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**Saturday, December 18, 2021**

USA HI: 12:00 noon; USA CA, CAN BC: 14:00; USA CO, CAN Calgary: 15:00; USA NY, MI, VA: 17:00; DOM: 18:00; UK, IRL: 22:00; GER, SRB, FRA: 23:00; UGA: 01:00 (Sunday, December 19th, 2021); UAE: 02:00 (Sunday, December 19th, 2021); SIN: 06:00 (Sunday, December 19th, 2021); JPN: 07:00 (Sunday, December 19th, 2021); KOR: 07:00 (Sunday, December 19th, 2021)

**Board members present:**

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Jamie Nuwer, Caroline "Caz" Malone, Yoonee Jeong, Haude Hermand, Rob McLeod, Wolfgang Maehr, Liam Grant, Lori Daniels, Alex Matovu, David Raflo (via proxy), Nicole Bulos (via proxy)

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

**Guest:**

Heidi Pekkola (Deputy Chair of WFDF Women in Sports Commission, left before Event report)

**Board members absent/excused:**

Fumio Morooka, Adam Swansson, Charlie Mead

**Call to order (time: 23:05 CET)**

Quorum reached with 15 votes of 10/18 needed.

**Report by the President**

Nob welcomed everybody and thanked all for participating.

**Decisions between meetings**

(none)

**Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 16 October 2021**

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting - 16 October 2021, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee 13 November, 2021 - for information**

Presented to the Board for reference.

### **WFDF Events Team Report**

Woldt stated that the new SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was impacting planning for the seven WFDF events and The World Games in 2022. After the closing of registration for WMUCC and WUCC all team fees had been collected before the variant struck.

But WJUC had attracted so few teams that it became an economic risk and it was proposed to move the event from the Dominican Republic to Poland. This proposal had received positive feedback except from PAFDF which argued that some of the South American countries which had planned to attend would not be able to afford to go to Poland. On the pro side, the Poland venue would be shared with the European Ultimate Federation which was planning to host a European U17 championship there, and this venue sharing would reduce the costs for WJUC.

Another proposal that had come up was to allow older players over 20 to attend giving more countries a chance to sign up extra teams, but the Ultimate Committee decided this would keep younger players from attending.

**A motion was made by Rauch to shift the approved WJUC venue to Poland and reopen registration, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.**

World Beach Ultimate Championships were planned for April 2022 in Los Angeles. Currently the event was subscribed well, but if more teams would drop out the event might get below the critical mass. WBUC is deemed as an important event for WFDF as a step towards LA2028. However in the last few days five teams had cancelled due to newly imposed travel restrictions.

Woldt announced she would cut back on non-core expenses to help keep the event economical for the LOC. But cutting expenses, e.g. by cancelling stands, meant the

event was less presentable to LA28 and players could miss amenities usually expected at WFDF events.

Gisel suggested to watch the effects of Omicron and the development of team subscriptions in the next few weeks. LOC should be asked how far they could push the payment of fees, hopefully until February. He expected to know more by mid-January.

Woldt then reported that the World Team Disc Golf Championships 2022 were well under way. This is a small event with currently 16 teams of 6 players each registered. She was confident it would be at least as successful as the European Team Disc Golf Championships 2021.

For the World Overall Championships 75 to 100 participants were expected, mostly from North America.

The United through Sport (UTS) World Virtual Youth Festival 2021 had come to a close on Saturday 27th November after 7 days of virtual competition with 11 competitors representing the World Flying Disc Federation in the Freestyle discipline.

### **Virtual Disc Golf Championships**

For the WFDF Inaugural 2022 Virtual Sport World Team Disc Golf Championships a bulletin had been drafted and would be finalized and published soon. Bergeron noted that the platforms for the app (Android and iOS) should be mentioned in the press release.

### **Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games - latest developments / WFDF strategy**

Bernardi presented the latest information from IOC about LA28. The IOC Executive Board had proposed a set of 28 “initial sports” for the Programme of the LA2028 Olympic Games to be approved the IOC Session in February 2022 in Beijing. These sports include: Sports Climbing (IFSC), Skateboarding (WS), and Surfing (ISA). Boxing, Weightlifting and Modern Pentathlon have been omitted but they have a chance to reenter if they meet certain criteria by 2023.

After the decision of the IOC Session in February 2022 the LA28 OCOG will decide on the option to propose additional sports and communicate the timeline for this in March/April 2022. Bernardi reminded that for Tokyo 2020 IOC recognized IFs could apply for an additional spot, but for Paris 2024 the OCOG had invited IFs to become an additional sport. We would have to take this into consideration on our outreach..

The IOC EB will make a recommendation in March/April 2023 and propose additional sports to the IOC, and so by then WFDF will know if its bid for LA28 was successful. The final decision on these sports will be taken by the IOC Session in mid-2023.

Bernardi listed the top contenders as LA28 additional sport and presented key factors WFDF would have to address in its bid for LA28.

Rauch thanked Bernardi for the presentation and considered the information that the bidding process was not opening before March/April 2022. WFDF would cooperate with USAU and try to arrange a meeting with LA28 and USOPC representatives.

Bernardi announced that he would email another presentation about LA28 to the Board members for further information.

#### **WFDF 2021 census and membership dues invoices - update**

Bernardi reported that so far that five members had not yet paid their dues but he was hopeful to receive the money by the end of 2021. For 2022 it was planned to open the census by the end of January so members could start to fill it out much earlier. The new online invoicing system should also help to speed up the process.

WFDF had received the final application documents from Mauritius and Namibia shortly before the Board meeting. Rauch asked the Board members to look at the documents and vote on the acceptance of the two applications within the next five days. He hoped Congress could then give its approval by the end of January 2022.

Bernardi added that these applications had been difficult mostly due to the pandemic. Not all documents were perfect but under the circumstances they were sufficient.

#### **Treasurer's report - November 2021 YTD**

Bergeron reminded everyone that, with WFDF collecting all team and player fees for WFDF events, the current total income looked very high, when in fact most of it would be transferred to the respective LOCs. But the current spending was in line with the budget and she expected WFDF to finish its fiscal year within the planned budget, even though WFDF still had to pay several development grants.

WFDF had received the proposal from the new accounting firm but Bergeron would not get back to them until the third week of January.

Bergeron expected to wrap up the books for 2021 soon and then have the audit start.

She mentioned that WFDF perhaps needed to modify the 2022 budget for extra expenses for the LA28 campaign. She suggested to be fairly conservative with expenses until the time of the events WMUCC and WUCC in July.

### **Continental Associations update: EFDF**

Hermand reported that EFDF Congress had voted on the new statutes one month ago. They had been translated into German and had been submitted to the Austrian authorities for incorporation of EFDF.

The next EFDF Congress would be held in January 2022. On this occasion the new EFDF Board would be elected. Applications from candidates were currently being accepted.

Bernardi greeted this step as a chance to intensify the relationship with the European Olympic Committee and the European University Sports Association (EUSA) which would help Flying Disc to become a part of several European multisport games and to become more visible among international sport political leaders as a highly competitive sport. The next European Games will be in Poland and Bernardi had already reached out to be included. Other games could be those hosted by EUSA or TAFISA as well as the IMGA European Masters Games in Finland where Disc Golf has already been included.

Rauch applauded Hermand for her work. He expected the benefits to show up as early as the coming year.

### **Continental Associations update: PAFDF**

Bernardi informed that PAFDF was currently holding elections to be finished on December 21st. Bulos was running again for president.

He noted that up to seven countries had the potential to apply for WFDF membership but during the pandemic with little or no sports activities they were not interested in applying.

### **Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation - project description**

Rauch reported that Bernardi had been successful in getting the Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation established in Rome, Italy. MFDC would apply for WFDF affiliate status and help Flying Disc to enter the Mediterranean Games eventually.

### **Membership issues: MEX**

Bernardi referred to the report from PAFDF about this issue. The situation seemed to be settled and it was expected that there would new elections held publicly early in 2022 and they would be overseen by PAFDF. **Since MEX had paid its dues for 2021 and the governance issues seemed to be solved it was recommended to put MEX back into the status of good standing. This was agreed.**

### **WFDF Development Programme 2021**

Bernardi reported that of the US\$ 32,000 which WFDF had received by IOC to be used for development projects the last payments were being worked on and would be finalized in December.

### **Provisional results Board Elections**

Bernardi reported that the Board meeting had gone past the election confirmation deadline with no objections and that he now could announce the official results of the Board Elections.

Treasurer: Kate BERGERON (113 yes)

Ultimate Committee Chair: Brian GISEL (109 yes, 4 abstentions)

Chair, Freestyle: Lori DANIELS (USA) (99 yes, 14 abstentions)

Chair, Overall: Rob MCLEOD (CAN) (99 yes, 14 abstentions)

Chair, SOTG Committee: José AMOROSO (POR) ((101) - 60 STV Votes) eliminated:  
Travis SMITH (41 STV Votes), Luis IBANEZ (20 STV Votes)

Ultimate Committee member:

Chair, Ultimate Events Sub-Committee: Shiellah QUINTOS (CAN) (93 yes, 20 abstentions)

Morooka had been re-elected as AOFDF president and it was expected that Bulos would be re-elected as PAFDF president making both stay in their ex officio Board positions.

Bernardi would reach out immediately to the candidates and get confirmation that they would accept their respective positions.

### **HFDF Proposal 2023 and 2024 Universities event and EUSA Games**

Bernardi reminded all about the 2023 Ultimate University World Championships and the proposed Ultimate event at the EUSA Games 2024 in Hungary. He asked to take these events into account for the WFDF youth event calendar. He expected FISU to check these events which would give WFDF a chance to have FISU world championships in the future.

### **Reports and Updates**

#### **Athletes' Commission Report**

(No report since the last meeting)

#### **SOTG Committee report, with update on iSOTG Day**

Maehr proposed to include three new members to the committee and presented their CVs:

Yang (Casey) Guo (China)  
Lera Strelchina (Ukraine)  
Samir El Ajraoui (Morocco)

A motion was made by Jeong to approve these three new candidates for the SOTG Committee, seconded by Grant. The motion was approved unanimously.

Maehr reported that the International Spirit of the Game Day (iSOTG) 2021 with 35 teams was smaller than in the past due to limited planning capacities, less advertising and fewer rewards. 544 challenges had been submitted. He expected the Committee to run iSOTG in 2022 again with improved planning.

As part of the iSOTG Day a SOTG disc design had been created and printed on 400 discs.

Maehr described these projects as ongoing:

- Move iSOTG web site to WFDF
- Update and increase SOTG information at [wdfdf.sport](http://wdfdf.sport)

He then presented the proposed Spirit Directors for the 2022 WFDF Ultimate events. He noted that some of them were not from the area where the events were taking place which potentially created higher costs for travel. Rauch suggested that the SOTG Committee set up a pool of potential Spirit Directors which would facilitate finding suitable candidates close to event venues.

Rauch thanked Maehr for his committee work as he was not running for SOTG Committee Chair.

### **Women in Sport Commission Report**

Malone reported that the WSC was drafting a COVID/Post-COVID survey to find out the main obstacles to competing in events at the moment and see if there are gender-based reasons.

Malone mentioned research by the Swansea University about the inclusion of athletes with a Difference in Sexual Development (DSD) and Transgender athletes in elite sport. Results of this research could be filtered by type of sport and it could be interesting to see feedback from disc sports athletes. She asked to spread the information about the survey within the flying disc communities.

WSC is planning to change its name to better reflect the scope as a commission that advocates for all gender equity. Other IOC recognized federations have changed their name to e.g. Gender Equity Commission.

There is a new framework from the IOC which seeks to make sure there is no discrimination based on gender identity and sex variations within all sports. Pekkola explained that WFDF's Transgender Policy was quite in line with the IOC framework but still a few items could be improved. IOC was aware that each IF could decide how this framework would be implemented taking into account the specifics of each sport. IOC planned to host webinars and workshops for international federations to educate and raise awareness.

Nuwer informed that the WFDF Medical Committee was working on updating the Transgender Policy to include intersex and language more friendly to non-binary people. The update was planned to be ready by over the next couple months and presented at a future Board meeting.

Bergeron asked if WFDF could gain experience from what other IFs have done on this topic. Nuwer, Malone and Pekkola agreed that other IFs were waiting for guidelines and that actually very few had set up gender policies.



It was also discussed that the information about the Swansea DS survey would be disseminated to the Board members and through social media.

### **Media and Broadcast Plans for 2022**

Rauch reported that WFDF had collaborated with ICARUS Sports of Athens, Greece on a 3-minute introductory segment on Ultimate which aired around the world in September and October, in order to build awareness outside of WFDF's core audience.

Rockwood was working on budget allocation for streaming at WBUC, WMUCC, and WUCC. Together with Gisel he had started work on creating an online channel for disc sports. Gisel confirmed talks with UltiWorld about how to better serve the community with broadcasting and video on demand and how this could be financed.

### **IT Update**

Rauch reported that there had been a recent web site DOS attack. There would be changes so that these attacks could be mitigated in the future.

The transition of the rules web site to wfdf.sport was under way and going well.

The election tool had shown not be ideal and it was planned to revise it for next year.

The editing problems with the web site had been fixed. World records could now be integrated but further updates would be on hold until the new year.

### **Continental Association Reports**

(EFDF and PAFDF reports see above)

Rauch reported that on December 15<sup>th</sup> Morooka had been re-elected as AOFDF president and Zhixing Xue as Secretary General.

The new date for the World Masters Games Kansai, Japan had not been decided. It had been discussed to move to 2026.

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## Disc Sport Committee Reports

Beach Ultimate Committee (submitted by Raflo): The newly approved rule set, appendix, and supporting documents were posted to the website. Yellow discs will be used at WBUC for official play as they were used in Royan in 2017.

Freestyle Committee:

Daniels reported that very few high level tournaments were happening but Freestyle players were happy for any kind of get together. Virtual events in form of a battle were also very popular, e.g. a Virtual Youth “Turboshred” (head-to-head) competition occurred 4-5 December with over 35 attendees from Nigeria, Italy, Switzerland, USA, Germany, and Taiwan.

The Freestyle Players Association (FPA) has been working with African contacts to support their efforts to continue “jamming”.

With FPA president Paul Kenny stepping down elections occurred with the president-elect being Freddy Finner (Berlin, GER), Vice President Eduardo Turri (Rovereto, ITA) being unopposed for the positions and officially starting their roles in January 2022. This is the first time that leadership for the FPA has been held by Europeans.

Bernardi added that a European representative to EFDF should be named formally, even if it was a small federation. It would be helpful for things like the TAFISA Games and would automatically become a part of EFDF.

Guts Committee:

Rauch reported that a scoring App for Guts was being developed. With the help of Japan the committee had sent Guts discs to Ghana where an interested group of players got to know Guts. The committee was also trying to gauge interest in a 2022 WFDF international Guts tournament which would take place in late 2022.

Overall Committee:

McLeod reported that Disc Golfer Simon Lizotte had published several very popular videos on YouTube.

McLeod was looking to add more members to the Overall Committee. The WFDF DDC video had been published. He had received footage for a Freestyle video and a Beach Ultimate video and would work on editing and publishing them.

He noted that on the wfdf.sport web site information about Overall was missing and he would work together with the editors to update the web pages.

McLeod had been approached by disc producer Dynamic Disc who wanted to get in touch with WFDF.

### **Other Business**

Bernardi summed up the attempts by WFDF to campaign for LA28 and impressed deeply on the Board members that he saw a very high potential for WFDF to be an additional sport in 2028 at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. He asked the Board members to give full support for this campaign and to believe in achieving this goal.

Rauch confirmed that he shared Bernardi's optimism. WFDF would continue to make a big push over the next months.

### **Next meetings:**

ExComm: 22/23 Jan; Board: 12/13 Feb

Rauch Thanked everyone for the work during 2021.

### **Closing at 01:10 CET**

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum  
WFDF Secretary