

Saturday, March 23rd, 2019

Executive Committee members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch, Brian Gisel, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum

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

Executive Committee absent/excused:

(none)

Call to order

15:00 CET

Overview by the President

Rauch greeted the participants to the first ExComm meeting in 2019 and reminded all that most decisions made at this level would then be passed on to the full Board for a formal vote.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the ExCom

Role of ExComm vs Board - How to bifurcate the agenda?

Rauch initiated a discussion on how ExComm vs. Board activities should be organized so that meeting procedures would be streamlined. If Board meetings would only happen only 4 or 5 times per year, there was a need to make decisions in between those meetings. Bergeron suggested to speed up board meetings by having decisions vetted by ExComm passed on to the board with a recommendation and summary rationale.

Gisel suggested that decisions on the strategic direction of WFDF should be made by the board but decisions about details (e.g. which sponsor to choose) would be appropriate to be made by ExComm.

Bernardi stated that, according to the Bylaws, only the board could take decisions. So everything decided on by ExComm would need board approval. He felt the ExComm meeting was more about keeping the core staff updated on the current topics.

Rauch suggested that ExComm could make recommendations to the board and ask for the final approval. That could help streamline the process. ExComm will continue to discuss in the coming meetings to find the best way to achieve this.

Supplier/Partner RFPs - Small RFPs - Gloves and Bags

Gisel reported that WFDF had received three bids from glove producers for the relationship as WFDF Official Glove Supplier & Sponsor:

- CLUB Jr Inc.
- Layout Ultimate
- Friction Gloves

Friction Gloves' offer was the best economic deal. It was noted that WFDF's merchandize supplier VC Ultimate worked together with Layout Ultimate and did not plan to sell Friction Gloves' products. Friction Gloves would need to take care of sales themselves. It was felt that the quality of Friction Gloves and the general acceptance by the athletes was good enough to accept their bid.

MOTION: A motion was made by Givens to propose to the board to accept the bid by Friction Gloves, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF had only received one bid for the relationship as WFDF Official Bag Supplier & Sponsor by Greatest Bag.

MOTION: A motion was made by Givens to propose to the board to accept the bid by Greatest Bag, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Commissions - proposed appointments

Bernardi presented proposals for additions to several WFDF commissions and asked ExComm to approve:

- Entourage Commission:
Addition of Daniela Loustalot Knapp (MEX)
Addition of Emily Wisnosky (USA)
- Ethics Commission:
Addition of Ana Paula Provenza (BRA/BEL)
- Youth and Sport Commission:
Addition of Roxana Gonzalez Munera (COL)
- University and School Sport Commission:
Addition of Roxana Gonzalez Munera (COL)
- Parasports Commission:
Addition of Natasha Gilbert (CAN)

Bernardi added that there might be more proposals submitted by board members Malone and Jeong. Bergeron remarked that the list was an impressive improvement of the level of diversity in the commissions and thanked Bernardi for identifying these individuals.

MOTION: A motion was made by Bergeron to propose to the board to accept all additions to the above mentioned commissions, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Although not on the agenda, Bergeron mentioned that, after talks with Rauch, she had drafted a MoU for a high level relationship between WFDF and the Womens Premier Ultimate League (PUL, represented by Maddy Frey). The PUL is a semi-pro league for women, similar to the AUDL but entirely separate. She added that PUL does not use referees. Bergeron plans, after she receives comments by Frey, to send a revised draft to the members of ExComm to get more feedback.

WFDF Job applications - Event / Administration Coordinator - Shortlist

Rauch remarked that the shortlist for the Event Coordinator position had three great candidates and that it was planned to do interviews over the next few days. Gisel confirmed that he was impressed by the level of the applicants. Bergeron mentioned that Deirdre Abrahamsson had worked for the former UPA and Rauch added that she had also served in roles for WFDF. Rauch noted that he would be interested to do a quick interview with the final candidate and it made sense to allow Bernardi to have a quick conversation as well. Bergeron added that there was a budget for the final candidate to attend one of the later events this year (PAUC).

On the Administrative Coordinator side, Bernardi reported that eight individuals had applied for the position. He had met six of them in person in Lausanne and presented a shortlist of three individuals which he planned to interview.

Various aspects of the different candidates were discussed. Rauch asked if a candidate who would combine both positions might be a viable solution but Bernardi suggested strongly against it. The plan is to put forward the preferred candidate for each position to the board for a final vote after review by the ExComm.

Official Disc Licensing Status Report

Woldt reported on the replies. She had hoped to get more and asked what to do if even larger disc producers would not reply.

Rauch suggested that those who would not reply within the coming week would be notified that in absence of a response WFDF would no longer recognize their status as of March 31st. If on April 1st their web site still lists them as WFDF recognized then they should be sent a cease and desist letter. He considered that perhaps WFDF attorney Brian Murphy should send these letters. In addition, we would take them off of WFDF's list of approved discs on

the web site. Also wording such as “partner of the governing body of the sport” (referring to USAU) should be changed.

IT Proposal

Rauch presented a proposal on the scope of IT work and resourcing for WFDF and for a timeline to set up the new WFDF web site to be launched by early June, 2019. He asked all to submit further ideas about other IT topics which might needed to be considered. He also expected that board members with IT expertise could contribute to ideas and help prioritize them.

Rauch expressed that WFDF needed either an individual IT consultant or a firm to help WFDF on a professional level.

Bergeron suggested to ask USAU how they managed their IT needs.

Griesbaum reminded about the suggestions made by Travis Smith. Rauch replied that he felt we needed to do a comprehensive review of all the IT needs so that they could be prioritized and, if resource constrained, prioritized, before coming up with piecemeal solutions.

Disc community questionnaire

Rauch commented that the last WFDF questionnaire had been in 2014 and had received roughly 5,000 responses. He felt it was time to get individual feedback again. The new questionnaire should be shorter than the last one and be issued by mid-April on Survey Monkey by Bernardi. All agreed on this procedure.

EUPA (EGY) NF situation - complaint from Egypt

Bernardi reported about an anonymous source from Egypt that complained that EUPA was deliberately keeping people from joining the board, holding general assemblies on just three days’ notice, not producing minutes of its meetings, and charging fees claiming they were to pay for WFDF membership while not paying dues to WFDF for the last two years.

Rauch suggested we approach other players in Egypt and also send a letter to the leadership to find out when the last GA was and understand the situation fully. If this research confirmed that there were problems, a Conduct Committee investigation could be set up even though the original source was anonymous.

P.R. of China membership in WFDF - UAC / CESA situation

Bernardi reported that after the Ultimate Association of China (UAC) had been a WFDF member for many years, unexpectedly the Chinese Extreme Sports Association (CESA),

which is a governmentally recognized multi-sports federation, has claimed to be the official national representative for Flying Disc sports. UAC has only recently started the process to receive governmental recognition. Since the World Games 2025 most likely will take place in Chengdu (P.R. of China) it was important to clarify the situation in China as soon as possible. Bernardi suggested he travel to China and meet the authorities, the NOC, and the respective groups to get a clear picture of the situation at an early stage.

Rauch asked for immediate action by Bernardi. Since it seemed that CESA was not in contact with WFDF's member UAC, he suggested to forward the CESA communication to people from UAC with whom WFDF has spoken.

Woldt reported that she had been informed by Zhixing Xue that a new organization would reach out to WFDF which was not official. UAC had contacted the National Sports Bureau which would send an official government endorsement letter for UAC to WFDF. An invitation would be sent to WFDF to visit China for direct talks.

Rauch concluded that CESA seemed to be well connected with the authorities and that we should respond in an organized fashion in coordination with WFDF's current member. He asked Bernardi to coordinate with Woldt in taking the next steps.

Bernardi confirmed that the situation in Norway showed what problems might come out of members who are responsible for several sports. He would find out which Chinese organization to approach about this problem, e.g. the Chinese Olympic Committee, which claims responsibility for non-Olympic sports that are recognized by IOC.

TAFISA membership / participation in World Sport for All Games 2020 (POR)

Bernardi stated that the Sport for All sector is considered by the IOC as very important and The Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA) is its most important federation in this area. After a meeting with the TAFISA Secretary General, it was apparent that Flying Disc could be included to the next TAFISA World Sport for All Games 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal if WFDF applied for membership by the end of March 2019. 10 athletes would get invited to attend at no costs and WFDF would get to decide which discipline to send. Bernardi suggested either Freestyle or Disc Golf would be suitable, or perhaps even Overall.

Gisel agreed that Ultimate and Beach Ultimate did not seem suitable. He suggested we chose to promote Disc Golf to bring it into the focus of a multi-sport event. If WFDF could identify enough female players it could even decide to send 20 athletes and cover the extra costs. Rauch added that perhaps a player or two from Africa could be among the 10 paid-for athletes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve the payment of the TAFISA application fee of € 400.00, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

United World Games - participation of Ultimate in AUT (Bernardi)

Bernardi reported that WFDF had received an invitation by the organizing committee of the United World Games, Europe's biggest multi-sport event for kids in Klagenfurt, Austria, to send teams to the Ultimate part of the event. It attracts mainly athletes from countries close to Austria and will take place on June 20th – 23rd, 2019. He suggested to include it in WFDF's event list.

Gisel agreed to WFDF endorsing the event but stated that it should be made clear that it does not affect WFDF's rankings and that WFDF does not "demand" its members to participate. He asked if the local organizers were asking WFDF for any assistance in areas such as scheduling, rules questions, or promotion. Bernardi replied that he did not receive such a request. Should that happen perhaps the Austrian federation could help. He considered this event to be a legitimate multi-sport event with very little burden on WFDF.

Rauch stated that with a registration deadline on April 15 WFDF needed to react quickly. WFDF's level of involvement would be to notify member countries with proximity to the event.

MOTION: A motion was made by Gisel to approve that Bernardi should pursue the involvement with the United World Games, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

ISF School Sport World Championships 2019 Le Mans request by OC on budget

Bernardi reported that the local organizing committee of the ISF School Sport World Championships 2019 in Le Mans had asked if WFDF could contribute US\$ 10,000.00 to the TV broadcast budget of the event.

Rauch suggested to give 400 – 500 discs from WFDF's partner allocation to the event for them to sell at € 10.00/disc and keep the money. The discs could have a special event or ISF hot stamp.

Bernardi reminded that the event had originally planned to use discs from another supplier. The event was not part of the Discraft agreement but perhaps WFDF should ask them to use Discraft as official game discs instead.

Rauch asked Bernardi to find out what disc would be used before WFDF offered a disc sponsorship. But he was reaffirmed the suggestion to donate 500 discs to the event.

MOTION: A motion was made by Bergeron to allocate up to 500 discs for the ISF School Sport World Championships 2019, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

IMGA request regarding Kansai 2021 WMG on status

Bernardi had been asked by the IMGA if WFDF would be willing to formally designate the the Kansai 2021 World Master Games as a WFDF World Championship. He thought it would be good to follow IMGA's request, because it would boost the importance of the event and help us in the future.

Gisel stated that this event could not be a WFDF World Masters Ultimate Championship, as that would conflict with our already established event. If we were comfortable calling it the "Sports for All World Championship of Masters Ultimate," it should be made clear to all member federations that results would not count towards rankings of for any qualification and it would not be a WFDF sanctioned event.

Rauch asked Bernardi to prepare a press release explaining the involvement of WFDF, mentioning TAFISA and IMGA, and saying that players and teams would have to organize themselves.

MOTION: A motion was made by Gisel to support the idea of calling the Ultimate tournament at the Kansai 2021 World Master Games "Sport for All World Championship of Masters Ultimate," seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

Review of minutes of January face-to-face Board meeting

Rauch asked the ExComm members to relate any comments before the minutes would be sent to the Board members.

WFDF membership applications update

Bernardi reported that, through the help of French and Portuguese members, he was in contact with some new candidate countries in Africa, e.g. Mali, and that talks were advancing.

Bernardi added that he had received a letter from the IOC asking for the report on the allocation of the development funding. He asked Gisel to provide the figures for the Game Advisor project. As for the other development projects, he expressed concerns about the lack of communication from the Development Committee chair.

Rauch noted the complaint and suggested Bernardi discuss this offline with the people involved.

Overview of events in 2019-2020: Issues to flag

Woldt advised that there were two continental Beach Ultimate championships coming up in Asia and Europe. She reported that due to personal reasons, communication with the BUC Chair had been a bit slow but she had been in close contact with BULA and planning of the events was proceeding smoothly. However it had been noted that the seedings for EBUC had not gone through the Beach Ultimate Committee and the Chair claimed that there were clear rules for the seeding and therefore they need not go through the committee. Rauch noted that the seeding should have been circulated among the committee just for its members to be able to confirm that the rules had been followed. Also, if the Chair cannot be as responsive as needed, perhaps a deputy chair should be assigned and copied on all communication.

Woldt said that the Chair had agreed to send the seedings retroactively to the committee members. As for a deputy Woldt suggested that someone from the Executive Committee reach out to the BUC and identify a suitable candidate. Gisel agreed to do that.

Woldt continued to report that teams from Chile and China had complained that their national federations would not allow them to participate in the respective continental championships. When asked, the NFs gave reasons which in turn were disputed by the teams. Rauch suggested to come up with a policy guideline for NFs on how to proceed when several teams were applying to attend a WFDF event. Gisel and Woldt could work on such a guideline.

Woldt then reported that in some countries the move from a single-discipline oriented federation to a flying disc federation caused confusion and could result in more than one group claiming to represent their country, e.g. in Colombia. Woldt asked to provide more guidance to these countries.

2019 / 2021 World Urban Games Budapest (HUN) - Update

Bernardi reported that in spite of the shift of the World Urban Games from Los Angeles to Budapest and a complete change of the programme, he had succeeded to convince GAISF to keep Flying Disc in the event as competition sport, pending the written confirmation by GAISF. He reminded that GAISF still was looking forward to improved participation from Africa.

Rauch thanked Bernardi for this achievement and looked forward to a successful Freestyle event in Budapest.

TWG 2025 in Chengdu (CHN) - Preliminary decision by IWGA

Bernardi reported that Chengdu from China had been the only bidder for TWG 2025. With Chengdu already hosting the Unversiad in 2021, it was expected that they could build on this experience and host a successful World Games. There would be a change of the programme there and WFDF needed to find out what to do to stay on the programme.

Therefore it was important to build and maintain good relations with the sports authorities of China.

Universiade 2023 (RUS) - motion by RFDF Russian Federation

Bernardi reported that WFDF's Russian member had established good contacts with FISU and RFDF was suggesting to request from FISU to add Ultimate and Disc Golf to the programme of events for the Universiade 2023 in Ekaterinburg.

Rauch asked if this was possible since FISU usually asks to host a student world championship before getting included in to the Universiade. Bernardi replied that as an additional sport on the programme Flying Disc would not need to host a student world championship. He strongly advised WFDF to pursue this opportunity. Rauch agreed that having Ultimate and Disc Golf at the event would be very exciting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Gisel to support the Russian federation in pursuing the inclusion of Ultimate and Disc Golf in the Universiade 2023 as additional sport, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Strategic Plan: 2019-2014

Rauch explained that he had formatted the strategic plan for presentation and that a few topics still needed to be worked on. He asked for feedback on the current version in order to have it ready in time for the next board meeting

Congress Plans

Rauch confirmed that Congress would take place in Mäetaguse, Estonia in conjunction with the World Team Disc Golf Championships, on Sunday, August 25th, from 9:00am until 2:00pm. He suggested to send a notice within the following week to WFDF's members to advise them of the location and the date of Congress. Woldt offered to provide information about lodging and travel for this notice.

Bergeron advised that she most likely would not be able to attend Congress due to a personal conflict with the timing of the event.

IOC Sport Department Report 2019

Rauch explained that Bernardi had prepared a first draft of the report to the IOC Sports Department to be presented at SportAccord in May 2019. He had suggested to add more information about sponsorship and to add a media section. He asked for more feedback to be given within the next few weeks.

Bernardi added that he had visited the IOC Sports Department during the last week and it had accepted the invitation to attend the WU24 in Heidelberg, most likely sending two senior managers and the deputy director of the Sports Department. He noted in passing that IOC expressed a particular interest in Freestyle.

WFDF cooperation with International Testing Agency (ITA)

Bernardi reported that WFDF was seeking cooperation with ITA because their specialized expertise was needed for managing the Athlete Biological Passport, ADAMS, and informing athletes and supporting athletes' personnel of applicable TUE policies. He would present a detailed budget for this additional service later. He explained that he did not expect an increase in anti-doping costs as ITA would save money in certain areas, and would be covered by the anti-doping budget currently in place.

Finance

Treasurer's report

Bergeron reported that the current finances were in the range as expected during the time of the year. She noted that she hadn't seen the census yet which was the needed to bill the members for the annual membership fees. Bernardi explained that he was waiting for questions from the Women in Sports Committee to be added to the census but he would send out the census on the following Wednesday and not wait longer. Bergeron noted that she would reach out to the Women in Sports Committee.

She then commented that the audit would be started soon. She asked Bernardi and Woldt to send their time splits and Griesbaum to submit a compilation of the 2018 board meeting minutes. Rauch asked about the status of implementing the recommendations made in the last audit letter. Bergeron replied that there were some basic policy recommendations and she would compile them into a proposal the board could pass.

Rauch stated that the financial projections looked good, except that the IT budget might need an adjustment. The revised budget would be presented for approval to Congress in the briefing book to go out on or around June 25th.

Other Business

Woldt reported that she found a Disc Golf course just outside of Lisbon which might help to get Disc Golf to the World Sport for All Games 2020.

Next meeting

Proposed dates: Board: April 27/28; ExComm: May 18/19

Closing: 17:20 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary