

Mr. Luis Vañó Martínez
President of the Spanish Dancesport Federation (FEBD)
Barcelona.

Barcelona, April 7, 2017

Mr. President

Following your statement of March 21, published on the website of the Spanish Federation (FEBD), and from which all Clubs of Spain have received copies, the Spanish Association of Dancesport Clubs (ACEB), have received from its members an amount of testimonies reflecting its doubts and worries. We have made a compilation and research of all of them, and that is why we are obliged to transmit to you the following issues. We would like you to respond to them.

At the beginning of the letter you mention the significant increase (133%) of Dancesport licenses during the 2015-2016 season thanks to the incorporation of new specialties like Line Dance, Hip Hop, Choreographic, Caribbean Dances, Flamenco, Twirling and Wheelchair.

We share that it is necessary, and almost obliged, to work to incorporate to the federation all dance specialties, helping to diffuse and regulate them, but it is also true that During that same period the number of licenses of Standard and Latino has suffered a spectacular fall of more than 50%, a fact that you ignore in your writing and Which deliberately hides to public opinion. I can assure you that we are many Clubs, coaches, athletes and organizers that we are living with great concern that data in the day to day.

Continuing with the content of your statement, and as responsible among other functions, of economic management, refers to "certain recordings" dating back to the final stage of AEBDC (*the Spanish Dancesport Association that gave way to the current federation FEBD*) and tells us that "the comments are taken out of context and that in others moments they were denied, corrected and explained."

Mr. President, when did you give any explanation? Where and in what form has you denied, corrected and explained the famous recordings? Our whole collective is asking themselves if that money, that seemed to be missed from the AEBDC account, has already been replaced. If it is so, could you explain how the money was recovered? Continuing with the economic issue, Can you tell us how it is that the sport insurance of the group of dancers in the year 2011 was pending of payment to the insurance company for 9 months?

Up today nobody knows anything about it, except you and some members of your board. And if it is a lie and the conversations are out of context and manipulated by a Technology expert, why do you not report it? Do you not think that the whole Spanish dance family deserve clear and transparent explanations of what has happened? Please, do not use threats of disciplinary proceedings and the use of the FEBD legal services. What this FEBD legal services should really defend, are the interests of the whole collective compounding the Spanish Dancesport Federation.

And what is too much: by the content of your writing is interpreted that we have to be quiet, since this disagreeable affair, with our president (the one of all) like protagonist, must not be commented or criticized by anybody in any media. If really you are offended, how do you think about us and about our feelings? There is no reason to be offended, Mr. President: What has been uncovered and has come out to the public eye is really disturbing and embarrassing. It has even been internationally known.

As you well know, the misuse of private funds or public grants is a very serious offense according to the disciplinary rules. We are all members of a Sportive Federation.

Mr President, as responsible, also, of managing the sportive part of our Federation, there is another matter not less worrying, and maybe you should give us an explanation. What is happening in our country so that in the last years our best couples are dancing and competing representing other countries or other International Federations?

I do not believe that the CDS (*the Spanish Sports Council, a government organism*) be happy by knowing that several of the best athletes in one of their Sports federations emigrate to other countries because they do not have the respect, protection and support that their president should have given them.

Sports persons who have been educated and have grown in the days of the AEBDC (the Spanish Dancesport Association that gave way to the current federation FEBD), well-known and recognized names in all the collective of the Spanish Dancesport, triumph by the world and are good referent to the world level. But sadly they no longer dance representing our Federation and our Country.

Following with the sports subject, let's talk about what in general worries to dancers. In the writing does not refer to the decrease in the number of licenses, nor that the account of the Federation is always empty, nor about the famous audios, or about we leave our best dancers going abroad for getting their license. You neither talk about what most worries the great majority of dancers: how the judges system works in the Spanish Championships, in Promotion contests and, of course, in the national competitions that take place throughout the season. Yes Mr President, I am talking of the JUDGES.

Some of them have a position in the Federation and it is well known by everyone their influence and the manipulation that they exert to get better results for their couples, by influencing or pressuring other judges. Establish in an unsporting manner the outcome of a contest is a very serious infringement that you are allowing and has allowed throughout your mandate.

How and who is choosing the Judges and with what criteria do the panels of the Spanish Championships are currently done? And in the past? Must I remind you what happened in the Spanish Standard Championship held in Torredembarra? And in the Championship of Spain of Latinos celebrated in Alcorcón? Or in the last Spanish 10 dances Championship judged with the 2.1 system where you decide to vary the score scale with the excuse that in Spain the level of Latin is better than the level of Standard in the Adult competition?

And a more recent case. In the last Standard Spain Championship held in Oropesa we know of written messages by a member of the Federation to different judges in which threatens them and coerces them in order to influence scores and favour the couples represented by this person.

The problem is not that there are unethical judges who do not have good behaviour in their work. The problem is that our president, board and technical committees allow it instead of solving it.

President, stop using the legal services of the federation, to begin proceedings, threaten or coerce (as you has done for so many years) trying to paralyze what, according to you, are personal attacks.

Your typical phrase "you are with me or against me" is no longer adequate at all. I would say criticism and discrepancy, are not attacks, are legitimate options in any democratic organization. Reacting with disciplinary proceedings only demonstrates the weakness of the arguments and the arrogance of those who believe themselves with absolute power.

Finally, in the last paragraph of your statement, you say that the FEBD continues and will continue working. In that I totally agree and I add that the employees and technicians who work every day so that the machinery of the Federation does not stop, they deserve all our respect and support.

As for this writing, it is not based on opinions, it is based on facts. We will be at your disposal for any clarification, if you believe it so timely. We also ask that you value the fact that there is an important collective behind this writing and the arguments exposed in it. That we have the right to ask explanations and solutions to the aforementioned issues that concern the majority of clubs. We represent the clubs and we feel obliged to take the necessary measures to defend the common interests of all clubs, sportsmen, technicians and judges affected by this situation.

Yours sincerely

Jesús Rubio
ACEB president
(Spanish Association of Dancesport Clubs)