

Sunday November 20, 2022

USA HI: 04:00, USA CA, CAN BC: 06:00; USA CO, CAN Calgary: 07:00, USA NY, MI, VA: 09:00, DOM: 10:00, UK, IRL, POR: 14:00, GER, SRB, FRA: 15:00, UGA: 17:00, UAE: 18:00, SGP: 22:00, JPN, KOR: 23:00

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Fumio Morooka, Rob McLeod, José Amoroso, Haude Hermand, Caroline Tisson, David Raflø, Steve Taylor, Charlie Mead, Nicole Bulos

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)

Absent: Lori Daniels, Alex Matovu, Jamie Nuwer, Caz Malone, Yoonee Jeong

Call to order (time: 15:05 CEST)

Quorum reached with 13 votes of 10/18 needed.

Report by the President

President Rauch welcomed everyone present and thanked all for participating at the 2022 last Board of Directors meeting.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 1 October 2022

Tisson suggested that in the Women in Sport Committee’s report one topic contained too much sensitive detail. Since the WSC chair was not present it was agreed that Griesbaum would check back with Malone.

Tisson also asked for clarification about Rockwood’s request to the Athletes Commission to find out what the players and their families thought about setting up a paywall for the live video streams at WUCC. Rauch explained this could be dealt with by the Commission members asking athletes within their communities. It might also be a topic in the next player survey.

A motion was made by Raflo to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 1 October 2022 after a possible revision by Malone, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 23 October 2022

Rauch suggested to ask ExComm members to approve the draft minutes.

A motion was made by Gisela to approve the Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee 23 October 2022, seconded by Rauch. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

WFDF Events Team Report: 2023-2024 Plans

Woldt started her report by mentioning that the financial reconciliation of events was still ongoing. LOCs have closed out all spending now and the final expense report for each event has been received. In the report submitted for the meeting there were still some estimates of money coming in to WFDF but it favorable exceeds projections.

Sponsorship discs (VIK) from Discraft had been converted to cash by selling them to VC.

RFPs for bags, gloves, footwear have been sent out. Incumbents intend to submit a bid. Woldt mentioned her discussion with Mead to make sure Disc Golf is promoted well. There is a need for a stakeholder to set up a Disc Golf course in Chengdu.

On the Beach Ultimate 2023 event, Woldt mentioned that the Beach Ultimate Committee should reach out personally to countries which could form a team but haven't shown interest so far.

Still no venue contract signed for WU24. Spent much time to set up a budget that works. Events with around 50 - 60 teams in larger countries are expensive which makes it hard to balance the books. Cuts need to be made on spending. In odd years events have less frills and bring in much less money.

AOUGC 2023 in Philippines has asked to change the date of the event to September. There are a few Guts teams which signed up already, although only one from Japan (Taylor thinks they could send multiple teams), but Japan seems to be more impacted by COVID than other countries.

Lower preregistrations for the WBUC are perhaps because it is not in Europe. Cost to travel and stay is high for European teams. Same problem for PAUC.

2024 WOC plans were discussed. 2024 is looking strong. WFDF is trying to get back to a longer period of planning as was usual before COVID struck.

Mead added the update from the morning of this meeting. The plan is for a continental TDGC in 2023 likely one bid already received. DG Committee will decide by early January.

WFDF Rules of Ultimate 2021-2024 - Appendix Version 3.0

Gisel presented the revised appendix for 2023. Major changes include: allowance for teams to have two captains named, maximum roster 26 players (down from 28). The official results of cancelled game no longer depend on the seed, but more on what had happened in the game up until before the cancellation. Gender pulls rule now for all mixed WFDF events.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the updated Appendix Version 3.0, seconded by Raflo. The motion was approved unanimously.

FECODV Colombia (NF) - establishment of Conduct Committee

It had been reported that teams and athletes from Colombia had caused many problems during the 2022 WFDF events, and it was felt that the severity of these issues required a more formal approach. Therefore, a WFDF Conduct Committee will be formed with Rauch, Bulos and Bernardi as members who would approach FECODV to see how these problems could be avoided in the future.

Tisson suggested to include FECODV players in the committee, but this would constitute a conflict of interest. There was also no need for the Athletes' Commission to be included in the Committee, but they should be informed on a regular basis. Rauch suggested to move this matter in an offline discussion after this meeting.

The ongoing work of this committee would not mean the FECODV could not apply to attend upcoming events as the WBUC in 2023.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the establishment of the Conduct Committee with the members Rauch, Bulos, and Bernardi, seconded by Raflo. The motion was approved unanimously.

Membership application Saudi Flying Disc Committee (SFD) - membership application

Bernardi confirmed that the missing document from the file presented in the previous Board meeting has been received.

SFD is being recognized by national Olympic committee and Paralympic committee. Rauch asked on their approach towards women involvement which Bernardi confirmed with proofs coming from SFD Social Media profiles as well as stating they play mixed Ultimate. The Saudi Arabia NF also has women in leadership.

A motion was made by Morooka to put forward to Congress the membership application by the Saudi Flying Disc Committee for approval, seconded by Mead. The motion was approved unanimously.

National Membership application Malta - change of membership

Malta had requested to accept the newly founded Malta Flying Disc Association as WFDF member instead of the Malta Sport for All Federation. The latter had confirmed to support this application.

A motion was made by Mead to approve the change of national membership for Malta, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Associate Membership application International Flying Disc Academy (IFDA)

The IFDA had clarified a few questions from WFDF about their application. Mead stated that there were many organizations which want to educate and with that precedent they might all come and ask for the same type of associate membership. Rauch replied that this designation isn't exclusive and that other organizations could come with the same request. Tisson was concerned that IFDA could be too focused on Italy.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to put forward to Congress the Associate Membership application by the International Flying Disc Academy for approval, seconded by Bulos. The motion was approved with two oppositions and two abstentions.

Other new memberships developments

Bernardi presented that the Vietnam national federation is gearing towards NOC recognition (Monsoon Ultimate Club Hanoi).

Bulos explained development problems in Cuba. They are working on it but must be constantly reminded. She saw chances for Cuba to submit an application by year end.

Finance: Treasurer's YTD 2022 report

Bergeron started her report by stating that overall WFDF's financial position is stable. The event matters are still being processed with the expectations to be finalized with a positive outcome. Rauch highlighted the US\$ 197,000 net income with interest in seeing the situation after reconciliation. Total cash on hand is US\$ 962,000 with perhaps projected net assets of US\$450,000 after all liabilities were settled.

WFDF 2022 election - candidates and status

There will be uncontested elections for each position. Votes by Ultimate only federations that only voted for Ultimate related positions continues to make the process of reaching quorum difficult.

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

Bernardi presented the new requirements by WADA. WFDF needs to file the review in May 2023. Volker has a meeting in Lausanne in a week with International Testing Agency (ITA). WFDF will formalize its relationship with ITA, which was already agreed in 2019 but not finalized due to the pandemic.

Report TAFISA European Sport for all Games, Perugia (ITA), 23-29 September 2022

Benner added a thorough report on this matter. It was useful being present there. A Freestyle delegation coming from the FPA Freestyle World Championships in Milan participated and TAFISA provided 20 paid athlete slots.

WFDF 2022 census and membership dues invoices - update

Turkey asked for a reduction due to inflation in person while at the coaching clinic in Sofia, Bulgaria. Bernardi reminded that this has been done before for Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo. After a detailed discussion by Rauch and Tisson, it has been concluded that this isn't appropriate for the European countries especially with Turkey's GDP per capita level.

There may be potential changes to Brazil's NF status, but this to be discussed in person in 2023.

WFDF 2022 Development Programme - Report WFDF Sofia Coaching clinic

Bernardi referred to the document from the Briefing Book and presented the report.

WFDF Development Programme 2022

The final report to be submitted to IOC by December 14th for 2022. Positive impact for the WFDF after the IPC General assembly in Berlin.

Face-to-Face Board of Directors Meeting in 2023

Time and place discussed for Board of Directors offline meeting. In the past this had taken place in New York City close to the airport. Bernardi proposed Lausanne as a strategic decision since it can be supported by the IOC, or Frankfurt where he could supply a free meeting location by Germany's NOC. It will be reviewed in the coming weeks.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Tisson presented five additional names for the commission and the upcoming work. The goal is to have more people to apply for the Athletes' Commission election next time.

Mead proposed cross committees, e.g. two Disc Golf members to be involved in other committees. Recommend having players from Freestyle and other disciplines as well.

Transgender athletes' question has become important and could become a topic for the AC. When discussing best channels for the Athletes' Commission's communication with the athletes, Bergeron suggested to use Instagram.

SOTG Commission report

Amoroso started his report by presenting the IT problems that he is discussing with WFDF IT Administrator.

iSOTG press release to be published in the upcoming period.

Spirit Director training courses for players around the world are planned.

The SOTG Committee had been tasked with setting up and funneling support for Ukrainian Flying Disc and its athletes in light of the war situation. Rauch added that as a start it was planned to have a writeup about the Ukrainian Disc Golf team at WTDGC 2022 in Croatia and their personal testimonies. Woldt had not yet been successful in receiving the approval of the athletes involved to publish their stories. Mead mentioned that he was in contact with some of the athletes and offered help to connect.

Amoroso reported that he was pushing for publishing scientific articles about Flying Disc and SOTG e.g. in the journal MDPI Youth. He also expressed interest to obtain the spirit scores from the WTDGC 2022 for such an article.

Women in Sport Commission Report (Malone)

(none)

Media and Broadcast Plans for 2023

Rockwood reported that the expected revenue from the UltiWorld video paywall was US\$ 40,000. He noted that 70% of viewers for the WUCC streams were from the US. He did not expect the same revenue for events in Europe due to the 6 hour time difference to the US east coast. In 2022 finals had been free to watch and he questioned if this should stay so for 2023.

In 2023 geo-targeting would become available through UltiWorld enabling to offer to lower-income countries a vastly reduced fee. He was also looking into getting commentary in more different languages, e. g. Spanish.

Viewing numbers in China had been very high in 2019 already and continued to be so in 2022. Therefore, Rockwood and Gisel were working together to introduce coaching in China through a marketing partner. As basis for the coaching concept it was planned to have the Australian coaching manual translated into Mandarin. Certification program for coaching to be developed which will be offered to 10,000 schools throughout China. WFDF would receive a share of the marketing partner's revenue, which was expected to be up to 6 figure numbers during a 3 year period.

Bergeron asked whether these plans might be expensive while Rockwood assured that they would not require funding. They also discussed potential obstacles and channels for payment. Showcasing games in Europe in the evening can help avoiding risk with low numbers.

Rockwood said that UltiWorld model should be used for the WFDF events in 2023. Woldt noted that UKU has a strong partnership with UltiTV. Further negotiations with UKU about the video partnership were needed. Bernardi added recommendation by the Olympic Channel to present more events on that medium. Rockwood commented that the OC viewing numbers were low and not promising for WFDF.

At the end of this topic, viewership numbers were presented in order to make sure the best decision on what to keep free and what to continue with the paying model for the WFDF is being made.

Continental Association Reports (Chairs)

PAFDF

Meeting with all federations coming up in January to set up a plan for 2023.

AOFDF

Morooka discussed upcoming events in 2023 and 2024 and the search for host cities. Overall, Master and Junior Championships coming up next year. Beach Ultimate will be presented as the demonstration sport at the Asia Beach Games.

EFDF is being busy with current activities and plans for 2023 which seems to be a very busy year. A date for EFDF Congress is set in January. Interactive project EFDF is working with Jörg Benner. Additional to that, there is a discussion with BULA on the terms on agreement for EBUC.

Disc Sport Committee Reports (Chairs)

Disc Golf

Mead said that currently the main issues for the Disc Golf Committee are WDG rankings where the criteria had been slightly changed. Work with PDGA was going very well and WFDF was receiving all the data needed. WFDF will start presenting the WDG rankings on an annual basis (February/March). More countries are getting more women to play, which means they count more. Women ratings are the same as men. Mead explained changes in ratings.

WTDGC 2024, if organized in Australia, could bring more teams from Asia. Continental options for 2023 were presented but are yet to be decided on.

Mead added to the topic already mentioned in Woldt's report to persuade the Disc Golf community in China to help WFDF create the TWG opportunity in Chengdu. Bernardi explained that timeline for application process for Chengdu is not perfectly clear. There will be a new quota for 2025 including both athletes and officials. There will be a second quota for Olympic sports. Which sports should be presented in TWG as suitable for IOC quota is being discussed.

At the end of November, the application procedure will open for IWGA members. At the May 2023 GA IWGA in Madrid members will ratify the sports program for Chengdu. IWGA Executive Committee will meet in January in Madrid to approve the proposal.

Mead, Woldt and Bernardi to work on our disc golf proposal for TWG inclusion, maybe even to create a venue in Chengdu. Mead needs support with all the contacts from China he can get.

Guts

Taylor is hoping for 8 countries in Asia to attend AOGUC. Asia seems to be the best region for Guts to grow new teams. He is trying to get a women's division to work, but it is only Japan who has the women teams as of today. Morooka added that AOFDF has Guts committee and will connect them with WFDF Guts Committee.

Overall

McLeod said that potentially the next WOC could be in Milan. The Overall Committee is preparing a resource kit to help people running overall events to grow the base. They have hosted singular events for distance. He worked with Guinness, and they

will feature one page in next World Records Book. WFDF records could automatically be included in the Book which will help development of the game.

Beach Ultimate

Raflo reviewed frequency of Beach events. They will be looking at a 4 on 4 rules set for Beach events. This was Raflo's last Board meeting as he is stepping down. Rauch thanked Raflo for his work for WFDF on behalf of the whole board and disc community.

Next meetings

Executive Committee: 17/18 DEC; Board of Directors: 21/22 JAN 2023

Closing: 18:02 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary