

Sunday January 22, 2023

USA HI: 04:00, USA CA, CAN BC: 06:00, USA CO, CAN Calgary: 07:00, USA NY, MI, VA, CAN Montreal: 09:00, DOM: 10:00 UK, IRL, POR: 14:00, GER, SRB, FRA: 15:00, UGA: 17:00, UAE: 18:00, SGP: 23:00, JPN, KOR: 23:00

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Alex Matovu, Steve Taylor, Caroline Tisson, Haude Hermand, Fumio Morooka, José Amoroso, Caroline "Caz" Malone, Rob McLeod, Charlie Mead, Shiellah Quintos; not present: Lori Daniels, Jamie Nuwer, Nicole Bulos, Yoonee Jeong

Also attending (non voting): Volker Bernardi, (Secretary General), Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Coordinator), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), Luke Tobiasiewicz (IT Administrator)

Call to order (time: 15:04 CEST)

Quorum reached with 14 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 - 20 November 2022

A motion was made by Morooka to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 20 November 2022, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 18 December 2022

These minutes were presented to the Board for reference.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

Board Appointments - At-large Board member, Vice-President

Rauch proposed to re-appoint Yoonee Jeong as At-large Board member. He presented her CV and asked for any comments or concerns.

A motion was made by Malone to approve Jeong as At-large Board member, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi noted that WFDF Board now has an equal gender representation among its voting members.

Rauch then proposed to re-appoint Gisel as Vice-President for the year.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve Gisel as Vice-President, seconded by Mead. The motion was approved unanimously (with Gisel being recused from the vote).

WFDF: Responsibilities as a WFDF Board Member

Rauch guided the new Board members through their responsibilities. Board meetings happen 4 to 6 times per year and every two years there is a Face-to-Face Board meeting. Members should respond within 3 business days to email correspondence and cast electronic votes within 7 calendar days to facilitate board communication and activity. Documents, policies and contracts presented for inspection should be looked at in a timely manner. Also, material for Board meetings should be sent in by the beginning of the week of the upcoming meeting. Decisions should be made in a prudent manner and for the good of the organization, and there should be disclosure of any potential conflict of interest.

When communicating with the public —such as through social media – board members should be aware that private comments can be understood as reflecting WFDF's opinion due to the role that the board member has. WFDF aspires to the best of good governance standards and Board members should understand the WFDF Conflict of Interest policy. Confidentiality of board level discussions is also very important and required so that board discussions can be candid and frank.

Communication is mostly done through email. Using good subject lines and summarizing the information being forwarded helps to save recipients' time. Policies for Board members can be looked up on the web site and in the Board Briefing Book.

WFDF Events Team Report: 2023-2024 Plans

Fourcample-Maye reported about the upcoming WFDF events:

- For PAUC (Pan American Ultimate Championships) there was large interest and some NFs were asking for extra slots. It could become larger than WU24. Cash flow for this event still needed to be looked into.
- WU24 (World Under-24 Ultimate Championships) looked good with currently 63 teams signed up when the event's budget had been planned for 40 teams.
- The bulletin for the AOUGC (Asia Oceanic Ultimate & Guts Championships) would be sent out within a week. The event also looked strong with 5 divisions and 54 teams.
- The Virtual Sport World Team Disc Golf Championships was planned for March given the success of the 2022 edition. However, we were still waiting for confirmation from the provider on their commitment, which Mead was going to solicit.
- There was a bid for World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships from Italy but rules and formats needed to be finalized before a bulletin could be sent out.
- World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) had seen much less interest than expected. Some divisions had already been cancelled and if additional teams withdrew others were at risk of being too small to be viable. The Beach Ultimate Committee had reached out to NFs but had not seen additional expressions of interest.

It was discussed if the burden on European teams with a full EUF schedule was perhaps too high to attend WBUC late in the year but Hermand confirmed that EUF's schedule was not more packed than usual. Tisson added that the EUF events were very valued by the European athletes and were easily accessible. Gisel noted that due to COVID 19 WBUC had been announced later than usual. He expected future events to be finalized and announced ahead of the EUF schedule and to give NFs more time for planning. He also hoped that NFs would not only send the top 1% of their athletes to such events but would view it as a chance to broaden the group of athletes participating in world events.

The WBUC organizers would be asked if they could also host a smaller event. High fixed costs were a problem.

The sponsorship contracts with suppliers for bags and gloves had been finalized.

McLeod added that the World Overall Championships WOC would be held in Milano, Italy in July. It would be an official WFDF event with WFDF sanctioning fees and attendees would be informed soon.

Inaugural WFDF Wheelchair Ultimate Championships (WWUC) 2023 application

Bernardi reported that the Inaugural WFDF Wheelchair Ultimate Championships (WWUC) 2023 would be held in Lignano Sabbiadoro, Italy, during the Italian Beach championships. The cost for the hall would be covered by the local organizers. Only 6-8 teams would participate, but for this first event not more could be expected. These few teams will not be enough to pay for the entire event. Bernardi expected a loss of € 8,000.00 and asked if WFDF would be prepared to cover this amount.

Rauch supported to have this event happen as WFDF had been working on it for a long time. Also, WFDF needed this event to justify its recognition by IPC. Tisson agreed and noted that to have larger wheelchair events in the future this event needed to be run very well. Bernardi confirmed that the venue and the nearby hotel had been recommended by the IPC Italy and the local organizing committee was experienced.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the event as described and to move forward with the potential of US\$ 10,000.00 deficit to be covered by WFDF, seconded by Mead. The motion was approved unanimously.

The technical aspects of the event would be handled by the Parasport Committee. If the WFDF events team had the capacity to take care of registration and financial aspects that would be welcome.

WTDGC - World Team Disc Golf Championships 2024 and 2026

Mead announced that WTDGC would move out of Europe after it had been there for the last few editions as he had received a bid from Perth, Australia, for November 2024. It would be hard for European teams to attend but perhaps Asian teams could make up for a similar number of teams as in Croatia in 2022. Also, if WTDGC in 2024 would be a qualifier for TWG in Chengdu six months later, he expected all 12 countries likely to qualify for Chengdu to participate. One PDGA event before and one after Perth in Australia could attract enough athletes to the country to form more national teams. As for the team and player fees Mead, needed to renegotiate with Perth as the LOC had been promised to receive funding.

Mead had also received a bid for WTDGC in 2026 from Lithuania. Details on the expected tournament fees would be negotiated in 2024 when a much better estimation of transportation costs was possible. Mead highly recommended laying out both the 2024 and 2026 hosts so that athletes and IFs could plan ahead.

A motion was made by Malone to approve the 2024 (Perth) and 2026 (Lithuania) venues and hosts for WTDGC, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

F2F board meeting: dates and quotes on location

The bi-annual Face-to-Face Board meeting would be at a hotel close to JFK airport in New York, as the alternate German venue was not available until mid-May. Details would follow soon.

FECODV Colombia (NF) - Conduct Committee procedures

Bernardi had been in contact with FECODV. In discussions with the two main contacts for Colombian attendees at international tournaments they asked WFDF for guidance to achieve good governance. It was felt that WFDF could provide assistance but following the rules and regulations like all the other federations was the main message to Colombian federation. FECODV was potentially to be put on probation for the next four years.

Tisson mentioned that not all individual athletes were aware of these rules and regulations as they were not being communicated to them. She felt that the Athletes' Commission could play a role in communicating directly with the athletes.

It was suggested to use social media more often to get tournament and deadline information to the players.

Rauch suggested to let the Conduct Committee do its investigations and wait for their suggestions.

Bernardi added that the Conduct Committee did not intend to hurt the athletes. He was aware that the two team national contacts at times were a bottle neck for the flow of information. But he made it clear to them, that potential sanctions could be as extreme as exclusion from TWG in Chengdu. On the other hand, FECODV was very close to being approved by the NOC. Approval would bring them money and help them improve their good governance. He suggested to ask the Athletes' Commission for guidance once the decision had been made.

Finance: Treasurer's 2022 Preliminary Financial Statements

Bergeron reported that the financials of all events from 2022 had been closed. The financial situation of WFDF was better than expected, mainly due to the successful events in Ireland (WMUCC) and in Cincinnati (WUCC). WFDF had spent more money on PR than planned but saved money on Congress 2022.

With WFDF collecting all registration fees it held much more cash than usual and this needs to be taken in account when looking at the numbers. Invoicing for WBUC had already started and that income needed to be subtracted from the presented cash at hand.

Rauch noted that, with mainly regional events 2023, WFDF would likely have a deficit in 2023. WFDF wants to have assets to cover around two years of expenses. This policy was the reason why WFDF was able to get through COVID 19.

WFDF Disc Sport Committees: Appointment of Disc Golf Committee member

Mead proposed Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo from COL to join the Disc Golf Committee. Her inclusion would improve female representation in the Committee and introduce a South American representative.

A motion was made by McLeod to approve Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo as new Disc Golf Committee member, seconded by Malone. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Women in Sport Commission - appointment of Commission member

Malone proposed to appoint Laura Nagtegaal as commission member. Nagtegaal is currently a PDGA Board of Directors Member and PDGA needed to approve that she may work on the WIS commission. Since she is openly transgender, she would provide an alternative viewpoint to the commission. Her affiliation with PDGA was seen by some as problematic, potentially giving PDGA influence on WFDF's policies and decisions. Others noted that it was not uncommon for WFDF officials to be affiliated with organizations outside of WFDF and with keeping potential conflicts of interest in mind it was possible to work for WFDF. Malone stated that Nagtegaal's main interest was to answer questions about transgender issues.

A motion was made by Taylor to approve the addition of Laura Nagtegaal subject to her getting the approval by PDGA, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved with two abstentions.

WFDF 2022 Anti-Doping Test Distribution Plan, WADA Code Compliance

Bernardi informed that a new WADA questionnaire would be sent out in May 2023. He and Janković would attend a virtual WADA meeting on January 30th which will give explanations for 3rd tier (low risk) sports such as Flying Disc. WFDF had answered the last questionnaire in 2016. He commented that WFDF needed to demonstrate its WADA code compliance to remain in good standing with various international sports federations as IOC, IPC, GAISF, IWGA, IMGA, etc.

WFDF 2022 and 2023 census and membership dues invoices - update

Some members had still not paid their dues for 2022 and had been sent a reminder. If they do not pay, they will be designated as “not in good standing” and will not be allowed to participate in future WFDF events and meetings. Board members with connections to these federations were asked to contact them.

The 2023 WFDF Annual census will be sent out by mid-February 2023.

WFDF new memberships: Saudi Arabia, Monaco

Congress had approved of Saudi Arabia’s application to become WFDF member 104.

WFDF has received a membership application by the Fédération de Sports Urbains Monaco (FSUM) . Monaco is the second smallest state in the world with 9,000 citizens. Athletes from Monaco as well as from other small countries usually compete in neighboring larger countries. Therefore there is no Ultimate team in Monaco and the federation does not have the minimum number of members WFDF asks for.

Bernardi noted that Monaco had already formed this federation in order to develop the new disciplines of several sports and it had received recognition by the National Sport Authority of Monaco and expects recognition by the recognized by the Comité Olympique Monégasque (NOC). Other international sports federations recognize federations from Monaco even though they also do not have many individual members. The federation is expected to include break dancing, sport climbing, sea rafting, flying disc, and skateboarding,

Mead noted that there is a growing Disc Golf scene in Cyprus and it was possible that WFDF will receive an application from this small country in the future.

Rauch noted that acceptance of this application would not displace a national member. WFDF could have the benefit of being able to have demonstrations and perhaps events in Monaco. If Monaco reaches NOC recognition it would also help WFDF. He also saw limited responsibilities for WFDF. It was also noted that at least three of the founding members had Monaco citizenship.

Although this form of application is somewhat different from the traditional ones considered by WFDF, Bernardi recommended that WFDF be flexible as it considers the constraints faced by small countries and not ignore applications from similar smaller countries.

A motion was made by Mead to approve the Fédération de Sports Urbains Monaco application, seconded by Matovu. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rauch recommended Bernardi put together a short one page document to explain the rationale why Monaco and other smaller states could be accepted prior to passing on their application for vote to Congress.

Nomination procedure for IWGA Executive Committee elections 2023-2026 and candidacy

At IWGA's annual spring meeting in May 2023 a new IWGA Executive Committee will be elected. Bernardi has been a member for the last 5 years and Rauch proposed to put him forward again. Bernardi has a good relationship with the current IWGA President and he oversees Anti-Doping for IWGA. While it takes up some time this position also has benefits for WFDF.

A motion was made by Morooka to approve Bernardi's nomination for IWGA Executive Committee elections 2023-2026, seconded by Mead. The motion was approved unanimously.

TWG 2025 Chengdu - WFDF application for Ultimate and Disc Golf

Bernardi announced that there was a good chance to have Disc Golf in at TWG in Chengdu 2025 with 16 teams for a team Disc Golf event. WFDF had also applied for Ultimate participation with the same quota numbers as in 2022. The IWGA would have a meeting on the next day where the decision will be made.

IT Report

Tobiasiewicz presented a written report about his recent activities. The report included a list of all users and groups and memberships in the WFDF Google Workspace. He reminded board members that all requests for email addresses and groups should be sent to him with a CC to Woldt. His main tasks had been support of users, maintenance of infrastructure, and embedding live streaming on the WFDF web site. The Rules subcommittee web site would be set up soon, as well as the PAFDF web site. McLeod was continuing to work on the WFDF World Records system with Luke.

He mentioned projects which had stalled: Video archive for footage, WFDF document management system, Yahoo memberlink replacement, and the SOTG Committee web site. He planned to set up an approach enabling committees and national members to update profiles on the WFDF web site after approval by WFDF staff.

Tobiasiewicz announced that since he was the Tournament Director of the upcoming WU24 event he would not have very much time during the first half of the year 2023.

Bernardi expressed concern about problems with editing the WFDF web site in the past and that Tobiasiewicz's help had been needed often when time critical updates had to be launched. Tobiasiewicz was confident that he would have time to give support, but not so much time to for new projects. Rauch added that the glitches in editing the web site were reportedly solved.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Tisson reported that the Athletes' Commission had met twice since the last Board meeting. It had set up a plan how to organize its work with monthly meetings and rotating responsibilities. The commission was working on getting updates on the web site. A larger topic was the open questions about who would become the appointed AC members. The commission was suggesting Cat Phillips from Australia as well as an athlete from Africa. The remaining three spots should be filled by two Disc Golf athletes and one Freestyle athlete. Tisson requested help from the respective commission chairs Mead and Daniels to approach suitable candidates.

Rauch suggested to submit a proposal for the 5 appointed AC members with background information about the candidates. This proposal could be submitted to the Executive Committee meeting in February or to the Board meeting in March.

SOTG Commission report

Amoroso reported that Spirit Directors for the next WFDF events would be chosen from regional candidates to ensure lower travel costs. The next Commission meeting would be on January 29th. It was planned to publish an article about SOTG and the Commission was asking for permission to use SOTG data collected during WFDF events. Another opportunity to spread information about Flying Disc was the European project ERSAMUS+. Amoroso planned to write an article about Self-Refereeing as different way to promote Fair-Play in sport and publish it in the magazine Youth of the open access publisher MDPI. He also had plans for an article about Disc Golf.

Women in Sport Commission Report

(see above)

Media and Broadcast Plans for 2023

Rockwood reported that the new subscription video on demand in partnership with Ultiworld had resulted in an income of almost US\$ 48,000. This model would be used again for the 2023 events with WBUC promising to provide appealing content. Geo-located billing was one of the new features planned to be implemented as well as using a second language for commentary. He was in touch with the AFDA to license the Australian Coaching certification program.

Rauch congratulated Rockwood for the successful pay-per-view program.

Continental Association Reports (Chairs)

AFDF:

Matovu reported that the last months had been quiet. NFs did not respond to requests and would not write reports about their activities. He knew of some activities in Kenya. He was working on signing the contract for the All African Championships.

He commented on the situation in Tanzania where the federation had not responded for the last 6 or 7 years and he did not know what to do about it. The federation probably does not exist but there are activities there with a few hundred players, some local tournaments, but not so much interest in the national federation.

Disc Sport Committee Reports (Chairs)

Freestyle (none)

Beach Ultimate

Quintos was working on getting to speed with WFDF Beach Ultimate activities and planned to have a committee meeting before the next WFDF Board meeting in March.

Overall

McLeod announced that WOC would be in Italy and having WOC in Europe would help to get more people and more countries attend. He was also looking into NFs running smaller Overall events for one or two days to get some experience and momentum. He was still working on the Resource Kit project and planned to run a WOC Survey in 2023.

Disc Golf

Mead reported that the PDGA might run a Continentals event in Americas in November/December. In Asia/Oceania there is a bid for Continentals on the table from Chinese Taipei. It was planned to host a Virtual Team Disc Golf Championship in March.

Guts

Taylor reported that the Japanese federation had requested to get a young US Guts team to the AOUGC as this would make the competition more interesting. However, it would not be possible for a US team to win a medal at the Asian Oceanic championship for national teams. Taylor suggested a hybrid format with a “Global Guts Challenge” event within the Guts competition of AOUGC where any team irrespective of nationality could win medals and a final round of the Asian Oceanic championships on the next day with the medal earning games only open for Asian Oceanic countries.

Rauch expressed support for this hybrid type of event as WFDF wants to be help grow the sport and show people how it is done. Still a few problems needed to be sorted out as timing of the games could turn out to be difficult.

Morooka added that the AOFDF Guts Committee was working to get many teams from Asia and will set up connection with Taylor.

Next meetings/wrap-up

ExComm: 25/26 FEB; Board: 25/26 MAR

Closing: 18:15 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary