

Sunday April 23rd, 2017; UK, POR- 14:00; GER, SUI, SWE- 15:00; RSA- 15:00, QAT- 16:00; USA NY, VA, MI 09:00; USA CO, AZ 07:00; USA CA, CAN BC 06:00; Japan 22:00; Taiwan 21:00; Philippines 21:00.

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Thomas Griesbaum, Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Fumio Morooka, Caroline Malone (via proxy), Ryan Purcell, Tomas Burvall, Steve Taylor, Michael Hu.

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

Board members absent/excused:

Charlie Mead, Jamie Nuwer, Karen Cabrera, Kevin Givens.

Call to order (time: 15:05 CET)

The quorum was reached with 10 votes of 8/14 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed the Board members and thanked all for participating.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of last meetings

Burvall noted a missing letter in the minutes.

A motion was made by Taylor to approve the minutes of the 18 March 2017 meeting, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

2018 Youth Olympic Games - inclusion of Flying Disc

Rauch stated that the Youth Olympic Games can be seen as one of the stepping stones for inclusion into the Olympic Games. Bernardi had been approached by the YOG Associate Director Antoine Goetschy to have WFDF potentially participate at the YOG 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is too late to be included as a medal sport, but we could be part of the Sports Showcasing and/or the Sports Initiation programs. Freestyle and Ultimate had been suggested as possible disciplines. WFDF would need to work out a detailed plan and have it assessed by the local organizing committee. Our proposal would need to be submitted by the end of April 2017 and IOC would make a decision by the end of July 2017.

Morooka stated that two of the participating sports at the Nanjing YOG in 2014 had been included in the 2020 Olympic Games as additional sports and he strongly supports WFDF to submit a proposal.

Rauch confirmed that becoming part of the YOG would be another validation step for our sport. We would get better visibility towards NOCs and an opportunity to show IOC that we can handle participating in such events.

Bergeron asked if WFDF would have to participate in or organize any of the culture and education programs which are required part of the YOG. She also asked if WFDF would be required to have participants in the required three age groups 14–15 years, 16–17 years, and 17–18 years.

Rauch replied he did not expect that WFDF would have to organize a culture and education program and that WFDF would try to work within the under 19 age group.

Bernardi added that the Olympic Channel leadership strongly recommended to pursue inclusion to the YOG.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve WFDF going forward in attempting to get into the YOG, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Afghanistan membership proposal

Rauch reported that the application from Afghanistan was complete except for a letter of recommendation from the German association which was expected to be received later during the day. Bernardi had been in touch with the applicants and confirmed activities in Kabul by ex-pats and locals.

Bernardi stated that it had been confirmed with IOC that the application is supported by the Afghanistan NOC. The photos and also activities in social media confirm activities. He noted that the statutes include the non-discrimination clause.

A motion was made by Burvall to approve the Afghanistan membership proposal and forward to Congress, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rauch stated that Afghanistan would become WFDF's 75th member which is the minimum requirement for WFDF's inclusion in the Olympic summer program. He thanked Bernardi for his successful work in reaching this goal.

Commercial and Broadcast plans for 2016-2017

Rockwood reported that sportmag.fr would be providing primary coverage of field 1 at WCBU in Royan, approximately 40 games during the week. Commentary staff members would be Evan Lepler, Tom Styles, Luke Johnson. Mike Palmer would be producing and directing, Rockwood would be the executive producer. Unfortunately during the first two days two staff members cannot yet be there.

Fields 2 and 3 would be covered by fanseat.com who would be paying for the producing right.

Rockwood mentioned that he was in contact with video distribution companies such as ViewLift (Pro Lacrosse) and Sportsrocket.com (Pro Volleyball and Car Racing). He was also still reaching out to potential sponsors to cover the extra costs for distribution.

Rauch asked if any contact had been made with the Olympic Channel as a distributor. Rockwood said he would connect with Bernardi to find out how to do this best.

WFDF 2017 Annual Congress - agenda

Rauch presented the proposed agenda for the 2017 Annual Congress.

Gisel asked if there were plans for a Game Advisor report at Congress. Rauch replied that this would be added.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the proposed WFDF 2017 Annual Congress Agenda with the addition of the Game Advisor report, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Bylaws Revision

Rauch summarized the proposed 2 main changes:

- revision of the Board (medical chair and continental association heads as part of Board)
- redefinition of membership (in following the Olympic movement model)

The Olympic movement model has a 1 member per country policy. WFDF must change its current membership structure to adhere and also fit into the expectations of the NOCs. There will be a 5 year transition period. This change has been discussed with WFDF's members for the last 2 years at Congress. Some countries will need to set up a confederation model. Some members have been Ultimate-only and will need to set up an umbrella organization. There would also be a new type of membership called "Associate Member", an association with ties to disc sports that is not a national governing body for flying disc sports within a country. It may attend Congress but does not have voting rights. The "Disc Game Organizational Member" would be cancelled.

Burvall asked for clarification on "The Chair of a Disc Discipline Committee need not be member of the Board". Rauch explained the concept of "Disc Sport Committee" (has WFDF world championships, Chair is member of Board) vs. "Disc Discipline Committee" (has no WFDF world championships, Chair need not be member of Board). E.g. the Chair of the DDC Committee need not be a Board member.

Rauch proposed for the USA to set up a confederation association which would allow the disc game groups to continue to act alone but communication with WFDF would go through this confederation. Taylor said GPA would be in support.

Purcell noted that the topic of the new bylaws was missing in the 2017 Congress agenda draft. He emphasized that a proper introduction of the bylaw changed would be very important for their acceptance. Rauch confirmed that it would be added and presented the idea of adding a cover page which would provide background on the reasons for these changes.

Bernardi noted that the inclusion of the Vice President into the Executive Committee needed to be added under article IV, 9.1.

A motion was made by Taylor to approve these bylaw changes to be included in Congress Agenda, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual Risk Assessment

Rauch mentioned that the WFDF Risk Assessment had been introduced 5 years ago and it was still needed. A recent addition has been the Safety and Security Plan (Risk area 2). Terrorism is increasingly of concern as sports bring many people close together.

A motion was made by Morooka to approve the WFDF annual Risk Assessment for submission to Congress, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF 2018 Budget and Projections

Bergeron started her report on the WFDF 2017 proposed budget. She had changed it's structure to get it more aligned with our program and more consistent. Membership dues as WFDF's main income were expected to have an annual growth of 2%. WFDF had already received many of the member numbers for 2017 and they were very well within the projected range. Income from major sponsors has not been in the expected range and the projection for the next years had been reduced. Income through agreements with apparel suppliers was expected to remain about the same. On the grants side there are no expectations that they will go up during the next few years.

Income through WFDF sanctioned events has come close to dues income depending on the year. Budgeting for event merchandise income has been very difficult in the past. The projection of the event management income had to be lowered by 7%.

Gisel noted that the percentage of the WFDF players' fee compared to the team fee has been decreasing. Increasing it would be fairly unnoticeable to the players compared to other expenses but would be quite noticeable to WFDF. He suggested to consider a raise of the players' fee by 10.00 US\$ per player for major WFDF events (e.g. WUCC, WUGC, World Master Ultimate Club Championships, World Master Ultimate Championships) and 5.00 US\$ for age-limited and smaller WFDF events (e.g. World Junior Ultimate Championships, WU24 and continental events except Africa). The increased income would reduce WFDF's loss during years with small events and lower player fee income.

Alternative ideas of raising the player fee e.g. in relation to the team fees were discussed but dismissed as providing too much uncertainty. Bergeron mentioned that over the years the quality of support for events by WFDF has gone up with hiring an event manager and spending money on social media content production and that would justify the suggested increase. She announced that Gisel and her would put forward a proposal for the increase for Congress.

Bergeron then covered expenses. Event Management Expenses could perhaps be reduced by finding personnel for various roles from locations close to our events.

Gisel stated that WFDF has always been trying to find geographically advantageous people to fill the roles needed at WFDF events. Since London 2016 Game Advisors event expenses are covered by the event, however training of Game Advisors must still be covered by WFDF as we increase their numbers around the world.

Bernardi asked to which events would WFDF send Game Advisors. Continental events, The World Games, World Beach Games? And would this be planned for in the budget?

Gisel clarified that Game Advisors currently are being used at all WFDF world events except for beach events, not at continental events. But WFDF is looking to use continental championships as training events, e.g. in Asia.

WFDF is sending Game Advisors to The World Games 2017 in Poland and these expenses are being covered by WFDF. Since World Beach Games is not run by BULA he assumed that WFDF would send Game Advisors there.

Bergeron then continued to explain other expense categories such as travel, medals and discs. Bernardi did not see it necessary to raise the budget for drug testing, although WFDF would have to do additional blood tests in the future. He suggested to prepare a budget for the Olympic cause with 2018 and 2020 being important Olympic years.

Rauch suggested to set up new categories, e.g. for "Special Projects" with many IOC supported activities.

Bernardi mentioned that IOC and ARISF money for development could be used for Game Advisor training.

Bergeron projected that WFDF might make a profit of around 27,000 US\$ in 2018 but might make a loss of 35,000 US\$ in 2019.

A motion was made by Purcell to approve the WFDF 2018 budget with the expected revision of the event participation fees to be put forward to the Congress, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF SOTG Sub-Committee composition

Bernardi reported that the Chair of the Spirit of the Game Subcommittee Richard Moore had asked to include Henrietta Papp (HUN) as a new member to the subcommittee.

A motion was made by Purcell to approve Henrietta Papp (HUN) as addition to the Spirit of the Game Subcommittee, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

IT project and website revamp

Taylor reported that a mobile version of WFDF's rules web site rules.wfdf.org was very close to being finalized. Concerning the WFDF web site he has shared some ideas and would take up conversations with Bernardi, Burvall, Givens and Rauch to find out in detail about their needs. He expected to finalize the web design in around 3 weeks. Before he would share the web site with the Board for more feedback.

Bernardi asked if there was a formal approval process for any content being published at launch time as well as later on. He suggested that a core of people check for the integrity of WFDF's published content.

Taylor replied that a web site would be developed which would be available to Board members to see before the new site goes live.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athletes' Commission Report

Purcell that there had been no meeting since last Board meeting. The commission was planning to have fewer meetings but with more depth in the future.

SportAccord convention 2017 - report and Updates

Bernardi announced a longer written report to be circulated later. He reported that WFDF had built up a very good working relationship with many other sports and WFDF was being approached more by them than in the past. IOC was quite satisfied with WFDF's performance. WFDF had a very good standing on the international level.

Bernardi also mentioned the meeting he had in Madrid with the Olympic Channel. If we continue our international lobbying efforts WFDF is on a good path for 2024. SportAccord was effective for WFDF.

Rauch added that the name of SportAccord was changed during the convention. Originally it had been "General Association of International Sports Federations" (GAISF) and it was changed to "Global Association Of International Sport Federations" (GAISF). The name SportAccord will again be used just for the annual convention.

Medical & Anti-Doping Commission report

Bernardi reported that after the Russian doping scandal WADA was increasing the pressure on all international federations. Together with Nuwer he was working on a 300 questions code compliance survey from WADA. As a low risk sport WFDF has always tried to keep the drug testing burden as low as possible by e.g. increasing anti-doping education and WFDF should continue this path. However, WFDF would now for the first time have to apply 1 blood test per year.

Bernardi mentioned that this anti-doping work costs a lot of time and that he was pleased with the amount of work being done by the Medical Committee chair.

2017 Membership survey and dues invoices

Bernardi reported that WFDF now had 95% of the surveys in, but that even some of the larger members exceeded the deadline. It was frustrating having to chase these countries and made it difficult to put pressure on smaller less organized members. He planned to bring up this topic at Congress 2017. Invoices based on the survey would be issued soon.

Disc Sport Reports

Disc Golf

(none)

Guts

(none)

Freestyle

(none)

Overall

(none)

Beach Ultimate

(none)

Championship Events and others

2017 events - report

Gisel reported that WCBU Beach Worlds had completed, pool draws and scheduling were done. The other events were moving along well. He noted that there would be new participation records in the upcoming continental events.

World Overall Championships (WOC)

Burvall reported that there were now 7 countries from 3 continents signed up for WOC in Basingstoke

2017 World Games - Update

Bernardi reported some game starting times had been switched due to a new major US broadcasting deal. There was a timing problem on the finals day but it would be fixed. He felt being well supported by IWGA and the WFDF is well on track. He noted that WFDF's efforts were being watched closely by the Birmingham organizing committee of The World Games 2021.

Bernardi mentioned that some of the participants often replied late but he hoped they would meet upcoming important deadlines on time. He would send invoices to the teams for the 200.00 US\$ team fee within the next days.

Rauch informed that it was yet unclear how well ticket sales were going. Bernardi suggested to encourage all those planning to go to Wroclaw to buy tickets. It would not look good if we do not sell out the seats we had asked for.

2017 TDGWC

(none)

Finance

Treasurer's report

Bergeron reported that so far revenue for 2017 was low but that would change when membership invoices would be sent out. Expenses so far were travel costs for France and Poland.

Rauch asked for a target date for auditing and Bergeron replied that she would know more within a week. Rauch mentioned that several reports were needed in time for the Congress briefing book.

Next Meeting

Proposed: May 20/21, 2017

Closing: 17:08 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary