
Minutes for the ExComm meeting November 13, 2021

9am PST / 12pm NY EST / 6pm CET / 8pm GST

Attending:

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum
Volker Bernardi, Karina Woldt, Patrick Fourcampré-Maye, Igor Janković

Call to order (Rauch)

18:17 CET

Overview by the President

President Rauch opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Decisions between meetings

WFDF had received criticism for pushing out the new Election Policy just two weeks prior to the end of the nomination period, which included a new rule that candidates must be nominated by a member organization from either their country of origin or country of residence (if living there for more than a year). Therefore, WFDF ExComm had approved via an email vote to postpone the implementation of the requirement for nominees to gain an endorsement from their National Federation of citizenship.

Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExCom

Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes JUL 11, 2021 meeting

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of the July 11, 2021 meeting, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Review of Board of Directors Meeting Minutes OCT 16, 2021 meeting

The minutes had not been prepared yet and would be presented to ExComm later.

WFDF 2021 elections - candidate nominations and election policy

Rauch presented the list of candidates which had applied and received endorsements until the application deadline of November 10th. WFDF's members would be given the time between November 15th and December 15th, 2021 to cast their votes.

The new nomination requirement that had been approved between meetings was discussed further and its pros and cons were discussed at length. While it could make it harder for some candidates to receive an endorsement it was agreed that this step improved WFDF's good governance. It was also noted that some members had difficulties in endorsing candidates who did not represent the main flying disc discipline of those members. WFDF would use the time until the next election period to work with those members who had difficulties in endorsing candidates from all disciplines. Rauch asked to formalize the ad hoc decision of ExComm to postpone the nomination requirements.

Motion: Due to the change in WFDF election rules being announced less than two weeks prior to the 2021 nomination deadlines, a motion was made by Gisel that the WFDF Executive Committee will postpone the implementation of the requirement for nominees to gain an endorsement from their National Federation of citizenship or of residence of 1+ year until the 2022 Election Cycle, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Elections will close on December 15 and WFDF hopefully can announce the results at its last 2021 Board meeting.

WFDF 2021-22 events/UTS/DG/WUGC refunds

Woldt reported that WMUCC in Limerick, Ireland, was oversubscribed and WUCC in Cincinnati, USA, had received solid registration numbers. WBUC and WJUC were not attracting as many teams as expected. Some members were not replying to questions of the WFDF Event Team at all and therefore it was not clear if interest was low, the COVID 19 situation was seen as too much risk, or athletes did not want to travel to the US more than once in 2021.

It was discussed and suggested that WBUC in Los Angeles, USA, should try to scale back planning with the ability to scale up the event if many more late registrations were received. It was seen as very important to run the event in Los Angeles. Other sports had also demonstrated that under heightened hygiene measures they could host events there and it would be disappointing if WFDF could not run it.

On the WJUC situation Woldt mentioned that junior championships outside of Europe had always seen lower numbers of teams. With more lead time on WJUC than on

WBUC Gisel suggested to continue to go ahead as planned and see if the numbers would increase.

Bergeron asked if WFDF planned to offer on-site COVID 19 testing and contact tracing. She suggested it was good if WFDF practiced health and safety measures at a smaller event before implementing it at a much larger WMUCC or WUCC. Woldt confirmed that she had discussed COVID 19 measures with the Medical & Anti-Doping Committee Chair Nuwer and was drafting a plan to be further discussed with the WFDF COVID working group. It was recommended that athletes should present negative tests 24 or 48 hours before the start of the event and not be first tested on arrival at the event. Any unvaccinated athlete would be retested on day 3. It was still an open question if WFDF should demand that all athletes should be vaccinated. Currently the USA was enforcing that all visitors are vaccinated, but a certain percentage of the participants e.g. for WUCC would be from the US. WFDF would need to follow US regulations on this matter closely.

Bergeron asked if WFDF needed to put money aside to buy tests for WFDF staff and volunteers. Woldt reminded that the event budgets included US\$10,000 for COVID measures. Rauch suggested we make sure the athletes were aware that, besides the potential need to present several negative COVID 19 tests before and during the event, it was not certain but likely that US regulators would demand proof of vaccination for travel. Gisel suggested to use some part or all of USAU's COVID response plan which had been used at several events already. Bergeron suggested to survey athletes about their vaccination situation with the opportunity to decline. WFDF might find out that 99% of athletes are vaccinated.

The first bulletin for the World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC) would be sent out within the coming week. Woldt noted that athletes would have to pay for the first time a full WFDF players fee of US\$ 40.

The dates for the Virtual Sport World Team Disc Golf Championships had been moved from November/December 2021 to January/February 2022 as the Latitude 64 web designer was still working on implementing the qualification round of 50 countries and 2 genders.

Fourcampré-Maye was working on the United Through Sports World Virtual Youth Festival where he had gathered around the same number of participants as last year. The deadline had been extended until November 15th giving the opportunity to upload some videos he was still waiting for.

The date of the World Overall Championships (WOC) in San Diego would most likely be moved from mid-July to August 2022 to avoid conflicts.

Woldt asked if the full 40-page event contract was needed for smaller events. Rauch replied the contract needed to have all the information necessary but that a more summary version could be looked into for future smaller events.

Woldt added that using Quickbooks Online for collecting team fees was working well.

Spirit of the Game Committee - iSOTG Day/Spirit Directors

Woldt reported that planning of the iSOTG Day by the SOTG Committee started very late making it hard to approach sponsors and expect them to react on very short notice. Also, the committee seemed to assume that iSOTG Day was a committee event and not a WFDF event. Woldt added that the committee was thinking about printing discs to be sent to the iSOTG Day participants. Rauch noted that production of discs takes time and delivery of such discs would be quite expensive.

Woldt informed that the SOTG Committee had suggested Spirit Directors for all major Ultimate events in 2022 but none of the nominations were for individuals from the country where the events would take place thus increasing the costs. She suggested to ask the LOCs to propose Spirit Directors from the same countries or regions where possible.

TWG 2022 - The World Games - Ultimate event replacement principles

Gisel presented the rankings of teams 9-14 from 2016 WUGC for World Games. These teams would be the replacement teams in case one or more the eight qualified teams could not travel to the USA:

9. Russian Federation
10. Switzerland
11. Italy
12. New Zealand
13. Philippines
14. Ireland

If Australia were to fall out the Russian Federation team would be next, but with most or all athletes vaccinated with Sputnik V they might not be allowed to enter the USA as the vaccine is not recognized by the US authorities.

It was discussed if the teams on the waiting list should be informed about their potential participation so they could prepare. Since WFDF was asking for the administrative fee from teams in early January 2022 it seemed that would be the time

to inform those teams. The initial roster submission deadline with IWGA was the end of March which would give NFs time to put a team together. Also at this time teams could enter a larger roster with even random names which could later be cut down to the 14 athletes.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games - latest developments/WFDF strategy

Gisel reported about the Ultimate 4s demo during USAU finals. In this timed game, 14 points had been scored in 16 minutes. The rules and the field dimensions worked well and there were not too many missed long throws. The players felt it was a fun and fast paced game. He invited everyone to watch this recorded game.

Bernardi informed about new appointments at the LA28 LOC and proposed to reach out to these individuals soon. He also stated the importance of getting WFDF press releases quoted in the various Olympic news services.

WFDF 2021 census and membership dues invoices - update

To date, 83 Members had filed the census. WFDF received US\$34,662,30 dues with US\$1,319.41 yet to be paid from those having been invoiced. A number of members had still not paid their dues for 2021 and are not in good standing despite several of them having signed up teams for 2022 WFDF events. WFDF would inform those who have not paid will not be allowed to play in 2022 and they will not be able to vote on the Board elections 2021.

New Memberships/update

Bernardi presented Namibia and Burundi as potential next new members. It has been hard to get new members from the Asian region. For Europe he saw potential membership applications from San Marino and Monaco which would boost WFDF's membership to 43 members out of 47 countries in Europe.

Continental Associations update: EFDF

Bernardi reported that EFDF would host an Extraordinary Congress on November 17th, 2021 with the goal to vote on the update bylaws. He was hopeful that this would allow Flying Disc to participate in various European multi-sport games in the near future.

Griesbaum noted that EFDF would be registered in Austria and therefore needed to translate the bylaws from English to German with an expected cost of around US\$200. Bernardi noted this could be paid from the development fund.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve paying the translation fee for EFDF's new bylaws to German, seconded by Rauch. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation

Bernardi reported that the MFDC had been founded a week ago by the three founding members Italy, Malta and Greece during an in-person meeting. The legal seat was in Italy. The registration process was underway. The MFDC would give Flying Disc a chance to participate in the Mediterranean Games in 2023 and 2025 and create more visibility.

Website updates

Janković reported that while there were still problems with updating the website many bugs had been fixed and many updates had been incorporated. He asked all issues with the web site to be sent to him. Rauch asked everyone to check the areas of personal interest on the web site for errors or outdated information and to note them for revisions.

Finance: Treasurer's October 2021 report / bookkeeper / Euro account

Bergeron reported that WFDF had been receiving event fees which made the account look good but reminded that these monies would have to be forwarded to the event hosts. But dues income looked good and WFDF was on track to meet the budget as revised for 2021.

Since WFDF bookkeeping would become a bit more complex in the future, two firms had been interviewed for bookkeeping instead of relying on a single person. The cost/hour would be higher but perhaps an increase of efficiency might be helpful in the end.

It was discussed when to make the decision and switch to the new bookkeeper. Rauch strongly suggested to switch on January 1st 2022 as this would make it easier for the auditor. Bergeron would draft a proposal for a decision about the bookkeeper and send it to ExComm for a vote in time that December could be an overlap period with the former bookkeeper and the new bookkeeper. Money transactions in 2021

would not be delayed by the switch as no changes in the working procedures would occur before January 1st 2022.

Bergeron added that in another attempt to obtain a Euro currency account through Citibank a meeting failed. But she learned that Citibank had perhaps bought or merged with TransferWise which could help WFDF.

Other Business

Woldt asked for an update about Mead's proposal for a Disc Golf demonstration at TWG. Rauch assumed there might be a demonstration at the World Games Plaza and PDGA might host a Disc Golf event in the vicinity.

Bernardi reported that BULA had announced a European Beach Ultimate Club Championships and it was unclear to EFDF and European members if this event should not be sanctioned by WFDF. Woldt explained that WFDF was working hard at getting national team continental championships up and running and WFDF did not have any priority or means of starting a club championship. Rauch indicated that WFDF would not say it never would sanction a European Beach Club Championship, although it is not clear that there are actual clubs dedicated to Beach Ultimate. For now WFDF will sanction a national beach Ultimate team event in 2023. Currently there is no club definition for European Beach club teams. Rauch added that he had been approached by BULA about the renewal of the MoU between WFDF and BULA.

Gisel brought up the topic of creating an OTT website for WFDF's events. Contents could be behind a paywall and eventually pay off by itself. But this would need partners and a certain amount of capital to start with. UltiWorld had the expertise to do this and was interested but did not have the money to start. Rauch asked Gisel to draft a proposal with different levels of start-up capital. Bernardi advised that this platform should not be Ultimate only and that WFDF should continue to feed the Olympic Channel. Gisel mentioned that such a platform for Disc Golf already existed though DiscGolfnetwork.com

Next meeting

Board: 18/19 DEC; ExComm: 22/23 JAN
Closing at 20:27 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary