
Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Sunday May 21, 2023
9am PDT / 12pm NY EST / 6pm CET / 9pm GST

Attending:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum
Volker Bernardi, Karina Woldt, Igor Janković

Call to order

18:00 CET

Overview by the President

President Rauch opened the meeting and briefly introduced the Agenda.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExCom

Board of Directors F2F Meeting Minutes APR 22-23, 2023 meeting

Presented for review.

WFDF 2023/24 events update

Woldt informed that preparation for all events in 2023 was progressing well, with registrations open and steady payments ensuring the viability of all events and divisions. While some countries had improved their payment processes there were still some members who needed extra time, partially due to missing visas for the athletes.

Woldt was also very busy with the annual audit where she received more detailed questions than in the past due to the fact that WFDF was now handling all team and player fees and had a more complex flow of finances. Bergeron added that it was important to have the auditor’s report finalized for inclusion in the Congress briefing book.

It had been difficult to plan for the Disc Golf Continental Team Disc Golf Championships but the bulletins for the Pan-Am TDGC in Appling, USA, in November 2023 and the Asia-Oceanic TDGC in Chinese Taipei in January 2024 had been finalized.

The bulletin for the WFDF 2023 World Wheelchair Ultimate Championship would be sent to Bernardi for approval and subsequent distribution.

Woldt proposed to increase the player sanctioning fees for the continental events for Ultimate from US\$15 to US\$25. This had been discussed at the recent Face-to-Face Board meeting and should be added to the Congress agenda and presented to Congress for vote. She would prepare a statement about this for the Congress Briefing Book.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the proposal to increase the continental sanctioning fee from US\$ 15.00 to US\$ 25.00, except for events in Africa for which there would be no fee charged, to become effective as of January 1, 2024, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Woldt reported that the Events Team intern Yenny Pardo so far had mostly helped with providing graphics and logos. It was too early to hand her tasks related to finances, but since she would attend the WU24 she would and gain hands-on experience there.

Strategic Plan - Partial first draft of strategies and tactics

Rauch shared an initial partial draft of the Strategic Plan which included additional strategies and tactics which had been worked on during the Face-to-Face meeting. He asked ExComm to look over it before it would be sent to the Board for further review until the end of June. After that he would ask Board members to take ownership for particular tactics. This next draft would not yet be presented to Congress as it would still be too preliminary.

Registration system - review status

Woldt had met with the software company which was tailoring their off-the-shelf product to the needs of WFDF. They had a first build and had invoiced WFDF for it. Since there were many steps to be taken it would take more time than expected and Woldt expected to use the software starting with the 2024 events. Griesbaum asked if future functions developed for the off-the-shelf product would automatically make its

way into the WFDF version of the software. Woldt needed to pass on that question to the company.

Broadcasting for WU24

Gisel reported that the business model for this year's streaming had been further discussed with UltiWorld and the current plan needed more funding from WFDF than approved for at the last ExComm meeting. However, the projected revenue for WU24 was expected to be high enough that it should cover the extra money needed for the other WFDF events in 2023. Bergeron asked for a detailed split of the revenue projections between licensing fees and profit sharing, which would be provided after the meeting.

The pricing of the new per-event subscription vs. the monthly subscription was discussed with some questions raised. But Gisel confirmed that the concept, including a geo-targeting option, had been well thought out and it should be tested at WU24. Bergeron asked for the churn rate of last year's subscribers, which would be provided by UltiWorld in June 2023.

Gisel also clarified that WFDF had all rights to all filming and would always have access to it, allowing WFDF to potentially excerpt clips for use on social media, provided that WFDF could afford to pay someone to do this.

The WU24 stream will also be sent to China without commentary for a fixed fee where it will be offered on several platforms behind a paywall. WFDF will receive a share of any profit made. Bergeron asked for a copy of the contract to have it in place for next year's audit.

The AOUGC in Manila will not be covered by UltiWorld, but a local sports TV firm recommended by the Philippine federation could produce a stream which UltiWorld would distribute.

At the AAUC in Kisumu, Kenya, Nathan Kolakovic would film the event and work closely with the TOC-affiliated media and local resources who could benefit from working with him as he would provide education to them on handling this in the future.

The commentators for WU24 were all decided on.

There had been a proposal to work with the Athens-based production and syndication company ICARUS. It was felt that WFDF should first stabilize its streaming income before putting money into non-endemic awareness.

ADFA and CHN coaching licensing deal

The Australian WFDF member AFDA has agreed to approve that WFDF offer and license its coaching certificate program inside China on behalf of AFDA as a test. AFDA does not want to be involved in the actual licensing.

Possible partnership/sponsorship from China for WFDF Footwear partner

X-COM, a disc producer from Shenzhen, Peoples' Republic of China, has submitted a bid for a four year worldwide exclusive Footwear partnership. They are new in the footwear field and expect that a two year deal would be too short. In the absence of any other bidder following through with WFDF, it was planned to reach a contract with X-COM with the partnership to begin in advance of our first events in 2023.

Woldt noted that X-COM should not use the same company logo for footwear as they do for discs, as this might interfere with the rights of WFDF's official Ultimate disc partner, Discraft. X-COM should always be referred to only as footwear supplier and it was suggested to incorporate X-COM's specific footwear logo as part of the contract.

Gisel added that X-COM had asked if they could become WFDF's disc sponsor solely for China. Since the current WFDF disc sponsor Discraft does not have much business with China it was viewed as a possibility but needed to be discussed with Discraft along with a potential Disc Golf disc partnership and the partnership for TWG 2025 later towards the end of the 2023 season.

Anti-Doping Discussion with PDGA

Rauch, Gisel and Bernardi had scheduled an online meeting with Brian Graham from PDGA to introduce him to Anti-Doping issues and had sent him a link to WADA's online course referred to as ADEL. Since all Disc Golf athletes at the next TWDGC and the TWG 2025 needed to pass this course and test, it was felt helpful to have PDGA understand Anti-Doping and pass this on to Disc Golf athletes.

Finance: Treasurer's YTD 2023 report

Bergeron reported that WFDF was on track for the time of the year according to the projected budget with slightly higher expenses than budgeted YTD due to the Face-to-Face Board meeting in New York City.

Finance: WFDF 2022 Audit

This year's audit was more complex and time consuming than before due to the fact that WFDF has handled all money transfers of team and player fees to the LOCs in 2023. It was noted that the auditor's report needed to be in the Congress Briefing book by June 1st for Congress to vote on it.

Finance: Budget for 2024

Bergeron presented updates to the 2024 Budget of which some had been discussed at the Face-to-Face Board meeting. This included expected sponsorship income related to Disc Golf in advance and concurrent with the inclusion of the discipline at TWG 2025, expenses for new fields of development, and an additional consulting stipend for a half-time Social Media/Communications Coordinator.

Rauch noted that without additional income in the next years the budget would nearly reduce the cash balance of WFDF by the end of 2028. But as usual the budget would be reconsidered in 2024 and adjusted if needed.

ExComm approved of the proposed changes.

Finance: Proposal for WFDF 2023 Auditor

Bergeron presented McMillen & Company, PLLC, whose principal, Lane McMillan had been WFDF's auditor for the past seven years.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve McMillen & Company as auditor for 2023, seconded by Rauch. The motion was approved unanimously.

Annual risk assessment

Changes in the new Annual risk assessment were mostly based on adding additional elements relating to of safe sport issues.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve WFDF's Annual risk assessment, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Congress 2023 Agenda draft

Rauch noted that the final agenda would include the proposal to raise the sanctioning fee of continental events from US\$ 15.00 to US\$ 25.00.

The Congress meeting will take place on July 1st, 2023 as a 6 hour meeting from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm UK time. There would be time devoted to broader discussions including pursuit of the Olympics, national federations overssing all disciplines, and potential upcoming bylaws revisions.

WFDF would offer to attend in person or online. Voting would take place online for all participants, including for those those attending in person.

The meeting would be followed by a social gathering of the participants.

IT Update

With the WFDF IT Administrator having taken over a position in the LOC of WU24 in Nottingham responsiveness had declined. It was expected that this would improve in the 3rd quarter of 2023 and these projects could be tackled:

- Newsletter mailing list
- IT helpdesk
- Rules subsite
- Data consent
- Video archive

The WFDF website backend was still considered unreliable and a thorough scrub was needed.

Discussion of revisions to the current WFDF Transgender Policy (effective 1/1/2023)

Gisel noted that WFDF's Transgender Policy was much stricter than those of NFs and asked if it should be loosened to be more in-line with the policies of several of WFDF's largest members.

Rauch commented that the policy had just come into effect in January 2023 and that the policy specifically stated that it would be reviewed and revised as more research was done on the impact on women's sport. The group agreed that this should go through a review process overseen and driven by WFDF's Medical Committee Chair Nuwer.

WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report

Bernardi reported that 77 members had filed the annual Census and he noted that some were not on good standing while there were teams in these countries which had applied to attend WFDF events in 2023. This sparked a discussion about how to restart the governance structures in these countries e. g. through the captains and other members of these teams.

TWG 2025 Chengdu - WFDF application for Ultimate and Disc Golf

The qualification general principles for TWG 2025 had been published and the qualification period had started. WFDF needed to appoint competition managers for Ultimate and Disc Golf as well as native speakers in China for each discipline. For Ultimate this could be Zhixing Xue, for Disc Golf Tim Flanders. It seemed logical to appoint the current Disc Golf Committee Chair as competition manager, but as Mead plans to step down from his position as Chair, it was discussed that he take the role initially but perhaps turn it over to the new chair in 2024.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve Gisel (Ultimate) and Mead (Disc Golf) as competition managers for TWG 2025 with immediate effect, seconded by Bergeron and Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously, with Gisel recusing himself from voting.

WFDF Development Programme and new membership developments 2023

Deadline for applications for development funding was the day after the ExComm meeting. Bernardi planned to submit a flexible description of how WFDF will spend IOC's money for development, as details were not fully defined at this time.

Next meeting

Board: Board: 17/18JUN; Congress: 1 July; ExComm: 26/27AUG

Closing at 20:56 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary