

Saturday, May 9, 2015

Saturday May 9th, 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, May 10th); Taiwan 05:00 (Sunday, May 10th).

Board members present:

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

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

Board members absent/excused:

Jamie Nuwer, Vincent Gaillard, Michael Downes, Ryan Purcell

Call to order (time: 23:07)

The quorum is reached with 10 votes present at the meeting.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed everybody and thanked all for participating in the meeting. Although there was only a short briefing book the meeting is packed with important topics.

Decisions between meetings

There were no decisions between meetings

Minutes of 11 April 2015 Board meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 11 April meeting by Morooka, seconded by Givens. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

WFDF Bylaws change - voting right for Athlete`s Commission chair

Rauch informed the Board that the decision on the permanent recognition status would be taken by the IOC session in Kuala Lumpur beginning at the end of July. One remaining issue for the IOC is the voting right of the chair of the Athlete`s Commission in the Board of Directors. Therefore a proposal for such change in the Bylaws was presented by Rauch. Givens commented that the balance of the board should be considered as far as votes are concerned. Rauch added that the Board is starting to get big and a change of the governance structure could be needed. As Purcell as AC chair was quite active there should be no concerns.

Morooka made a motion to approve of the proposed Bylaws changes to be presented to the Congress for approval, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

2016 budget - approval

Rauch informed the Board that the budget for 2016 needs to be presented to Congress no later than 2 months prior to their meeting so Bergeron would walk the members through the budget. There are no major changes compared to the last budget. Bergeron commented that the projected income results mainly from membership dues. Rauch added that there is a slight 3% increase. Additional income could come from Sponsorships or Merchandising. In 2015 the event related Merchandise revenue did not materialize but this should be better in 2016. There are donations and grants from the IOC and ARISF around US\$31,000. Event sanctioning fees should amount to expected US\$58,000 in 2016 with WUGC and WJUC being the main events. The projected total income is US\$223,000.

Gisel commented that looking at the documents of the larger dues paying members every single year United States and Canada are paying less money compared to their increase of members. The dues also should be adapted to the inflation. Most member associations see an increase in membership, certainly USA and Canada, most likely also UK and Germany. Gisel suggested that WFDF needs to discuss a 1% - 2% increase of dues for member associations as members pay the same top amount since 2008 which is US\$4,800. An annual increase of 2% in fees should be ok and the top fee should go up to US\$5,000. Rauch confirmed that this matter should be further discussed and perhaps expanded even more.

Bergeron gave explanations on the projected expenses side. Bergeron questioned the costs for Game Advisors which altogether should be similar to 2015, and asked whether we needed US\$7,000 for travel expenses. Rauch mentioned that if WFDF would be paying for travel for the Game Advisors we need more, about US\$1,600. Gisel agrees as this would be for WUGC and WJUC, as does Bergeron.

Bergeron concluded that 2016 would show a slight loss, but in general we were looking good. Rauch commented that a big part of our work in next year is commercial development, more like we did with VC and Discraft. We need to look for a global sponsor for WFDF itself. Also perhaps we should increase sanctioning fees. We are making investments into development which is good.

Rauch asked the Board whether the Board would object to voting and needs more time. Rauch confirmed to Givens that dues would not be increased in 2016 as we need to discuss with our members. A motion was made to approve the 2016 budget by Gisel, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

2014 audited financials - approval

Rauch informed that WFDF needed to change the auditor and that the audit would only commence in the coming weeks. Bernardi commented that the audited financials would be needed for the update to the IOC, too. Rauch indicated that he hoped that

the documents should be presented within the next 2-3 weeks.

2015 Risk assessment - approval

Rauch commented that a key risk outlined in the annual assessment became reality in Lecco where WFDF did not receive all sanctioning fees that had been collected. All of these risks are real, some of them are devastating but all potentially have some impact.

A motion was made to approve the 2015 risk assessment by Givens, seconded by Morooka. The risk assessment was approved unanimously.

NGB Governance Presentation

Rauch informed the Board members that the IOC sport model depends on International Federations running sports. Disciplines are part of sports. WFDF has a somewhat similar model and, at WFDF's inception, most NGBs were governing all disciplines, except the PDGA, the UPA, FPA, and USGPA. There has never been an umbrella association in the U.S. However, over the last couple decades, we have seen a number of new nations organize as Ultimate-only associations, and this gives rise to concerns about the medium term governance structures.

WFDF's Bylaws were designed to reflect the reality showing multiple national governing organisations for the different disciplines. We are going to need to discuss moving to the IOC sports model. Key elements would be talking to "Ultimate only" organisations to expand to the other disciplines. We need to discuss this at Congress in London and any thoughts by the Board members are welcome within the next few days.

As a prime example, Givens asked whether USAU could revise its mandate to manage Overall and find a way to work with other disciplines. Stork had tried to set up such an organisation back in the 1980s but it did not get traction. Rauch confirmed that this will be quite difficult. A first step could be some form of confederation where perhaps USAU, PDGA, FPA, and USGPA set up a governance structure for the U.S. Overall could be managed by an umbrella organisation or there could be a committee set up within one of the existing organisations. Rauch is convinced that we can get that going with a 4-5 year transition phase. We would want to avoid continuation of the current structure and shift emphasis more to Flying Disc organisations rather than disciplines only. This will be a challenge but when these groups talk with their NOCs they will need to show unified approach.

Potential increase in WFDF fees

Gisel had outlined different ideas in his mail to the Board. Priority should be finding sponsorship and not raising money on the backs of athletes. But we need to discuss behind the scenes an increase of dues and sanctioning fees. Gisel added that some federations have increased revenues in past decade and thus collecting more money from them should not be such a problem. We could increase player fees at WFDF events. Players pay so much to attend WFDF events and increase would not raise

those expenses much. Rauch confirmed that WFDF needs to address this head on and the Congress would be the place to do that.

WFDF membership application for IMGA - Masters Games

Bernardi reported that the IOC strongly encourages participation in Multi Sport Games, the World Masters Games staged by IMGA being one of those. The admission criteria can easily be met by WFDF as we have a prospering Masters player group. The next Masters Games edition would be in 2017 and WFDF could target 2021 with the IMGA World Masters Games be held in Kansai (Japan). Gisel supported the idea and hoped that for the next Board meeting conference call he would be able to submit an outline for splitting off the Masters divisions at WUCC. IMGA would go along nicely with that outline. Rauch confirmed that WFDF should not be forced to change Masters age categories.

A motion was made to apply for IMGA membership and admission to the World Masters Games program by Givens, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

IOC recognition - further procedures

Rauch and Bernardi gave an update on the IOC recognition procedure. During the meetings with the IOC Sports Department in Sochi it was confirmed that WFDF would be put forward by the Sport Department for full recognition by the IOC Session in Kuala Lumpur in July. The key points to be met were the voting right of the chair of the Athlete's Commission, which was initiated before during the present meeting, and the response to the IOC Sports Department with the latest updates. It is still unclear whether we would be invited to attend the IOC session. It was confirmed that the IOC was quite satisfied with our progress during the last two years.

2015 SportAccord convention report

Rauch referenced the written report provided by Bernardi and informed the Board on the controversy between SportAccord President Vizer and IOC President Bach, which cumulated in Vizer complaining publicly during the SportAccord General Assembly about the IOC policies and governance and in particular the agenda 2020. As a result the Summer Olympic sports suspended their SportAccord membership. WFDF has not taken any actions so far but the Board would be kept updated on any developments. SportAccord had announced in Sochi that the first edition of the SportAccord World Beach Games would be held in 2019 in Sochi without ANOC, but now everything may be in flux.

Congress briefing book

Rauch confirmed that the initial Congress book would be sent out in time on 11 May

and the final book is expected to follow in about 4 weeks.

Congress preparations and agenda

The agenda of the Congress was presented to the Board for information.

Athlete`s Commission Report and survey

Rauch asked the members to check out the report sent by Purcell.

WFDF Strategic Plan Task list follow up

Rauch will ask Bernardi to check on the task updates with each Board member. Every board member with assigned tasks should send updates to Bernardi. Bernardi reported that van der Valk had sent a written summary on his tasks and this could serve as example for the next meeting.

Potential new member countries - status

Bernardi had no written report for this meeting as not much has happened since the last meeting three weeks ago. He has contacted several potential members and besides presenting Georgia as a new member there might be a replacement in Malaysia.

2015 Annual Census and dues invoices - status

Bernardi reported that there are still 7-8 members who have not yet responded to the census request and he will continue to chase them.

Quick updates:

Data protection

Rauch reported that a confidentiality issue with personal data of minors was brought up by Switzerland as a Swiss junior has been stalked due to photos from Juniors in Lecco. Rauch asked whether any Board member would volunteer to work with the WFDF Youth committee to come up with recommendations for Board. Bergeron would try to pitch in and help. Rauch proposed that she should talk with the Youth commission and get them into the frame. Givens volunteered to assist.

Discraft

Rauch reported on the Discraft agreement and the move to formalise the relationship with WFDF with terms through the end of 2016. Rauch has drafted a contract but did not hear back from Timmons so far.

There was a motion to approve going forward as proposed by Burvall, seconded by Givens and the motion was approved unanimously.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf

Rauch reported that Downes could not attend. There are no bids for the World Team Championships yet. PDGA was on ESPN sports center. Taylor will be partnering with PDGA in June to put on a Guts demonstration. PDGA's big charity event in Monterey, CA is coming up shortly.

Freestyle

Givens referenced the previous report and spoke about the proposal to add WFDF Freestyle Worlds to WOC. One of the FPA board members, Arthur Coddington, who created the ranking system, has stepped down from maintaining it. Rauch asked what those supportive of WFDF see as benefits and whether the others just don't want any change. Givens explained that benefits could be raising the profile on the discipline or becoming part of the World Urban Games. There are actually no logical reasons of why FPA should not be member of WFDF and all concerns have perhaps ideological reasons.

Guts

Taylor reported about USGPA and their small steps in last month. In particular he was working well together with Downes. On the AOGCC Taylor reported that Hu has sent the budget for the event. Burvall added that a Swedish team plans to go to WUGC.

Overall

Burvall referenced his written report and added that McLeod will go to London to represent Overall Events.

Ultimate Events and others

Woldt gave an update on the preparation of the Ultimate events. On the first All African Ultimate Club Championship event she reported that Seven Hills has sent a draft budget. They do not have a lot of space for fields and their preparations are based on 20 teams. Rauch commented that they have run the 7-Hill Tournament for several years and they typically had 7-8 teams so looking for 12 teams seems more appropriate to expect than 20. To accommodate, they could have shorter games which would free up more time slots. We should encourage them to find more fields. WFDF agrees to waive sanctioning fees. Bergeron agreed that the budget is very low and reconfirmed we hope to have a coaching session prior to event.

Continental 2015 (PAUC, AOUC, EUC)

For PAUC there are no teams registered so far but there is one month before the deadline. Adriana Withers went to Mexico and we have found a TD for the event.

WUGC 2016 - report

Woldt is looking at the contract with Si Hill.

WJUC 2016 - report

For WJUC 2016 all committees have agreed on the proposed date change to July 23 – Aug 6. The contract is expected in the next couple of days. Rauch requested that talking to any other party should wait until the contract is signed.

Finance

Treasurer report

Rauch and Bergeron gave an overview on the financials and commented that we are pretty much in line with budget.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be proposed to be held the weekend of June 27/28.

Closing

Rauch thanked everyone for their contribution.

The meeting closed at 01:13.

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary