

Saturday March 3rd, 2018; UK, POR- 22:00; GER, SUI, SWE- 23:00; RSA- 00:00 (March 4th); USA NY, VA, MI 18:00; USA CO, AZ 16:00; USA CA, CAN BC 15:00; Japan 07:00 (March 4th); Hong Kong 06:00 (March 4th); Philippines 06:00 (March 4th).

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Caroline Malone, Brian Gisel, Karen Cabrera, Charlie Mead, Fumio Morooka, Ryan Purcell, Kevin Givens, Steve Taylor.

Also attending: Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director, non-voting), Tim Rockwood (non-voting), Karina Woldt (Event Manager, non-voting).

Board members absent/excused:

Jamie Nuwer, Amandine Constant, Tomas Burvall

Call to order (time: 23:11 CET)

The quorum was reached with 11 votes of 8/14 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed all attendees and thanked all for their participation. He looked forward to approving applications of new members and thanked Bernardi for guiding the applicants to provide all documents.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of last meeting - 21 January 2018

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the minutes of the 21 January 2018 meeting, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Jordan (JFDF) membership proposal
Brunei (BFDA) membership proposal
Bahrain (BFDA) membership proposal

Bernardi reported on all 3 applications. He had been in contact with the applicants for more than a year. Jordan has hosted the MENA club championships in the past. The contact to Brunei came through the Cambodia member and Bahrain had been in contact with Bernardi for over a year as well. All 3 applicants were still waiting for official recognition in their respective countries, but this situation was not unusual for that region. Also, WFDF had received more recommendation letters for these applicants than needed which showed that they are all well established. Bernardi recommended approval of all 3 applications.

Rauch noted that the Bahrain bylaws include a non-discrimination clause which does not refer to sexual orientation. He asked if it was missing because it could be problematic for

BFDA. Bernardi gave the estimation that it might just be an oversight. He offered to get back to BFDA for clarification.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the presentation of the membership application from **Jordan (JFDA)** to Congress, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the presentation of the membership application from **Brunei (BFDA)** to Congress, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the presentation of the membership application from **Bahrain (BFDA)** to Congress after getting back to them to confirm the inclusion of non-discrimination on sexual orientation in their bylaws, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

2018 Anti-Doping Testing Plan

Bernardi reported that the 2018 testing plan had been finalized. WUCC would be used for 4 in-competition and 4 out-of-competition tests including a maximum of 2 tests to be done in a period away from competitions. Coaches and athlete support personnel would now also have to take part in Anti-Doping education measures. The online Anti-Doping quiz used would be "Real Winner" as in the past. Coaches would not get tested but they could be found guilty of an Anti-Doping offense if they brought drugs to the athletes. This plan had been approved by WADA.

Woldt confirmed to Rauch's request that the coaches and athlete support personnel would be informed through the players briefing book around 4 months prior to the event.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the Anti-Doping Program and Test Distribution Plan for 2018, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

2019 Regional WFDF Events proposal

Gisel informed the board that there were 3 events in 2019 which had only one bid each:

World Under 24 – Heidelberg, Germany
All African Ultimate Championships – Johannesburg, South Africa
Asian-Oceanic Ultimate & Guts Championships – Shanghai, China

All bids had been reviewed by WFDF Event Manager Karina Woldt and been deemed acceptable in terms of addressing all areas of the Bid Document.

With 2019 approaching fast Gisel wanted to give the bidders a reply as soon as possible. He made the motion that the WFDF Board approves the awarding of these events, contingent on the recommendation of the WFDF Events Committee and approval of the WFDF Ultimate Committee.

Rauch asked if there were any open questions to the bids. Gisel confirmed that the WU 24 bid was solid. The South African bid came from experienced hosts.

Woldt noted that for the Asian-Oceanic Ultimate & Guts Championships selling rights, merchandize and broadcasting were still open topics. Gisel confirmed that VC Ultimate found it challenging to go in-person to regional events.

Mead mentioned that he was not keen on making decisions on bids before really necessary. There might be other factors we need to consider in any bid.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve Gisel's proposal, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

WFDF Concussion Policy

Bernardi advised that several national federations had been discussing this topic and asked WFDF to establish a suitable policy. He suggested to discuss this with experienced federations (e.g. Ice Hockey, Bob Sleigh or Skeleton) and bring in expertise, because it raises several issues related to self-determination and players' rights.

Rauch agreed that the Medical Commission should start work on developing a WFDF Concussion Policy.

Commercial and Broadcast plans for 2017-2018

Rockwood reported that for WUCC the contract with Fulcrum had been finalized. UltiWorld would broadcast a 3rd field. ESPN had agreed to televise 3 finals on its ESPN U network to 50 million households. He had spoken to the Olympic Channel already but needed more talks with them.

For WUCC contracts had been signed with 8 commentators (4 women, 4 men) of whom 4 were American and 4 non-American. Together with the Fulcrum personnel and a production manager and an associate producer the crew will be 23 people, with 12 women and 11 men.

There might be new marketing deals with The Greatest Bag and Altitude Eyewear. He was also trying to sell advertising spots on broadcasting.

Bernardi commented that teams from the USA were complaining about the fees to participate at WUCC and they were asking if some of the money received by sponsorship would go to the teams/athletes.

Rauch mentioned that getting sponsorship could help subsidize the event but so far WFDF hasn't had any major sponsors to allow a material rebate to the athletes.

Rockwood commented that sponsorship money provided to an IF like WFDF would typically go to the IF, not to the tournament. It was agreed that this would be a "high class issue" to sort out if any material sponsorship funding were to be received, and it was tabled for the time being.

IT project and website revamp

Rauch noted that the Board had been provided a first look at a draft of the new website. Woldt had passed on several specific remarks.

Taylor reported that the expected help in editing the new web pages was not received and that he would now try get it done by himself.

Rauch stated that it was necessary to maintain the old web site and use it to disseminate information until the new web site was fully operational. At the same time the new web site would need to get these same updates. He asked Taylor to circulate a plan B to advise everyone what was the best way to make the updates.

Approved Disc Policy and execution

Gisel reported that the Chinese producer X-Com was using the Discraft trademark as well as the WFDF logo, even though they had never been allowed to do so. Currently WFDF automatically approved all discs approved by USAU without an explicit contract between WFDF and the producers. This puts WFDF into the position that it has no say what approved disc producers may do and what not.

A new Disc Approval Policy had been drafted to enable WFDF to declare its official Disc Partner, to create different levels of approval and to remove producers from the list of approved discs. The new policy should be posted to WFDF's web site as soon after approval as possible.

Rauch added that WFDF's own policy was an important step. It would help formalize WFDF's relationship with manufacturers. Written contracts would help both sides to understand their rights better.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve the revision to the Approved Disc Policy, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

WFDF Executive Director report on Olympic Games attendance

Rauch informed the Board that Bernardi had attended the Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang to work on strengthening WFDF's ties with the IOC and its membership and the Olympic Movement stakeholders. Bernardi reported about meeting members of the IOC Executive Board, many IOC members, the IOC Sports Director, IWGA leadership, WADA and several NOC presidents. Bernardi continued that he used the occasion to reopen the discussion about the situation of the rivalry among 3 Flying Disc federations in Korea. More talks would follow.

Rauch thanked Bernardi for his report and congratulated him for the successful work in PyeongChang.

2018 Development program

Bernardi informed the board that Gabriele Sani could not make the meeting. Bernardi had met representatives from Bosnia and Hercegovina and Serbia in Korea and they asked about the Flying Disc situation in their respective countries. They confirmed that they would help the FD groups to get recognition. Sani was in contact with these groups.

Bernardi added that he was under the impression that the finances of WFDF's development program needed more structuring. He also suggested that WFDF try to spend money towards groups in Africa as WFDF did not have many members there.

Athletes' Commission Report

Purcell reported that he had been involved in discussions with Malone about Women in Sports. The commission would have more to report at the next Board meeting.

Disc Sport Reports

Disc Golf

Rauch reported that the Disc Golf Committee had published the first WFDF World Disc Golf Rankings in February which had been well received by countries that were using them as a means of attracting more attention and support from their national sporting agencies. The committee had also worked together with PDGA to come to an agreement or set of agreements that would benefit both organizations and disc golf players worldwide. The committee had received expressions of interest to host the WFDF 2019 World Team Disc Golf Championships and would make a recommendation to the Board at its next meeting.

Guts

Taylor stated that the committee was looking forward to the Asian-Oceanic Ultimate & Guts Championships in Shanghai, China. The committee would work together with the LOC to improve Guts' presence at the event. Contacts had been made with Guts players from Uruguay which looked promising. The next big event was the WUGC 2020 for which Japan, Chinese Taipei and the US Guts teams would push to make it work out well for the Guts movement.

Freestyle

Givens reported that the FPA world championships 2018 would be from August 1 – 4 in Trnava (Slovak Republic). The 2019 FPAW would be in Seattle, (USA), perhaps in October. FPA plans to reduce the times of the routines.

Work had been done for the Freestyle Hall of Fame. The next induction might be in 2019 to assure the largest possible turnout.

In 2019 at WOC Freestyle would be again the WFDF Freestyle World Championship. FPA was committed to be part of that event to raise the level of quality.

Morooka informed that there was a chance that the Birmingham LOC might want to have Freestyle as a demonstration sport.

Overall

Rauch reported that Burvall was asking about WFDF sanctioning certain overall events in off years from WOC. WFDF had done that in the past, e.g. for DDC. It could be done, for example, for the US Open. Rauch asked Woldt to coordinate with Burvall. In general such a sanctioning should not be problematic.

Beach Ultimate

Cabrera gave a quick update on the bids for the continental events in 2019. Bids had been received by Rimini (Italy) and Portugal while Japan had requested for an extension to submit a final bid. The Beach Ultimate Committee would soon send out a request to submit bids for Beach Ultimate development grants. Cabrera added that there would be 2 Beach Ultimate Club championships in 2018 which would not be sanctioned by WFDF. The committee had discussed if WFDF should sanction Beach Club events in the future as well.

Championship Events and others

2018/2019 events - report

Woldt reported that all registrations at the team level for WUCC had been closed. There were 128 teams all paid and almost all of the participants' fees had been collected. A total of 38 or 39 countries would be attending.

At WMUCC registration had closed as well at 72 teams (4 divisions: Master Men, Master Women, Master Mixed, Grandmaster Men). WJUC registration had closed with 25 firm teams with potentially 3 more teams if their fees are sent. There would be 2 divisions at WJUC with teams from 18 countries.

All calls for bids had gone out except for one which would go out soon.

Bergeron asked for the registration numbers to cross check with the WFDF 2018 budget.

2021 World Games Birmingham format

Gisel reported that he had created a format for 8 teams over 5 days.

Bernardi informed that the application phase was still running. At first WFDF had proposed to have a 4-day event. WFDF had then been informed already by IWGA that in a new policy it was planned to have all team events run for 5 days. Unfortunately it seems unlikely to get Disc Golf into the World Games due to the very high number of requests from other sports. It seems impossible for a sport which is already on the program to get another discipline included. As long as Birmingham was not insisting on Disc Golf, IWGA would not allow it.

Morooka confirmed that the final decision about Disc Golf at the World Games 2021 would be made at the IWGA meeting in April in Bangkok. He mentioned that there is a permanent Disc Golf course in Birmingham with a large annual tournament held there.

Givens asked about the past appearances of Disc Golf at the World games. Morooka explained that it was a medal sport in 2001 in Akita but since then had never been included again, with one of the reasons given that the host cities did not have permanent Disc Golf courses.

2021 World Masters Games proposal

Gisel stated that the World Master Games in 2021 in Kansai fit fine into the WFDF tournament calendar. However the location made it very expensive for most teams to attend unless the organizers agreed to lower the participation fees.

Morooka reported that it would be decided at SportAccord in Bangkok if Flying Disc would be a medal sport or a demonstration sport.

Gisel reminded that the cost factor could dampen the interest in participation and the risk of having to withdraw should carefully be considered.

Finance

Treasurer's report including 2017 financials

Bergeron reported that she expected to close the books for 2017 soon. WCBU 2017 was the main outstanding topic. The year would be finished better than expected with a loss of US\$ 24,000 instead of US\$ 50,000.

In January 2018 WFDF hadn't received much income yet and instead had spent money e.g. for membership fees. WU24 sanctioning fees had already been received. She reminded that the players' fee for WFDF events had been raised to US\$ 40 (from US\$ 30). Woldt reminded that a confirmation of this raise was needed by Congress.

Rauch mentioned that WFDF did not reach the aspired goal in 2017 to raise income from sponsorship but could make up for most of it. 2018 would be a financially sound year with well over 5,000 players at WUCC and WMUCC.

Bergeron added that WFDF also did not spend as much money on marketing.

She then informed the board that she had signed the agreement to start transferring information to the auditors. She expected it to run smoothly this year and hoped to have the audit done by May 13, the deadline for Congress.

Bernardi informed that he had sent out the census requests and he expected to be able to send out the first membership invoices soon.

Other Business

Gisel had circulated a request for approval of an updated list of Rules Subcommittee members just moments before the start of the Board Meeting. Rauch suggested to do the approval through an electronic vote before the next meeting.

Next Meeting

Proposed: May 12/13, 2018.

Closing: 01:12 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary