
**WFDF 2021 Annual Congress
2nd Virtual Congress – Zoom Meeting
Saturday, August 21, 2021 15:00 - 17:00 CEST**

Call to order (15:05)

President Rauch welcomed the attendees to the 2021 WFDF Congress, the general meeting of all WFDF members. He expressed his gratitude for seeing so many participants from new and old member federations. Since COVID-19 was still affecting most gatherings, WFDF had to schedule this Congress again as an online-only meeting. With people joining from so many different time zones the meeting was scheduled for 2 hours. He apologized that there would be very little time for discussions.

Roll call of National Associations present & confirmation of votes allotted

See Annex 1 – list of participants.

2020 Congress Minutes (already approved)

Rauch presented the minutes of the 2020 Congress, which had been previously approved by Congress in an electronic vote.

Decisions taken by Congress between 2020 and 2021 Congresses

Congress had voted on the approval of new membership of Haiti Flying Disc (HFD, member #89), Association Malienne de Flying Disc (AMFD, member #90), Peru Ultimate (PU, member #91), Albania Flying Disc Federation (AFDF, member #92), San Salvador Ultimate Frisbee (SSUF, member #93), Greece Ultimate Frisbee Club Heraklion (UFCH, member #94), Kuwait Raptors (KR, member #95), Ghana Flying Disc Association (GFDA, member #96), Abuja Ultimate Frisbee Group (NIG, member #97), Malagasy Ultimate Disc League (MUDL, member #98), Serbian Ultimate Frisbee (RS, member #99), Frisbee Federation of the Kyrgyz Republic (FFKR, member #100), and the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) as an associate member. The application of Palestine Flying Disc Association (PFDA) for regular membership was approved.

Other decisions included the approval of the Revised Budget for 2021 and a 50% reduction in 2021 Dues. At the end of 2020, Board member elections took place.

Report by the President

WFDF President Rauch reported that in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic things were improving slowly. After canceling all WFDF events in 2020 WFDF took the decision in early 2021 to also cancel all events in 2021, with the exception of the European Team Disc Golf Championships (ETDGC 2021) in Croatia, which were being held at the time of Congress. Only larger sports federations and professional sports had been able to run events and reactivate leagues, mostly without spectators and huge efforts in testing for COVID-19. A number of countries are hosting national championships in the second half of 2021.

With the effects of vaccinations setting in, WFDF planned for 2022 to run the world events Beach Ultimate, Masters Clubs, Overalls, World Clubs, Juniors, Team Disc Golf and to attend The World Games.

For the second year in a row, revenues for most sports federations were down with WFDF expecting a decrease of around 90%. Just as other federations WFDF has also cut expenses drastically and expects to return to more normalized revenues by mid 2022. WFDF has tried to give its members some support by cutting dues by 50% for 2021.

Disc Golf is the only sport where activities have increased massively. Many athletes took up the sport and events could be restarted earlier than in other disc sports as an individual, outdoors sport. PDGA membership has risen to around 94,000.

WFDF is trying to maintain its activity levels despite new challenges due to the pandemic: athletes finding alternative pastimes, organizing bodies losing financial resources for their staff, and losing opportunities for growth and recognition, as the Olympics and other multi-sports games downsize and give priority to their incumbents. New and smaller members have difficulties to maintain their activities. But WFDF is excited about the large number of new members brought in during the last year.

Rauch mentioned WFDF's Seven Strategic Goals, per the Strategic Plan 2019-2024:

1. Promote the "frisbee lifestyle"
2. Pursue inclusion in the Olympic Programme and Other Multi-Sports Games
3. Support member associations in promoting youth development as path to growth
4. Build the audience by increasing the entertainment value of disc sports competitions
5. Showcase Spirit of the Game as an essential element of disc sports
6. Ensure the well-being of our athletes and our sport and encourage gender equality and diversity in all aspects
7. Optimize organizational effectiveness and efficiency

These goals remain the same but in light of the COVID situation over the last two years these would be looked into for any revisions needed.

Some high goals accomplished over the last year are the implementation of an athlete safeguarding policy and a standalone non-discrimination policy. On December 1st, 2020,

a new website had been launched. The former website had been used for 10 years and this major update is a vast improvement, especially being optimized for the rise of the usage of mobile devices. A fairly major revision of WFDF's bylaws had been worked on and went through a few iterations to be presented for approval at this Congress. The changes concern WFDF membership structure: provisional vs. regular member, voting rights, budgets, and the member transition phase.

WFDF's Women in Sport Commission had published a Gender Equity Toolkit for Tournament Directors at sanctioned events. It has been translated into several different languages and WFDF has received requests from other international sports federations to get access to it.

The Athletes' Commission had been up for reelection at a major WFDF tournament and without such an event its mandate had been extended to 2021 and is to be extended for yet another year.

WFDF had published the e-book "Ultimate at Schools Programme Teacher's File" in several translations.

WFDF continues to pursue the goal to participate at LA28. The number of WFDF members is expected to rise to 100 with the goal to reach 120 by 2024. 17 WFDF member National Federations are recognized by their National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and WFDF is currently supporting Members in Italy and New Zealand to reach NOC membership in their respective countries. Rauch encouraged all members to pursue NOC recognition and ask for support through WFDF's Executive Director Bernardi.

WFDF is trying to increase its visibility within the world of sport and has been successful with the key publication insidethegames.biz, and that effort will continue.

In the 2021 WFDF Census, members have reported a sharp reduction in the number of athletes. This was expected and it is also expected that this number will go up again as soon WFDF can restart its events in 2022. Plans for 2022 include six WFDF world championships with the World Ultimate Club Championships (WUCC) in Cincinnati being the largest. Another highlight is WFDF's participation at The World Games in Birmingham, AL, USA.

Rauch then mentioned the proposed bylaw revision to be voted on later during Congress. The changes are in accordance with the IOC standards of regular membership and WFDF is trying to adjust its approach with respect to financial requirements for membership. WFDF hopes this will give everyone an opportunity to participate without undue burden.

Report by the Executive Director

WFDF Executive Director Bernardi presented the network of organizations of which WFDF is a member, a partner, or has official recognition. These affiliations enable WFDF to participate in several multisport games, which raise the visibility of Flying Disc sports. Staying in touch and especially creating new connections with these organizations keeps the WFDF administration busy despite the constraints due to the pandemic.

WFDF was able to welcome 13 new members during the past 12 months and Bernardi announced that during Congress the vote for WFDF's 100th member Kyrgyzstan would be finalized. This is a milestone which will improve the standing of WFDF within the Olympic Movement.

Next year's multisport games flagship event is The World Games. Flying Disc will be attend with eight Ultimate national teams (from USA, CAN, GBR, GER, JPN, FRA, AUS, COL) in a five day competition July 12th to 16th, 2022. Disc Golf will be included in the Sports Garden at TWG as a demonstration sport. Ticket sales have already opened.

Due to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games to 2021 several multisport games were also postponed by 1 or 2 years. There will be many opportunities to participate in these games, such as the World Masters Games 2022 in Kansai, Japan, where registration has opened and WFDF recommends teams to sign up. Other notable games are the Pan American Masters Games 2022 and the 2nd TAFISA European Games 2022. WFDF is currently trying very much to present the sport in China at the Asian Games 2022 in Hangzhou (CHN) and the Asian Beach Games in Sanya (CHN). Other games targeted are Asia Pacific Masters Games 2023 Jeonbuk (KOR), European Masters Games 2023, Tampere (FIN), African Games 2023, Accra (GHA), EUSA European Universities Games 2024 Games in Debrecen-Miskolc (HUN).

WADA had introduced new Anti-Doping rules in 2021 resulting in an increase of actions necessary, even though there were no WFDF events. WFDF still sees Anti-Doping education as a path to reduce testing.

On new members Bernardi expected to see applications from Africa, Eastern Europe, Central America and the Caribbean. WFDF Continental Associations were helping on membership applications, governance and development. He restated that it was important that every member contact its National Olympic Committee seeking recognition. The newest project was the creation of the Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation (MFDC), which would enable Flying Disc to become a member of the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (CIJM).

WFDF will add one commission (Sustainability and Legacy Commission) and change the name of another commission (Athletes' Entourage Commission to Athletes' Entourage Commission) in accordance with IOC. Bernardi encouraged member federations to nominate representatives for the WFDF committees and commissions.

Review of 2021 Member Census

Rauch presented the 2021 WFDF Census data briefly. The detailed report has been sent to members before the 2021 Congress. WFDF has seen a sharp 34.5% decline in number of members in 2021. WFDF expects to see this rebound in 2022. The relative break down between men and women has remained constant in the last years at 65%/35%, and WFDF encourages growth in number of women.

The census gives an idea how members compare to each other on different metrics. Rauch thanked all for completing this annual census, which has been compiled since 2002.

Annual Risk Assessment

This is something WFDF instituted eight years ago to flag issues that may impact WFDF and provide guidance for WFDF's national federations:

1. Sustaining or improving the quality and consistency in the delivery of all our events
2. Ensuring safety and safety for participants, coaches, officials, spectators and volunteers
3. WFDF's Ability to recruit/attract sufficient volunteers
4. Maintaining and increasing membership and participation
5. Sustaining and improving financial viability
6. Protecting or improving public image and reputation with stakeholders, regulators, potential sponsors, and media
7. Maintaining Spirit of the Game (SOTG) as an essential component of flying disc sports
8. Applying good corporate governance principles including compliance with regulatory requirements

The pandemic has put WFDF's financial viability to the test as its reliance on the quadrennial event cycle and the associated revenues had come to a stop. The mitigant was to maintain a cash reserve which helped WFDF get through the first year of the pandemic. WFDF also sharply decreased its expenses and Rauch thanked WFDF's paid staffers who faced a reduction in their compensation for 2021.

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

Event Manager Report

Managing Director Events and Operations Woldt reported that all events from 2020 and 2021 had been canceled and all money not spent had been returned to players and teams.

Moving athletes cross border still is a problem but with the European Team Disc Golf Championships (ETDGC) taking place in Croatia during Congress WFDF could gain experience through this limited event with five European countries. The event was going on very well, but even at this level some athletes had problems with crossing borders.

As for the 2022 WFDF events, Woldt advised that no bulletins had been sent out for any of the events yet as WFDF was trying carefully analyze what was needed to run these events successfully during the pandemic. She expected to send out the first information within the next few weeks and asked all members interested to participate to react quickly.

WFDF plans to host six events in 2022. The World Beach Ultimate Championships will be the first in April with 10 divisions planned for. When registration opens the members will only have a short time of 2 – 3 weeks to decide and sign up teams. At this stage crossing borders is difficult but she asked all members to send in any concerns or questions to make the WFDF Event Team aware who is thinking about attending.

The World Masters Ultimate Club Championships will be in late June in Ireland. It is planned to invite all divisions and if six or more teams sign up for a division then that division will take place.

Planning for The World Games in mid July has started a while ago by IWGA. All teams involved should be receiving updates frequently.

TWG is followed directly by several events:

World Flying Disc Championships (WOC) USA
World Ultimate Club Championships (WUCC) USA
World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) DOM
World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC) CRO

WFDF is listening to advice and following guidance of the governments. At this stage it is unlikely that WFDF will mandate vaccines but it might be that the COVID hygiene plans per event might include restrictions if you are not vaccinated or prefer not to tell WFDF.

For the first time WFDF is including a Junior Under 20 Mixed division at WJUC if enough interest is received. All members are asked to look at the viability of sending a third team or if perhaps this new division will open up the possibility to send a team at all.

Rauch commented that WFDF is changing the transfer of money with all going through WFDF. WFDF is trying to have the hosts push out the spending of money as far out as possible due to the uncertainties created by the pandemic. Woldt added that there is an outline about what amount gets non-refundable as the event gets closer.

WFDF Anti-Doping Program and WADA Compliance

WFDF Anti-Doping Administrator Verleger emphasized that Anti-Doping matters were important not only for WFDF matters but also for its members, as they also need to fulfill all requirements by WADA. Those members without an AD program could receive help from WFDF by approaching him or Bernardi.

Verleger announced that in 2021 WADA had confirmed officially to WFDF that it was compliant to the current WADA Code. This was a big success and he thanked all WFDF bodies involved in reaching this goal.

Verleger announced that by the end of 2021 there would be an AD survey sent to the NFs which would help WFDF to improve its AD work.

WFDF Membership Updates

Bernardi reported that in the current vote for five new members and PDGA as associate member 47 of the regular members had cast a vote. All new member applications had been approved unanimously, by which WFDF now had officially 100 national federation members. Bernardi saw this as a great sign of solidarity and thanked the members involved.

Rauch thanked everyone for participating in these votes. The process of bringing in new members involves checking their documents thoroughly and in many cases takes 2 – 3 years of working with the applicants. He had set out a goal for the Executive Director several years ago to reach 100 members as this number was seen as a milestone by umbrella sport organizations and he felt very grateful that Bernardi had achieved this.

In a brief celebration, Bernardi was presented with a surprise cake with 100 candles to celebrate this milestone. It was delivered to his home as arranged by the Event Team and presented over Zoom to the Congress. Bernardi thanked everyone for this surprise.

Bernardi then reported that he expected to receive many more membership applications in the next few years with the help of the Continental federations. He saw opportunities in Africa where he found many Flying Disc communities through the Internet, as well as in Pan America. The application process can be tedious as WFDF checks all documents and it can take several years. A new goal would be to have 120 members by 2024.

Rauch congratulated Bernardi for his great work in regard to increasing WFDF's membership.

Bylaws Revision

In March 2021 WFDF had sent several Bylaw revisions to its members for comment:

- Change of definition of national members vs. provisional members. After two years of provisional membership there is a conversion to regular status upon filing a report on activities and approval by Congress. This includes a change in dues (see below).
- Include WADA Code compliance as a requirement for WFDF membership.
- Transition for WFDF members to one member per country will be extended by two years.
- In the case that a Continental Association (CA) President is already a member of the Board in another function, the CA can send an alternate representative from their Board membership
- Title Executive Director will be changed to Secretary General
- Change the name of the Entourage Commission to "Athletes' Entourage Commission", change the name of the Youth in Sport Commission to "University, School Sport and Youth Commission", and add the "WFDF Parasport Commission." We will also establish a "Sustainability and Legacy Commission".

President Rauch asked to vote on the revised WFDF Bylaws. The revised WFDF Bylaws were approved unanimously.

Financial Report

Vote: Approval of 2020 Audited Financial Statements

Treasurer Bergeron presented a comparison of the WFDF audit summaries for 2019 and 2020. She remarked that for WFDF to use a four year cadence for its financial planning in line with the four year cycle of events and its varying income was fortuitous as it greatly helped WFDF manage its finances through the pandemic. 2020 had started quite well with the upcoming WUGC in the Netherlands and higher income as usual but in the middle of the year a lot of that income needed to be refunded. WFDF had to revise its budget planning mainly to scale back expenses.

The audit of 2020 confirms that WFDF had not spent more money than budgeted and going into 2021 WFDF was in a solid financial position.

Bergeron asked to vote on the 2020 Audited Financial Statements as presented. The financial statements were approved unanimously with one abstention.

Interim 2021 report

Bergeron gave an overview of expenditures and income. On dues income she acknowledged that all members had been impacted by the pandemic related shut downs. WFDF had reduced membership fees for 2021 and she reported that the budgeted dues related income had been already received. Income through event fees was almost zero in 2021 and since most sponsorship income was related to events there was also nothing to expect from that side. The annual grant of US\$ 32,000 by IOC was also received in 2021 but this money must be spent for development and Anti-Doping. Overall the income side in 2021YTD was in line with the budget plan.

On the expense side WFDF was saving much money which would normally be needed for checking event venues or running events such as travel and accommodation costs for WFDF officials. The majority of WFDF's expenditures is spent for staff, but WFDF decided to keep its staff as it is a huge part of keeping WFDF on track. Other expenditures are for official memberships and special projects and developments. This amounts to a current loss of US\$ 72,000 against the projected US\$ 84,000 and WFDF expects that to double towards the end of 2021.

WFDF still has money in the bank but since Bergeron expected the large event income as late as mid 2022 this reserve will be used to keep WFDF running in 2022. Usually in the first half of the year smaller income as dues are received and the larger income through events in the second half.

Vote: Approval of 2022 budget

Bergeron referred to the detailed 2022 budget in the briefing book. The expected event related income there of over US\$ 200,000 depends on all planned events to take place. If the pandemic related situation changes towards the end of 2021 WFDF will need to revise the budget drastically.

Bergeron asked to vote on the Approval of 2022 budget. The WFDF 2022 budget was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Vote: Approval of 2021 Auditor

Bergeron briefly presented the accounting firm McMillen & Company, PLLC whose principal has been the audit partner for WFDF for the past five years. She confirmed that the relationship had been effective and very helpful for WFDF.

Bergeron asked to vote and approve McMillen & Company, PLLC as the official auditor for WFDF's 2021 financial statements. The approval was given unanimously with one abstention.

Discussion topic: Discussion topic: Challenges and Opportunities for Flying Disc Sports Post-COVID-19

Rauch took the opportunity to present Dan 'Stork' Roddick who was participating in the Congress call as a guest. Roddick has been involved in Flying Disc sports since the 1960s both as an athlete, organizer, and book author. Recently he had been instrumental in working with WFDF and PDGA to get back together. Rauch asked Roddick to give a few comments on the development of Flying Disc sports since the 1960s.

Roddick greeted the attendees and noted he felt overwhelmed by the number of participants. More people were attending the Zoom meeting than there had been participants at the first Octad in 1974, an Overall tournament. He commended WFDF for its hard work which had led to this spread of Flying Disc into regions and countries which had been only dreamed about at that time.

Speaking for the PDGA he expected a new highly effective cooperation between Disc Golf and the general disc community covered by WFDF. The nature of Disc Golf had turned out to be a pandemic favorable activity and had most likely helped to keep athletes from other disciplines stay within the sport as, e.g. as many Ultimate players did. He expected them to get back to running and playing Ultimate at the end of the pandemic. He thanked for the opportunity to sit in and see what WFDF had achieved.

Rauch thanked Roddick for attending and passing on his comments. He described Roddick as the Godfather behind Flying Disc sports and that he had laid the ground for organizing bodies and also for WFDF.

Rauch then invited the attendees to give ideas and comments how they were bringing their national federations back into the sport post-COVID.

Paul Kenny (FPA) mentioned that in Freestyle the pandemic had brought up a new format online called Tiny Room Battle Challenge which had been so successful that he expected that to stay and perhaps even lead to future world championships.

Tom Crawford (USA, USAU) noted that he was looking forward to welcoming as many athletes as possible to the WFDF Ultimate events planned in the USA. The USAU, the tournament organizers and WFDF were ready to make these events the best possible experience.

Alex Matovu (AAFDF) thanked everyone for help he had received particularly in regards to Disc Golf, which many African athletes had started to play. Also, FPA had helped through Kenny to get Freestyle going in Nigeria. He expected more African countries to take up Ultimate, Disc Golf and Freestyle and eventually become WFDF members.

Simon Farrow (Australia, AFDA) reported that in Australia all borders had been closed and they were evaluating their national events for the rest of the year. The juniors' program for Primary school would be included into the school sports program. AFDA was focusing on grass roots as they could not do much for national teams. They were encouraging their states to restart within the next three months.

Desmond Mantey (Ghana, GFDA) thanked for the support his association had received. Due to the pandemic they had not been able work hard on their school projects. He was optimistic that Ghana could attend the 2023 All Africa Ultimate Championships. GFDA was likely to be recognized by the government.

Daniel Bannoura (Palestine, PFDA) reported that activities had restarted with a hat tournament a few weeks ago and going back into schools offering practice there. Summer camps were being offered in the Gaza strip and they would join Jordan in organizing a hat tournament there in November 2021.

Rauch commented that the pandemic was affecting different countries in different ways. Vaccination rates differed strongly between countries. WFDF was trying to get back on track with offering events, but needed to be careful about asking for upfront commitments. He asked the members to communicate with WFDF and the Event Team. Any feedback received would help improve WFDF's ability to run events. Even if some countries could not attend WFDF events for reasons associated with the pandemic WFDF would do its best to run events for those who would be available to participate as long as the latest wave does not make it more difficult than now. He hoped that activities could restart on a local, regional and national basis and that he could see everyone again in 2022.

Other Business and Q&A

On request of the Haiti representatives Rauch gave them time for an update on the situation there.

Marco Bigo (Haiti, HFD) expressed gratitude to be accepted by WFDF as a member. The HFD was looking forward to participating in upcoming events in and outside the country. But Haiti was going through a hard time after the devastating earthquake on August 14, 2021. Haiti wanted everyone to know and to ask for moral and material help. Haiti would continue to spread Flying Disc in the country by creating teams and offering practice sessions.

President Rauch concluded Congress by thanking everyone for their time and support towards WFDF. He added that WFDF Committees and Commission written reports were presented at the end in the Briefing Book. He encouraged to read these reports as they documented what was happening in WFDF. Anyone with questions should approach the Executive Committee or the Board members.

Rauch declared Congress closed at 17:20 CEST, thanked everyone for joining and wished all members good luck in getting back to full strength.

Annex 1: Members represented at WFDF 2021 Congress

Country	Member Association	Votes
Argentina	ADDVRA	1
Australia	AFDA	5
Austria	ÖFSV	4
Belgium	BDFD	5
Canada	UC	5
China, People's Republic of	CFDAC	5
Colombia	FECODV	3
Czech Republic	CALD	4
Dominican Republic	ADJU	1
Finland	FFDA	3
France	FFDF	5
Germany	DFV	5
Great Britain	UKU	5
India	UPAI	4
International	FPA	1
Italy	FIFD	5
Japan	JFDA	5
Malaysia	MFDA	3
Malta	MSFA	1
Mexico	FMDV	4
Morocco	UFMT	
Palestine	PFDA	1
Panama	PU	2
Philippines	PUA	2
Poland	PUPA	3
Portugal	APUDD	2
Singapore	UPAS	3
South Korea	KUPA	1
Spain	FEDV	4
Uganda	UUFA	1
United Arab Emirates	UAU	1
USA	USAU	5
Venezuela	AVU	1

Total votes: 100 (out of 159 possible)

Annex 2: Provisional Members and Guests represented at WFDF 2021 Congress

Provisional Members

Country	Member Association
Bolivia	BFDA
Bulgaria	BFDA
Cayman Islands	CIUA
El Salvador	SSUF
Ghana	GFDA
Haiti	FD
Jordan	JFDF
Kuwait	KFDF
Kyrgyzstan	FFKR
Madagascar	MUDL
Nicaragua	FEDIVONIC
Nigeria	NIG
Serbia	RS
Virgin Islands (USA)	USVIU