away from the audience.

18. Scoring System

18.1) Allocation of Scores:

The Athlete(s) with the score closet to the highest possible score is the winner. Single points and half points can be given. Points can be deducted for not executing the compulsory moves, a fall or a costume malfunction

- Technical – Maximum of 50 Points
- Artistic presentation – Maximum of 25 Points

- Floor Performance – Maximum of 25 Points
- Compulsories – Maximum of 40 Points deducted

More detailed information on the breakdown of the criteria can be found in the Judges Manual or sections 14/15.

18.2) All scores will be collated via computer.

18.3) Once judging has finished, no scores or discussions can be made to alter the results.

19. Disqualification

Reason for Disqualification:

An athlete can be disqualified during or after the competition if a breach of the rules has occurred. The IPSF reserves the right to remove the title of an athlete's for the following infringements:

19.1) Breach of the IPSF Code of Ethics.

19.2) Falsifying information on the IPSF application.

19.3) Unsporting behavior.

19.4) Removal of clothing.

19.5) Erotic style choreography (i.e.: Stroking the body suggestively, fondling the breast, chest and groin area, performing a gluteal dance and shaking the chest or gluteus in a suggestive manor.

Please be advised body rolls are not included in the above).

19.6) Publicly speaking negatively about pole to the public or media.

19.7) Publicly speaking negatively about the sponsors.

19.8) Publicly speaking negatively about the judging, judges, athletes, results, or the IPSF.

19.9) Breaking the IPSF Rules and Regulations.

20. Results

Allocation of Results:

20.1) All results will be generated by computer.

20.2) Results will be collated and given after the last athlete has competed at the end of the heats, semis and finals.

20.3) All results will be available for inspection by athlete's within seven (7) days of the completion of the competition and thirty (30) days for the public.

21. Prize

Allocation of Prize:

21.1) The athlete(s) compete for the title of World Pole Sports Champion 2012.

21.2) The winner from each category will receive a gold medal.

21.3) The first and second runner up will receive a silver and bronze medal respectively.

21.4) All other athletes will receive a certificate of participation.

21.5) No cash or other gifts will be given.

22. Terms and Conditions

The IPSF reserve the right to the following:

22.1) Alter the IPSF Rules and Regulations at any time.

22.2) Disqualify any athlete in breach of the rule, terms, or code of ethics.

22.3) Disqualify any judge in breach of the rules, terms, or code of ethics.

22.4) To decide on any decisions not already addressed in the rules and regulation and code of ethics prior to or during the IPSF WPSC.

22.5) All athletes enter the IPSF competition at their own risk and understand that the any injuries or accident that may occur are the responsibility of the athlete.

22.6) The IPSF provides medical assistance in the event of an injury. The medical representative has the final decision on whether the athlete's injury should prevent them from entering or continuing the competition.

22.7) IPSF cannot be held responsible for loss or damage to athletes or officials items.

23. Writers and Contributors

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