

Saturday, September 6, 2014

Sunday September 6th, 2014; UK, POR- 22:00; GER, SUI, SWE, RSA - 23:00; USA NY, VA, MI 17:00; USA CO, AZ 15:00; USA CA, CAN BC 14:00; Japan 06:00 (Sunday September 7th); Taiwan 05:00 (Sunday September 7th).

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch, Thomas Griesbaum, Kate Bergeron, Vincent Gaillard, Brian Gisel, Tomas Burvall, Patrick van der Valk, Jamie Nuwer, Michael Hu, Kevin Givens

Also attending: Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director, non-voting), Ryan Purcell (Athletes' Committee, non-voting), Karina Woldt, Event Manager (non-voting).

Board members absent/excused:

Fumio Morooka, Steve Taylor, Michael Downes

Call to order (time: 22:03)

The quorum was reached with 10 votes present.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed all participants and thanked them for participating.

Decisions between meetings

Written report provided in Briefing Book.

Minutes of meeting of June 29, 2014

A motion was made to approve of the minutes of the 29 June 2014 Board meeting by Gisel, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

D.R. of Congo (CGO) application for regular membership

Bernardi reported on the application from FCDV which was originally submitted at the end of 2012. He has been working with the local association to provide a complete application with necessary translations. The last documents required such as the budget for 2014 and a letter of recommendation from a current member (Uganda) came in shortly before this Board meeting. The application was submitted by Haru Ohkawa, who is an expatriate from Japan working on the development of FCDV over many years.

Importantly, despite the important role he has played, the officers and the Board are comprised of nationals, which is essential for the Federation to work sustainably. Ohkawa had attended the 2014 Congress in Lecco. Fumio Morooka of JFDA strongly recommended FCDV for WFDF regular membership, and Bernardi supported the approval of the application. Rauch added that FCDV obtained sponsorship from some Japanese companies like Yamaha and added that they have government support and are active at the grass roots level. Their efforts have been verified by disc players from the region. Bernardi mentioned that, as with several WFDF members, there is a difference in the definition of participants and registered members of the association as constituents which explains the difference between them stating they have 1,000 players in the country but only 50 registered members paying membership dues.

Purcell supported this view and suggested we might want to consider giving new members a “provisional” membership status automatically for the first two years of their membership, similar to what the IOC has done with WFDF and other newly recognized members. WFDF should guide new members and support them when focusing on important issues. Bernardi responded that WFDF already has a provisional member status which is different from other International Federations as provisional members do not pay dues and have consequently no vote.

Rauch commented that WFDF’s approval process is extremely thorough and the Congo membership has been under evaluation since December 2012, nearly two years. Rauch proposed to have an intensive discussion on the topic of WFDF membership on the occasion of the face-to-face Board meeting in Toronto.

A motion was made to approve the application from FCDV Congo for regular membership to be sent for final approval by Congress by Nuwer, seconded by Gaillard. The motion was approved unanimously.

India Membership Conflict - Conduct Committee report

Rauch reported that, during Congress in Lecco, WFDF had heard the case on the membership in India with presentations made by Flying Disc Federation of India (FDFI) and Ultimate Players Association of India (UPAI). The representative from FDFI showed up late at Congress after the session was already concluded, so Congress re-convened on Sunday to receive his presentation in person. After the Congress, the Conduct Committee had prepared and submitted its report to the board, recommending that the WFDF Congress should terminate the membership of FDFI as it did not fairly represent the interests of all disc players in India.

There was a motion made by van der Valk to to accept the Conduct Committee report and have Congress vote on the termination of the FDFI membership, which was seconded by Gaillard. The motion was approved unanimously.

UPAI India membership application

Rauch informed the Board that, under the condition that the Congress would vote to terminate the FDFI membership, Congress should then consider the application by the UPAI for regular WFDF membership. Bernardi confirmed that the UPAI application was complete. Burvall requested clarification that these would be two different Congress votes on FDFI and UPAI. Rauch confirmed that there would be two separate questions for Congress. Question one would be on the termination of the FDFI membership and question two would be conditional to the response to question one: if, and only if, Congress would approve the termination of the FDFI membership, do you approve of the UPAI membership for India? So these would be two distinct votes.

There was a motion made by van der Valk to recommend the acceptance of the UPAI membership conditional to the termination of the FDFI membership to a Congress vote, seconded by Gaillard. The motion was approved unanimously.

(Burvall left the meeting).

Development grant proposals

Rauch reported on the status of the development grants and disc missionary program 2014. Uganda has received discs for the Seven Hills tournament. The development grant for Poland will see expert coaches identified by USAU being sent to Poland to assist them with a training program around a large event to start a process of improving the quality of their competitive program in advance of the World Games 2017, where Poland will be given a slot as host country.

There are new applications for grants to be decided upon by the Board. Gisel on behalf of the Sport for All / Development Commission made his recommendations to accept the development grant applications from Liz Haynes working in India and the Hungarian member association.

The application from Liz Haynes is to support a youth development program, involving youth camps, the first of which was held in May 2014. The application asked for US\$ 5,000 but WFDF's program has a cap at US\$ 1,500 for support of any one project. Rauch added that Sandie Hammerly has met with Haynes and was very impressed by the project description and had recommended to Haynes to ask for more than US\$ 1,500. Gisel recommended a grant of US\$ 1,500 for these camps in India.

Gisel explained that the Hungarian project sent in by President Peter Kramer will promote Ultimate in the school system starting in Budapest. Gisel prefers projects planting seeds not needing follow up by WFDF. As such the development in a school system can grow by itself. Gisel recommended the Hungarian proposal to be accepted by the Board.

On the third application in support of a cycling trip in Europe and China, Gisel does not

see any connection with local member associations and not much possibility for leveraging the program. While there certainly can be some disc missionary work accomplished, WFDF is not going to fund what amounts to holiday travel. Gisel did not recommend this proposal. Rauch suggested that we offer to provide some discs to the bicyclist so he can leave behind some discs.

Van der Valk recommended other disc companies to be used for development, too. Gisel commented that WFDF might enter into an agreement with Discraft which would enable us to send more free discs around. Innova was looking into providing discs. Rauch clarified that Discraft has agreed with us to send 500 discs / year to foreign locations and we have not come even close to using this quota. With Discraft at this stage, while the discs are provided free, WFDF has to cover shipping. Cost of shipping is high and no matter which provider we use our biggest problem will be shipping. Such costs could be put on a sponsor if we can reach such agreements. Gaillard added that if we do decide to enter into a relationship with Discraft or another disc manufacturer we should include that into the deal.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the development grant application for the Indian youth camps with an amount of US\$ 1,500, seconded by Rauch. The motion was approved unanimously.

The motion made by Gisel to approve the development grant application sent by Hungary with an amount of US\$ 1,500, seconded by Rauch was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Gisel to reject the development grant application for the bike trip but offer discs, seconded by Rauch. The motion was approved unanimously.

Post-WUCC - Revisions to WFDF Events Registration System

Rauch reported that for the 2014 events in Lecco in several areas it was difficult to get TOC to comply with several terms under our contract. Moreover, as our events get more complex, it may become quite overwhelming for the local organizers to continue to handle all aspects of the event organization. After various discussions, we have concluded that WFDF may want to take control of player and team registrations and funds collections to take these player related tasks from TOC so that they can focus on key elements of local preparations such as venues, accommodations, food, transportation, and other services. We might also seek to centralize some of the commercial aspects such as sponsorship, obviously with a reasonable sharing arrange to support the events.

There are several registration systems which are currently in operation and which we could consider using. Obviously, it will represent significant increase in the workload of our staff and officers. This might be seen as completely changing the economics for the TOC and one downside could be that it might make it more difficult to find TOCs. But we believe that centralizing and standardizing the registration process and event web sites should be far more efficient and cost effective than having each TOC design their own.

Further, a centralized approach with merchandise vendors and potential sponsors may help to maximize revenues with multi-event contracts being of more interest to those parties.

Rauch announced that for this board meeting there would be two presentations on registration systems and merchandising by Gisel and Gaillard, respectively.

Van der Valk asked whether these ideas only include grass Ultimate and no Disc Golf or Beach Ultimate. Rauch responded that the main focus is grass Ultimate but going forward and if we have success we will discuss if it is applicable to other events.

Gisel mentioned that even before Lecco the idea of a centralized registration system had been discussed, but some of the issues that arose in Lecco has catalyzed our desire for implementing this sooner than later. In looking at using an outside contractor, Gisel has investigated online companies for registration like Ultimate Central and he was surprised at fairly low costs assumed for registration and a website. Gisel has received a proposal from Ultimate Central and he found four other companies offering such services. Some just give only tools and some full services. Gisel created a RFP (see page 131 of the briefing book). Could we have WU23 2015 as a pilot project and a 4 year contract after successful testing at WU23?

Van der Valk questioned the price of Ultimate Central as 2% fee on registration fees per person is felt to become much more expensive than using a Google spread sheet and Ultiorganizer. Gisel responded that considering the amount of work they would be doing for WFDF, e.g. creating a web site for TOC and a seamless experience for players this would be surely better than Ultiorganizer. Rauch added that a part of the fee is for the electronic payment system, e.g. for using Paypal, that could make wire transfers easier and more cost effective. Van der Valk responded that Ultiorganizer was set up for WUCC within two days and that one should not spend much money for something you can do for much less. For WCBU BULA uses the ECBU website which was good and so far the WCBU 2015 website is good, too. And it is not expensive. He feels that 2-3% for a large event like WUCC would be too much, and estimates that the cost could be upwards of US\$ 50,000. Rauch agreed that such an amount would be too costly, but reminded van der Valk that we are at an early stage in finding a solution, and we have the critical mass to negotiate a fair and reasonable deal.

Gisel mentioned that Simon Hill is interested in trying this out for WU23. This registration would open around January 2015. And for WU23 with an estimate of US\$ 300,000 for player and team fees, at 3% the fee would be US\$ 9,000. Rauch suggested that we probably would need to make a decision by the end of October to be ready for WU23s and so Gisel promised to collect proposals and make a recommendation at one of the upcoming board meetings.

WFDF Merchandising partner - concept and RFP 2015-2018

Gaillard referred to his written recommendation and underlined that an official Merchandising partner for WFDF would mean a better control of financial flows and less reliance on TOCs. The money would come to WFDF and we would give to TOC what is agreed upon in the event contract. It seems that vendors are making a lot of money with WFDF events and some of the money should go through us. There are several potential merchandise partners and we would want to have an open and transparent selection process. An RFP has been drafted by Bernardi and is enclosed in the Briefing Book. We could receive bids by October and make a decision in Toronto and have it in effect by January 2015. The complete process would then be in WFDF's hands.

Rauch had concerns on the impact that this change could make and asked whether we perhaps should do this just for an initial 2 year term to learn from our initial arrangement before going to a four year cycle. We also have to think about what sharing arrangement we would agree with each TOC. Rauch has asked Bernardi to pull together the history of what TOCs have arranged for merchandising in recent WFDF events. The key for our TOCs is that they get no less and potentially more. We must also think about the impact this has on our community and on the vendors themselves, especially those who may not be the successful bidder.

Gaillard responded that the TOCs will get the same kind of income as in the past. At least a vendor could calculate what they expect as income for 4 years. WFDF in the past has only received a flat fee which was not sales related and this could change.

Van der Valk mentioned that at Beach they get the best bid every year. The amount of money they get and the time they spend is about the same for every event. An annual contest between companies is a good thing.

Rauch responded that WFDF's gain is the willingness of the bidder to put in more cash because they feel more confident about their income. Having a multiyear process will help. Nuwer mentioned that it is great to have the money from merchandising directly and prefers a 2 year cycle. Woldt added that it is an advantage for the merchandiser to have a longer period to plan for.

Gisel added that in his discussions with one of the vendors they indicated that they would be very pleased about a 4 year contract cycle. It really helps them with planning and in running their business. Gaillard supported that view and underlined that we have to do it with the right partner. Purcell asked to find a way to still work with whoever doesn't win the contract.

Rauch concluded that there were still a few things to go through with Bernardi and Gaillard. The RFP will be refined and reviewed at the next board meeting.

WFDF Statement on WUCC/WJUC - should we release financials?

Rauch commented that regarding the WJUC and WUCC the community has a lot of suspicions about TOC and its potential profitability, and that there have been several requests for an event financial statement. TOC has informed WFDF that they are hopeful they will break even. Historically, while WFDF has received a final financial report, it is not audited and accordingly we have not shared it. The board agreed to discuss the issue further, since we are not contractually due the financial report for another couple months in any case.

Photo Contest - Facebook "like" campaign

Rauch gave an update about the Facebook page which was launched in 2012 and which now has 20,500 likes. He proposed a Photo of the Year contest where we would ask photographers to submit their best disc photos and have people vote for their favorite. More likes help the IOC understand our appeal to young people and they watch this closely. Rauch will circulate a proposal shortly.

WFDF Application for IPC recognition

Bernardi reported on his meeting with the IPC on Wheelchair Ultimate. The Congress took note of the proposal to apply for IPC recognition in the affirmative. There are no dues or fees to be paid by WFDF.

A motion by Rauch to have the Executive Director prepare and coordinate the application for IPC recognition, seconded by Gaillard, was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

IOC recognition/national NOC recognition - update

Bernardi reported on the situation in France where there were some problems with the formal rejection by the National Olympic Committee (CNOSF) for FFDF. In Germany it is very difficult to receive recognition by the NOC. In September Bernardi will have meetings with the executive boards of the German and the French National Olympic Committees. In Germany a procedure has been initiated to lower the requirements for admittance.

Athletes' Commission Report

Rauch congratulated Purcell on his re-election as Athletes' Commission chair.

On the proposal for an event participant survey, Rauch commented that in the past we have already done such a survey filed by participants of WFDF events and asked whether Purcell wanted to help put together the survey on 2014 events, to which Purcell agreed. Rauch asked Purcell that he contact Bernardi about past surveys and how to set up next survey. Purcell added that the Commission would want to collect information also about issues which happened at WUCC. Rauch asked that the questions are circulated to the Board before they go out.

WFDF Congress 2014 – plan for minutes` draft

Rauch confirmed that the draft of the Congress minutes will be sent to the Board by next week.

Republic of Korea membership issues - proceedings

Gaillard and Bernardi briefed the Board on the situation in Korea and the plans for solving the conflict between KUPA, KFDF and KPDGA. WFDF officers have developed a proposal to have a single Flying Disc organization be formed in Korea involving all three parties. The condition would be that KUPA's interest are clearly protected by such tripartite agreement under WFDF supervision. There would be a meeting with all parties under mediation support potentially by an IOC member from Korea supervising the talks. Such a meeting could be held end of November 2014 in Seoul/Korea. KUPA have confirmed to WFDF that they would support such a mediation and agreement. Bernardi suggested executing this plan as soon as possible.

Anti-Doping program plan 2015 - update and first draft of rules

Bernardi reported that all tests 2014 were negative. As of 1 January 2015, a new WADA-Code will be in place. WFDF will establish a new set of Anti-Doping rules and the draft should be done by next Board meeting.

A new Test Distribution Plan was negotiated with WADA. WFDF will replace the RTP by a Testing Pool with 9 athletes. Education should include all athletes participating in WU23 2015 needing to participate in the Real Winner online educational certification.

WFDF application for FISU University Sports program - update

Bernardi reported on his meeting with Paulo Ferreira on the World University Championships. WFDF narrowly missed the application deadline for inclusion to the FISU sports program in 2014. The next formal intake procedure could either be in 2015 or 2016. WFDF will follow-up on the procedures to come.

Face-to-Face Board meeting - Toronto (14-16 November 2014)

Rauch informed the board about the second face-to-face Board meeting to be held in Toronto on 14-16 November 2014. Ultimate Canada will hold their annual conference and we host our meeting alongside them. A primary focus will be on the strategic plan update. Bernardi asked the Board members to confirm attendance asap.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf

Downes reported that the WFDF Disc Golf Committee now has a new member from Austria, Bernd Wender. Planning for a Global Disc Golf Team Event to be jointly sanctioned by WFDF and PDGA has continued, likely to be in Europe in 2015. In late August the 2014 PDGA European Disc Golf Championships (sanctioned by WFDF) were held in Geneva, Switzerland.

Freestyle

Givens reported that the titles of WFDF World Freestyle Champions 2015 are planned to be awarded to winners of the freestyle event of the WOC in Sweden. The first FPA world championships in South America attracted 49 athletes from 5 countries and 3 continents. The Freestyle Flying Disc Hall of Fame committee is finalizing the criteria for induction. The 2015 FPA World Championships will be staged in Karlsruhe, Germany on June 24-28. Two bids for FPA Worlds in 2016 have been received.

Guts

None.

Overall

Burvall passed on decisions made at the Overall Committee Meeting in Fredericksburg, Virginia (USA). Ages for divisions in Overall competition have been raised: Master starts 2015 at 40. Grand Masters 50. Senior Grand Master 60 and Legend 70. Overall points in "Seven Event Overall Competition" will only be awarded after attending three or more events. Ideas for helping TDs run Overall events were discussed. With one member stepping down from the committee three new members were elected.

Ultimate Events

WUCC / WJUC 2014 Report

Rauch asked Woldt on additions to her written report. Woldt's small review was just a comment for the present Board meeting with a thorough report coming by end of September.

AOUC 2015 / PAUC 2015 – update

Bernardi reported that with a written confirmation from HKUPA (Hong Kong China) on AOUC the bid is expected within the month.

UM (Mexico) have confirmed the date for PAUC 2015 to be 25-28 November 2015.

WU23 2015 – update and contract draft

Rauch mentioned that the sample contract draft needs to be revised if we change what WFDF will take over from TOC. Bernardi will send the first draft shortly.

WCBU 2015 - update (van der Valk)

Van der Valk reported that the event in Dubai is going better than expected with regard to the number of teams as there are 80 teams registered which is 8 teams more than at ECBU already, with the potential for 93 teams. BULA is trying to get teams from all over, Africa, Asia, etc. Van der Valk expects participation from Kenya, Cambodia, Uganda, Philippines.

Bernardi added that the Director of the SportAccord Multi-Sport Games Department, David Nivelles, would like to visit WCBU 2015.

WUGC 2016 – process and indications of interest

Rauch advised that there are several expressions of interest, from Belgium, the P.R. of China, Canada and Austria.

Finance

Treasurer report

Bergeron stated that P.R. of China's dues were paid in Lecco and will show up on the September statement. Rauch added that WFDF yet has to receive the IOC financial grant. Bernardi noted that FSFI Iceland has promised to pay its dues.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was proposed for 4/5 October 2014.

Closing

The meeting closed at 01:40 CEST.

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary