

Sunday, October 18, 2020

9am PDT / noon NY / 6pm CET / 8pm GST

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 of Events & Operations), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Coordinator)

Call to order (time: 18:10 CET)

Overview by the President (Rauch)

Rauch welcomed everyone with expectations for this meeting to be as efficient as possible..

Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExCom

Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes (Griesbaum)

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (Griesbaum)

The Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting is still in progress and should be distributed in time for the next meeting.

WFDF 2020 elections (Bernardi)

The WFDF 2020 Election announcement has been sent. Nominations/applications are due by October the 28th. Elections will be starting on November the 1st and last one month.

A new election tool is being set up by Tobiasiewicz. Bergeron wanted to know if there was anyone not standing for reelection. As of this moment, only Constant is not willing to extend her role.

Appointment of 2 WFDF Integrity Officers (Bernardi/Rauch)

Two integrity officers are to be approved by the Executive Committee as per the new Safe Sport Policy. No additional approval by the WFDF Board of the Directors will be needed, as Rauch suggested.

Candidates Julie Gabriel and John Liljelund are both well known by WFDF's management. Bernardi is satisfied with having these two candidates to volunteer for this position. Important information related to the Policy's credibility is that Gabriel (President of Savate) and Liljelund (Secretary General of Floorball) are entirely independent of WFDF.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve Gabriel and Liljelund as the Integrity Officers, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

WUGC 2021 status (Woldt)

Woldt started her update on this crucial topic by reminding everyone that since WFDF postponed the events for this year, the Event department spent considerable time trying to renegotiate the postponement to 2021.

Since then, TOC has included a legal advisor in their team, and no conversation has been held without their involvement, which is slowing the process. The most significant issues are financial, regarding how much of the funds collected to date can be applied going forward and what additional expenses are acceptable. There is also an ongoing negotiation over governing law. For the last several months, Woldt and her team worked with TOC to finalize an amendment agreement to the previous contract that had been executed. TOC received a new contract on October the 8th and, with little response so far, WFDF has stated that there must be a final signed agreement by no later than October the 29th; or else WFDF will pursue other options. One alternative the events team has explored is WFDF hold a qualifying event for TWG 2022 in Dubai at the end of October 2021.

If the WUGC plans move forward with the Netherlands, there will be a fairly tight framework to go forward as the COVID situation develops, with a need to make a decision to go forward or not by late December and collect new funds by mid-January. Under the new contract, WFDF would receive €110,000 back from TOC upon signing, and then will collect funds directly from players/teams and disburse them to TOC per a pre-agreed budget and timetable in 2021.

Latest developments on other WFDF 2020/21/22 events (Woldt)

No recent updates for 2022. Woldt reminded us that the only championship bid selected is Nottingham, UK, for WUCC.

There were a couple of concerns raised about accommodation costs. Besides that, everything is moving forward as planned, according to Woldt.

For the other two events scheduled for 2022, decisions will be made in 2021, especially after observing the situation in the first quarter of the next year. LOC from Ireland has reviewed and completed the contract negotiations for the U24 event in 2021. Final details will be decided in the middle of January.

Organizers of Beach Ultimate Championship in the USA scheduled a meeting with Woldt related to the event budget. They also have to present the contract for review by Rauch and WFDF counsel.

Woldt restated that Australia has pulled out as host for the Masters' event in 2021 due to the stringent lockdown in their country extending already to mid-2021 and that WFDF probably won't explore another host. In the meantime, Mead is trying to organize regional Disc Golf championships events in 2021.

Gisel wanted to know when an official announcement of the 2021 event would be published, and Woldt confirmed that the draft is planned for the first Friday after this meeting.

Rauch concluded by commenting that canceling events in 2021 would be the easiest solution, but it would also disappoint the community and have a major financial impact not only on WFDF but our member federations. WFDF intends to push forward per the announced schedule but will make adjustments as new information comes to light, and that we will not go forward if there are undue risks to athlete and other participant health and safety.

Ultimate Committee Report (Gisel)

Gisel outlined preliminary proposals to restructure the Ultimate committee and its sub-committees. He started with the question if restructuring could lead to an impact on the board composition. Rauch stated that according to the Bylaws each official "Disc Sport" must have a full committee with its chair having a board seat. There is currently a review of whether there should be a revision of the structure to view Beach or Adaptive Ultimate as sub-disciplines or their own separate Disc Sport.

The restructuring group was currently working on roles and responsibilities within Ultimate committees and it would take several more months.

Gisel moved on to the topic of establishing a Social Awareness at Events Policy. Gisel explained that ideally we would be able to define a space to allow athletes to make any social awareness statements, which could be through a seminar, a booth, messaging on jerseys, etc. While the discussion is still in the early stages, this is

clearly not meant to permit a speech at medal ceremonies, but rather to find a space where people can express themselves while not disrupting the experience for others.

Rauch was supportive but stated that this needed to be worked out much more in detail. Given that we are dealing with cultures and standards from many different cultures and countries, we need to approach this with significant forethought. Will there be an approval process and how would it be managed? How do we differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate political statements? Will it be clear that WFDF may have a certain standard but that there may be far greater constraints in multi-sports games like TWG. Rauch commented that the IOC's Athletes' Commission is currently reviewing Rule 50 and this may provide some insights.

Gisel commented that he expected there would be some sort of approval process. A protection for WFDF is that nothing may contravene our non-discrimination policy, such as a white supremacy statement, but he is aware that there are grey areas. In the end, if we do not create such a space then it might always happen that someone raises her/his voice at one of our events without us knowing.

Bernardi added this could be a job for WFDF's integrity officers. Bergeron suggested Brian include people from non-western cultures in these discussions as local laws might change the scope of legally allowed statements at WFDF tournaments in ways people raised in western culture might not be aware of. Also, breaking these laws might result in unexpectedly extreme consequences.

Moving on to the Beach Ultimate working rules group Gisel reported that it was working on rules and appendix. It would also be putting out a survey to Beach Ultimate community members.

Gisel then informed that the LOC of The World Games in Birmingham asked for approval to change the Ultimate venue from the university field to John Carroll Catholic High School about 10 minutes away from the main venue by car. Members of the Birmingham Ultimate Disc Association would inspect the fields within the next week. These were high-end expensive high school fields which should be in great condition. The biggest disadvantage was that this venue was not right on campus where the players would be staying. But LOC felt this to be manageable and Flying Disc would not be the only sport not on campus. The proposed venue offered several advantages, such as grass fields with full length, permanent stands with a higher capacity, indoor changing rooms, and more space for fan experience, merchandise and lounge tents.

EFDF and AAFDF elections 2020 (Griesbaum, Bernardi)

Bernardi reported that for AAFDF, Travis Myburgh, Alex Matovu, and other board members would be running for re-election.

EFDF required bigger changes, an entirely new team. Bernardi and Griesbaum were looking for needed replacements. It is important to have more female candidates included and EFDF is also trying to get a French candidate.

Bergeron suggested including potential candidates from Israel since per IOC, they were being treated as European members.

As Griesbaum stated, since candidates yet to be identified, the election was expected to take place in December.

FISU/EUSA update (Bernardi)

Bernardi had been approached by the Hungarian federation which expressed interest to add Ultimate as a showcase event to the European University Sports Association (EUSA) Games 2024 which will take place in Hungary. Bernardi saw good chances for Ultimate to also be included as a showcase event in the 2022 European Universities Games in Lodz (POL). He wanted to ask ExComm for approval to pursue this path.

Bergeron asked for the WFDF side's requirements to put this request forward and if there is any financial involvement. Bernardi explained that once WFDF declared its interest, then the NFs in Poland and Hungary would approach the respective LOCs to find out the requirements.

Bernardi added that the Universiade (World University Games) 2025 would take place in Germany, at which ultimate could be a demonstration sport.

A motion was made by Rauch to support WFDF's participation at the two European Universities Games in 2022 and 2024 as a showcase event, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

IT Issues: Web site update (Rauch)

Rauch proposed to do a "soft-launch" of the new WFDF website, making it available to a larger, select group of people for review but not to publicize it. The idea was to go live with the website and to update a live web site before publicizing it in a formal launch. He asked ExComm to spend some time on the web site looking for problems and to report them.

Woldt suggested that more people, e.g. the committee chairs, to review website items to speed up the process of updating. Rauch supported the suggestion.

Yahoo Groups memberlink replacement

Rauch informed that Yahoo would close down all mailing lists in December 2020 including WFDF's memberlink list. Tobiasiewicz had outlined how to replace this list with a Google Group and it would be taken care of once the web site was launched..

Finance: Treasurer's report (Bergeron)

Bergeron referred to the report presented in the Briefing Book. She used the opportunity to thank Bernardi for bringing the number of NF's who hadn't yet paid their dues to only a few.

Communication with sponsors has to be worked on, and contracts will have to be updated.

Bergeron asked Rauch to assist with the budget projections for the next year with all the possible scenarios, including potential cancellation of events.

Bernardi, Gisel, and Rauch discussed the possibilities of re-allocating the funds from the IOC Development grants as the funds to be used for in-person Game Advisor training were not able to be used. Bernardi would review the possibility for some of that money to be used for the website to be checked.

Development Programme 2020 update (Bernardi)

Bernardi referred to his report in the briefing book. He was working on applications from Haiti and Mali, with Albania, Peru, and Ecuador in the foreseeable future. He expressed hope to get closer to the goal of having 100 members by the end of 2020 despite the difficulties introduced by COVID.

Update on census questionnaire and membership requests regarding dues (Bernardi)

Around US\$ 3,000 in open invoices were still outstanding. Some of these members who haven't paid had asked for a postponement and others hadn't replied.

It was discussed if those who do not reply could be downgraded to provisional members. Bernardi advised against this and added that WFDF bylaws do not allow a downgrade.

Palestine (PFDA) regular membership application (Bernardi)

Bernardi reported that in Palestine's application for regular membership they had initially also applied to change their name to "Palestine Ultimate". After some discussion they decided to keep the name "Palestine Flying Disc Association."

A motion was made by Rauch to approve PFDA's regular membership application, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Haiti membership application 2020 (Bernardi)

Bernardi reminded that the WFDF Board of the Directors had already approved to move this application to Congress for approval. However, shortly after that he had received a claim from an individual that he represented Flying Disc in Haiti and had received the NOC's support for his association. It turned out that this person had only applied for NOC support, and since then WFDF has received recommendation letters from the Dominican Republic and France for the initial application.

Rauch noted that there were very few pictures showing Flying Disc activities in the Haiti application. Bernardi commented that WFDF had given a development grant to a Haiti representative in 2017 and had checked the activities at that time.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve membership application for Haiti, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mali membership application (Bernardi)

With the help of our French federation Mali has submitted well-prepared documents. Bernardi felt comfortable to recommend approval of this application.

Bergeron asked if Matovu was in contact with Mali. Bernardi had included Myburgh and Matovu into communication with Mali.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve membership application for Mali, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi announced that he would pass it on to the WFDF Board for approval through an electronic vote.

UTS Virtual Youth Festival - WFDF participation and actions (Bernardi/Woldt)

Woldt explained that participation with "United Through Sports" consisted of getting involved in several disciplines such as core exercises or gymnastics and making short video clips of these activities to be submitted to UTS.

Bernardi informed that IOC supported this initiative and he expected that WFDF could easily join the festival with the participation of two to four WFDF members.

It was agreed that this idea should be pursued.

YouEq Partnership Proposal

Rauch reported that McLeod had suggested to accept the proposal of YouEq to become a WFDF partner for US\$10,000. McLeod wrote: “Through neuro gamification, YouEq has games that build emotional intelligence, which will empower people to better deal with difficult situations both in relationships, in sport, and in life in general.” Some ExComm members had participated in a video call with the CEO and another staff member of YouEq which explained how the company works.

McLeod would take care of this relationship. All ExComm members agreed to approve of this proposal.

Next meeting

Board: 14/15 Nov; ExComm 19/20 Dec

Closing at 20:12 CET