Minutes: WFDF Congress 2007

Date: Sunday, July 8th, 2007 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Ramada Inn, 2310 N. Triphammer Rd, Ithaca, NY (USA)
Invited: Authorised representatives of WFDF Regular, Organizational, Associate and Provisional Members. WFDF Board and Committee members.

1. Call to Order \& Opening Remarks - 9:20am

## 2. Attendance \& Introductions

## Voting Attendees Association

1. Juha Jalovaara (Finland)
2. Rue Veitl (Germany)
3. Fumio "Moro" Morooka (JFDA)
4. Peter Henriksson (SWE)
5. Pat Govang (PDGA)

## Non-Voting Attendees

Nob Rauch (WFDF Treasurer), Dan Roddick (WFDF Archivist), Harvey Brandt (WFDF Individual Events Committee Member), Melle Clark (WFDF Secretary), Nicolas Restrepo (Colombia), AnneMarie Carey (WFDF Executive Director), Bethany Sanchez (Freestyle Players Association - arrived at 11:30am)

Moro introduced the Dodgebee, a soft Frisbee used in elementary schools used to play a dodge ball-type game with a disc. Thousands of kids in Japanese schools are playing. This disc can also introduce guts at a younger age. Moro also reported recent success with Japanese teams as defending WUCC and Guts champions, as well as sending a strong team to the WOC.

## 3. Approval of 2006 Congress Minutes

2006 Congress minutes were compiled from two sets of notes, edited by Anne-Marie, and finalized by Juha. Juha moved to approve congress minutes for 2006.

## VOTE: Approval of the congress minutes for $2006 . \quad$ All voted in favour.

## 4. President's Report

Juha summed up the President's Report.
Board Elections: An electronic election in was held in 2006 with seven new directors elected. Three At Large director positions were originally available, however, Jesus Loreto was elected to an additional one year term to replace Rue in his At Large position, while Rue moved into a new two-year position of Team Events Chair.

Executive Director Search: The job posting brought in twelve applicants. Four were short listed resulting in the hiring of Anne-Marie Carey (AM). AM now works approx 85 hours per month. Duties are delineated in the President's Report.

Dan Roddick is also a contractor on an hourly basis with WFDF - Juha stated roles as per the President's Report. Stork works approximately 100 hours per year.

Juha read Board Resolutions as per President's Report.

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Juha reported that the 2006 board had three teleconference board meetings. In 2007 there have been two board meetings to date.

The Executive Committee (ExCom) consists of the President, Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Director. The ExCom met 15 times in 2006 and has met 4 times in 2007 to date. In 2006 without any administrative supporting staff, the ExCom took on more work resulting in a lot of meetings. 2007 has brought some breathing room with the Executive Director in place.

Bylaws Rewrite: This project is at a stage where we are looking for board member input. Web discussion with restricted access to member representative will best facilitate this process. The bigger issue in rewriting the bylaws is the question of what we want WFDF to be in the future (10-15 years). This topic will be covered in an open discussion in item 12 of the agenda.

GAISF/IWGA Activity: Moro \& Juha attended SportAccord on behalf of WFDF. SportAccord is a conference and exhibition of international sport organizations. Juha stated it is important to continue to be present there. This conference allows WFDF a connection to the wider, larger world of international sports. The 2008 annual meeting will be held in June 2008 in Athens. Many IF's have meetings with the local host associations. Future major event hosts and bidders (World Championships, Olympics, etc.) are present. Media companies also participate, looking for broadcast rights to different IF's.

Juha met with some media companies to discuss potential broadcast and sponsorship opportunities for Ultimate. There is also a media presence reporting on the conference. WFDF gains legitimacy by sending representatives. Juha stated the importance of maintaining our current position, as he has seen some sports continually be rejected for GAISF membership. It is difficult to get in, and WFDF should maintain a presence so as not to lose our spot. Juha mentioned that WFDF would be in a weaker position within GAISF if SportAccord was not attended, and emphasized the importance of continuing to spend the approximately US\$10,000 per year in membership fees and associated travel.

Stork suggested a press release about how disc sports became to be a part of SportAccord. It could be sent to the Freestyle newsletter, Disc Golf magazine, and their websites, etc.

Sporting Goods To Go is a project designed within GAISF where they want to make it easier for donators to ship sporting goods to developing counties to kids with no access to sports equipment. WFDF may want to promote a disc recycling program in conjunction with this GAISF program.

Moro showed a promotional video for World Games 2009.

## 5. Financial Report 2006 and intermediate status report for 2007

In 2006 WUCC sanctioning was a large revenue driver. Over the next 6-12 months WFDF will discuss the event cycle as it ties to revenue generation.

Key items in the financial report include: US\$33,000 net cash flow, US $\$ 80,000$ cash balance at year end. Stork asked how comfortable that balance is and the response from Nob was that it would be enough to support WFDF for two years with no further revenues. Nob indicated that having such a cushion is important for WFDF because of the variability of its revenue stream since it is so dependent on the Ultimate championship sanctioning income.

Nob opened the table for questions.
Stork asked about non-profit status. There has been no notification that the status was pulled. WFDF will file the Form 990 with the US tax authority next year and see what happens.

For 2007, the budget originally planned for a shortfall of US $\$ 21,000$ after the first 6 months of the year, but we are near break even mid-year with membership dues coming in more quickly than expected this year. This does not change the outlook for the full year of 2007.

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Dues for 2008: It is proposed to maintain dues at the current level. US\$1.25 per member as reported in Census with a minimum of US $\$ 250$ and a maximum of US $\$ 3,000$. If members can show cause, they can apply for a $50 \%$ discount under the "special terms of payment" provision we have established.

Peter asked about donations since there is no budget for donation revenue. This question led to further comments about WFDF working to attract sponsorship. It was pointed out that tournament directors of specific events solicit sponsorship for events, but WFDF has not otherwise pursued sponsorship. In the early 1990s there was some Wham-O sponsorship but it no longer exists. It will clearly hinge upon what WFDF can give in return for sponsorship.

Merchandise sales is something that WFDF has not done anything with, but this factors into a large part of tournament director revenue at events.

It was noted that the Financial Report of 2006 is not yet audited by our auditors.

| VOTE: | Juha moves to accept the submitted report pending final approval by <br> auditors. If auditors do not have changes, the vote at congress would <br> stand. | All voted in favour. |
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## 6. WFDF Budget 2008

2008 should be a good financial year based on hosting WUGC, which is expected to bring in US\$40,000 in sanctioning fees. If WFDF can find a local TD, a national team disc golf tournament could take place in conjunction with WUGC in Vancouver. Pat reported that Dave Nesbitt is planning to submit a bid to hold this event in Vancouver.

It is proposed that dues remain at status quo.
The proposed sanctioning fee increase for WUGC is from US\$20/player to US\$30/player for Open, Mixed, Women and Masters Divisions, and a fee of US\$15/player for Juniors.

Within the budget World Games expenses include expected contributions to WADA compliance, which takes a lot of resources. We are not the only international sports federation that is finding complying challenging. Only a small group of high-end sports are able to meet WADA's expectations. WADA is pursuing a new version of the code, and continues to send out monthly revisions. The new code is due to be accepted this fall.

| TASK: | We need to communicate to our members whether there will be any anti-doping regulations in <br> Vancouver. |
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Stork asked if there were any potential of revisions of what is on the banned list such as cannabis. Melle reported that at the WADA meeting she attended, there was some mention of leeway regarding the test schedule and which drugs individual IF's could report testing for.

Peter suggested that if we jump ahead of some of the other non-compliant IF's in adopting the testing Code, we may gain advantage in consideration for future participation in the Olympics.

2009 will be a difficult year where expenses will be higher around World Games and revenues will be low since there is no large Ultimate tournament scheduled. Hosting something in that year of the event cycle outside of World Games could be important for us to consider going forward.

Stork asked whether revenues from sanctioning of "off year" ultimate regional championships would help, This question segued nicely to the following two announcements:

1) $1^{\text {st }}$ Asia Oceanic Championships have been awarded to Kaohsiung City, Taiwan and will be held from Dec 7-9, 2008.

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2) Due to lack of participation, the Pan American Ultimate Club Championships scheduled for August 2007 would be cancelled.

To answer the question: currently these events are very small (under 10 teams) and are not enough to impact "off year" revenue cycles.

Rue suggested that WFDF hire a TD for major annual WFDF events, instead of outsourcing entire events, in order to increase WFDF income by directing event profits to WFDF instead of to the local hosts. He cited significant financial overages speculated to have been garnered by WUGC '06 hosts, final accounting for which has not yet been submitted by WUGC ' 06 hosts despite numerous requests by WFDF. This is something that can be looked into or proposed to the board.

| vOTE: | Juha moves to approve the Membership Dues proposal for 2008: <br> US\$ 1.25 per active player with a minimum cap of U $\$ \$ 250$ and a <br> maximum cap of U $\$ \$ 000$ for Regular and Organizational members; <br> and US $\$ 250$ for Associate members. | All voted in favour. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| vOTE: | Juha moves to approve the Sanctioning Fee proposals for 2008: <br> US $\$ 30$ per player for Open, Women's, Mixed and Masters Divisions <br> and US\$15 for all Juniors divisions at WUGC2008; and US $\$ 20$ per <br> player for World Team Disc Golf Championships 2008. | All voted in favour. |
| VOTE: | Juha moves to approve the Budget for 2008. | All voted in favour. |

Nob spoke to the efforts made this year to get 2004 through 2007 input into Quickbooks, a task that has been completed (the books of WFDF had been maintained on Excel spreadsheets from the late 1990s). Having some historical data to work with in Quickbooks will allow for easier reconciliation and help avoid errors.

## 7. Elections

The appointment of auditors is the only election that occurs at Congress. Currently the auditors are Jeroen Pouwels and Johan Lindgren. There has not been a response to whether they would like to continue, however, Juha expects they will be available for another year.

| VOTE: | Juha moves that we elect Jeroen Pouwels and Johan Lindgren as our <br> auditors for 2007. | All voted in favour. |
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## 8. New membership applications

1) Singapore Ultimate Players Association (SUPA) (for Regular Membership)

Melle went over the application package for SUPA highlighting their fulfilments of the requirements.
Although their bylaws require some clean up, they have added a non-discrimination clause to their bylaws which was an important element missing. They seem to be set up on a private club model but use a home address contact. This should be cleaned up.

Stork raised the point about national organizations with "Ultimate" in the name, and whether this implies that they do not represent other disc sports. SUPA's application did make mention to a golf tournament and disc golf players.

Juha concurs with Melle that they do meet the requirements.

| VOTE: | Juha moves that WFDF accept SUPA as a regular WFDF member | All voted in favour. |
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## 2) Philippines Ultimate Association (PUA) (for regular membership)

PUA has a vibrant local league and reports 471 players, with Manila being their largest area of concentration of players. The play is traditionally in the mixed division and they have played in regional tournaments and hosted several events. It appears to be a good grass roots group. The obstacle for PUA is the formalization of their organization. Their current league fee is the equivalent of US\$1 per player.

The question was raised of whether they will be able to afford WFDF Membership.
Corporate Sponsorship could be an option to help PUA. This has happened in the past with South Africa with Bill Wright sponsoring their WFDF dues so that they could compete in Worlds.

They would be a member who could qualify for Special Needs of Payment.
According to established policy PUA would have the alternative to participate in one WFDF event as a Provisional Member if they were not a regular member.

TASK: Stork to search for paperwork regarding policy of first time participation as Provisional Member.

VOTE: Juha moves that WFDF accept PUA as a regular WFDF member $\quad$ All voted in favour.

## 9. Membership status of members with dues in arrears for several years

Juha read from the 2006 congress minutes: Financial Proposals - Proposal 4, Members with Dues in Arrears:
"As indicated above, there are seven members associations that are two or more years in arrears with their dues. The board intends to review the situation with each of these members, each of which is currently not in good standing, and ascertain whether payment can be made in full or under some sort of reasonable arrangement. Congress hereby empowers the board during 2007 to consider and approve payment arrangements with these members, including in its discretion something other than payment in full. In the absence of reaching an arrangement satisfactory to the board, membership of these associations will be terminated in accordance with the Bylaws."

Hong Kong - Nob met with Steven Lee who is the president of the HKUPA, a local ex-pat oriented local league. HK had been in arrears dating back to 2003. They paid 50\% on arrears, and 100\% of 2006 dues, and are now current.

Brazil - 2 years in arrears. They could get current and requested to pay arrears in the spring, and defer 2007 dues to later this year and remain in good standing. WFDF agreed to this.

Russian Flying Disc Federation -_Our contacts have been unresponsive. Only active players wanting to play worlds are concerned about a WFDF relationship. They don't really have an organization of players. Nob has suggested terminating their membership until such time that they can meet the requirements of WFDF membership.

Peter mentioned they have an emerging disc golf scene, and questioned who our contact has been with. Terminating this member in arrears does not mean a new association from Russia can't emerge. A deadline has been set for November 30, 2007 for payment.

TASK: $\quad$ Peter to investigate additional contacts from Russia
Slovak Association of Frisbee - They have been unresponsive and a definitive deadline for dues payment has been proposed as November 30, 2007.

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TASK: Rue to contact Czech Republic to investigate what's happening and who the contacts are.
Venezuelan Ultimate Association - A variety of local leagues exist, but no local organization ties VUA together. Jesus Loreto (a WFDF Board Member) is the sole contact person. He is speaking with local players to come up with a solution. Jesus has been dealing with a major family health matter, and we will follow up with him on this, but not yet set a definite deadline date for payment.

Freestyle Players Association - During the Executive Director search there were conversations with Kevin Givens which opened the line of communications to see if it made sense to continue FPA's membership with WFDF. This will be further discussed in the meeting.

Flying Disc Federation of India - Nob attempted to meet with them while in India. Again, a deadline of November 30, 2007 to pay dues was proposed.

| VOTE: | It was proposed that the Russian Flying Disc Federation, the Slovak <br> Association of Frisbee and the Flying Disc Federation of India be given <br> a November 30, 2007 deadline to pay dues that are currently in <br> arrears and if they fail to meet this deadline the board will seek to <br> terminate their membership as provided for in the bylaws. | All voted in favour. |
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| TASK: | $\begin{array}{l}\text { Check in with current members and ensure they have solid organizational structure. Melle and } \\ \text { AMC to collect bylaw information and other documentation initially required for WFDF } \\ \text { membership from current members to keep on file. }\end{array}$ |
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## 10. Membership reports

Anne-Marie read from the Membership Report.
Census Results: The report contained a snapshot of reported Active Players for 2006. A potential error in the total number of players for Sweden came up, and this will be looked into.

TASK: $\quad$ AMC to follow up with Sweden to see if their numbers are accurate.

It was mentioned that the census lends itself to a press release to get WFDF into headlines through generating this news.

The report highlighted member associations showing the most growth and most decline. Some of these figures are simply due to more accurate reporting this year. Some countries are growing due to local enthusiasm of active players (Ireland, South Africa)

The Canadian Ultimate Players Association is an interesting case where at least three different single-city leagues may have $\pm 5,000$ players, and national numbers of people playing in regular leagues is quite high, but the reported census number has not changed from around 1,400 in years. This is due to a declining state of the Canadian Ultimate Championships. CUPA's reported numbers are those competitive players who register to play in the national championship.

It was brought up that better contact management with our member associations is very important. A lot of time is wasted in messages not going to the proper contacts. Keeping up with changes in member associations' board of directors and knowing who the point people are for different items (board elections, census, invoicing) will streamline the efforts and create better response time.

It also appears that something WFDF could help with is assisting members in more effectively informing their members of any pertinent WFDF news. The planned newsletter should be a great tool for this.

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This year brought up some issues in terms of how disc golf is fitting into future WFDF plans. The PDGA continues to be an Organizational Member of WFDF, however, following two years of negotiations, the PDGA board rejected a Memorandum of Understanding draft that had been agreed with WFDF board member Dave Nesbitt in a role representing PDGA. The rationale for the rejection appears to be that the PDGA board does not believe WFDF provides much value to them in the pursuit of their international objectives. Nonetheless, they indicated they intended to remain a passive member of WFDF for the time being. Given the amount of effort put into the negotiations, and the fact that the final MOU language had been agreed to by the PDGA's negotiator, this rejection came as quite a surprise to the WFDF Executive Committee. Separately, the first PDGA European Open took place in Tampere in August 2006. New Zealand also reported an increase in PDGA members allowing them to now host PDGA " $C$ " Tier Events. The British Disc Golf Association has elected to not renew its WFDF membership for 2007. It was agreed that the board would pursue input from the membership in order to determine what role if any WFDF should play in international disc golf activity (see further comments below).

Two of the major undertakings within member associations are AFDA's hosting of the WUCC2006 in Perth, Australia, and the UPA's development of a 5 year strategic plan. Some further details are in the Membership Report.

Nicolas presented the state of disc sports in Colombia and Venezuela: Both countries are hosting three major tournaments which players will travel to. An issue is that ultimate play in Colombia doesn't comply with WFDF rules and in fact doesn't necessarily happen under any set of rules. Nicolas has been trying to get a national organization together since 2003. He met with Brazil for additional input. In Venezuela, there are younger players who are disconnected from Jesus who has been the sole WFDF contact person. The plan is to have a rep per team to have a board of directors, get bylaws together, etc. He felt that increasing fees at tournaments is possible, which could allow these countries to be successful dues paying members of WFDF. Nicolas requested that some kind of press release and further information be sent from WFDF to Venezuela \& Colombia to state the importance of following WFDF regulations and to set the tone of what is required of them to be participating in WFDF events. Generally he just feels that WFDF needs to spend time to help develop disc sports in South America.

Nicolas showed video about a project to teach ultimate as a way to teach conflict resolution. He and several others are donating their time and resources to bring these lessons into schools.

Nicolas will be in Colombia last week of July. He will also be meeting with Jesus to further discuss the situation in Venezuela. He would like to work to get Colombia organized, and then use the same model to bring together the Venezuelan organization.

TASK: $\quad$ Put Nicolas' project on the agenda of next ExCom meeting.
Melle has been conducting some surveys with non-member countries to learn more and continue communications with these countries with the hope to help them grow their programs.

Nicolas left the meeting at 2:10pm

## 11. Committee Reports

## Ultimate

Rue stated his three main personal goals in his position as:

1) the unification of rules internationally and one worldwide used spirit scoring system,
2) improving services to TD's, Players \& improving the quality of events and
3) WFDF to become more professional

His first step was to get more people involved and to restructure the Ultimate committee. Creation of SOTG, Rules, Web, Development, Events Sub Committees each with their own tasks.

Rue presented his written Ultimate Committee Report.

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## Rules:

The Ultimate rules were revised and a new version of WFDF Ultimate Rules 2007 was published in April Stork asked about rule translations and whether the entire rules needed translations or if there were annotated sections to be translated.
Answer: Given that the 2007 changes were so extensive to reduce the number of words, it is this time really a matter of doing entire translations. In the future, it is expected that any changes will be more localized within a small selection of sections.
Bethany asked about why there are two independent sets of rules of ultimate (WFDF vs UPA).
Answer: Rue explained that WFDF rules existed first but the UPA had revised more often to the point the rules were different. The use of observers use is one major difference.

Indoor rules - One of the committee members, Flo, is proposing a standardized version of Indoor Ultimate Rules.

Beach Rules - BULA has both 4 on 4 and 5 on 5 rules. A document to identify the differences between them could function as a way to adopt these rules as the international standard for beach ultimate.

Eligibility - There is a planned revision for eligibility rules for WUCC2010.

## Worlds Events:

Rue announces that a proposal for a concept to restructure Worlds events is currently being worked on
Reasons:
Main benefits for WFDF:

- Improve the quality of the events
- Facilitate organizational work done for each event
- Increase WFDF income

Main benefits for players

- Create more events / more frequent playing opportunities for all players/teams.
- Events should attract as many of the top level teams as possible.
- Create more manageable events.

Main changes:

- Cycle of events / splitting WUCC
- Paid WFDF Event Manager
- Location for Worlds events in accessible areas
- WFDF to directly host/organize the Worlds events

The proposal will be published as soon as a final version is finished.

## Web-Services

Rue has approached the creator of Ultilinks to see if they would give it to WFDF. It had been a leader in promoting a global calendar of events. Features such as website templates for tournament directors could also be added to this. Another feature was a program Rue knows about that basically will run a hat format type tournament. It auto generates team lists, distributes emails, etc. This website could become something that WFDF offers that has global value for anyone trying to host events.

TASK: Search for a head of the Growth / Development Committee

World Games - WFDF has reached a verbal agreement with the World Games to develop a set of hand signals to communicate from the field what calls on the field are. This is to function as a way to make ultimate more spectator-friendly.

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## PAUC 2007

Rue mentioned that WFDF will need to better support the PanAm event for 2009 to ensure it happens.

## Disc Golf

In Feb 2007, WFDF received notice from the PDGA saying they will not be seeking WFDF sanctioning for either Pro or Am Disc Golf Championships.

Juha read from an email from Brian Hoeniger, Executive Director of PDGA (Feb 8, 2007):
"As the defacto leader of international disc golf today, that PDGA will also henceforth be the sole determinant of the requirements for representation on the so-called PDGA-WFDF International Disc Golf Committee (unratified in absence of PDGA-WFDF agreement). This means that the PDGA will discern which disc golf and disc sports organizations will serve as our affiliated country partners, as well as the methods by which country representatives are appointed or elected to the Committee, and that WFDF membership will not be a requirement in order for a country disc golf or disc sports body to hold a seat on the Committee. This gives the PDGA and its international affiliated countries the flexibility to ensure that the disc golf interests of each country and the PDGA members in that country are represented as best they can be."

## WFDF's response:

"After discussion, the WFDF Board has decided that the asymmetrical terms offered by the PDGA for a joint international committee are not satisfactory to WFDF and we would therefore like to terminate the joint committee. However, we do welcome the PDGA offer for WFDF to hold an observer seat on the future PDGA International Committee." WFDF will also plan to host a team disc golf event.

TASK: $\quad$ AMC to follow up with Nez regarding his plans for this bid.

## Guts

Moro distributed a Guts Committee Action Plan for 2007-2008.
In addition to a men's division at WUGC2008, there could be an exhibition match for women, involving USA, Canada and Japan. AMC added that Brian Gisel also informed that UK was interested and it was decided that if four nations were represented, that an official division could be run at WUGC2008.

By the end of 2007, JFDA will be distributing a promotional DVD for Guts with English narrations to many countries.

A motion was put forward and agreed upon to have Guts incorporated into the 2010 WUCC and that Guts should be included in the future event planning cycle. It is difficult to develop the sport with a World Championship only happening every four years.

## DDC

Harvey reported that Arizona is willing to bid for the 2008 championships. Raleigh, NC is getting more active but may not want to run a world event.

Sweden is in its $3^{\text {rd }}$ year of running a DDC only tournament
Bid information should go out for the 2009 World Overall Championships.

## Freestyle

The FPA had a change of board leadership in Nov/Dec. Lisa Hunrichs is the new Executive Director and Paul Kenny is involved. Larry Imperiale is off the board but still involved (especially with web related issues)

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Freestyle has been showing phenomenal growth in Europe. It would be great to have the next world championship in Europe, but keeping it on the east coast of USA (NY/Boston) keeps it accessible to European entrants.

An Italian team won the 2006 FPA World Championships in Berlin marking the first time for a nonAmerican World Champion.

A Nike commercial featuring freestyle players has sparked growth.
Membership Numbers: 120 competitors were at the 2007 World Championships in Amsterdam in June.

## Overall

Individual Events Chair Paul Francz has been non-responsive for most of his 18 month term to date, despite numerous attempts to reach him and get his input. This has been particularly frustrating to the board since providing further support to non-Ultimate activity has been a stated priority for WFDF. Harvey has agreed to step into the role in an unofficial capacity until board elections take place.

TASK: | Although no formal motion was made, it was agreed by the congress participants that Juha |
| :--- |
| should track down Paul by phone and ask for his resignation and Harvey should be asked to |
| take over the role of the Individual Events Chair until the elections. |

## Anti-doping committee

Discussed earlier

## 12. WFDF Bylaws rewrite process

Juha drew the example from SportAccord about how all IF's are based upon national organizations linked to an international body. The PDGA and FPA do not function this way as their members are individual players.

Membership Models: Our older WFDF members started as multi-discipline members overseeing most disc sports in their respective countries. More recently, there are more disc discipline organizations which typically focus either on Ultimate or Disc Golf. It is a challenge for WFDF to accommodate several permutations of organizational types.

It was mentioned that it is not a matter of control, I.e. WFDF does not have any intention of trying to take control of an organization like FPA, and it is an issue of determining how to set up structure to support these different types of members.

Stork gave some historical information from 1985. The movers and shakers were national organizations, but there were also huge organizations like the PDGA, FPA, GPA. The United States has never had an umbrella national disc sport organization. The UPA dealt with the issue starting in 1989 and formally made the decision in the late 1990s to remain focused on the US rather than expand internationally.

Stork made reference to a continued FPA relationship with WFDF as a bargain, because of relatively low cost with the potential to have some showcase opportunities for freestyle within ultimate championships or potentially World Games.

In 2002, the proposals for World Games 2005 were to increase the size of ultimate, keep the DG format, and add 30 freestyle players. Instead GAISF/IWGA came back removing DG, saying no to Freestyle, and requesting referees for ultimate. It wasn't a WFDF decision to remove DG and focus solely on ultimate. There has been a perception from the disc golf community that after Akita, WFDF didn't push hard enough for DG to stay in World Games, which couldn't be further from the truth. We actually worked jointly with the PDGA in early 2006 to try to lobby to get DG back in the World Games but our overtures were rejected.

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Nob mentioned that the last bylaw revision was in 1992. He suggested we need to determine what our mission is and how to best use our resources.

Some better defined items in the bylaws should make it easier to set policies around our different types of members.

## Defining a disc discipline vs. a disc sport

Disc Discipline - any disc game with established, written rules and an active following
Disc Sport - Disc Discipline for which a world championship event exists.
Defining members - e.g.. BDGA/UKUA - These members do not fit our national organization status, but have been allowed to continue as members due to historical background. The biggest issue here comes down to how we define voting rights. Currently the BDGA/UKUA pay separate dues but share election voting rights.

The definition of the members of our member associations is varied. Some countries are reporting every player who even plays pickup games, while other countries report only those who pay dues to the national organization. This could include all club teams or only those that compete in a national championship. A better sense of consistency is required.

Another huge issue that WFDF will need to discuss in connection with the bylaws revision is whether the model of one vote per member, irrespective of underlying number of constituents, still works, especially if we charge more in dues for the organizations with more constituents.

Pat mentioned that during 2000-2003, the PDGA struggled with dealing with growth. A player ranking system was a very global move that was attractive to international golfers, thus facilitating the growth of the PDGA into other countries. The PGDA is currently going through a leadership change so it's difficult to know the direction the PDGA will take.

Bethany raised a number of questions:
Does WFDF have interest in sports other than Ultimate and issues other than getting Ultimate into the Olympics?

Yes. The Olympic movement is one that takes a lot of resources and gets 'air time' but the goals of development of all disc sport into more countries is important, as is improving the quality of our WFDF sanctioned events. Better communication and relationships with our members is a priority.

Does WFDF intend to promote events that cater to the general public AND include freestyle? What is WFDF's plan for promoting freestyle and integrating it into international sports festivals?

This is a little outside of what we do, but there is a willingness to be supportive with any initiatives that FPA takes on that might benefit from the backing by an International Sports Federation.

Is WFDF willing to integrate freestyle as a demo event into the Ultimate major championships it sanctions?

Of course. This is something that can be easily done and that we can work together on.
Does WFDF intend to continue setting pro-Olympic policies like drug testing that may not be relevant to the goals or needs of other disc sports?

Nob spoke about WADA compliance being a work in progress, for not only WFDF but most smaller international sports federations. Drug testing is not a goal of WFDF, but rather a prerequisite to continuing involvement in World Games. WFDF doesn't even yet know what the expected level of testing and monitoring for WUGC 2008 should be.

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Does WFDF intend to be responsive to the evolution of freestyle? For instance, how long does it take WFDF to recognize changes to the FPA Competition Manual on its website?

Nob responded that if the Freestyle chair submits changes, it can be updated to WFDF site with no problem. It's definitely a two way relationship where WFDF might not hunt down all our members' updated information, but we would gladly ensure that up to date information is posted to the WFDF website. Members can also take care of their own updates using passwords provided to access their association contact information.

Bethany asked about waiving past arrears. Nob explained the need for consistency in dealing with the arrears and the issue of not setting an undesirable precedent. Members with limited resources with multiple years in arrears have been granted up to a $50 \%$ discount on arrears as long as they were willing to pay the current year's full dues.

Members often ask what they get out of membership, but that concept should also incorporate..."what will you engage?" That type of attitude will create a mutually beneficial relationship.

WFDF Future Planning: How long does WFDF want to continue in small events that use a lot of volunteer power but are not showing growth. (Guts, Overalls)? Should we focus on those that are growing with players/organizers who are enthusiastic?

Stork mentioned that the ability to be accommodating and allowing for changes to occur is important. WFDF should be open and ready to accommodate organizations splitting (dividing into Ultimate and disc golf), newer disc disciplines entering (Goaltimate, Dodgebee) and not develop bylaws that limit these types of changes.

## TASK: <br> $\qquad$

Next steps are to bring this to a board discussion to determine a decision on how to move forward. This will involve engaging the members to seek their input. Setting up a web-based member forum for discussion will facilitate this.

## 13. Other business

## WUGC2008 Status:

Colombia and Morocco have expressed interest and tournament organizers will not accept any bids unless they get the ok from WFDF that a potential team is represented by a Member in good standing.

Initial indication of team involvement is as follows (number of teams they plan to send in brackets):
Australia (6)
Mexico (2)
Italy (4) Open, Women, Mixed, Masters
Finland (6)
Canada (6)
Hong Kong (1) Mixed
France (5) Open, Women, Mixed, Masters, Jr. Open
Sweden (6)
Japan (6)
USA (6)
Registration will be up and running in October of 2007. At that time deadlines will be published and held to in all cases. Teams who do not pay by deadline dates will be removed from the tournament the next day without exception. All deadlines will be prior approved by WFDF and based on current standards.

Schedule - There has been some talk about reducing the total number of games played, especially for the upper tier teams, in order to reduce injuries and increase the level of play of the teams in the playoffs. While the schedule is a long way off at this point, there should be some discussion around this issue. For

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the top 8 teams in each division a schedule of 1 game in each of the last 3 days (Quarters, Semi's, Finals/Bronze) would be preferable. Also, to maximize the ability to schedule Semi Final games, we would also like to request approval to hold some Bronze Medal games in the morning of the last day, prior to, but maybe with some conflict of 1 of the Finals.

Stork agreed that fewer games would be beneficial.

TASK: $\quad$ To bring WUGC scheduling questions to the board and/or ultimate committee.

## WFDF Board Member Communication

Rue requested that the WFDF board members present, meet at the end of congress to discuss internal communications. This wasn't very conducive with travel plans, but there was agreement to have a short talk at the close of congress.

Discussion topic: getting Ultimate included into the Asia Games
This topic was submitted by Michael Hu of the Chinese Taipei Flying Disc Association. He could not be present and therefore this item did not get discussed.

## 14. Date and Time of next Congress

It was proposed and agreed to do the 2008 congress in Vancouver during WUGC.

The meeting was adjourned at $5: 15 \mathrm{pm}$.

