

Dear dancers and families,

I was just on a meeting with the IDO Sports Director and 28 other countries to discuss the 2022 IDO World Championship season and an issue was brought forth by IDO Mexico regarding the July event we have been preparing for.

Apparently, they have been getting calls from many countries asking if they could postpone the event for another year as they aren't comfortable travelling at this time. Russia is not allowed to compete, and Ukraine and Poland are hesitant to travel with their dancers across the world so soon, and same with many parts of Asia and Australia. The European organizations are fearful because the war is very close to home for them and there is still much uncertainty for them. This involves many countries with a lot of participating dancers so without their attendance, it wouldn't be a true World Championship. It is still a difficult time for everyone which makes planning difficult. I also wouldn't want to see the competition go forward, with only our dancers/families who spent so much money to go and be disappointed because it wouldn't be a world event with only Canada, US, and Mexico competing. That wasn't what we planned for.

After a much discussion, I am sad and disappointed that an official decision was made that both the IDO World Acrobatic Dance Championships and the IDO World Dance Challenge that we were planning to attend in Monterrey Mexico this summer, as well as a few other planned competitions, will be postponed for one more year (*providing the world doesn't get worse with some new variants or war- fingers crossed*). Several countries have confirmed their attendance for the event if it is postponed until next year.

The good news is that your position on the team will be held for next year, which will include dancers changing age categories. We will continue with our rehearsals which will be spread out and easier to plan and accommodate everyone, and the extra time will help us build a better and stronger team. You will have more time to make payments and to fundraise. Also, the summer event doesn't interfere with school plans and we already know it will be at the same time next year. We can provide an official letter to any of your sponsors if required.

The bad news is that we had several teams already planning and rehearsing for Mexico this summer from across Canada (the same situation in other countries as well), not to mention working around your busy schedules and plans. This wasn't in our plans and I know many of you were hoping to make this a family vacation which is disappointing.

If you withdraw from the team and do not want to attend the 2023 IDO World Acrobatic Dance Championship, then we will issue you a refund for any money paid towards your travel.

If you want to continue working together with the team towards the 2023 World Championship, we would love to have you. You can alter your payment schedule and discuss rehearsal schedules with the choreographer. Instead of cramming in sessions, we can spread them out throughout the year. If you miss any, then it won't be as

consequential. You can continue to do team building activities and fundraisers. We will have a new rehearsal schedule released soon. If something happens before next year, you will get your travel money back.

Once again, I regret having to give you the official decision to postpone Mexico. **We will plan a Zoom meeting** with the teams to discuss further – more information on that to come.

We have just let our choreographers know the news before sending you this email and although they were shocked as we were, they do understand the circumstances, and look forward to the extra time to spend on this team. They are grateful for your commitment to the team and look forward to continuing the journey together. We were all surprised when the Russian situation forced IDO to reschedule the event to another location, which made it 6 months earlier, and were saddened when it could not go ahead as planned after the hard work of so many. We were not expecting this and were optimistic that the event will continue as planned despite what is happening in Europe, but are looking at the extra time we now have as a good thing.

If you need to discuss it before the meeting, please let me know.

Best Regards
Bonnie Dyer
Director