

Saturday, July 17th, 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), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Coordinator)

Call to order (time: 18:00 CET)

Overview by the President

Rauch welcomed everyone, skipped the Minutes item as they had not been finalized in time for review, and went straight to the IT report. Since this is the last meeting before the upcoming Congress 2020, Rauch also highlighted the importance of it.

IT Issues: IT, Web site update

The Web site update is generally on track; according to the timeline, it could be live by early August, before Congress 2020 if possible. Tobiasiewicz is working on the implementation with the administrative and event staff for the specific access and control over the Google groups. Rauch is discussing technical issues of the Congress 2020 with Tobiasiewicz as well.

Finance: Treasurer’s report and Status of 2019 Audit

Bergeron started her report by stating that WFDF is doing as well as can be expected in light of the COVID impact. The document provided in the Briefing Book showed the actual finance status along with the adjusted year-to-date. Bernardi and Janković have been doing a good job with pushing members to pay their 2020 Membership Dues invoices, but that will be explained later by Bernardi. Together with Woldt, Bergeron has been working to maintain the sponsorship deals.

Rauch requested that 2020 Budget revision be tracked on a YTD basis, which Bergeron will apply in her report. There was some spending that can be seen as a part of the special projects, but most budget lines are as expected with cash on hand.

Bergeron has been in contact with the auditor, and the audit should be finalized shortly.

If the situation in 2021 does not normalize, WFDF will be able to survive the year only if spending is drastically reduced. Rauch and Bergeron discussed scenarios for the next year, and expectations from sponsors, members, but more significant discussion will be deferred until the outlook for the course of the pandemic is clearer at year end.

Bernardi added a comment explaining what is happening with the members by giving the example of the issue with Norway, who reported a decreased number of players for Membership Dues invoice by using the Swedish model. It means that they are reporting only Ultimate players to pay a smaller amount of money. Rauch thinks that WFDF should leave solving this issue to the year when everything is back to normal.

Update on census questionnaire and membership requests regarding dues

Bernardi presented the progress on Census provided in the report in the Briefing Book. Since the last Board Meeting, Brazil requested to postpone dues payment until November this year due to the COVID-19 crisis in their country. Rauch suggested that Brazil should be considered in good standing as a regular member regardless of the delay. Gisel is satisfied that WFDF is rewarding people for communicating and being upfront about their situation, respecting the dues obligation they have at the same time.

Since Iceland has not been responsive for many years, Bernardi thinks that there should be a change in terms of what organization should be taken as a WFDF member to represent Iceland. This potential change to be discussed with Mead.

One member has been waiting for the fees refund from WUGC 2020 to pay the WFDF Membership Dues invoice. Rauch concluded that that once TOC provided the money, they will be able to pay their membership dues to WFDF.

Rauch, Bernardi, and Bergeron discussed potential downgrading of some members which haven't been in good standing as regular members for several years.

The latest development on WFDF 2020/21/22 event

Woldt reported that most of the money collected for WMUC in Australia had been returned, except for the team fees. The excellent news for WFDF is that NF's and teams are satisfied with how quickly they got the money back into everyone's account. When the re-start happens on the 1st of January 2021, all teams that have paid a team fee will have automatic entry, as Woldt stated. However, there is a chance that there won't be the same number of teams; everything is still uncertain.

Money for WJUC hasn't been refunded yet. The WFDF Event team is pushing the TOC to speed up the process.

The situation for the next year and the WUGC in Leeuwarden is still under negotiation. At this stage, there is an agreement on what numbers everyone is looking at, and what the projections would be on spending for the next year. Woldt confirmed with Rauch that there should be a contract revision with legal advice if the event were postponed to 2021. Woldt and Rauch discussed the financial model. Rauch is concern about the financial risk if the entire amount of money is in the hands of a TOC. The same problem had arisen in the past (WUCC 2014), as Bernardi reminded. Still, Rauch added that for the further events, those scenarios and outcomes need to be detailed in the contract so that WFDF can be protected legally.

The report was concluded by Woldt, saying that nothing should be announced yet for the next year because of the potential changes in the contracts.

Congress 2020: Logistics and Briefing Book

Two essential topics regarding Congress 2020 were discussed, meeting logistics and the Briefing Book status. Rauch expects Griesbaum, Fourcampré-Maye, and Janković to discuss with Tobiasiewicz the technical issues for Congress 2020. A decision on the platform for the online Congress needs to be made. The duration of the meeting has to be much shorter than normal (targeting two hours), as Rauch stated, and everyone should be prepared in advance. How to set up their computer, internet connection, to find a quiet environment, etc. The main goal is to minimize technical glitches. The expected number of participants is around 100.

Griesbaum thinks that this shouldn't be very difficult but has to be planned. His concerns come from not being sure how familiar the attendees are with these online conferences. Clear instructions for the participants need to be distributed so that they can prepare themselves before the actual meeting. Bernardi added that problem of a few people speaking at the same time has to be solved in advance to avoid the noise. This can be avoided if members notify WFDF in advance of who will be attending so that everyone knows who to expect and what they can or cannot do. Bergeron needs the platform where she can share her screen to present financials to the group.

Rauch agreed on doing the test run with 18-20 people to see how everything works as soon as possible. Gisel proposed that the moderator mute everyone if this is technically possible and then unmute speakers. This can solve the issue of people speaking at the same time.

Bernardi and Janković are collecting reports for the Briefing Book, and Rauch hopes that the Briefing Book for the 2020 Congress could be finalized as soon as possible for people to have time to go over the documents.

Bergeron asked if there is a chance to add some notes before the reports for the people to have an overview of what they could expect. Rauch explains that he tries to do that through the President's letter at the beginning of the Briefing Book. Also, the relevant sections will be at the top, and the reports of committees and commissions will be included at the end for reference.

Griesbaum asked who may attend the Congress 2020 and Rauch commented that WFDF Congress is open for observers, such that having WFDF or member volunteers staff are free to join.

Additional topic

Gisel briefly added a comment about the Black Lives Matter initiative. He gave the example of the NFL and Formula 1 doing some campaigns and asked whether the WFDF should be open about discussing it with athletes. Gisel volunteered to start this conversation within the Ultimate Committee. There should be an open conversation with

players or teams who are interested in some form of awareness campaigns, to have a free space for that to happen at the WFDF events next year.

Rauch referred to IOC opening this discussion about Rule 50 and waiting for them to share some guidance so that everyone can be consistent. Also, the Anti-discrimination policy coming probably later this year will align with the guideline Athletes Commission recommendations about what is appropriate for the Olympic Games next year.

Rauch has supported Gisel's idea about making this very explicit upfront. This will provide more opportunities for formalized discussions, presentations, and demonstrations without causing any problems for the WFDF community.

Bernardi confirmed that Rauch explained very well what the IOC has been doing regarding Rule 50. He wanted to be sure that this proposal refers to WFDF events only, not World Games or Multi-sport Games. It is imperative to draft the policies according to Bernardi. WFDF has to be careful in deciding what is positive and what is a negative message but should be open for discussions, as Gisel mentioned.

The reasonable approach for WFDF would be to follow the IOC recommendations as a federation recognized by the IOC, as Bernardi concluded. Bernardi will also propose at the next Board meeting that WFDF joins the UNOHC campaign that covers various topics.

Before ending the meeting, Rauch asked Woldt to provide the messaging that will go to the teams while the contract negotiations with the TOC are occurring for the WUGC

Rauch thanked everyone for taking their time during the Summer holidays.

Next Meeting: Congress 2020 (August the 15th); Board meeting: September (date TBD)

Closing: 19:20 CET