

Saturday March 20, 2021; UK, IRL- 21:00; GER, SRB, FRA - 22:00; UGA - 00:00 (21 March); UAE - 01:00 (21 March); DOM - 17:00; USA HI - 11:00; USA NY, VA, MI - 17:00; USA CO - 15:00; USA CA, CAN BC - 14:00; JPN, KOR - 06:00 (21 March); HKG, SIN - 05:00 (21 March)

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Jamie Nuwer, Rob McLeod, Adam Swanson, Wolfgang Maehr, Lori Daniels, Nicole Bulos, Haude Hermand, Liam Grant, Fumio Morooka, Charlie Mead (via proxy), Yoonee Jeong

Also attending (non-voting): Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director), Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing)

Board members absent/excused:

Alex Matovu, David Raflo, Caroline “Caz” Malone

Call to order (time: 22:04 CET)

Quorum reached with 15 votes of 10/18 needed.

Report by the President

President Rauch welcomed everyone present and thanked all for participating.

Minutes of the Meeting Board of Directors - 23 January 2021

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the **Minutes of the Meeting Board of Directors - 23 January 2021**, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of last meeting Executive Committee - 20 February 2021

The minutes were presented to the WFDF Board of Directors for reference.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Approval of event bids:

1. **WUCC - Cincinnati, USA - July 23 - July 30, 2022**
2. **WMUCC – Limerick, IRL - June 25 - July 2, 2022**
3. **WJUC - Punta Cana, DOM - Aug 6 - Aug 13, 2022**

Gisel advised that the UK Ultimate bid for 2022 WUCC had been pulled due to the pandemic and the response by the University regarding fields and accommodations. WFDF then approached several other experienced hosts from the past and only Cincinnati showed interest. While WFDF preferred not to go back to the same venue as 2018, time was too short to open up for new bidders. Also, Cincinnati would operate on a proven concept with the same TOC as in 2018 and on the same fields.

Moving on to a solid bid for WMUCC 2022, dates have been adjusted. Gisel characterized Limerick as a good location in Europe that would attract many European teams. It scored highest among bidders for this event.

Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic had a solid bid for the WJUC 2022. Adjusted dates to fit into the flying disc event schedule. Fits into the school holidays of many countries as well.

The timing of all events gives the WFDF event team enough room between events and also fits well into the schedule for The World Games 2022 in Birmingham, USA.

Grant asked why there had been no open WUCC bidding process. Woldt confirmed that she had informed the Athletes' Commission immediately after receiving notice from the UK. She then contacted EUF and AFDA and considered all hosts of the last nine years but none of them met the criteria. Gisel summarized that there were two reasons. First, there are only so many experienced hosts with sufficient fields and we had spoken to all that we knew. Second, he estimated that an open bid would have taken 2 to 3 months and would have wasted what little organizing time was left. As it is, there is less than 15 months to the event, which is barely enough. Cincinnati is a proven solution.

Rauch said that WFDF always tries to run a public bidding process but since time was pressing opening a bid for the normal process was unlikely to have produced a suitable organizer. WFDF would not award hosting WUCC to an organizer unknown to WFDF. There were not that many potential hosts with venues large enough for WUCC. Grant acknowledged that he agreed that Cincinnati was a good solution given the short timing but still would have liked to see an open bidding process.

A motion was made by Daniels to **approve the event bid WMUCC - Limerick IRL - June 25 - July 2, 2022**, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved with one abstention and recusal by Grant.

A motion was made by Bulos to **approve the event bid WUCC - Cincinnati, USA - July 23 - July 30, 2022**, seconded by Maehr. The motion was approved with two abstentions.

A motion was made by McLeod to **approve the event bid WJUC - Punta Cana, DOM - Aug 6 - Aug 13, 2022**, seconded by Nuwers. The motion was approved with one abstention and recusal by Bulos.

Latest developments on other WFDF events

Woldt reported that negotiations with the WUGC 2020 TOC in Leeuwarden had recovered more money which would bring up the refund to players to 30%+. The final audit was still due. Some countries were negotiating directly with TOC about recovery of accommodation fees.

The WFDF event team was working on two Disc Golf events in 2021, the Baltic Team Disc Golf and the European Team Disc Golf championships. Evaluation of viability and hygiene protocols for these events was in process.

Besides the 2022 events the Board had just voted on (WMUCC, WUCC and WJUC) three more were being planned: World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC), World Overall Championships (WOC) and World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC). The event team was working on the dates for registration and collection of fees which could start in June/July 2021 for WBUC.

Woldt had contacted WFDF's sponsors and all agreed to ExComm's recommendation to roll over the contracts for an extra 12 months.

Woldt then brought up a potential change in future WFDF event contracts. Rauch explained that traditionally all money collection and the financial risk for an event was with the organizer. WFDF did not have the resources to manage this process. However, recent events had shown that it might be preferable if WFDF had control over the purse strings. But then, changing the money flow could shift much of the risk to WFDF. Wire transfers to foreign countries are costly and exchange risk need to be taken in account. WFDF was looking to find a cheap money transfer company and/or to set up a bank account in the Euro zone. In the next two to four weeks, WFDF should reach out to other IFs and find out how they do it.

Rauch suggested to have the WFDF event team with Bernardi and the Ultimate Committee work on this for the next 2 to 4 weeks. If WFDF takes over registration and collection of money, a good GDPR compliant registration system was needed. He suggested to reach out to the WFDF IT Administrator Tobiasiewicz.

Daniels remarked that WFDF WOC in Basingstoke could have benefited from WFDF's oversight. The proposed change would help with other events besides Ultimate.

Other topics discussed were about the proposed sponsorship by 3QX, a proposed coaching certificate by the Ultimate Athlete Project, and a standalone WFDF Freestyle World Championship.

WFDF 2021 census and membership dues invoices - update/proposal to reduce dues

Bernardi presented the new timeline about dues and reductions. The census remained in standard format, although there had some discussion to make it a bit shorter. It is to be sent out on Monday at the latest.

To accommodate for the COVID situation among WFDF's members who are expected to have lost members and cannot run national championships Rauch presented a proposal for a 50% dues reduction for 2021. WFDF would get back to 100% in 2022.

Treasurer's report - February 2021 YTD and Budget Revision for 2021 and 2022 due to COVID shutdown

Bergeron presented the latest WFDF financial report. Due to the global situation, WFDF is trying to reduce its overall expenses.

At this point, total equity is US\$ 378.000, less than the last year (US\$ 407.000). WFDF had to start using its reserves to survive the economic situation.

In 2021 the biggest hits are: No events at all, eliminating sanctioning income, likely reduction in dues to be collected, and sponsorship income cut to virtually zero.

The only income expected besides membership dues, although highly restricted, comes from the IOC grants. Dues to be received are expected to be around 30% of the original budget.

WFDF reduced staff salaries by 25% and continued to save money for traveling except for scouting the event locations that have to be checked. Some amount will be spent for the obligatory anti-doping testing and required development projects. Current calculated loss is around US\$ 190,000. 2021 could be finished with around a US\$ 200,000 cash reserve. Rauch thanked the WFDF staff for agreeing on a 25% reduction in 2021.

Bergeron presented the 5-year budget and the numbers based on the previous years' experience. Projections will be adjusted yearly because WFDF has to see how the pandemic will affect members and the entire Flying Disc community.

The biggest challenge will be figuring out the sponsorship contracts. If 2022 turns out to be strong, WFDF income will be positive. Going back to having WFDF Congress in person may raise some costs, but the year should represent a turnaround. Another loss to be expected in 2023.

Rauch and Bergeron discussed possibilities to have a better situation with net cash in 2021, but that depends on reducing the costs in 2021. Bergeron to revise the budget for the upcoming Executive Committee meeting. Afterward, it will be sent out to the Board of Directors for the electronic vote.

Woldt suggested to propose to Congress 2021 a raise of the sanctioning fees for continental championships. The issue to be further discussed. In response to a question by Grant Woldt confirmed that Ultimate events run in Europe did not pay a sanctioning fee to WFDF. Given the previous WFDF sanctioning of the European Beach Ultimate championships, there needed to be a discussion with EUF.

Bylaws Revisions 2021

Rauch presented the revisions to the WFDF Bylaws. It was proposed that there should be a two year extension of the deadlines about one member per country. Another change was in the status of provisional members to conform to IOC practice, where after two years of proven activities, they would automatically change their status and move to regular membership.

Rauch also proposed that there would be a new Administrative dues level of just US\$ 25.00 for those members who have transferred from provisional status but will not have athletes participate at WFDF events. HE also proposed to reduce the minimum cap from US\$ 300.00 down to US\$ 150.00.

All WFDF members will have to adhere to the WADA code.

In response to a question by McLeod, Rauch explained that only Disc Sport disciplines having standalone World championships can have a representative on the Board of Directors, except for those grandfathered.

A motion was made by Maehr to **approve the language of the changes in the WFDF Bylaws**, seconded by Grant. The motion was approved unanimously.

Additions to Ultimate Committee membership

Gisel proposed the addition of Emily Wong to the Ultimate Committee and presented her application.

Bernardi reminded the Board that all changes in Committees and Commissions needed the WFDF Board of Director's approval.

A motion was made by Grant to **approve the addition of Emily Wong to the Ultimate Committee**, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved with one abstention by Maehr.

Approval of memberships: Albania, Greece, and El Salvador

Bernardi presented the newest applications for WFDF membership from El Salvador, Albania, and Greece. They had been worked on for many years now. All have active playing communities, and the documents are in order. Bulos was commended for the assistance she had provide in the case of El Salvador.

A motion was made by Daniels to approve the membership application of Albania, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve the application from Greece, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Bulos to approve El Salvador, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

New memberships report

Bernardi is working with the continental federations to gain more members. There are several significant prospects. Bernardi is optimistic that his Project WFDF 100 (getting to 100 member federations) might be completed by the end of June 2021.

WFDF Development Programme 2021

Bernardi presented a timeline and general budget proposal. He expected ExComm to make a decision on grant applications received by April 25th.

Gisel confirmed that the Game Advisor Program required physical presence which might not work out in 2021. It was suggested to spend some of the budgeted money for online coaching and Rauch asked for the proposal to be amended with \$7k under special projects.

A motion was made by Gisel **to approve the general concept of the budget with an amendment** seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Anti-Doping Test Distribution Plan considerations for 2021

Bernardi presented an Anti-doping test distribution plan for 2021. Increasing education was the main focus.

New WADA Code had been introduced in 2021. WADA insists on monitoring athletes closely even though 2021 is a year without events.

WADA agreed that if a WFDF National Federation had no Anti-doping plans set in place, WFDF must take over anti-doping responsibility for that National Federation. Shifting the in-competition testing from 2021 to 2022. We did not have In-championship testing in 2020 and were told to have it in 2021. But Bernardi is negotiating to shift the tests of 2021 to 2022.

WFDF received \$10,666 for the IOC testing and can expect that IOC and WADA will allow shifting 2020 testing to the beginning of 2022 and 2021 testing later in 2022.

Bernardi explained uncertainty about the total costs because it depends on the prices in a particular country. For example, in Germany, an OOC test costs around \$1,000; in Japan, it is around five times as much.

Implications of the CAS award regarding Russian Federation Doping

Bernardi informed that in 2021 WFDF was not affected by the CAS ruling since WFDF currently had no members of the Russian Federation among its officials. If

athletes from the Russian Federation would compete in 2022 WFDF events, they will have to play as independent athletes.

All requests and questions regarding this matter are to be forwarded to WFDF Executive Director Bernardi.

esports and WFDF - latest developments in IOC/IWGA

Rauch explained that IOC and IWGA are looking at esports. Due to the rising popularity of esports, it might end up being accepted as an official sport at IOC and IWGA Games.

Research on the Flying Disc shows that there is no robust Ultimate video game. There is a reasonably popular Disc Golf game sponsored by Latitude.

McLeod explained the value for Disc Golf if the game is being promoted from the WFDF side. Bernardi added that IOC and IWGA consider this as fan and community engagement. They expect IFs to start thinking about this more seriously.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Grant reported that the Athletes' Commission was increasing communication with the Ultimate committee and other committees.

He saw a need for a better description of what the Athletes' Commission is doing and to present it on the website. He hoped a WFDF Executive Committee member could join Athletes' Commission meetings in the future.

SOTG Committee report

SOTG is looking actively for committee candidates. iSOTG day branding discussed. More actions from the SOTG Committee will be proposed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Women in Sport Commission Report

The report was submitted in the Briefing Book of this Board of Directors meeting and included information about the Gender Equity Toolkit, collaborating with PDGA and Mentor Program/Gender Pulling/Diversity Policy.

The Women in Sport Commission proposed to add Benedicte Audet (CAN), a member of the WFDF Freestyle Committee, Camila Paiva Freitas Costa (BRA), Erika Yumita (JPN), Esther Omuseni (KEN) and Sara Nicholson (USA) - WFDF Disc Golf Committee.

A motion was made by Daniels to **approve the additions to the Women in Sport Commission**, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

Media and Broadcast Plans for 2022

Rockwood reported that Chinese partners remain interested financially and in production. To be executed in 2022. In Q3 potential sponsorship deal to be concluded.

Since the TWG channel is being taken over by the Olympic Channel, Rockwood to try to get to the critical people for potential cooperation.

IT Update

Rauch reported that WFDF IT Coordinator had been busy lately and not very responsive in terms of the WFDF tasks. However, he has promised to free up time shortly. The new WFDF website continues to be updated.

Continental Association Reports

Hermand reported that EFDF was working on the Bylaws. Draft to be sent to the WFDF Executive Committee by the end of March. Certain events are planned for 2021, but EUF will decide soon if they will take place. EUF events are expected later this year.

Bulos reported that PAFDF was working on getting more members to the WFDF, but interest decreased due to the pandemic. However, she reported that Argentina hosted an event with seven teams. Some countries are playing small leagues.

USAU hosting a returning to the field webinar and shared it with South America. They created a subcommittee to work more efficiently.

Rauch presented the written report from AAFDF. The continent had significant problems due to the COVID lockdown. Kenia is changing the status from provisional to regular membership.

Morooka reported that AOFDF is working on the following topics:

- 1) A strategy meeting on April 4 with Mr. Volker Bernardi
- 2) Sports documentary video to be used for development
- 3) Kansai May 13 - 29 2022 World Master Games, pregame test event in October 2021, 5x5 Mixed

Bernardi asked how it would be possible to host the pregame event in October 2021 since Tokyo 2020 decided to have Olympic Games in 2021 without spectators. Morooka hopes that players at least will be able to enter Japan.

Jeong presented the Women in Sports in AOFDF and wants to work to bring it to a higher level rather than just being under Ultimate.

Ultimate Committee Report

Gisel explained the Athletes' Commission's proposal to look at a rule when the gender ratio is four men and three women; a man pulls the disc and then switch to the other way around. A suggestion is to implement it at TWG. The conclusion is to test this at the TWG and decide for the rest according to the feedback.

This needs to be communicated to teams before the selection of athletes.

Bernardi warned that there is a history with TV coverage at TWG. Delays may happen due to introducing the new rules, but Gisel expects that it will show WFDF work on gender equity.

Other Disc Discipline Committee Reports

Rauch presented a Disc Golf report due to Mead's absence.

McLeod needs raw footage from TWG. WFDF will get more from the **Overall** event by Haynes (Australia).

Daniels reported that **Freestyle** Committee would meet in the next two weeks. She expressed the concern that pandemic slowed things down. Daniels is discussing with Woldt about showcasing the event and re-entering the Urban World Games.

Swanson reached out to international **Guts** players and will try to introduce five new members by the next Board of Directors meeting.

“April Fools” prank idea discussion

The presented idea may be good fun, but it may confuse people since it would happen through the WFDF website. Also, it takes some web logistics.

The proposal was turned down with 6 votes against, 2 votes in favor and 7 abstentions.

Next meetings

Executive Committee: 24/25 APR; Board of Directors: 5/6 JUN

Closing: 00:50 CET