

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Saturday October 3rd, 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, October 4th); Taiwan 05:00 (Sunday, October 4th).

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Brian Gisel, Patrick van der Valk, Steve Taylor, Kevin Givens , Fumio Morooka, Jamie Nuwer, Tomas Burvall (by proxy to van der Valk).

Also attending: Volker Bernardi (Executive Director, non-voting).

Board members absent/excused:

Michael Hu, Ryan Purcell, Vincent Gaillard, Michael Downes.

Call to order (time: 23:06)

The quorum was reached with 10 votes of 8 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed the participants and thanked all for their participation.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of 12 September 2015 meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Bergeron, seconded by Nuwer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Morocco membership proposal (MFDA)

The membership proposal for Morocco (MFDA) had been tabled at the last meeting and after receipt of more background information and proof of playing activities in Morocco the only question remaining is the level of SOTG. It was confirmed that SOTG education is key to allow the teams to participate on international level.

A motion was presented by Gisel to approve the application to be sent to Congress for final approval of the membership, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

WUCMC proposal - Masters World Championships

Gisel presented the proposal made by the Ultimate Committee: “Remove Masters divisions from the WFDF World Ultimate Club Championships event and create the WFDF World Ultimate Club Masters Championships (WUCMC).”

The Ultimate Committee recommends: “Starting in 2018, WUCC would include only Open, Women’s and Mixed Divisions. WFDF will then create a WUCMC event, which will include Open Masters, Women’s Masters and depending on demand, Mixed Masters, Open

Grandmasters and Women's Grandmasters.”

Gisel reported that the topic was discussed during the last six months. WFDF has seen interest in including even more Masters' divisions into WUCC and WUGC such as Grand Masters. Separating might even help Masters' divisions grow with Women's Grandmasters and perhaps even Mixed Masters. This would lead to a more manageable size of the WUCC event, as the biggest hurdle currently is finding an event host with a venue that can accommodate it. The plan would be to send out a call for bids for WUCMC at the same time as for WUCC. That should make it easier to find a host. Depending on the experience around WUCC/WUCMC, WFDF would consider having a similar separation for WUGC with a national team Masters event in 2020. 2018 would make most sense for the first edition and a conflict with WJUC should be avoided. Morooka proposed to have also national teams competing in the Masters events and not only Clubs as JFDA is supporting the World Masters Games event in 2021 in Japan. Gisel confirmed that if the project would be successful for WUCC a similar project could be done with WUGC. Van der Valk added that there were 24 Masters teams in Lecco at WUCC in the Open division and 9 in the Women's division. Right now there is interest by 5-6 nations to send a Grand Masters teams to WUGC. Gisel confirmed that with a country sending only one Masters club team WFDF could loosen the eligibility rules a bit.

A motion to approve the proposal made by the Ultimate Committee was made by van der Valk, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

WU24 2017 bid from Australia - approval

Gisel reported that there was only one bid received for WU24 2017 by the given deadline; while there was additional interest, this did not lead to other bidders sending in a final document. The bid from Australia was recommended by the Events Sub-Committee and the Ultimate Committee also approved the bid unanimously. There was some concern about the timing of the event as students constitute the majority of the players. WFDF will work with TOC on the dates and budget looking at 44 teams but considering a situation if they only get 34 teams. The bid is strong and TOC has run a WFDF event previously in 2006. The announcement should be made as soon as possible after the contract is signed. There was a request to check possible dates in early January. WFDF should try to get an understanding of what the University schedules are around the world.

A motion was made to approve of the bid from Australia by Gisel conditional to finding a suitable date for the event through the Ultimate Committee, seconded by Nuwer. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF-BULA Memorandum of Understanding / Tripartite Agreement

Rauch and van der Valk reported on the status of the negotiations between WFDF and BULA on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). There are a few issues where an agreement still needs to be reached. With BULA being a registered "for-profit" Ltd. company in the UK there is a potential for conflict of interest when a BULA representative is also part of WFDF's decision making. In any situation WFDF must provide full transparency to protect itself and all individuals involved. Other issues are the range of sanctioning fees and the distribution between WFDF and BULA. On the event name and title Rauch suggested that BULA's logo would be displayed alongside the WFDF logo with the event name being "WFDF World Championships of Beach Ultimate, in association with BULA." The further role which WFDF might take in the organization of the event would be discussed verbally to speed things up so the bid for WCBU 2017 can be sent out soon.

Rauch concluded that they would try to iron out remaining issues and hopefully present a Memorandum of Understanding electronically by mid-October.

WFDF 2015 Congress - Minutes

Rauch reported that the Congress minutes draft was submitted as part of the briefing book and asked the Board members to take a look as WFDF needs to circulate this with Congress to get some feedback for a week and then move forward and have this voted on by electronic poll.

Brand Valuation RFP

Rauch reported that WFDF has been putting together a list of specialists and agencies in the area of brand valuation and proposed that the Board has a review. The agency would do a brand valuation in support of WFDF's pursuit of a global sponsor, and the budget was confirmed at US\$10,000 or less. Van der Valk added that he would know some people who could be interested and Rauch confirmed that WFDF is looking forward to more suggestions.

Outreach to USA Semi-Pro Leagues re referees

Rauch reported that self-governance (no referees) is one of the sport's best-selling points. He has thought about approaching Semi-Pro leagues in the US to suggest to them to go back to at least an Observer model. WFDF would propose to them that this was in their best economic interest as we pursue inclusion in the Olympic Programme. WFDF has limited resources, but the IOC recognition gives us credibility. It would allow us to not being concerned about referees showing up on TV and giving kids the impression that Ultimate would need referees. They should see the potential upside of going away from referees. They are clouding the message in what WFDF is doing and in the end it might hurt their business model, too. Van der Valk added that observers for him are one of the reasons why there are referees. For the fan there is not much difference between observers and referees. They should not only go to Observers as the decision should always be in the hand of the player. They should go to game advisors.

Gisel agreed with Rauch and commented that WFDF and USAU should perhaps make a stand to leagues to change their model. Realistically the leagues need a compelling economic reason to make a switch now, not in mid or long term. Gisel spoke with the MLU interim commissioner about introducing Observers but has not received a favorable reaction. He has a meeting with AUDL representatives in late October. If WFDF wanted to have a more official response by AUDL and MLU, Gisel would be happy to get that. Rauch responded that it would not hurt to try. We can give them more visibility. USAU can do more in the short term than WFDF. Any further thoughts Board members would have would be helpful.

Gisel repeated that only economic advantages would make them change their referee model. Obviously MLU and AUDL think that they need referees to communicate the game to the fans or otherwise they do not get access to the fans. Bergeron asked why anybody who does not know Ultimate would watch the game. The no-referee system indeed could be a selling point.

Revision of dues structure

Rauch mentioned that there is a potential for the revision of the dues structure as he had discussions with the largest members of WFDF at Congress. The dues still are WFDF's largest income. The small members always struggle to pay the dues and the larger

members have a potential to pay higher dues. WFDF could go up from US\$ 4,800 and 5 votes to US\$ 6,400 and 6 votes. Rauch would want to send out a formal note to these groups so one can have a formal vote for new dues for 2016. As a first step he would send a note to potentially affected nations and ask for comments and support.

A motion was made to approve of that proposal by Rauch, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athlete`s Commission Report

There was no report present for the meeting.

WFDF Strategic Plan Task list follow up

Rauch went through the task list from the strategic planning session to check the progress:

Gisel reported on new programs which could come through separating the Masters division as agreed.

Bergeron is working on parent-kid activities and is thinking about a survey.

Bernardi reported that the adaptive sports task force is set up.

Taylor reported that WFDF has been approached by a Veterans Association for Guts.

The new WFDF logo was completed in spring

Gisel reported that WFDF will have to open up to ideas of qualification rounds for World Championships the more participants we get. One must examine the possibility to have continental qualification events.

Bergeron reported that through the WU23 we approached new liability insurance companies. WFDF does charge back to TOC for larger events, but for smaller events WFDF takes over most of the costs.

The new RFP on TV/Broadcast is a key element of upgrading media and video presence.

Gisel added on training of Game Advisors as the informal Sub-Committee tries to find out how to proceed, e.g. Game Advisors are being asked for in other regions, e.g. Ukraine.

Rauch reported that the coaches training at US Open did not happen this year. WFDF had invited Latin American countries and only Panama and Mexico sent people over there.

Rauch asked all disc sport chairs to help set up the list of key persons for all disc sports in the countries.

Van der Valk mentioned that the educational material is done. WFDF would need SOTG directors in each country. There are around 16 official SOTG directors, 18 contacts, 8 are not interested. WFDF will try to put national spirit winners on the WFDF web site. SOTG Hall of Fame by next year could also be a project.

On the boilerplate language it took a long time but now there is a two-pager about SOTG and a boilerplate should be done by end of year.

Bernardi reported that WFDF has increased Women representation on the various Commissions and still looks to improve women's representation on the Board. WFDF has identified some women who would be willing to run for positions at WFDF.

Rauch concluded that he is hopeful that when the board reviews the list next year that every task that came out of the strategic planning exercise was completed.

Potential new member countries - status

Bernardi reported that after this Board meeting the votes on the membership applications of Morocco, Guam and Malaysia will be sent to Congress for approval. He is hopeful that for the next Board meeting Egypt can be presented. WFDF well could reach the 75 members target by the end of 2016.

2015 Annual Census and dues invoices - status

Bernardi reported that the census is updated and last dues payments are being chased.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf incl. TDGWC update

Rauch reported that there was a venue problem for TDGWC but that this is being worked out.

Freestyle

Givens had no new report on Freestyle.

Guts

Taylor reported that the Committee worked on a rule clarification on substitutions as nobody plays according to this WFDF rule. WFDF is reaching out to participating countries for WUGC 2016.

Overall

Burvall had no new report on Overall.

Beach Ultimate

Van der Valk reported that he is still trying to get a Spanish representative on the WFDF Beach Ultimate Committee.

Ultimate Events and others

Rauch referred the Board to the written report of Woldt.

World Games 2017

Bernardi reported on the latest developments with regard to the venue and quota in the IF

passport. On the Oporowska stadium, WOC say it is not a problem to keep the fence in front of the main stands despite our objections. On the officials quota we see that Game Advisors will increase the number on the IF passport. We are aiming for 8 GAs and therefore discussed a small raise from 15 to 19 IF officials. IWGA expects that we take 6 officials and use for Game Advisors. We need to sign the IF passport soon.

Finance

Treasurer report and update on audit

Bergeron reported that a new update for September was sent and we are still missing the final financial report from WU23.

The audit for 2014 has been quite difficult because WFDF switched to new auditor.

Rauch added that once we get the 2014 audit and tax filing done perhaps Bergeron should have a call with the auditor as the WFDF audit actually is not so complicated and it is not acceptable that it takes this long.

Other business

Rauch asked the Board members whose term of office comes to an end in December 2015 to advise Bernardi or himself about plans to run again for office.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed for mid-November (14 or 15).

Closing: 01:14 h

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary.