

Sunday April 24, 2022

USA HI: 03:00, USA CA, CAN BC: 06:00; USA CO, CAN Calgary: 07:00, USA NY, MI, VA: 09:00, DOM: 09:00, UK, IRL, POR: 14:00, GER, SRB, FRA: 15:00, UGA: 16:00, UAE: 17:00, JPN: 22:00, KOR: 22:00

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Brian Gisel, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Jamie Nuwer, José Amoroso, Rob McLeod, Fumio Morooka, Caroline “Caz” Malone, Yoonee Jeong, Alex Matovu, Véronique Riopel (for Liam Grant), David Raflo (by 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)

Call to order (time: 15:05 CET)

Quorum reached with 13 votes of 10/18 needed.

Report by the President

Nob welcomed everybody and thanked all for participating. He announced that there would be material for WFDF Congress to be prepared and voted on during the upcoming weeks.

Decisions between meetings

Burundi had been approved as new member, as well as the minutes of the WFDF Emergency Board Meeting on March 2nd 2022 and the 2022 Broadcast Budget.

Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 12 February 2022

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 12 February 2022, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

Treasurer's report - 2021 Audit, March 2022 YTD, 2023 - Budgets for Congress

Bergeron reported that planning the budget for 2023 had started and asked any new items which should be included in the budget to be presented to her. Auditing for the financial year 2021 had started.

Since WFDF has started to collect tournament fees rather than having LOCs do this, WFDF's cash side looked very good robust, but a significant portion of the money would get passed on to the LOCs. Registration for the 2022 WFDF events looked strong and WFDF's income through event fees should meet or exceed the budget. Census invoices to the members were being sent out to ensure that membership dues would come in timely.

WFDF was still looking for a new bookkeeper and would soon be interviewing a another candidate.

Woldt reported about the pros and cons of WFDF collecting tournament fees from the teams. So far this had worked very well giving WFDF full control over the flow of money and Woldt recommended to continue this path. However it was very tedious to send invoices to teams every time there was a change in the number of players or guests and to reconcile these payments, especially when partial payments were made to an invoice. Woldt suggested to use an online web shop system in the future which would eliminate the need to write invoices and help reconcile all payments automatically. However, this would make it necessary for WFDF to accept credit card payments and pay for transaction fees.

Rauch expressed concern that due to the large amount of tournament fees being collected and passed on to tournament organizers WFDF would have to pay very significant transaction fees. He also questioned the effective reduction of manual reconciliation. However, he suggested to discuss this topic again after the 2022 tournament season was concluded.

WFDF Events Team Report

Woldt reported that the WMUCC organizing committee was ahead of work as compared to other LOC's. WMUCC and WUCC were now both fully booked with teams on the waitlist in case a team dropped out. The originally planned number of players was exceeded and she expected therefore that all WFDF income budgets would be met. Ireland had opened its borders and dropped all restrictions concerning

COVID 19, but WFDF would still demand that all non-vaccinated players needed to present a negative test before and in the middle of the event.

For WMUCC 117 teams from 24 countries with 2800 participants have registered and for WUCC 128 teams from 30 countries with 3500 participants.

World Junior Ultimate Championships in Wroclaw, Poland, in conjunction with the Under 17 championships of EUF, had enough teams registered to run the events (47 teams with 1,000 participants had registered for the combined event, of which more than half were for WJUC). But budget spending for these events were on hold due to the Russian war in the Ukraine. Since Wroclaw is over 1000 km away from the Ukrainian border it was not expected to become involved in war activities, but Poland had taken over 3 million refugees and it was unclear if these would take some housing planned to be used for WJUC.

Rauch suggested that the participants and their parents sign an acknowledgement that they had been made aware of potential risks from the Russia-Ukraine war. Bernardi suggested we develop an emergency policy. Woldt added that so far she had only received one inquiry by concerned parents.

World Team Disc Golf Championships, Croatia: This will be the largest WTDGC ever. Almost all team and player fees for currently 26 teams and 260 participants had been collected. The venue was used last year for the European Team Disc Golf Championships by the same organizing committee and with that experience the WTDGC should run smoothly.

World Overall Championships: The WFDF Events Team had had difficulties in getting information from the LOC which it needed to feel comfortable in starting registration and preserving a chance to be able to return as much money as possible in case the event needed to be cancelled. The WOC will now be run by LOC and the Overall Committee without the support of the Events Team. It is planned that in September 2022 the Events Team and the Chairperson of the Overall Committee would discuss how to move on with future events. Registration for the WOC 2022 had opened.

The Events Team has called for bids for all 2023 and 2024 events and already received promising replies for some events, including bids from the All Africa region and the Asia-Oceanic region. More bids are always welcome as well as contacts with people thinking about hosting an event, especially for the WFDF inaugural Wheelchair Ultimate Championships.

TWG 2022 Birmingham, AL, USA - Latest Developments

All eight participating countries have indicated that they were able to train and have selected their teams. Upon returning home after TWG none of them would need to quarantine.

During the entire time of TWG Disc Golf will be displayed as a demonstration sport. Mead was working with the PDGA to make this happen and there will be an information booth.

Broadcast in 2022 - Budget

Rockwood reported that WFDF was planning to present 250 hours of live coverage of its events in 2022.

For WMUCC a fully European team will be used which would help save money as travel costs had risen strongly. Fifty games would be streamed by Ulti.tv available for free through the WFDF YouTube channel and Ulti.tv's Patreon channel. Rockwood was negotiating to see if the Olympic Channel and/or The World Games Channel would stream the finals.

For The World Games the Olympic Channel will cover at least the final game, perhaps also the semi-finals. CBS Sports Network will have a nightly prime time highlights program, to which WFDF will supply daily summary packages. All 12 preliminary games will be covered by Ultiworld with five cameras and top international commentators.

These streams would be only available to subscribers of Ultiworld. Rockwood and Gisel had been working together with Ultiworld on a distribution and revenue model for event video content (live and on demand) on a subscription base. This could shift the burden of the production costs that athletes indirectly pay through the LOC budget to viewers.

At the WUCC Ultiworld will cover two primary fields with four cameras and one drone to show around 60 games. As with TWG, the WUCC games will be on a paid viewership basis. In addition, Ulti.tv will transmit live from two other fields, likely 40 games, and distribute a limited number of games for free, and also on their Patreon channel. Negotiations are under way with the 2019 WU24 partner in China for Mandarin language coverage. The opening game would not be streamed as it was too much work to move the equipment from the opening venue to the fields during the night.

In the discussion about the new subscription model Gisel noted that geo-specific charging was planned but perhaps not with high granularity. It would be interesting to

get more geo-specific viewing stats. For the start of the subscription model during TWG Gisel planned to target viewers from the eight participating countries and get as many to subscribe as possible. But for WUCC all countries sending teams would also be targeted and he asked the Board to help reach out. Marketing would be vital and was planned to start in June once pricing would be decided on. Jeong mentioned it would be hard to convince viewers used to free viewing to pay. Rauch replied the main idea was that the viewing consumers should be paying rather than the athletes. There would be advertising in the videos with our current partners. WFDF needed to grow viewing numbers before potential non-endemic advertisers would be interested.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games - latest developments / WFDF strategy

The LA28 OCOG can make proposals for the additional events/sports for the program. It will follow established criteria to decide which sports fit best. Only 10,500 athletes will be allowed including the additional sports.

WFDF had been informed about the planned timeline for the process of including additional sports to LA28: the short list will be established by the end of June, presentations and proposals reviewed in July/August, and a final decision made in mid-2023. Bernardi presented WFDF's plan to apply and what to consider and commented that WFDF should be very flexible in this process. The next three months would be crucial for WFDF.

Insidethegames.biz budget for coverage at WUCC

insidethegames.biz is the leading source of information of the Olympic Movement. WFDF and insidethegames.biz have developed together a detailed 2022 Advertising & Communications Proposal for the WUCC 2022, Ohio, USA, 23rd July – 30th July including a dedicated reporter from insidethegames.biz to attend the event, guaranteeing daily coverage with articles and interviews. This will help improve the visibility of Flying Disc within IOC circles. WFDF must cover travel, accommodation and subsistence and would amount up to US\$ 12,500.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve this budget item, seconded by Malone. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF 2022 Congress - Agenda

Rauch presented a draft of the Congress agenda and asked for feedback from the Board. He suggested to have Congress as a hybrid meeting allowing members who

could not come to WUCC to attend virtually. Congress would be on Saturday, July 23rd 2022 from 8:00 am to noon. Voting would be electronically for all members including those present.

It was also decided that there should be a reception on Friday, July 22nd 2022 evening to permit more informal discussions.

WFDF Annual Risk Assessment for Congress

Rauch mentioned that the update to the risk assessment would be included in the preliminary Congress Briefing Book.

Expansion of Media effort, formation of committee

WFDF needs to intensify its communications and is therefore looking to set up a Communication and Media Committee. More writing, more photos, videos and a newsletter should be the goal of this committee.

Appointment of WFDF Director of NOC Relations

Bernardi noted that more WFDF members needed to achieve recognition by their NOC as this would enhance WFDF's Olympic ambitions and would make it easier to get included in regional multi-sport events. He suggested to appoint Michele Barbone as WFDF Director of NOC Relations. Barbone is a very well known Italian sports administrator and acknowledged within the National Olympic Committees of many countries. He is also the president of WFDF's Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation.

A motion was made by McLeod to approve Michele Barbone as WFDF Director of NOC Relations, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

Updated Transgender and Intersex WFDF policy

Nuwer explained that the update mostly involved the language and wording, e.g. the term "intersex" is being replaced by "differences in sex development (DSD)" and e.g. the term "female matched" was introduced for the rules to be more inclusive of transgender, non-binary athletes. The IOC has left it to the international federations to set up regulations for DSD athletes.

Currently the updated Transgender and Intersex WFDF policy was being reviewed by the WFDF Women in Sports Commission. It would be presented to the Board to be voted on at the next meeting.

Nuwer explained that all documents which WFDF might ask an athlete to submit (e.g. a TUE) would not go through a national federation as it would contain personal private health information. Instead, it would come from the athlete or a physician.

Women in Sport Commission Report

Malone reported that the call to participate in the survey “Inclusion of athletes with a Difference in Sexual Development (DSD) and Transgender athletes in elite sport” by Swansea University in Wales had produced much feedback and questions. It was asked if WFDF and/or IOC had commissioned the study; WFDF is supporting it but it is an independent research study by a university. The survey is open to anyone and any gender. Several sports federations were taking part in the survey which is good to compare results between these sports. WFDF will be able to filter out results relevant to Flying Disc through key words DISC or PDGA. The researchers said that some respondents found the survey too conservative, some found it too liberal. Nuwer remarked that she found the questions open ended and not political. She recommended as many disc players to take the survey.

Malone reported about allegations of sexual assault by multiple women against Ultimate players. It was unclear if the police had been involved and so far she had not contacted the NF. But one allegation was against a team manager of an upcoming WFDF event. Bernardi recommended that WISC should not handle this but should follow the safe-guarding process established by WFDF and hand it over to its Integrity Officers who will take care. Malone asked for the contact to these officers and confirmed she would hand it over to them.

Malone then reported about female Afghan athletes who had to hide after the Taliban had taken over the country. She had been approached by some of them and confirmed through third parties that these athletes were genuine. Ideally she hoped to find some way to provide support or even get these athletes out of the country as other sports federations had done, although she acknowledged that WFDF’s resources were limited. She asked to fundraise a few thousand USD to help provide food and necessities. Some Asian disc players had already successfully sent money to support basic necessities.

IOC, IWGA, ARISF Update

After the Tokyo and Beijing Olympics the IOC was restarting activities and reconnecting to its recognized federations. Bernardi and Rauch were planning to meet the IOC sport department in May around the time of the IWGA General Assembly in Madrid. One day after that GAISF would also hold a GA with the main topic being its potential dissolution.

Since the IOC has decided to host its Olympic Virtual Series annually Bernardi will use the IOC meeting to report about WFDF's success with the virtual Disc Golf event. At the IWGA GA it will also be discussed, how Virtual Sports will be included in the IWGA. IWGA is planning to do a sports festival every 3 months in China running up to TWG in Chengdu.

Bernardi will discuss the outcome of a meeting with the Olympic Channel with Rockwood and Gisel.

Mediterranean Flying Disc Federation (MFDC) - Update

Bernardi reported that the MFDC had formally been established. The Spanish NF has already joined the MFDC. Beach Ultimate has been included in the Mediterranean Beach games in Heraklion, Greece, in 2023 and chances were to be included in the Mediterranean Games in 2026 in Taranto, Italy, where Michele Barbone is the president of the organizing committee. Bernardi recommended to submit to Congress to accept the MFDC as an associate member of WFDF. Rauch confirmed that this overlapping regional federation could help our members in that region to gain recognition.

A motion was made by McLeod to approve to submit to Congress to approve MFDC as associate member, seconded by Matovu. The motion was approved unanimously.

HFDF Proposal 2023 and 2024 Universities event and EUSA Games - Update

Bernardi reported that he was waiting for the official confirmation from EUSA to be included in 2024 European University Games as one of two demonstration full medal sports. Being included will give WFDF much more visibility.

Multisport Games perspective for Flying Disc sports - Update

Bernardi reported that WFDF missed out the 2023 EOC Games in Poland. They had informed EOC that they were not accepting non-Olympic sports and even some

Olympic sports. But EOC has confirmed that we should apply for the next edition in 2027 as EOC is looking for new sports.

The African Games in Ghana won't happen as there is a huge conflict about ownership.

Cooperation Agreement with Instituto Politécnico de Leiria - University/Science (POR)

Amoroso presented this cooperation with WFDF which is a general agreement to do scientific research and publish the findings in conjunction with WFDF and Flying Disc. This could increase the visibility of Flying Disc within the science community. Topics could be Education, Sustainability, Climate Change and research on Parasports classifications.

Bernardi added that many International Federations were working together with a scientific partner. The Politécnico could help us to create Parasport classifications with scientific approval and make it much more likely to be accepted by IPC.

A motion was made by Malone to approve the proposed cooperation between WFDF and the Instituto Politécnico de Leiria, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Development Programme 2021

Bernardi reported that WFDF had received confirmation of its annual US\$32,000 from the IOC for development. He asked the Board members to send in proposals or ask others to submit requests for support.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Véronique Riopel reported that there had been no AC meeting in the past.

Rauch asked her to discuss with Grant the elections to the Athletes' Commission at the WUCC 2022 and get in touch with Bernardi and Woldt about the voting process.

SOTG Committee report

Amoroso reported that three members of the committee had resigned due to differing opinions on the ban of Russian athletes but the committee was on track again. In recent meetings he got to know the committee members better. The committee had set up working groups with specific deadlines.

The most urgent topic was to clarify uncertainties about determining the Spirit Directors for the 2022 WFDF events. Online training of new Spirit Directors would take place and the Spirit Director's manual would be updated. Amoroso added that the SOTG Committee had started to collect ideas how to support the Ukraine.

Continental Association Reports

AAFDF

Matovu reported that activities in the West, East and South of Africa had restarted. He had been in contact with a number of federations in the region. There had been an East Africa tournament with participation from Kenya and Tanzania. But there was a new team from the Comoros Islands with young players and they had already started to save money to attend the All African Championships.

He noted that the region was missing discs and he was trying to find a way to receive them without paying the extremely onerous tariffs. Rauch recommended to find people who would travel to Africa and bring discs along. Matovu asked if WFDF had a budget to pay for 300 discs for Africa and have them at a central location where they could be picked up. Bernardi confirmed that this had been already discussed when he attended the AAFDF assembly and that preparations were under way to send discs to a location in Africa from where they could be distributed.

Matovu announced that he expected three bids for hosting the All African Championships in 2023.

AOFDF

Morooka reported that the new date for the World Masters Games in Kansai had not been decided yet because the meeting of IMGA & WMG Kansai OC had been postponed due to the Russian war.

Japan was preparing to bid for the WFDF 2024 Asia Oceania Beach Ultimate championships. Due to the pandemic which was strong again in China it was difficult to make plans for AOFDF events. He hoped to be able to present more at WFDF Congress.

Bernardi added that the Asian Games planned for September 2022 in Hangzhou would not accept any new sports. However there was a slight chance that these games would be postponed by one year which would open up the opportunity to attend.

EFDF

Rauch highlighted from the written report that EFDF was getting organized on an administrative basis, had become a member of the INTERACT2 program led by TAFISA and had applied for ERASMUS + membership. EFDF, in collaboration with EUF and EDGF, supported the WFDF statement on the war in Ukraine.

PAFDF

Youth surveys had been sent to all NFs as well as to individual clubs and groups to identify how youth flying disc sport is currently organized. PAFDF planned to obtain a wfdf.sport email address as well as setting up a web presence within the WFDF web site. Puerto Rico started work to become a new WFDF member. PAFDF was assisting their application as well as supporting the WFDF administrative staff in solving problems with two member federations in the region.

Disc Sport Committee Reports (Chairs)

Disc Golf

The written report reaffirmed the committee membership and highlighted the 2022 WTDGC in Croatia with 26 teams registered. The SOTG Committee and the DG Committee have worked on a scheme to introduce concepts of SOTG to WTDGC. For the WTDGC in 2024, one Expression of Interest had been received from Lithuania but the deadline would be extended to give more countries a chance to submit a bid. The committee was very much looking forward to TWG in Birmingham as working closely together with PDGA to show and promote Disc Golf as a demonstration sport there.

Freestyle

(no report submitted)

Guts

(no report submitted)

Overall

McLeod had discussed with Dan “Stork” Roddick and Tim Rockwood how to incorporate overall events into other events, e.g. MTA in parallel to an Ultimate event. He would be at WMUCC as a participant and wanted to show to the Ultimate players the broadness of all disc sports.

Rauch commented that Overall needed to find out how to become relevant and attract more young people. WOC needed to become more accessible and more interesting. Would limiting it to four disciplines help? Many more people should actually be practicing Overall disciplines, not only playing it at a few tournaments. From WFDF's experience at the World Urban Games it was necessary to attract youth into the sport. Overall needs a lot of growth at the grassroots so it would be something special to attend the WOC.

McLeod mentioned that he was working with many schools and trying to create clubs and groups which would practice and organize little tournaments.

Rauch added that the certification program of the IFA 40 to 50 years ago enticed many people and groups to occupy themselves with playing frisbee and he still believed such a program would be helpful today, as well. The Overall committee and its chair needed to drive this process.

Bernardi added that during his recent meeting with the Olympic Channel he was told that WFDF needed to get a foot into the Urban Sports events where mostly young people were participating. In 2018 the IOC was asking WFDF to participate in the YOG in Buenos Aires with Freestyle but we did not have enough good young Freestyle players and had to reject the invitation.

Other Business

Bernardi mentioned that since no elections for the Athletes' Commission had happened in 2020 this year all six elected members needed to be voted on and limit the term of three of them to get back to a two year election cycle. He was responsible for the administration of the election and Woldt would be responsible for the execution. He suggested to announce the election as soon as possible.

Next meetings/wrap-up

ExComm: 15 May; Board: 18/19 Jun

Closing: 18:04 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary