

16/08/2024

Statement from the President of DanceSport Australia

As the President of DanceSport Australia, I feel compelled to address the recent and deeply troubling developments surrounding the online harassment and the anonymous online petition attacking one of our athletes, Dr. Rachael Gunn, and AOC Chef de Mission, Anna Meares.

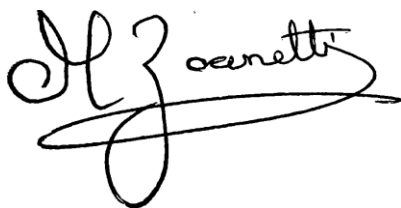
DanceSport Australia categorically condemns the baseless and malicious accusations contained in this petition on online content. The defamatory statements have not only targeted Dr. Gunn, a dedicated and accomplished athlete, but have also unjustly cast aspersions on the integrity of DanceSport Australia (DSA), the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), AUSBreaking, the World DanceSport Federation (WDSF).

The petition's claims are entirely without merit and serve only to engender public hatred and mistrust.

DanceSport Australia stands united in defending the reputation and dignity of our athletes, officials, and the broader community involved in the sport. We will not tolerate any form of bullying, harassment, or defamation against those who have worked tirelessly to elevate Breaking to the prestigious platform of the Olympic Games.

We fully support the Australian Olympic Committee's demand for the immediate removal of this petition from change.org and urge the public to rely on verified information rather than unsubstantiated and harmful rhetoric. Our collective focus remains on supporting our athletes and officials.

We extend our full support to Dr. Rachael Gunn, Anna Meares, and all others unjustly implicated in this matter. DanceSport Australia remains steadfast in our commitment to fostering a fair, inclusive, and respectful environment for all participants in our sport.



Madeleine Zoanetti
President, DanceSport Australia Ltd.