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**Sunday June 18, 2023**

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, SGP: 21:00, JPN, KOR: 22:00

**Board members present:**

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Lori Daniels (proxy by Rob McLeod), Rob McLeod, Shiellah Quintos, Yoonee Jeong, Alex Matovu, Steve Taylor, Fumio Morooka, José Amoroso

**Also attending (non voting):** Volker Bernardi, (Secretary General), Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Coordinator), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing)

**Guest:**

Ulrike Lehmann

**Board members absent/excused:**

Charlie Mead, Nicole Bulos, Jamie Nuwer, Caroline "Caz" Malone, Caroline Tisson, Haude Hermand

**Call to order (time: 15:10 CEST)**

Quorum reached with 12 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 - 22/23 April 2023, F2F New York**

A motion was made by Jeong to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 22/23 April 2023, F2F New York, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 21 May 2023**

The minutes were presented for information to the Board and for approval by ExComm.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 21 May 2023, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously by the ExComm members in attendance.

## **Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board**

### **WFDF Events Team Report: 2023-2024 Plans**

Woldt reported that finances of all events of 2022 had been finalized. In 2023 the first of seven events on the schedule would be the WU 24 to start on July 2nd. She noted that the WFDF World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) & WFDF 2023 Int'l Beach Ultimate Mixed Club Challenge (IBUXCC) had attracted fewer teams than expected but both events were still feasible. Plans for the Pan American Team Disc Golf Championship in the USA were in the process of being finalized.

2024 will be just as busy as 2023 with eight events. All contracts had been signed by the hosts, except for the WFDF 2024 World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC). Bernardi noted that beginning in 2024 all contracts needed a new clause to include WADA code compliance. He would send the needed wording to the Events team and Woldt confirmed that she would send an addendum to the contract to all hosts of the 2024 events.

The recent homicide of two students in Nottingham raised the question about the security at WU 24. Woldt informed that the LOC was in contact with the local police and Civil Defense and both did not see a threat to general security in the area. Should this status change then LOC would comply to whatever the police would ask for. Woldt confirmed that none of the participants had contacted her about the security in Nottingham.

Shortly after WU24, call for bids for the 2025 and 2026 events would go out. The proposed schedule for these events had been set up together with the European Ultimate Federation (EUF). Ulrike Lehmann suggested to also involve the European Flying Disc Federation (EFDF) which would also include the European Disc Golf Federation EDGF and help avoid clashes with Disc Golf events.

It was discussed how the increased number of events was impacting the work load of the Events Team. The new intern Yenny Pardo had started to help the Events Team with smaller tasks and would gain helpful experience at the upcoming WU24 to take over more work for the upcoming season.

McLeod suggested that contrary to the proposed schedule he was hoping to have a World Overall Championship in 2025 instead of 2026, trying to get back to an odd year cycle. Woldt noted the need to adjust the bidding process and consider resource allocation accordingly with the rest of the events schedule. Further discussions would occur offline.

### **Coaching Programs - FLIK, AUS/CHN**

Gisel and Rockwood provided an update on the collaboration with the Australian Flying Disc Federation and partners in China to bring coaching and teaching resources to schools in China. They have received approval from the AFDA and are waiting for a response from China.

For WFDF's cooperation with the coaching platform Flik, Gisel had been working on identifying which of their resources could be made available through the WFDF portal. This was ready for announcement as part of a press release within the next few days.

Matovu expressed interest in coaching programs, and Gisel explained that once the resources are identified, national and continental federations will be approached to nominate coaches who will receive free access to the WFDF portal. Lehmann shared information about the EUF's "Train the Trainer Program" and the EFDF's involvement in the EU project called " INTERACT+," which offers sports coaching workshops.

### **FECODV Colombia (NF) - Conduct Committee procedures**

After numerous issues in connection with the conduct of Colombian athletes and FECODV in 2022 at the WUCC in Cincinnati, the World Games, the WJUC and the World Team Disc Golf Championship, WFDF had set up a Conduct Committee comprised of Rauch, Bulos and Bernardi (chair). The committee report explained the violations and the responses from the Colombian National Federation. The committee several recommendations to the Board, including a Probationary period through December 2026 to ensure compliance with rules and standards.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve the recommendations of the Conduct Committee, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously with Gisel (who had raised the issues) recusing himself from voting.

## **Finance: May 2023 Statements**

Bergeron mentioned during the update that the 2022 events have been finalized and closed with the audit prepared for the annual meeting. Expenditures for the New York in-person meeting were slightly higher than expected but within the budget. Accounts payable and receivable are relatively small numbers, indicating things are on track from a budgeting perspective.

Woldt highlighted that the amount of service provided by WFDF for regional events has been growing each year. It was proposed to increase the player fee for WFDF sanctioned regional events from US\$15.00 to US\$25.00 for all regions except Africa.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the increase from US\$15.00 to US\$25.00, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rauch mentioned that the budget included an increase in human resources by one half time position for the Events Team and one half time position for a consultant for Communication and Social Media strategies, as discussed during the face-to-face meeting 2023 in New York.

The budget also anticipates a potential positive impact from broadcast revenue.

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

Bernardi pointed out that there was an update to the Testing Pool following the update of the WFDF World Ultimate Rankings where Japan is replaced by Australia. Bernardi requested approval from the Board for this modification.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the replacement of Japan by Australia in the Anti-Doping Testing Pool, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **WFDF 2022 and 2023 census and membership dues invoices - update**

So far 96 members had filed their census. This was a comparably high reply rate but it took very much time for the Administrative Team to reach out to members by email, phone and text messages. And some members just remained silent and unresponsive. Rauch expressed appreciation for the exceptional response rate.

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## **WFDF new and current membership developments 2023 - silent members**

Bernardi provided an overview of WFDF's "silent members." He mentioned the challenges faced by countries like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Haiti, where difficult economic and humanitarian situations hindered their disc sports activities.

Bernardi emphasized the limitations in providing assistance due to safety concerns and lack of political stability in these countries. He also mentioned the Republic of Moldova, where the ongoing conflict led to a lack of activity and people fleeing the country.

Regarding Sri Lanka, El Salvador, and Qatar, further investigations were needed to understand the current situation on the ground and the possibility of reactivating their more active involvement.

Brazil, Iceland and Morocco were also mentioned as countries where efforts were being made to reactivate the federations. Matovu noted that Tanzania has quite a lot of activity and many young players. Notably, Tanzania files the census every year, while DRC is having a problem as their main administrator has left the country.

Lehmann mentioned that EFDF is in contact with the representative from Iceland and will pass on to WFDF the information to reestablish communication.

## **Reports and Updates**

### **Athletes' Commission Report**

The Athletes' Commission presented the proposal to add three new members to the committee: Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo, Shane Egeland, and Seval Cihankaya. Their background information and CVs were provided for the board's reference. Rauch clarified that these appointments were separate from the elections held to ensure representation.

A motion was made by Jeong to approve Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo, Shane Egeland, and Seval Cihankaya as appointed Athletes' Committee members, seconded by Amoroso. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **SOTG Commission report**

Amoroso was working on the questionnaire to be submitted to the participants of the WU24 in Nottingham. The proposed poster to explain SOTG to other sports would be finalized soon. The SOTG Committee had also kicked off planning for the International SOTG Day and planned to present first ideas soon. Rauch noted that the committee needed to coordinate with the Events Team to which Amoroso added that IT support was also needed.

### **Women in Sport Commission Report**

The commission has been spending much time to support women athletes in the Asian region.

### **Media and Broadcast Plans for 2023**

Rockwood provided an update on the preparations for the WU24 in Nottingham, highlighting the approval of the drone usage and the camera setup for the three fields covered by Ultiworld. The proposed pricing scheme was discussed in detail. Viewers could choose between the usual monthly Ultiworld subscription fee, which did not cover games on the third field, a one-time fee for all fields and games and a one-time fee for just the three final games. Additionally, geo-based reduced pricing would be available for viewers from certain selected countries. The Board agreed that this new pricing concept needed to be tried as a test and collected buyers' data would be evaluated carefully. Further discussions arose about what share WFDF would receive from the various payments. It was anticipated that WFDF would at least receive as much as it was investing into the live streaming.

Rockwood noted that WFDF was also selling the streams to China for a fixed amount plus a share of all revenue generated there through Subscription Video on Demand on the Tencent platform.

Rockwood also presented a four-year footwear sponsorship deal with XCOM Sports from China.

Bernardi mentioned interest from the Olympic Channel to receive streams and videos for their free channel. It needed to be worked out how this could happen while ensuring it doesn't conflict with the Ultiworld pay-per-view model.

### **Continental Association Reports**

#### **PAFDF**

Rauch reported that PAFDF President Nicole Bulos remained in her position for the time being until a replacement could be found. PAFDF expressed excitement about Ecuador joining the group and their plans to implement a program targeting schools. Support letters signed by Rauch were sent to various school organizations in the area. They are also working with Mexico to address governance issues.

### **AOFD**

Morooka mentioned that Shirahama has been selected as the venue for the Asia Oceania Beach Ultimate event 2024. Japan will host the World Masters Games 2027 in Kansai. Details are yet to be decided, and an advisors' meeting will be held at the end of June to discuss preparations for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

### **EFDF**

Lehmann provided an update on recent activities, specifically in Ultimate and Disc Golf. The European Beach Ultimate Club Championships held in Royan was successful, with 53 teams from 15 countries participating. However, there were challenges with a team from Ukraine due to their national rule that prohibits participation in events where Russian nationals are involved. It was difficult to ensure this and she expected that WFDF would also run into this problem should the Ukraine participate in future WFDF events.

Upcoming European events where the European Ultimate Championships (EUC) in Ireland, the European Youth Ultimate Championships (EYUC) in Padova, Italy, and various multi-sports events involving Freestyle, Mixed Ultimate, and Disc Golf.

The General Assembly in January was successful, with 31 out of 41 European countries as members of the Federation, and overall communication with members has been positive.

### **AFDF**

Matovu mentioned that most teams and national federations are focused on signing up for championships in October. They received a report from Niger, one of the new members, stating that they received discs from WFDF and won grants with the help of Bernardi. The Japanese Flying Disc has also confirmed sending another consignment of 100 discs to East Africa, specifically Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Matovu suggested exploring options for sending discs to the African Championships without incurring high tariffs.

Rauch acknowledged the difficulty in overcoming customs issues and suggested contacting Karina and Patrick to find a cost-effective solution. Matovu mentioned a successful method of distributing discs through Kenya without paying tariffs and proposed expanding it to benefit other countries in East Africa, such as Rwanda, Tanzania, and Burundi.

## **Disc Sport Committee Reports**

### **Guts**

Taylor was working with Cabrera from the AOUGC LOC on planning the Guts competition. He asked the Events Team for contact information of the teams from Japan and Taiwan. Woldt noted that since it was an Asia-Oceanic event, the USA cannot win any medals. Taylor expressed interest in including a Women's Division in the World Guts Championships 2024 and asked if the bulletin could be amended.

### **Beach Ultimate**

Quintos had no new updates since the face-to-face meeting. She will coordinate with Woldt about the WBUC and the IBUXCC.

### **Overall**

McLeod announced that the disc sports videos would be finalized in Fall 2023. He was thinking about how national federations could be enticed to support all disc sports disciplines and thought WFDF could influence its members stronger.

Rauch emphasized he felt that it was important to get the youth to be involved in overall disc sports.

McLeod mentioned the possibility of hosting the next championship in Sweden, as they have proven expertise in organizing successful events.

Rauch encouraged McLeod to communicate and coordinate with the Events Team to ensure the event aligns with the overall calendar and is sustainable.

### **Freestyle**

McLeod had received a video from the Freestyle Committee about the TAFISA event which was planned to be presented at Congress. Rauch confirmed that it could be presented if it was sent to Griesbaum in time.



McLeod noted the growing interest in Freestyle, citing examples of people posting videos of their frisbee skills in Punjab and receiving invitations to run clinics in Iran. Bernardi added that recently the President and CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Flying Disc Federation rekindled contact with WFDF.

### **Other Business**

Bernardi raised a concern about the need for elections in the African region as they were overdue. Matovu informed that they had planned to hold the elections at the All Africa Ultimate Championships2023 to ensure greater participation from national federations. He would send Bernardi an invitation to the meeting.

Rauch informed the board members that he has compiled the information discussed during the face-to-face meeting and will send it out as a paper for review. He requested feedback and additional suggestions within two weeks, as well as volunteers to lead the implementation of the tactics.

Amoroso mentioned that the WFDF University and School Sport / Youth and Sport Commission had been reactivated.

### **Next meetings/wrap-up**

Congress 1JUL; ExComm 26/27AUG; Board 23/24SEP

### **Closing: 17:00 CEST**

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum  
WFDF Secretary