

Sunday, December 19, 2015

Saturday December 19th, 2015; UK, POR- 22:00; GER, SUI, SWE- 23:00; RSA-00:00 (Sunday December 20th, 2015); USA NY, VA, MI 17:00; USA CO, AZ 15:00; USA CA, CAN BC 14:00; Japan 07:00; Taiwan 06:00 (Sunday December 20th, 2015).

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Brian Gisel, Patrick van der Valk, Steve Taylor, Kevin Givens, Fumio Morooka, Ryan Purcell.

Also attending: Volker Bernardi, Executive Director (non-voting), Karina Woldt, Event Manager (non-voting), Rob McLeod, Director of Global Communications and New Media (non-voting), Tim Rockwood, Managing Director Sponsoring and Media (non-voting).

Board members absent/excused:

Tomas Burvall, Vincent Gaillard, Michael Downes, Michael Hu, Jamie Nuwer.

Call to order (time: 23:05)

The quorum was reached with 9 votes, with 8/14 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed the participants and thanked all for their participation. 2015 was a successful year with a number of premier events and with the permanent IOC recognition reached in August. Rauch thanked all Board members and staff for their contribution.

Decisions between meetings

The votes 2015.5-8 have been approved by the WFDF Congress dealing with the membership proposals of MFDA (Malaysia - upgrade to regular membership) and the new membership proposals from GZFA (Guam) and MFDA (Morocco) as well as the approval of the 2015 Congress Minutes. The Congress unanimously approved of all proposals with the respective majority needed and the votes formally closed on 15 November 2015.

Minutes of 15 November 2015 meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Givens, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Lithuania membership proposal - upgrade to regular membership

Bernardi reported that he worked with Arturas Petrauskas (LFDF President) for several months on the fulfillment of the requirements for regular membership by the member association of Lithuania. As the LFDF now is in compliance with all requirements the Board can vote on the proposal.

A motion was made to approve of the proposal to send the membership proposal from LFDF to Congress for a vote by van der Valk, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of 2016 Anti-Doping testing pool composition

Bernardi confirmed that the Board had already approved of the principles of the 2016 WFDF Anti-Doping Testing Pool composition. As the member association concerned have now presented their proposals for their athletes to be included in the pool the Board is asked to approve of the composition. It was underlined that nominated athletes will be in the pool from 1 January to 31 December 2016 as we do not have replacements and athletes stay in pool even when they get injured. In such cases for each medication they take they must file a TUE application.

A motion was made to approve the Anti-Doping Testing Pool composition as proposed by Purcell, seconded by Givens. The composition was approved unanimously.

Rules of Ultimate Appendix version 4.0 - approval

Gisel reported that the proposed changes to the rules of Ultimate Appendix have been sent to the Board. The proposed changes have been approved by the Ultimate Rules Subcommittee with two major changes being the change of uniform size of numbers from 20 cm to 16 cm and the tightening of the head gear rules which were not in line with uniforms. Also there was a change of the score point cap from 17 to 15 for games to reduce the total length for viewers and raise flexibility and reduce strain on players. There were also some grammar errors corrected and an addition of age categories for younger events (U17, U14). WFDF introduced a minimum age to avoid having athletes who are too young (playing in adult divisions. The roster eligibility is now regulated in one place. Bergeron asked whether the name change of the Open to Men`s division doesn't preclude women from playing on Men`s teams. Gisel responded that this was not the case and commented that for the Juniors events in 2016 in Poland it will not be an issue to stick with Open as division name if that would be needed for logistical reasons.

Purcell asked for more background on the change of the score point cap to 15. Gisel explained that games to 17 tended to drag and here was a safety issue with number of games played per week. Over 50 % of the games were getting capped at U23; with going to 15 only around 15% of games would have been capped. It is more consistent to spectators if capping is rather the exception than the rule.

A motion was made to approve of the new Rules of Ultimate Appendix version 4.0 by Givens, seconded by van der Valk. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

WFDF contract with Ultimate Central

Gisel reported about the proposed contract between WFDF and Ultimate Central (UC). WFDF has negotiated the fee down to 1.6% of player/team fees for WUGC and WUCC. Hill agrees that it is good to continue the work with UC and it is the type of we need to adopt with us having more control over event administration. Rauch added that WFDF has spent time about what would be a comfortable pricing scheme but we have also been addressing the problems and glitches in the system that we experience in 2015. Woldt was asked whether these are going to be fixed, as while Gisel and Hill have pushed to get modifications in advance of each 2015 event, there were still things that were not addressed properly. Woldt responded that it will take some work and WFDF needs to allocate some time to work with UC and also with TOC so that we can gain confidence in the system for 2016. Rauch asked whether Gisel and Woldt are convinced that UC will work better in the future. Woldt explained that UC showed some change of their attitude after EUC 2015 in Copenhagen. Gisel reported about the experience in Mexico at PAUC where

the event web site was hosted by UC and some of the scoring tools. Purcell asked what was the issue with UC at PAUC. Gisel mentioned that this had not to do with the website or scoring and was not related to UC. Gisel confirmed that WFDF had negotiated an early termination clause for this three year contract available at the end of 2016 if our experience does not improve.

Bernardi added that after the experience during the last events in 2014 and 2015 people will not be patient any more when results systems and scoring again that do not work at future events. Gisel is reasonably certain that the system will work in 2016. WFDF will have to have a backup like in 2015 when we had to mobilize UltiOrganizer at the last minute.

Bergeron asked about the financial aspects of the contract mentioning that there is a payment requested totaling to US\$ 13,000 on 5 January in the form of an upfront deposit. Gisel added that this amount will be considered when payments are made at the end. Rauch wanted to know what percentage is calculated and on which amounts. Gisel explained that this is calculated from the player and team fee revenues but not any room and board or other fees. Van der Valk asked about the possibilities to take in foreign payments, e.g. European payments. Gisel responded that UC will not take in payments at all. WFDF had thought it would be a big benefit and Hill said that the easiest thing would be to get the payments directly from the NGBs. UC is now concentrating on website, rosters, results and archiving. Van der Valk asked what percentage is used if UC does not take in the fees. Gisel explained that this is calculated from the fees going to event, albeit not through UC, and one will use the respective revenue as way of gauging the payment to UC. Van der Valk asked whether the payments are going to WFDF or to TOC. Gisel confirmed that for WUGC 2016 the payments are going to TOC directly.

Van der Valk added that he had asked the Treasurer that WFDF should have a bank account in Euro since lots of monies are being paid from European countries. If WFDF would start to collect player and team fees and other money directly this would be needed and Rauch agreed.

Van der Valk mentioned that for SOTG there have been issues with UC as people are still using written spread sheets. He asked how the Chair of the WFDF SOTG Committee could find out what the changes are. Gisel responded that he should ask Woldt or Gisel as WFDF is looking to get better control of events.

Purcell asked whether WFDF would be in a position to get money back if the system fails, given the problems which one experienced in the past. Gisel commented that this would be probably not the case as WFDF and our recourse would be to go through a legal procedure. Purcell concluded that WFDF had issues with UC in the past and still is pre-paying now. Gisel responded that WFDF is doing this to incentivize UC to make the investments to greatly improve the system and WFDF has an out clause for a reason.

Bernardi added that as per the contract there is a clause about third party websites and such website partners might include advertising which might collide with the official WFDF sponsors. He was concerned as the clause implies that UC does not control any contents which appear on third party websites. Gisel promised to check this matter with UC again.

Rauch concluded that after giving another look to the contract and if any other questions come up WFDF can incorporate these points within next few days and sign unless anything else would come up.

A motion was made to move forward with the contract by Gisel seconded by Bergeron. The

motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of event proposal for FISU (World University Championships)

Rauch reported that WFDF has been working to pull together the application for FISU to get a final approval by the Board. Bernardi added that the report presented to the Board is a summary of what has happened during last year. The proposal for the event cycle is given by FISU (first WUC in 2020 with test events held prior to that year).

A motion was made to approve of the application to FISU by Purcell, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of event proposal for European Olympic Committee (European Games 2019)

Rauch reported that WFDF has been working with EFDF who would be the actual group to apply to EOC for inclusion of Flying Disc sports in the European Olympic Games and the WFDF Executive Director is in a good position to help EFDF. Bernardi added that the 2019 European Games were awarded to Russia. Now would be the time to apply. EFDF is to apply for the sport to be put to EOC. The EFDF and the EUF agreed that they want to be part of European Games.

A motion was made to approve of the plan to support EFDF in pursuing the inclusion to the European Games by Purcell seconded by Givens. The motion was unanimously approved.

Belgium membership issue - dissolution of BFDF

Bernardi reported that Jacques Doetsch from the Belgian Flying Disc Federation (BFDF) has informed WFDF that BFDF was officially dissolved. As BFDF was the official WFDF member association for Belgium, discussions need to be held on Belgium's future in WFDF. The issue in Belgium is that national sports federations must be composed of representatives from both the Flemish and French regions of the country. In the past with the formal consent of BFDF the Belgian Ultimate Federation (BUF) took over work on Ultimate related matters and had paid the WFDF dues and also sent teams, but BUF has no legal status. The proposal as sent to the Board would ensure that Belgium could participate in WUGC 2016 in London and WFDF gets back a properly registered member in Belgium association. Rauch supported that proposal.

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

WFDF official charity partnerships

Rauch asked the Board to table this topic while there are further discussions.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athlete's Commission Report

Purcell reported about the internal communication problems within the Commission which continue to exist and asked for suggestions from the Board. Rauch mentioned that the Athlete's Commission is comprised of three members elected by the athletes. If the other two members are unresponsive, he suggested Ryan should go back to them and ask if they are willing to resign. If they agree it would be in the hands of the Board to find and elect other members. Purcell will report back at next the meeting.

Rauch added that Purcell has started work on a proposal on sister associations and this would be followed-up soon.

Results of 2015 elections

Rauch informed the Board on the preliminary results of the 2015 elections. The unopposed candidates are elected with the majorities needed. The results are still unofficial as these will only be announced after the formal approval by the scrutineers.

Bernardi reported that the reluctance of the Ultimate members to cast a vote in favor of the non-Ultimate hair constitutes a real problem for the quorum. Rauch will address that during the next Congress.

Potential new member countries - status

Bernardi reported that, after the Congress approved the membership application made by Egypt with the vote closing on 31 December, the WFDF membership count will be 68 member associations in 65 countries. The next hopefuls are Uruguay, Bolivia and Ecuador.

Broadcasting and Sponsorship report

Rockwood added some topics to his written report and mentioned that any contract should contain a provision for real time result reporting. The WUGC 2016 in London is the focus of his daily work for WFDF. Gisel mentioned that he is confident that WFDF will be able to broadcast some games. Rockwood explained that he is focused on Sponsorship now and an amount of US\$ 250,000 is targeted. On the Broadcasting side there are several British entities existing which he will approach and he is using WFDF's best materials to pitch the sport.

Bernardi reported about problems which were coming up at WCBU in Dubai and at PAUC in Mexico with drones which were used for filming and were not authorized by WFDF. Rockwood confirmed that WFDF should control when and where these are used and these should not be used during games, but only for setting up pre-game shots. Private drones should be banned.

SOTG Day 2015

Van der Valk reported on the International SOTG Day 2015 which he ran with E.R.I.C., supported by WFDF. This was a huge success with 15 vendors making special spirit prizes. He announced the winners on 27 November 2015. Rauch is looking forward to make things bigger next year.

Announcement of Master division split

Gisel reported that the announcement would be made in January and then bids can be sent in.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf incl. TDGWC update

Woldt reported that the accommodations needed are put on hold. The informal call for volunteers shows good results. The event needs to be announced soon now.

Freestyle

Givens reported that the FPA elections are closed but no results are known yet.

Guts

Taylor reported that on the first December weekend a big event was held in Japan with 25 Men's and 8 Women's teams from multiple nations. For WUGC 2016 in London there are 6-8 countries so far.

Overall

Rauch referenced Burvall's report on WFOC.

Ultimate Events and others

Continental 2015 (PAUC, AOUC, AOGCC)

Woldt reported that the continental events were concluded successfully. Still there were some problems at PAUC and WFDF needs to address these.

WUGC 2016 - report

Woldt referenced the bid list and mentioned that there is a great response from member associations. As of now, a total of 44 countries out of the 64 WFDF members have confirmed that they will participate.

WJUC 2016 - discussions with EUF on EYUC in Wroclaw

Woldt reported that she had talked with TOC. Gisel confirmed that the organization is looking good for WJUC. Gisel will be happy to talk with EUF about the ongoing issue with the OEYUC.

World Games 2017

Bernardi presented the IF passport which WFDF needs to sign for IWGA and asked to inform him on any concerns by end of the year. IWGA has slightly increased the WFDF IF passport from 15 to 16 officials due to the fact that WFDF will have Game Advisors in Wroclaw. Morooka was able to conduct a second visit to the proposed venue and had confirmed that the venue is now acceptable. WOC has also confirmed that the modern infrastructure building can be used instead of tents as initially planned. The venue has a seating capacity of 8,000 seats and the surface is in good condition.

World Masters Games 2021

Morooka reported that the city congress of Nara had decided not to invite Ultimate and the city mayor sent an apology to WFDF. Morooka had tried to find another host city. JFDA is now planning to host Flying Disc Masters Games in Kyoto. If that is not possible perhaps the sport could be presented as a demonstration game during the World Masters Games. Rauch asked that Morooka speak with Gisel about this suggestion.

Finance

Treasurer report and update on audit

Bergeron reported that the WFDF books for 2015 will be closed soon and asked that all payments requests be made immediately. The audit is finished and Congress is voting on the document by end of the year.

Other business

Mcleod gave a social media update. WFDF counts over 26,000 fans on Facebook and over 5,100 followers on Twitter. Rockwood mentioned that the WFDF video for the IOC was acknowledged very well in his community.

Van der Valk added to his written report on Beach Ultimate that he is still solidifying the Beach Ultimate Committee. He had asked USAU to play Beach without observers but hasn't received reply yet. Rauch commented that in his role as WFDF beach Ultimate chair van der Valk can suggest to NGBs to consider how to play their event but it is in the decision of our national members how to play their national events and therefore asked to be involved in all discussions about this topic.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed for 23/24 January 2016.

Closing: 01:20 h

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary.