

**WFDF 2020 Annual Congress  
1<sup>st</sup> Virtual Congress – Zoom Meeting  
Saturday, August 15, 2020 15:00 - 17:00 CEST**

**Call to order (15:05)**

President Rauch welcomed all attendees and apologized for the tight schedule that wouldn't allow interaction during the Congress in the way participants of the WFDF Congress usually would. Rauch stated that there would be a discussion question and Q&A period at the end of the meeting when the meeting would be opened up for a more interactive session, and that the Zoom "chat" feature would be monitored real time for any questions or clarifications by participating members.

**Roll call of National Associations present and confirmation of votes allotted**

A roll call of members was done. Annex 1 provides a list of participants and allocated votes. A test run of the electronic voting tool was performed in order to ensure all members were familiar with it.

**2019 Congress Minutes (already approved)**

Rauch presented the minutes of the 2019 Congress, which had been previously approved by Congress in an electronic vote.

**Decisions taken by Congress between 2019 and 2020 Congresses**

Congress had voted on the approval of the new membership of Malawi Flying Disc Federation (MFDF, member #86) and Cayman Islands Ultimate Association (CIUA, member #87) and on the upgrade of membership of Malta Sport For All Federation (MSFA), Thailand Flying Disc Association (TFDA) and Indonesia Ultimate Players Association (IUPA) from provisional to regular membership. A change of organizational structure was approved for Chinese Flying Disc Administrative Committee (CFDAC, formerly UAC), Federación Colombiana de Disco Volador (FECODV, formerly AJUC) and Federación Mexicana de Disco Volador A.C. (FMDV, formerly AJUM). At the end of the 2019 calendar year, Board member elections took place.

**Report by the President**

Rauch started his report by speaking of the COVID-19 impact on the world population and how it affected the world of sports. Major sports events were postponed, some of them even canceled, and the global flying disc community was equally affected.

WFDF itself suffered significant consequences since there were no ongoing WFDF sanctioned events. The WFDF revenue budget was reduced by 60% due to the elimination of event sanctioning fees and impact on sponsorship arrangements.

The range of impacts of the pandemic on the Flying Disc sports community include: athletes finding alternative pastimes, organizing bodies losing financial resources for their staff, and local organizers not being able to serve their communities. Most of all, the opportunities for growth and recognition were restricted after putting so much effort into developing Flying Disc sport in member countries. At this point, everyone can only hope that soon, things will go to be back to normal as we knew it, with the vaccine or by some other way that will keep people safe and healthy.

WFDF, as an organization striving to become a part of the Olympic Games, has to answer the increasing demands of our community despite the uncertainties and more restricted resources. There are specific issues that continue to require work and resources from WFDF's side. Rauch reminded everyone of the WFDF strategic goals and assured that people around WFDF is doing their best to accomplish them despite the challenges of the year that take.

WFDF will be introducing two new policies shortly, an Athlete Safeguarding Policy and a formalization of a standalone Non-Discrimination Policy (separate from what is already codified in the Bylaws). On the IT side, within the month following this meeting, WFDF will introduce an updated website, as a major upgrade and to ensure it being mobile-friendly. The domain will be shifted to dot sport as part of our use of the url suffix obtained through GAISF.

Regarding WFDF status within international institutions and strategic goals, WFDF became a signatory on the UN's climate action framework. There has been a lot of work on the Gender Equity issue by the Women in Sport Commission, where they delivered a toolkit to support this important topic. WFDF made significant progress in getting more women involved as a part of the Board of Directors, other governance roles, and Athletes Commission.

The recently published eBook, the Ultimate Schools Program, for teachers will help WFDF to attract more children into our sport.

Networking opportunities for President Rauch and Executive Director Bernardi have been limited. However, as reported, they are giving their best to be present at the online events as well as maintaining connections with relevant people. Rauch highlighted that 17 WFDF Member Federations have been officially recognized by their National Olympic Committees to date and encouraged other member federations to apply. For further help to those who haven't been recognized by their NOC yet, members can contact Executive Director Bernardi and Administrative Coordinator Jankovic for support.

## **Report by the Executive Director**

WFDF Executive Director Bernardi started his report by expressing his gratitude for the participation of the member countries, but especially non-members countries attending as guests. This shows that WFDF is active in acquiring new member federations. Congress 2020 will also be used for the voting on accepting Nicaragua as the newest WFDF member as Bernardi reminded. It took three years to have Nicaragua apply for the membership, which shows how long this process can be.

Bernardi highlighted significant achievements, some of the live stream coverage on the Olympic Channel, which is very important towards the WFDF goal to become part of the Olympic Games.

Since so many 2020 global sports events were canceled or postponed, and with the Olympic Games moved to 2021 as the leading international sports event, other multi-sport events are canceled or postponed. However, for WFDF, the World Masters Games in Kansai is very important, and they will not overlap with the Olympic Games.

Bernardi affirmed the importance for WFDF to follow all the anti-doping rules and WADA Code, especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic, and advised that the new WADA Code in 2021 would require a revision of WFDF's rules.

While concluding his report by presenting results of the WFDF Commissions, Bernardi encouraged member federations to nominate their representatives for the WFDF committees and commissions. Participation in WFDF commissions will help members in their own countries as well.

## **Review of 2020 Member Census**

Rauch presented the 2020 WFDF Census data briefly. The detailed report has been sent to members before the 2020 Congress. A lot of interesting information has been collected in all areas since 2002.

However, he added that the total reported number doesn't always add up to the total men and women number and asked everyone to check their math. The other comment Rauch made was that WFDF pretty consistently has a mix of a 35% to 65% between women and men. The goal is to increase the women percentage over time and make them a bit closer. Still, compared to many other international sports federations, WFDF is doing a good job but has to continue working on this matter.

## **Annual Risk Assessment**

This is something WFDF introduced eight years ago and, even though at times it may seem unnecessary, during 2020, it was crucial for WFDF survival throughout the current pandemic impact on the world's economy.

WFDF has been consistent in terms of the areas that were the focus but also flexible enough to make some essential adjustments. There were eight risk areas that WFDF wanted to focus on:

1. Sustaining or improving the quality and consistency for delivery of all of WFDF's events
2. Safety of participants and staff
3. Ability to recruit and attract sufficient volunteers
4. Maintaining and increasing membership and participation
5. Sustaining and improving WFDF financial viability
6. Protecting or improving public image and reputation
7. Maintaining Spirit of the Game
8. Applying good corporate governance principles and compliance with regulatory requirements

WFDF's approach with financial risk has been to mitigate it by having a large capital reserve that will allow withstanding a dramatic reduction in WFDF revenues. It is an ongoing balance between trying to get something done versus having enough reserves for a crisis like the current one.

President Rauch asked to vote on the presented WFDF Annual Risk Assessment. The report was approved unanimously.

### **Event Manager Report**

Woldt presented the only event that happened since previous Congress, the Pan Am Continental Ultimate Championships in November 2019, and used this opportunity to do a brief recapitulation of the Events in 2019 for those who missed last year's Congress.

She pointed out what went well by assuring that WFDF will continue to improve its events upon going forward. First, the regional Beach Ultimate Championship has been well accepted in Asia and Oceania as well as among the European countries. Team registrations were on point and completely exceeded expectations. Woldt will continue negotiating with countries from the Pan American Federation about the opportunity to have another Championship in their region.

Additional important information Woldt provided on the event from November last year was a trial of the new schedule format. Teams played two games a day, but both their games were hosted in the morning, meaning that by late lunch, all teams had played their two games. Afterward, they had a community lunch and then had some free time for relaxing or sightseeing, something to consider in the future for certain events.

The negative trend that happened last year that Woldt asks everyone present during the Congress 2020 to reconsider for the future is the increasing number of teams pulling from the competition shortly before the start. Members should plan more

carefully the participation and event calendar because they have the responsibility towards WFDF and the entire Flying Disc Community.

Patrick Fourcampre-Maye joined the Event team in 2019, and he has been a valuable asset for WFDF in its events management.

The main topic around 2020 was the pandemic that affected every sport and event around the globe. Everything has been postponed or canceled. It was very devastating for TOCs with whom the WFDF department had to work and negotiate on new terms.

The biggest challenge for Woldt and her team was a constant push from the teams and everyone around the event for as much information as possible. Therefore, WFDF set up a task force to discuss the steps along the way for every event individually. For teams, some of the decisions may seem coming very late. While understandable, she explained that WFDF has been working hard to find a solution that is in the best interest of everyone involved in the midst of incredible uncertainty, and those decisions took time due to many factors, including travel bans, WHO regulations, local government policies, financial considerations, and conflicting recommendations by official authorities on the health and safety issues.

For the World Masters Ultimate Championships in Australia, the refunds could be finalized thanks to the fact that the funds schedule allowed us to adapt very quickly. Unfortunately, on the other hand, WFDF couldn't go through with the World Junior Ultimate Championships in Malmö, Sweden. Fortunately, all of the player fees could be refunded and part of the team fees as well. However, hotel fees have been challenging to get reimbursed. All possible refunds should have been sent back to members and participant accounts. For the World Ultimate & Guts Championships (WUGC) in the Netherlands, there is no final decision yet if it will be postponed, but as everyone present at the Congress 2020 knows, we have included members in this decision-making process.

Other events for 2021 have been planned but without announcing any dates or venues until the situation with the pandemic is more stable and until WFDF ensures that contracts are fit for risks that everyone can expect in the next 12 months. WFDF will not require additional payments before January 2021 for the events, by which time we hope to have a more definitive understanding of the health and safety issues. The event schedule for 2022 hasn't been confirmed yet because WFDF needs to ensure everything for 2021 first.

Woldt concluded her report by highlighting two things. First, she highlighted that the Gender Equity Toolkit developed by the Women in Sport Committee for TOCs is a guideline on how to best give visibility to all WFDF divisions at events. Second, she thanked everyone for patience over the last six months. She asked that, for the best decisions to be made for the entire community, everyone should maintain a close dialogue with the WFDF events team.

President Rauch confirmed that these are challenging times and that the community should come together more than ever before.

## **WFDF Anti-Doping Program and WADA Compliance**

Jörn Verleger, Chairperson of the WFDF Doping Control Panel gave a quick overview of this critical topic that WFDF is taking very seriously. Together with Bernardi, Verleger was present at the World Anti-doping conference last November.

In the wake of the monitoring of code compliance, WADA has required updates, and several new policies to meet current and future code compliance. This is resulting from the mandatory provisions of the code in its current form, and the new code, which will come into force in January 2021. WFDF is currently drafting new anti-doping code rules based on these 2021 provided by WADA.

According to the most important changes WADA introduced, WFDF must be sure that all national federations implement anti-doping rules and programs. Many NF's do not have this capacity, but WFDF could be authorized as an anti-doping authority for them.

The next stage of anti-doping programs will be implemented in the following steps:

1. An online survey that will help in finding out which NFs needs assistance
2. Establishing the test distribution plan
3. Proper use of the education tools provided by WADA
4. Result management for WFDF tests
5. Disciplinary procedures

Rauch concluded this topic by saying that goal of the WFDF isn't to put a lot of burdens on its members but to help them along the way. He also thanked Bernardi and Verleger for their contribution.

## **Financial Report**

Bergeron started her report with a summary of the 2018 and 2019 financial summary and by outlining the way WFDF develops its budgets. WFDF maintains a rolling four-year forecast due to the variability of our event income. She then explained the difference between the management accounts, with details by general ledger items, and the audited financial statements, with functional breakdowns, and highlighted key areas.

### **Vote: Approval of 2019 Audited Financial Statements**

Bergeron asked to vote on the 2019 Audited Financial Statements as presented. The audited financial statements were approved unanimously.

### **Presentation interim 2020 reports and the revised 2020 Budget**

Bergeron stated that, given the extraordinary situation in 2020, the board had approved a revision of the budget for 2020 to be presented to Congress, sharply reducing revenues and trimming expenses for the year.

Bergeron thanked the regular members for their timely payment of dues, especially in a difficult year like this one. The IOC has again supported WFDF with a donation of US\$32,000. There are positive conversations with corporate partners whom WFDF expects to keep in the future. Looking at the projections, WFDF budgeted US\$170,000 income for 2020, and until June, US\$139,000 has been received. Unnecessary expenses have been zeroed out. The expected loss in 2020 should be around US\$100,000.

The positive thing is that there is a cash reserve for the worst-case scenario for the next year, but still, there are many uncertainties around 2021, and WFDF is carefully planning the spending.

### **Vote: Approval of revised 2020 budget**

Bergeron asked to vote on the Revised 2020 WFDF Budget. Results of the vote:

Approval: 86 votes  
Against: 4 votes  
Abstention: 7 votes

### **Vote: Approval of 2021 budget**

Bergeron presented the 2021 budget. As Woldt mentioned, the calendar is moving, and WFDF is adjusting significant events. 2021 will look a little bit different than the usual odd calendar year

WFDF is conservative with numbers projections in terms of both event revenue as well as dues revenue. Bergeron said that she is open to further discussion on this topic in the weeks following the 2020 Congress.

Rauch commented that the proposed budget assumed that 2021 would not be affected by the pandemic, or only very little. If the next year is to look like in 2020, the extreme case scenario will be analyzed in due course.

Hill (UKU) asked how this proposed budget would be adapted should the pandemic make it necessary. Rauch and Bergeron explained that ExComm and WFDF Board plan to assess the pandemic situation towards the end of 2020. Should it be seen as necessary to change the proposed budget 2021 significantly, then the WFDF membership would get involved and asked to vote on a new proposal. This would happen around the beginning of January 2021.

Bergeron asked to vote on the Approval of 2021 budget. Results of the vote:

Approval: 88 votes  
Against: 4 votes  
Abstention: 5 votes

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**Vote: Approval of 2020 Auditor**

Bergeron asked to vote on rehiring and approval of McMillen & Company, PLLC as the official auditor for WFDF's 2020 financial statements. The approval was given unanimously.

**Approval of WFDF member Federation 88: Nicaragua (FEDIVONIC)**

Bernardi welcomed the president Federación de Disco Volador de Nicaragua (FEDIVONIC) Exequiel Rocha. He was also happy to present a membership proposal for the first time to be voted on at the WFDF Congress. According to WFDF bylaws this vote must be open for 30 days so WFDF members were not required to vote immediately.

Bernardi confirmed that FEDIVONIC had presented all required documents and that he recommended to accept the application for provisional membership.

The final results of this vote would be tallied after 30 days (to give time for members not in attendance to vote). The initial voting results during Congress for the approval of WFDF member federation #88 Federación de Disco Volador de Nicaragua (FEDIVONIC):

Approval: 80 votes  
Against: 0 votes  
Abstention: 4 votes

Rauch mentioned that votes could still be cast and changed during the upcoming 30 days so there would be enough time to read through the application documents for those who had yet to do so.

**Discussion topic: How should Flying Disc Sports meet the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis?**

Rauch explained the complications in reaching a new arrangement with the WUGC TOC and expressed hope that negotiation would be finalized within the next few weeks.

WFDF was working on guidelines to its member associations when to reopen the various flying disc disciplines.

Tom Crawford from USA Ultimate mentioned that, with almost all Ultimate activities being stopped, USAU had developed a free skills challenge which anybody could use to improve and test throwing skills and compare them with others. The skills challenge could be done by everyone – from kids to master's players, and it helps the community to stay competitive.



## **Other Business and Q&A**

Crawford used this opportunity to thank the WFDF team for their perseverance during this challenging year. He wanted to show the support for all the struggles WFDF staff is going through.

Zane Wolfgang from Ultimate Palestine expressed gratitude for the fact that as a provisional member, they had four people at the 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual WFDF Congress. He also offered assistance to other members' in case they needed it. Rauch answered the question from Palestine regarding support for sending discs to a particular destination, and stated that WFDF is doing its best to solve this and help everyone despite the problems of confiscatory tariffs and corrupt customs in certain parts of the world.

Travis Myburgh, AAFDF General Secretary, introduced himself to the community and briefly presented what he has been doing so far, starting with a survey to understand what is happening with African countries and how he can contribute in terms of the development. Besides having challenges to attract more women like every country in the world, there are specific cultural differences that are slowing down the growth.

Bernardi used this opportunity to thank everyone for helping and supporting WFDF to register more new members. He expects that some of the strong contacts WFDF has will lead to more members in the next six months. WFDF Administrative Coordinator Jankovic and PAFDF President, Nicole Bulos will be doing follow up after the Congress 2020.

**President Rauch concluded this Congress by thanking everyone for their time and support towards WFDF. He asked for feedback that will be very helpful in the future for this type of format.**

**Congress END 17:37 CET**

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***Written reports from WFDF's Committees and Commissions were presented in the Briefing Book provided in advance to all Member Federations.***

**Annex 1: Members represented at WFDF 2020 Congress**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Votes</b>
Australia	AFDA	5
Austria	ÖFSV	4
Canada	UC	5
China, People's Republic of China	CFDAC	5
Chinese Taipei	CTFDA	1
Colombia	FECODV	3
Czech Republic	CALD	4
Dominican Republic	ADJU	1
Finland	FFDA	3
France	FFDF	5
Germany	DFV	5
Great Britain	UKU	5
Hungary	HFDF	4
India	UPAI	4
International	FPA	1
Italy	FIFD	5
Japan	JFDA	5
Malaysia	MFDA	3
Malta	MSFA	1
Mexico	FMDV	4
Philippines	PUA	2
Portugal	APUDD	2
Slovenia	FZS	1
South Africa	SAFDA	3
South Korea	KUPA	1
Sweden	SFF	3
Switzerland	SDS	4
Thailand	TFDA	2
Uganda	UUFA	1
United Arab Emirates	UAU	1
International	USGPA	1
Unite States of America	USAU	5
Venezuela	AVU	1

Total votes: 100 (out of 150 possible)

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**Annex 2: Provisional Members and Guests represented at WFDF 2020 Congress**

**Provisional Members**

Country	Member Association
Cayman Islands	CIUA
Luxembourg	LFDF
Palestine	PFDA
Tanzania	TFDA

**Guests**

AAFDF	
Albania	AFDF
EUF	
Mauritius	
Nicaragua	FEDIVONIC
Puerto Rico	
Zimbabwe	