

## **Costume/Make Up/Accessories Proposal**

### **Problem Statement:**

- The WBTF rules for costuming, makeup and accessories are subjective.
- There is no formal mechanism in place to enforce violations.
- If we are not monitoring the athletes for adherence to the guidelines, then the current policies/procedures should be revised.

### **Background:**

For International Cup, we have the following guidelines (they are not rules, and there is no process in place to enforce them):

#### **COSTUME, FOOTWEAR & BATON GUIDELINES**

- There shall be no restrictions on costume choice for any of the events bearing in mind that this is a sport
- Footwear must meet the requirements of the facility.
- Batons must conform to the definition of "baton". Shafts may be of any color. Tape, of choice, may be used bearing in mind that this is a sport

For World Championship competition, the guidelines are:

#### **FREE STYLE COMPETITION**

##### **Costume:**

- Athletes must perform in the same costume they wore during the music test and use the same baton.
- All athletes (men and women) must wear a costume of their choice bearing in mind this is a sport.
- Athletes are not permitted to have a costume that covers the palm of the hands.

##### **Footwear and leg wear:**

- All athletes must wear shoes of their choice bearing in mind this is a sport.
- Shoe soles must meet facility regulations.
- Socks or tights, of their choice, may be worn bearing in mind this is a sport.

##### **Hair and accessories:**

- Must be secured by any method bearing in mind this is a sport.
- Any hair accessory may be used: bearing in mind this is a sport.
- No other jewelry or body piercing.
- Recommendation: any tattoos that are visible must be covered.

##### **Make up:**

- Moderate stage make up, to enhance natural facial features, is recommended.
- Whatever make up is worn, should be worn bearing in mind this is a sport.
- No body make up, paint or glitter.

##### **Equipment:**

- Baton shaft may be of any color(s). Tape, of choice, may be used; bearing in mind this is a sport.

##### **The only restrictions are the following:**

- a) Shoe soles must meet facility regulations.
- b) Pair and team members must use the same color baton (s) and tape on baton (s) for Uniformity.
- c) No body make up, paint or glitter.
- d) No other jewelry or body piercing

During the World Championships, the costume check is done prior to a country's music test. However, there is no longer a process in place to enforce the rules once the competition begins. When the costume inspection is complete, no one is directly responsible for deciding if a costume conforms to a "sporting image", or if the makeup is too theatrical, or if earrings are being worn, for example.

## **7.0 COSTUME and BATON INSPECTION**

*Approved August, 1999 – Effective September 1, 1999*

- Baton and costume inspection will take place during the Music Tests for each country.
- No other baton and costume inspection will take place.
- No baton and costume check will be done during the competition.
- Athletes, pairs and teams must wear the same costume they wore during Music Test and use the same baton. If changes are made to the costume/and or baton, a costuming penalty will be assessed.
- Athletes, pairs and teams must check in with the Floor Monitor before each round of competition for "order of appearance".

The above procedure states that a "costuming penalty" will be assessed if the costume is different then the one worn during the costume check. If the floor monitor is not checking for this during the competition, then this responsibility must lie with the Head Judge and/or judging panel. However, are the judges watching for "earrings" or the use of "heavy" make up? How would they know what the athlete wore to his/her costume check?

## **12.0 ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE OR ITEMS - ALL EVENTS**

- No substance such as powder, rosin, water or other substance may be used on the competition floor by an athlete for any reason. Penalty: 20 points (subtracted from final percentage score).
- There should be a table in the competition hall near the competition floor with rosin, powder and magnesium powder so that everyone can use these substances in the open.
- No attachments may be made to batons, except tape or similar substance used as a visual or handling aid. The tape may be multiple colors.
- Athletes may not take towel, sweatbands or other items onto the competition floor.
- Athletic bandages for injuries are allowed, e.g. - ankle, knee, elbow, wrist, etc.
- If any athlete/athletes intentionally disregard the clothing or equipment infraction pointed out by the Floor Monitor, then the 20 point penalty will automatically be accessed.

In the above policy, it is unclear as to who the Floor Monitor is supposed to report the clothing or equipment infraction to: Head Judge? Technical Director?

As choreography becomes more theatrical, so too will the makeup and costuming. Deciding whether or not the makeup is "enhancing" one's natural beauty is subjective. Our current rules/guidelines are subjective and rely heavily on the "*bearing in mind this is a sport*" clause.

Earlier revisions to our costume policy, removed many restrictions. The *WBTF Costume Inspection Form* (page 3) demonstrates that there are few restrictions for the freestyle/pair/team events. Almost anything is allowed in competition, with the exception of jewelry and theatrical makeup. Further, the Costume Inspection Form implies (at the bottom) that the floor monitor will be checking athletes at three stages (music test, Preliminaries, and Finals). However, the "Costume and Baton Inspection" (Guideline 7.0 that was listed above) states that after the initial inspection, the Floor Monitor is only checking for Order of Appearance.

**WORLD BATON TWIRLING FEDERATION**  
**BATON AND COSTUME INSPECTION FORM**  
**FOR COMPULSORIES, FREESTYLE, TEAM & PAIRS**

ATHLETE'S NAME/S: _____		
<b>BATON</b>	YES - YES - YES - YES - NO -	Tape may be used on the baton Baton shaft may be of any color(s). Pair/Team members must use same color(s) Pair/Team members must use same color baton(s) and tape on baton(s) for uniformity Sure grip is allowed Other substances or attachments
<b>OTHER</b>	YES - YES - NO - NO - NO -	Athletic bandages for injury Eyeglasses Powder, rosin, water or any other substance is allowed on competition floor Towel, sweatbands or other items are allowed on competition floor Sunglasses
<b>COMPULSORIES</b>		
<b>HAIR</b>	YES -	Hair may be secured by any method which is not ornamentation, trim or costume jewelry
<b>COSTUME WOMEN</b>	YES - YES - NO -	Sleeveless leotard must be in colors of National Flag or Federation Official federation sports badge or emblem of the Nation Absolutely nothing may be hung or attached to the leotard
<b>COSTUME MEN</b>	YES - YES - YES - YES - NO -	Top with no sleeves OR short sleeves, scooped or "V" neckline Pants must be long One piece suit (as above) must be colors of National Flag or Federation Belt (must comply with other rules) Absolutely nothing may be hung or attached to the uniform
<b>FOOTWEAR &amp; LEGWEAR</b>	YES - YES - YES - YES - NO -	Sports shoes must be worn bearing in mind this is a sporting event Color of shoes may be: (WOMEN - Beige, White, Black) (MEN - Beige, White, Black or the color of the pants) Ankle socks, if worn (must be above the ankle and below calf muscle), color of socks must be the same color as pants (men) Tights of flesh color only may be worn Long Socks
<b>OTHER</b>	NO -	No Jewelry or Body Piercing allowed
<b>FREESTYLE - PAIRS - TEAMS</b>		
<b>HAIR &amp; ACCESSORIES</b>	YES - YES - NO -	Must be secured by any method bearing in mind this is a sport. Hair decorations must be secured to the hair Any hair accessory may be used bearing in mind this is a sporting event No Jewelry or Body Piercing allowed Recommendation: Tattoos that are visible are to be covered
<b>MAKE UP</b>	YES - YES - NO -	Moderate stage make up, to enhance natural facial features Make up should be used bearing in mind this is a sporting event No body make up, paint or glitter is allowed
<b>COSTUME</b>	YES - YES - NO -	All athletes, pairs & teams may wear a costume of their own choice bearing in mind this is a sport Athletes must perform in the same costume worn during music test and use the same baton No costume may cover the palms of the hands
<b>FOOTWEAR &amp; LEGWEAR</b>	YES - YES - YES -	Sport shoes must be worn bearing in mind this is a sporting event Shoe soles must meet facility regulations Socks or tights of choice may be worn bearing in mind this is a sporting event
<b>FLOOR MONITOR</b>	_____	<b>ATHLETE'S REPRESENTATIVE</b> _____
<b>1st Check</b>	_____	<b>1st Check</b> _____
<b>PRELIMINARIES</b>	_____	<b>PRELIMINARIES</b> _____
<b>FINALS</b>	_____	<b>FINALS</b> _____
<b>COMMENTS:</b>		_____
		<b>FLOOR MONITOR'S SIGNATURE</b>

In a summary, there are few rules regarding the costuming, makeup or accessories used in competition. More importantly, there does not appear to be a process in place for enforcing these rules. If we do not intend on enforcing the WBTF costuming and make up rules, we should remove some of the subjective restrictions we currently have in place.

**Proposal:**

1. Make up: Remove the make up restrictions.  
“Moderate” makeup, as a guideline, is too subjective.
2. Hair and Accessories: *Revise to read: “Earrings may be worn, but no other jewellery or visible body piercings are allowed.” (Clarification required: Does “visible” mean covered with a band aid...or that It can be seen at all?)*
3. Footwear: *Revise to read: “Sport shoes must be worn. The shoes must have a non-marking leather or rubber sole. The toes and ball of the foot must be enclosed.”*
4. Enforcement: Costume/equipment failure should become the explicit responsibility of the penalty judge. This is important at ICup as well as the World Championships.
  - Example: If an athlete leaves chalky-hand prints on the competition floor, the penalty would be applied by the Penalty Judge.

Alternately, the Floor Monitor could continue to monitor for adherence to the costuming rules. He/she would record any penalties on the costume inspection sheet, and submit it to the tabulation room so that the penalty could be applied.

- **Note: Baton guidelines are included in a separate proposal.**