

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Saturday April 11th, 2015; 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 April 12th); Taiwan 05:00 (Sunday April 12th).

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch, Thomas Griesbaum, Kate Bergeron, Tomas Burvall, Michael Downes, Patrick van der Valk, Fumio Morooka, Michael Hu, Steve Taylor.

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

Board members absent/excused:

Brian Gisel, Kevin Givens, Jamie Nuwer, Vincent Gaillard.

Call to order (time: 23:08 CET)

The quorum was reached with 9 votes present.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed all participants and thanked them for participating.

Decisions between meetings

Congress (March 31):

WFDF Congress has voted to approve Qatar and Kenya as WFDF provisional member associations.

A total number of 50 regular member participated in the ballot, totaling 126 out of 132 votes available. With one abstention totaling 4 votes, the new member associations were approved unanimously.

Board of Directors (March 24):

The Ultimate Committee have recommended to the Board the bid from Wroclaw (POL) as hosts to the 2016 WFDF World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC).

Result: The Board approved the bid from Wroclaw (POL) with Yes (13), No (0), Abstain (0).

Minutes of meeting of February 28, 2015

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Burvall, second Morooka. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

WJUC 2016 - host presentation and approval

Rauch reported that Ultimate Committee Deputy Chair Will Deaver had raised concerns on the decision to appoint Poland as hosts to WJUC 2016 as the decision was so close for Poland and there would be still open questions with regard to the Polish bid on the field size and conditions. Gisel had reported that the decision was mainly based on costs and that the Youth and Sport Commission had recommended Poland. Gisel had reported in writing before the meeting that he was comfortable with the space issues and that transportation from Paris to La Rochelle as indicated in the French bid is more expensive than for Poland. With the World Games 2017 in Wroclaw it will help to publicize the sport. Gisel asked the Board to reaffirm the vote. It was confirmed that the safety zones will make the fields slightly smaller than regulation size. Purcell supports the Polish bid as long as the safety zones are fine. Morooka mentioned that a date in June or July is bad for Japan's participation as most students are still in school. He asked to change the date from July 23-30, 2016. Purcell added that there were also concerns from Austria but that each date would find a country where there would be problems.

A motion was made by Rauch to reaffirm the board's approval of the Wroclaw bid, with Woldt reconfirming that the safety zones will be respected and checking on a possibility to change the date, second by Purcell. Morooka's concerns about the date are noted. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of division names changes (U20 and U24) from 2016

Rauch reported on the Ultimate Committee's proposal to change division names from Under 19 to **Under 20** and from Under 23 to **Under 24** starting from 2016. He added that FIFA and other team sports use these division names. There would not be any change of the age eligibility rules just a clarification with the revision of the nomenclature.

A motion was made to approve the new names of the divisions without a change of the eligibility rules by Griesbaum, second by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tournament Technical Director Manual - approval

Woldt presented the draft of the Manual and reported that she has received input from UK Ultimate. Bergeron has minor comments and will send these by mail. Rauch asked whether there are areas with major changes or any areas which Woldt would want to point the board specifically to. Woldt mentioned several topics, the main question being whether, if the Board would want to vote on the draft today, she still could treat the document as a work in progress as she hopes to continue to improve it over time. Bernardi commented that the manual should be approved by the Board as the content is part of the official event contract. Van der Valk requested flexibility for the document.

Rauch confirmed that WFDF needs a template but every event has its particularities that may require deviations from the standards in the manual. Having this draft would

give us a template and we need not consider it to be set in stone.

Rauch made a motion to approve of the procedure of having Woldt and Hill go forward making this draft a base of discussions. He proposed that it be revised after being used for the WU23 event this year with TOC and Board feedback, and approved in a final form; this was second by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

2015 World Overall Flying Disc Championships contract

Rauch asked Burvall for a quick update. Burvall had no comments on the contract as this is the WFDF standard contract where WOC shares 50% of the profit. Burvall expects some 100 participants, about the same as two years ago. The event starts on July 18.

Burvall made a motion to approve of the contract, second by Griesbaum. The contract was approved unanimously.

Olympic Target 2024 Working Group

Rauch reported about the Olympic Agenda 2020 and outlined how WFDF could potentially get in a position to credibly apply for a place on the Olympic program for 2024. As a start, WFDF would need to demonstrate that we are a suitable candidate. The minimum IOC criterion for a sport in the Summer Games is membership of at least 75 countries and WFDF has 60 members today. We would also need to refine the presentation of our sport. Games must move smoothly and on time. With the focus of the IOC also on the commercial side of sport, we also need to demonstrate that we can attract non-endemic sponsors and broadcasters. These elements all support our strategic plan, they don't detract from it. Rauch proposes that WFDF establish a working group to follow up with this goal and to come back to the Board with input and advice from time to time.

WFDF pastime flying disc program at U23 in London Proposal

Burvall presented his proposal to have Rob McLeod show to the Ultimate and Guts community that there are a whole variety of flying disc sports and that they should consider to take them up when they get older. Rob is coming to WOC and could travel to London on his way to Sweden. In London he could do daily showcases and host contests in other disciplines. Rauch confirmed that McLeod is a tireless promoter of the sport. Costs would be some USD 900 for 4 days. This was discussed with TOC and they are supportive.

A motion was made to approve of the proposal by Bergeron, second by Van der Valk. The motion was approved unanimously. The money will come from the development budget.

Rules Sub-Committee chair replacement

Rauch informed the Board that Florian Pfender has proposed that Rueben Berg

replace him as Rules Sub-Committee chair as Florian has time capacity issues. The Board has the authority replace the chair for the remainder of the term. Bernardi confirmed that Berg was the chair before and Pfender took over when Berg had his own time constraints.

A motion to approve of the change was made by van der Valk, second Morooka and approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athletes' Commission Report and Survey

Van der Valk confirmed to Purcell that the WCBU survey was sent out and that 400 people had replied to date.

Woldt proposed to use the results on a note board in London showing some of the selected results from 2014 and outlining what we did in response to the results. Purcell mentioned that we need to communicate what we did but it could be hard to get it to the players at WU23. Rauch added that in the past we did a summary report which we shared with Congress. We could set up an abridged version for the community and we could highlight areas where we are making improvements.

Purcell gave an update on the coaching workshop held in Dubai. This was a good event and some steps are still to follow. He found some volunteers interested in working with WFDF. It was a great opportunity for connecting to people and many said they looked forward to next workshop. It was too short an event and could have lasted an entire day.

WFDF Strategic Plan Task list follow up

Rauch proposed to focus more on this during the next board meeting and each Board member should see if they have fallen behind in any of the tasks.

Potential new member countries – status

Rauch outlined the plan of targeting specific countries for potential WFDF membership.

Bernardi reported that he has worked in the last several months by using WCBU to further development. In some countries, money is needed to receive approval by the authorities. Bernardi believes WFDF could reach 72 member associations by the end of 2016 with discussions that have already commenced, and is confident that the target of 75 could be achieved in 2017. Gabriele Sani from EUF has established a list of known activity in European countries that are not yet members which looks very promising. Still it is quite important that we get sustainable members and we plan to maintain a high standard. Rauch advised the board about the re-formatted

membership application template which provides additional guidance to prospective members.

2015 Annual Census and dues invoices – status

Bernardi reported that 45 members have filed the 2015 member census as of today. FPA and several countries are still missing. We have already collected US\$ 58,000 membership dues. The Executive Committee again approved the special terms of payment for Uganda (UUFA). Discussions about Iceland (FSFI) continue, and we are in contact with active disc players in the country.

WFDF Office - use as document storage

Bernardi reported about a request from Bergeron about how WFDF stores documents electronically. Bergeron had proposed sharing WFDF files using Dropbox. Bernardi reminded the Board that WFDF operates a permanent storage on its servers (office.wfdf.org). The storage, however, is more for final documents as an archive, instead of temporary working files. Perhaps Dropbox is better to use for drafts and documents in progress. The reason for WFDF Office is that documents from Yahoo groups can disappear. Also sending large documents via email can be difficult. Rauch recommended that all Board members check out WFDF Office using the access details which were re-sent recently.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf

Downes reported that PDGA membership is growing strongly, including Finland and Sweden, but also Africa (e.g. Ethiopia). In May they will hold a huge charity event in Monterey, California. Also there are the Collegiate Championships (teams).

A bidding package for Team World Championships was prepared by Woldt, Bernardi and Downes. There were many discussions about player eligibility rules. Rauch confirmed that we have a good package. As this was the first time we worked together, there were a number of issues to sort through and he felt both WFDF and PDGA resolved differences in a cooperative and constructive fashion. Rauch expressed his expectation that there will be 20 or more teams attending, with Downes confident in no less than a dozen.

Rauch added that sanctioning fees are an important element of the revenue model for WFDF as we do not have individual members. WFDF was proposing that a sanctioning fee would be split between WFDF and PDGA. There was agreement on a sanctioning fee of US\$ 150 per team (US\$ 25 per player). Rauch suggested that perhaps this money could go directly to the Disc Golf joint working committee to support their activities.

Freestyle

Rauch advised the board on behalf of Givens that the FPA board hasn't yet been responsive towards his requests to communicate. Woldt added that she had received an email from Lori Daniels saying that their next meeting would be in a month so they could not talk about the ranking points yet but we should have a response for the next WFDF board meeting.

Guts

Taylor reported that the Guts community had been supporting the Disc Golf Collegiate Championships and some Guts players would attend, getting partial support from Discovering the World. Rauch proposed to ask Hill if he would post a note on the UKU website to indicate that USGPA is trying to get in touch with new national Guts teams for the development of Guts, with feedback to be sent to Taylor.

Overall

Burvall reported on the Games Book draft. Good comments received, welcomes more. Rauch asked on the money request from TDs. Burvall asked whether TDs get money up front (as a loan). Rauch commented that WFDF hasn't done that so far but could consider it in the future. Burvall added that there was no specific request.

Ultimate Events and others

Continental 2015 (PAUC, AOUC, EUC)

Woldt reported that AOGCC has a budget for the Guts event, but no contract yet. AOUC hasn't sent a budget yet. Rauch offered to talk with HKUPA when traveling in Hong Kong next week on business.

On EUF Bernardi reported that EUF seems to be reluctant to commit to WFDF basic standards (e.g. no waivers, no WFDF logo etc.). Rauch commented that EUF needs to follow basic WFDF standards if they wish to be sanctioned. Some standards are crucial, some less so. But without risk management and without acknowledging WFDF presence there is no sense in sanctioning the event. Woldt will follow up with EUF.

WU23 2015 update

Woldt reported that the registration from India has 20 players and 14 Entourage with many guests (4 coaches, medical staff, and 6 guests). Rauch did not object to accepting these figures as long as all guests are paying their own way and there are no visa support requests.

World Games 2017

Bernardi reported on the latest discussions with IWGA CEO Joachim Gossow, who had confirmed that WFDF may play in the Wroclaw Olympic stadium but that the

schedule would be moved to mid-week. There will also be no permanent lining of the field for American football but the quality of the artificial turf is a question. There will be a meeting with WOC 2017 during the SportAccord convention in Sochi.

The dates would be 21-23 July 2017 for American Football in any case and if we play in the Olympic Stadium we must use the dates 25-27 July 2017 (Tuesday through Thursday). If we go for the older Slask stadium we would be on the dates 27-29 July 2017 (Thursday through Saturday). So either we would go for the weekend in the old stadium or for mid-week in the new stadium. We will need to answer that in Sochi.

Rauch commented that if we want to show a packed stadium mid-week is very difficult. We need a Saturday event. We need to show numbers. Purcell questioned whether this would affect our ability to televise. Rauch explained that at the last TWG questions about cameras, television and streaming were addressed very late. So there was no way to tell now. If we would play on 27-29 July 2017 in the old Slask stadium there would be in parallel speedway which does not compete with us.

Finance

Treasurer report

Bergeron reported that the dues are coming in and that we already collected U23 fees from USAU.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was proposed for 09/10 May 2015.

Closing

Rauch thanked everyone for their contribution.

The meeting closed at 01:12 CET.

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary