

Saturday, January 25, 2014

Conference Call at Saturday January 25th, 2014; UK, POR- 22:00; GER, SUI, SWE - 23:00; RSA – 00:00 (Sunday, January 26th); USA NY, VA, MI 17:00; USA CO, AZ 15:00; USA CA, CAN BC 14:00; Japan 07:00 (Sunday January 26th); Taiwan 06:00 (Sunday January 26th)

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch, Tomas Burvall, Vincent Gaillard, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Sandie Hammerly, Michael Hu, Fumio Morooka, Jamie Nuwer, Steve Taylor, Patrick van der Valk

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

Board members absent or excused:

Kevin Givens (proxy submitted), Ryan Purcell (Athletes' Committee).

Call to order (time: 23:05 CEST)

The quorum was reached with 11 voting members being present and representation by proxy by Kevin Givens.

Report by the President

President Rauch welcomed all attendees and thanked them for joining the conference call, especially for those for whom the meeting time was difficult.

Decisions between meetings

None.

Minutes of meeting of December 21, 2013

Rauch said that no comments had been received on the content of the previous meeting's minutes so far. Separately, Burvall raised concerns about the decision to host the 2015 WCBU in Dubai due to differences in culture. Rauch and van der Valk outlined their understanding and experience of Dubai as one of the more open societies in the Middle East and one that encouraged sporting events such as WCBU. Nonetheless, it was acknowledged that there would need to be player education regarding strict drug policies and other cultural norms so that there would not be any problems faced by our athletes. It was agreed that Dubai was an acceptable location for the WCBU, with that caveat. Morooka proposed the approval of the minutes, seconded by van der Valk. The minutes were accepted with one abstention and all others in favor.



Introduction of new Event Manager Karina Woldt

Rauch asked Woldt to give a short introduction on her background and goals. Besides the information given in WFDF's press release (<u>http://is.gd/cnDDZ2</u>). Woldt mentioned a strong interest to see how a self-refereed sport works. She had already met with Bernardi a couple times in person and had had first discussions regarding WJUC and WUCC, and in general was looking forward to getting work done. Woldt was welcomed by various members of the Board. Rauch suggested that she reach out to all disc sport Chairs to learn how typical events had been run in the past.

Decisions requiring votes of the Board

Athletes' Survey

Rauch had circulated a draft for the player survey and had received some comments. It would be open for more comments during the next three days. Hammerly asked if the survey was meant for WFDF event participants or (also) for grass roots players. What about parents or relatives of players? College level? Juniors? The answer was that it was primarily targeted at more active and elite athletes and administrators, but that it was open to all players globally. Nuwer asked if the results would be aggregated and be anonymous, so that WFDF might use the results in promotions to vendors and potential corporate sponsors. Rauch said these comments would be worked into the final version of the survey.

Promotional Video Contest

Rauch described the need for WFDF to have a 90 to 120 second promotional video to be shown at occasions such as the SportAccord Convention or to IOC members and on the WFDF website. Raw material could be taken from TWG 2013, WUGC, or sources from Disc Golf and Freestyle events. Since a commercially produced video could be very expensive, Rauch suggested to set up a contest with prize money and invite potential producers directly. That might give WFDF access to several videos with different styles. Gaillard suggested to have a plan B in case too few responded to the contest, e.g. raise money through a sponsor to pay for a commercial production. When asked by Rauch, nobody was opposed to offering prize money. He then proposed to approve going out for a promotional video contest with the idea of having prize money for winners to be chosen through a social media campaign of US\$ 1,000, US\$ 500, and US\$ 250 for first, second and third under the assumption that there would be at least three entries. With few or no responses, WFDF would look to engage with a single producer. The video would be finished no later than SportAccord in early April 2014. The proposal received a second by Burvall and was accepted unanimously.

Appointment of Disc Sport Committees - Guts Committee

Rauch reported that Steve Taylor had taken over the chair of the Guts Committee at the end of 2013. Taylor had set up a list of members for the Guts Committee (Ryan Scott (USA), Dave Brown (USA), Michael Hu (TPE), Takumi Nunokawa (JPN), Masayoshi 'Kim' Kimura (JPN), Matt Hill (AUS); Chair: Steve Taylor (USA)) and proposed to accept his suggested list. Morooka seconded and the Guts committee was approved unanimously.



Appointment of Chair - Championships Sub-Committee of the Ultimate Committee

Gisel had suggested Rüdiger "Rü" Veitl from Germany as chair of the Championships Sub-Committee of the Ultimate Committee (Rü's bio in the Briefing Book). Gisel made a move to accept Rü as chair of the Championships Sub-Committee of the Ultimate Committee, seconded by Nuwer and then approved unanimously.

Appointment of Disc Sport Committees - SOTG Sub-Committee of the Ultimate Committee

Van der Valk had set up a list of potential committee members: Amberish Jaipuria (GBR), Brian Gisel (CAN), Chris Schneider (SUI), Danny Saunders (CAN), Jude Lee (PHI), Kate Barabanova (RUS), Makoto Ohi (JPN), Michael Lovinguth (USA), Richard Moore (AUS), Paolo Chiappin (BRA); Chair: Patrick van der Valk (POR). Van der Valk still is looking for a Latin American representative and that position will be filled later. He described the changes to the list. Rauch proposed to approve this slate, seconded by Nuwer. The committee members were approved unanimously.

Sanctioning of U.S. Open - Overall 2014 - DDC and Distance

Burvall had proposed that WFDF sanction two of the events at the U. S. Open Overall in July 2014, DDC and Distance. This would attract more international players as well as media attention. Nob reminded the board that WFDF has sanctioned Overall events in the past. The fee was US\$ 15 and WFDF provided medals for the event. Bernardi then quoted from emails from the U. S. Open Overall organizing committee which asked to sanction more than just the two events. In another email it was stated that US\$ 20 sanctioning fee for DDC would be far too much since these events usually are run on a very low budget. Rauch asked Burvall to discuss these emails with the organizers and then get back to the Board with a proposal which the Board would then vote on electronically.

Estonia regular membership proposal

Bernardi presented the application of the Estonian Flying Disc Federation for full WFDF membership and confirmed that all documents were complete. Since this is a very small federation with limited resources, concerns were raised how it would cope with the membership dues requirements over the years. Van der Valk confirmed that Estonia has a history within the flying disc community. Rauch mentioned that Estonia has hosted tournaments and attended WFDF events in the past. Estonia will need to establish a revenue system to be able to pay WFDF dues and WFDF will try to provide guidance. Hammerly recommended to send the application to Congress for approval, van der Valk seconded. The motion was approved with one abstention and all others in favor.

Disc Golf: PDGA Disc Sport Organizational Membership and MoU

Rauch presented the Memorandum of Understanding draft between PDGA and WFDF. It is the base upon which PDGA will renew their organizational membership with WFDF and reestablish a joint committee to deal with international disc golf. Since the PDGA was a "charter member" of WFDF since 1985 before they withdrew in 2007, Rauch outlined that they could be reinstated as a member without requiring an additional Congress

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approval. Hammerly mentioned that indeed WFDF had reinstated other members after periods of not paying dues, and everyone agreed this should also apply to PDGA. The first jointly sanctioned world championship event is planned to be in 2015 in Europe. PDGA will temporary appoint a WFDF Board member and at the end of 2014 there will be an election for this position. Rauch added that as per our current anti-doping program approved and supported by WADA, for the foreseeable future WFDF would not conduct any anti-doping tests at Disc Golf events. PDGA will be reinstated effective once the MoU is signed by both parties.

Proposal for an Asia Oceanic Guts Championships

Since there is only one WFDF event for Guts every four years (WUGC), Hu proposed to host a bi-annual Asia Oceanic Guts Championship sanctioned by WFDF. This event should help to raise interest in Guts. The region has enough potential participants to make the event large enough to be sanctioned. Taylor and Morooka supported the proposal. Morooka made a motion to approve the proposal and was seconded by Hu. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

IOC recognition/national NOC recognition - update

WFDF had sent a letter to every member association with information about National Olympic Committee contacts and encouragement to apply for NOC membership. Here is an overview of the replies received so far:

Already recognized by their NOCs: Norway, Netherlands, Hong Kong China, Chinese Taipei, Finland, Switzerland

Applied for NOC recognition: Colombia, USA, Japan, Czech Republic, Sweden, France, Singapore, South Africa

In the process of preparing documents for NOC recognition: Brazil, Philippines, Venezuela, Israel, Poland, Ireland, Iceland

Thinking about applying: Germany, Latvia, Ukraine

Membership issues - update on IND, BEL, UAE

Rauch reported that the conduct committee review on the Indian situation would be finalized soon. In Belgium there is a competing group to WFDF's incumbent member and it seems the two groups won't be able to resolve the situation soon. In the UAE, they are making progress in being recognized by the local authorities and then would be in a position to finalize their WFDF application.



Wheelchair Ultimate – update

Bernardi had meetings planned for the following week with a contact from a German disabled sports organization.

Spirit of the Games (SOTG) Task Force report – draft

Rauch reported about the first draft of the SOTG Task Force report which had been circulated to the board. He asked any comments to be sent in within the next few days.

Anti-Doping

2014 Anti-Doping program plan RTP

Rauch reported that WFDF has contracted with the "Real Winner" online educational Anti-Doping tool. Three athletes from each participating team at WUCC and WJUC 2014 will be required to complete the Real Winner education course.

Other Disciplines

Freestyle

Givens had submitted a report about his discussions with Burvall with the goal to coordinate events between the two disciplines better in order to attract more participants.

Overall

Burvall reported that for the WOC 2015 only one bid from Sweden had been received to date. Hu announced that Chinese Taipei planned to submit a bid shortly.

Guts

Taylor stated he is looking forward to re-energize Guts activities within WFDF.

Events

WUCC / WJUC 2014 Status Report

Gisel said that registration and payments for WUCC are running well. From 163 teams 151 have confirmed payment. The Italian Women's Masters team had to cancel and that division is now down to 9 teams. Registrations for WJUC had just started two weeks ago and there are no figures on sign-up as of yet.

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Sportaccord World Beach Games - Beach Ultimate

Rauch reported that WFDF had been actively lobbying with SportAccord to be included in the inaugural Beach Games multi-sports event, which is rumored to be held in Brazil in 2015. With strong efforts by Fumio Morooka, we had recently received the questionnaire about the possible inclusion of Beach Ultimate. Van der Valk asked if athletes of the World Beach Games would get flights or accommodation paid for. We expect to get a lot of additional information from SportAccord over the next couple months.

TWG 2017 - update

Bernardi announced that WFDF has appointed its Sport Director for TWG in Wroclaw, Poland in 2017. The Polish President, Michael DUL, will be our representative. IWGA will announce the final decision about the sports program in April 2014 at SportAccord.

Rauch mentioned that IWGA had started a contest to decide on the athlete and team of the year based on TWG 2013 in Cali. Rauch has launched our social media campaign on Facebook/Twitter. Votes can be made daily on the IWGA web site and Rauch encouraged all board members to spread the word and hopefully help the Ultimate team win. While this is clearly more of a popularity contest than a scientific contest, a strong showing by flying disc would show the strength of our social media effort and the enthusiasm of the global disc community.

Finance

Financial statements and membership dues status

Hammerly reported that at least one bill from 2013 arrived late and that WFDF hadn't collected players fees from WU23 and PanAm event. Bernardi had contacted the organizers and the payments should be forthcoming. Hammerly recommended to get the 2014 census out soon so that WFDF has the numbers and can set dues and get them paid as early in the year as possible. Bernardi said that, of the two members who had yet to pay 2013 dues, one has indicated that they have paid dues very recently and the other will pay in the following week.

Next Meeting

Proposed date: 1/2 March 2014.

Closing

The meeting closed at 1:18 CEST.

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary

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