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Local Studio Joins Effort To Make Pole Dancing An Olympic Event



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[Petition To Bring Pole Dancing To The Olympics](#)



A petition is circulating the internet aimed at getting the Olympic Organizing Committee to consider Pole Dancing as an Olympic Sport.
(www.associatedcontent.com)

The floor at Studio Soiree in Sugar House is filled with floor-to-ceiling poles. Women hang from the poles, sideways, upside down. They spin on the poles too. Some even wear high-platform heels while they do it. "It's automatically assumed it has something to do with stripping," said Owner Lizz Schofield. But this is not stripping at all. "I don't take my clothes off at all. I just come for a great workout," said mother of four Andrea Bower. Bower is not the only mom here doing what's called Pole Fitness. Kim Walters is also a mom "I'm an LDS house wife. It's not a typical thing for LDS women to do," she said.

Pole Fitness is big in Australia, the United Kingdom and on the East and West Coasts of the United States, according to Lizz Schofield. Schofield Co-Owns the studio with Lorinda Coombs. Both women are certified to teach Pole Fitness and are very agile when it comes to spinning around the pole and doing other stunts. Even their advanced students are impressed and applaud as the women take

their turns at the Pole. It takes amazing overall body strength to do what Coombs and Schofield do and it takes time. Coombs said, "The first two levels are simple moves anybody can do." Students and go as high as level five. Those in levels one and two usually keep their feet on the ground and their heads up, before moving on to moves that lead them high up on the pole.

The studio has joined others around the world which signed an online petition aimed at getting the Olympic Organizing Committee to consider Pole Dancing for the 2012 Olympics in London. The petition, at www.petitiononline.com/polympic/petition.html, does not indicate how many signatures are needed, but so far over 300 people have signed on.

"This takes grace, fluidity and strength. It's on par with ice skating and everything else in the Olympics," said Coombs. "We are some of the safest, most skilled athletes. I liken it a lot to rock climbing," said Schofield.

Most of the women here aren't Olympic hopefuls. Just women who want a good and more exciting way to work out. Kim lost twenty pounds since she started pole Fitness. Andrea looks great after having her fourth child a year ago.


Schofield said Pole Fitness is here to stay. "Everybody's coming here. There's no way to ignore it. It just keeps getting better and better".

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