

Sunday March 22th, 2020

Executive Committee members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Brian Gisel, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum

Also attending (non-voting): Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director), Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events & Operations), Jamie Nuwer (WFDF Medical Chair), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Coordinator)

Call to order (time: 19:05 CET)

Overview by the President

Rauch gave a brief overview of the agenda stating that the impact of COVID-19 is going to be the main focus with several other issues to get through as well. This meeting is being held to decide whether WFDF should be cancelling or postponing its world championship events schedule for 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Approval of the minutes of the COVID-19 meetings

A motion was made by Gisel to approve minutes. Bergeron abstained because she did not have time to go through them in advance of the meeting. Further comments on this are to be made by her via e-mail to ExComm group. Rauch expects a more standardized version of minutes for future meetings.

Finance: Treasurer's report

Bergeron presented a preliminary analysis by going through the documents she provided for the Briefing Book. The plan was to check the WFDF profit and loss summary before going into the details of the note Bergeron sent the night before the meeting.

The income side of the table is just a projection but since the Census hasn't been sent yet, it might differ from that. National Federations haven't been invoiced for those amounts and that's about US\$90,000 that have not been received and wouldn't be for several months now. Gisel added that WFDF should consider the significant impact on our NF's due to the global economic crisis that is expected. Rauch said there is an amount of cash that most of the federations should have on their accounts from last year and that our special terms of payment discount of 50% might need to be considered by several for the next year. Modeling these projections is not easy for Bergeron at the moment but it is something WFDF will have to attempt anyways.

In terms of sponsorships, Bergeron stated that 25% of what WFDF budgeted has been actualized from Q1 payments. Everyone is aware that the companies working

closely with WFDF are small businesses that are going to be impacted by the situation.

Rauch informed that expected funding from the IOC that has to be used for development has been confirmed officially in a letter recently received by WFDF.

Bergeron highlighted the merchandise and sales category where there is US\$30,000. Without going into detail, Bergeron is confident to say that WFDF has done very well in the past regarding this general category and will be impacted this year.

Even though Bergeron applied the formula that gives projections for the Event management income as well, this will mostly be affected by WFDF's decision whether to proceed with the scheduled events or not. This is directly related to the line item 4720 from the table Bergeron provided in the Briefing Book – players fees. If the outcome is to zero this out, that will have the biggest impact on the existing WFDF budget for 2020.

On the expense side of the table, items from G/L 6100 – 6170 are event-driven expenses. Some expenses such as plane tickets might be refunded but US\$400 has already been used for travel costs. It is possible to assume that, if most of this funding wouldn't go to zero, it would nonetheless be very minimal. Bergeron will work closely with Woldt in the days after the meeting in terms of event expenses and budgets. The US\$15,000 for marketing can be decreased if necessary. Mandatory drug testing and related expenses haven't been adjusted in this model because we will need Bernardi's guidance on WADA and IOC expectations in the absence of any events.

Bergeron mentioned the membership fees that have to be paid to various different international bodies like IWGA and GAISF. Sheets considering WFDF assets and liabilities show that WFDF fortunately has some financial flexibility. As of the day before the meeting, Bergeron reported US\$144,000 in the checking account and US\$250,000 in the savings and money market accounts where WFDF gets a small amount of interest. There is also US\$25,000 in WFDF's PayPal account, a total of approximately US\$420, 000.

Bergeron projected according to the original 2020 budget that the WFDF 2020 loss was to have been US\$32,000. Sheets have to be updated and revised in the following days due to the circumstances. Rauch stated that, based on the very preliminary numbers Bergeron provided, The net loss for the year might be US\$100,000 to US\$150,000. The bottom line is that our prudent balance sheet management will allow us to absorb this extreme impact even though adjustments will have to be made. In this worst case scenario with no events this year and a reduction of dues, WFDF will start 2021 with US\$270,000 to US\$320,000. While this is sustainable, we will need to look at the expense side of our budget carefully and hope that the impact of the COVID-19 situation is limited to 2020.

IT Issues: IT Administrator, Website update, Email alias update

Rauch reported that the IT Administrator has not been available for the last two and a half weeks due to his emergency work with other clients, schools, etc. Griesbaum

wanted to know about updating the new website since there are a lot of things to be done. Fourcampré-Maye has been doing much of the content editing recently. At the moment, no additional information can be provided until Luke is fully responsive to WFDF tasks.

Latest Developments on COVID-19 situation/WFDF 2020 Events

We then launched into an extended discussion on whether WFDF should be cancelling or postponing its world championship events schedule for 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic. Gisel suggested that the mind-set needed to be evolved from “can” WFDF run the events to “should” WFDF run the events. With this as the third meeting in three weeks, there was agreement that the two press releases to date were appropriate in notifying the community about the attention we were giving this especially in light of the lack of definitive information about the pandemic and its scope, inconsistent governmental policies, and the position taken by the IOC on the Olympics. Nonetheless, as further financial commitments were shortly required, it was agreed upfront that WFDF needed to make a decision by no later than mid-April on the three main events in 2020: WUGC, WJUC, WMUC.

General elements discussed included: sunk costs in the events resulting in TOCs inability to refund potentially all or even most of the fees paid by athletes, teams, and national associations; hotel cancellation policies being driven by governmental decrees (which had not closed down any of the event locations yet); uncertainties around the feasibility of postponing events to 2021 with the crowded event calendar; budget impact on WFDF of canceling events; disappointment athletes not able to participate in these prestige events; potential for increasing numbers of teams to drop out; potential for the virus scare to run its course long before July.

Specific event related issues included: the role of WUGC as qualifier for The World Games; uncertainty as to the extent that most of the pre-paid expenses for the WUGC might not be refundable; difficulties of trying to postpone WUGC into 2021 with the crowded event calendar; element of youth safety and parental consents needed for WJUC; potential for school calendars being extended through the summer months of the northern hemisphere as schools are starting to close; potential ease of postponing WMUC in Australia to September 2021.

Rauch, Bernardi, Bergeron and Gisel discussed the overall virus situation in the World with Chief Medical Officer Jamie Nuwer, with the conclusion that the pandemic is continuing to spread and worsen, and that it will still be a month or longer before enough is known about the full course of the virus. Accordingly, it was acknowledged that it very well would be unlikely that we should try to move forward with our 2020 events and that our focus should be on the cancellation vs postponement decisions and on mitigating the negative financial impact on athletes, teams, national associations, TOC, and WFDF due to the nature of the pre-paid expenses that may be unrecoverable. It was agreed that we would reconvene in the next couple days after gathering whatever data was available and make a decision.

Note: Monday March 23rd, 2020: With the new week, COVID-19 news reported that things were indeed getting far worse world-wide. With Woldt having had

conversations with all TOCs, ExComm reconvened and made the decision that WFDF was cancelling or postponing all scheduled world championship events for at least the next six months of 2020, due to the impact of the Covid-19 (novel coronavirus) pandemic, affecting WUGC, WJUC, and WMUC. This decision took into consideration first and foremost the safety and health of WFDF athletes, in addition to the uncertainties around the spread of this disease. We would prepare a press release to go out early Tuesday the 24th. Over the next few weeks we would then sort out the details about whether the events could be rescheduled and be working with the TOCs on finalizing the books so that they could provide refunds of all available cash that could be recovered.

2020 Events – other events

Holding the Congress online is not an ideal option, but since the voting in elections and in between Congresses is mostly done electronically, this switch can be an alternative option. In an electronic format, Congress will be limited to 2-3 hours for the issues that have to be covered. Bergeron added that if the Congress is to happen as a conference call, the date has to be set soon so that people can mark it in their calendars.

Rauch asked Woldt to inform Freestylers that irrespective of what happens with WUGC, it is not feasible to do the Freestyle Turbo Shred exhibition that had been planned. Bernardi indicated that this would not negatively impact WFDF's participation at the World Urban Games 2021 after talking to their director about the issue.

It was mentioned that we would also likely cancel the face-to-face board meeting that would have been scheduled for late in the year, due to health and financial reasons.

Bernardi mentioned that, with the cancelation of SportAccord Convention, GAISF and ARISF postponed their General Assembly meetings until the IF Forum in Lausanne in November

Overview of the Events 2021: Other issues to flag

There are several big events planned for 2021: WU24, WCBU, WOC, WTDGC, The World Games, and Continental Championships. A decision on hosting will be made in the coming month.

WFDF presence at the Olympic Games – Update Tokyo 2020

Currently, the IOC is going as planned despite all criticism and negative feedback. Committees are considering whether their athletes should boycott the Olympics for health reasons. Many athletes are quarantined at home, without the possibility to train and prepare for the Olympics. A lot of qualification events are compromised, test events for the Olympics have been canceled in all venues. It is unsure if the Olympics are going to move forward in July as Bernardi stated. He also confirmed, as earlier said, that if the Olympics are on, it will be a spectator-free event. Also, all the other activities in the urban parts will not be happening which means that WFDF will not be showcasing flying disc sports during the Games. The decision on whether the

Olympics will go on as scheduled is to be made before the end of March. [Note: it was announced on March 24th that the Olympics would not be held in 2020.]

PanAmerican Masters Games Rio de Janeiro 2020 – update on discussions

Rauch questioned whether the Games would still happen and asked Bernardi if there was any update. Bernardi had discussed this with Federação Paulista de Disco Vice-president who is in Brazil and both have been communicating with the city authorities, Confederação Brasileira de Sports Masters, and the IMGA Sports director. There is no intention from the local organizing committee to cancel the event as of this date, especially when the Olympics, are in question, which occurs before this one. The question is, if the canceling WFDF events are going to affect this event and how to proceed with the registration for the PanAm Masters Games in Rio. We expect further information shortly.

Anti-discrimination policy and safeguarding policy

Rauch had received comments from Caroline Malone of the Women in Sports Commission, as well as from the Athletes Commission Chair Liam Grant, and Disc Golf chair Charlie Mead, that will be incorporated into the next version of the document. This will be sent for additional review to the outside attorney who has a specialization in this field, and it is expected that the updated version is received in the next month.

WFDF 2020 Development Programme and Grants

Bernardi delivered the document with more details about the project in particular as he was asked to at the last meeting. Jose Amoroso provided all the information about the project including Portuguese speaking countries. He also outlined what he is trying to achieve in the written document listed in the Briefing Book. He asked for the committee to give an answer to his proposal because there are some windows open with Cape Verde (Africa) and Timor-Leste (Asia) and, to realize the plan, he needs the money and the discs from the development project. To achieve all of this Jose had several meetings with Ms Filomena Fortes, an important IOC member from Africa who will help with that project. WFDF will look to expand its development scope on the Continent by pursuing the contacts Ms. Fortes may provide.

Bernardi went into detail of the budget provided in the Briefing Book, asking for the prompt reaction with the decision because WFDF cannot make people wait for another 4-6 weeks without feedback. If we lose more time, there is an option of losing support from these Portuguese speaking countries.

Gisel added that they might think of reorganizing the Game Advisor Program because the situation will require that. Bergeron suggested that he can start to develop his online video curriculum.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve WFDF Development Grants and Program 2020. Seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF WADA code compliance/Test Distribution Plan 2020

WADA sent the document called COVID-19 Guidance for Anti-doping that Bernardi will check later on since it arrived just before this meeting. The Guidance will be discussed next week. WFDF is obliged to comply with WADA requirements, but the main topic to discuss with WADA related to this are the costs. WFDF must not make a mistake to think that if the event in Leeuwarden is canceled, that means no testing will be made this year. The shift has to be made from event testing to home testing. In Bernardi's documents that he earlier provided it is possible to see that it is necessary to test Russian athletes as well since they were planned for the event in Leeuwarden.

Update on census questionnaire and membership applications

Bernardi will send the draft questionnaire to Rauch after the meeting. This year, WFDF is about on the time with the Census. NF's will be required to send the number of the players simply via e-mail because in the past in order to deliver that information it was very complicated for the federations. This information will come earlier than the entire Census.

Membership applications have to be sent to Congress for Malawi and Cayman Islands. This hasn't been done already, because there are also four membership applications (China, Colombia, Indonesia, and Malta) where current members are changing their status that need to be approved. Bernardi will create one package vote for all the membership applications so that it is easier for Congress members to decide on this.

New memberships and plans to end 2020 with a number of 100 members is under pressure due to huge dramatic delays caused by the COVID-19. NF's are not fully professional and now they have even bigger things to deal with. WFDF will continue to work on this during the year, especially after people resume their normal work routines.

April Fools' prank for WFDF for 2020 – proposal Travis Smith

Rauch presented the proposal from Travis Smith who had already asked WFDF to do this a year ago, to post an April Fool's Day prank announcing the change of WFDF's name to World Flatball Federation. Although it was agreed that it was a cute idea, there were concerns that it might not be appropriate in the current environment.

A motion was made by Gisel to dismiss the proposal. Seconded by Griesbaum. The proposal on April Fool's prank was dismissed unanimously.

Next Meeting

Proposed: BoD April 18/19

Closing: 22:00 CET