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**Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Saturday September 2nd, 2023**

6am PDT / 9am NY EST / 3pm CET / 5pm GST

**Attending:**

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

**Call to order (Rauch)**

15:02 CEST

**Overview by the President (Rauch)**

President Rauch opened the meeting and briefly introduced the agenda.

**Decisions between meetings (Rauch)**

(none)

**Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExCom**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 18 JUN 22-23, 2023 meeting**

Will be reviewed within the next few days.

**WFDF Congress Minutes, Annual Congress, 1 JUL 2023, Nottingham**

Will be reviewed within the next few days.

**WFDF 2023/24 events update**

The Event Team was in the process of closing financials for WU24 in Nottingham. The final event report was being written in a manner to facilitate the auditing process. It seemed that WU24 would produce a modest profit.

The venue of the AOUGC in Manila, PHI, which will start in a few days, was currently impacted by the effects of a typhoon, but the forecast for the time of the event was much better. The preparation of the event looked good. Fees for some extra players were still missing and the rosters would be updated accordingly. Iran had asked to send a team at a very late stage. Payment turned out to be a huge problem and by the time it could have gone through Iran had to cancel its participation. Iran's attempt to send a team was applauded and Rauch suggested to find out how other international federations dealt with the difficulty for Iran to legally send international payments given the financial system sanctions.

Gisel reported on the plans for streaming and commentating of the AOUGC games on up to two fields. Ultiworld would receive the stream from a local provider and make it available to regular customers and offer an event package which would be available at a reduced subscription rate for viewers from some lower income countries. WFDF would receive revenue of this package. The finals' streams would also be sent to CCTV in China.

Eight teams had signed up for the All African Ultimate Championships in Kisumu, Kenya. Preparations for the event looked good. WFDF would send Nathan Kolakovic there to produce video content for WFDF and to pass on his experience to local videographers. Woldt added that she had successfully sent 200 discs to the AAUC LOC which would be very helpful for the athletes in the region.

Bernardi reported on the upcoming first World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships in Italy. Not all countries with wheelchair activities could send a team, but three teams were expected and he hoped that a fourth international team might be set up. During the event a classification session would be conducted and all attending athletes would be classified. This would be very helpful for future events. The next wheelchair championships were planned for 2025 and a call for bids should be sent out soon.

For the World Beach Ultimate Championships in Huntington Beach, USA, 44 teams had confirmed participation with all fees collected. The budget of this event was very tight and WFDF would not send Game Advisors but there would still be streaming coverage of the event. WFDF was prepared for a possible need to cover financial losses at this event.

Preparation for the Pan American Ultimate Championships in the Dominican Republic was running well. So far 77 teams from 13 countries had signed up and all fees had been collected. The Pan American Team Disc Golf Championships in Appling, GA, USA, had teams from five countries signed up and the Asia-Oceania Team Disc Golf Championships planned for year end in Chinese Taipei had finally received permission from the authorities and the bulletin would go out soon.

In 2024 the World Ultimate Championships in Australia had attracted interest by 35 countries but a large number of still had not made payments. It was noted that countries who had a guaranteed spot at TWG 2025 but did not pay by the deadline could risk their slot.

With the city of Royan, France, retracting their interest in hosting the World Beach Ultimate Championships 2024 WFDF was now in discussions with an LOC in Valencia, Spain. The planned date would be in November 2024.

The bulletin for the Asia-Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships would go out soon as well as the request for bids for 2025.

### **Event Registration system**

The Event Team is testing a registration system and is in the midst of reviewing various customization requests. The goal is to use one event next year as a pilot program for the new system (possibly WJUC). With the registration system's close integration with QuickBooks Online, it was suggested they include WFDF bookkeeper Gray in the tests.

### **Disc Licensing Program**

Woldt reported that there are currently 14 general-level discs registered on the USAU Approved Program, along with six brands that have multiple discs approved at the championship level. She had reached out to all of them and informed them that WFDF was re-implementing the licensing agreements effective 15 September through the end of 2024, but only XCom, Yukon and Eurodisc had replied. Rauch noted that the final versions of the two contracts WFDF has set up should be sent to the manufacturers with a payment deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Disc Golf Sponsor for 2023-2024**

Rauch suggested Woldt and Mead send out an RFP to event specific sponsors for the PATDGC in 2023 and the WTDGC in 2024.

### **WFDF Strategic Plan 2023-2028 - First draft review**

Rauch presented an update to the draft of the WFDF Strategic Plan 2023-2028 with a section about the history of WFDF's evolution to WFDF 3.0. It also includes a

section about the participation numbers which clearly shows a decrease in numbers due to the pandemic but perhaps also to a change in reporting by the members. It was noted that the strategic plan still needed to include more recent photos. Rauch invited ExComm members to provide feedback within the next days. He then planned to get board input and approval and then send the strategic plan to Congress.

### **WFDF 3.0 Staffing proposal and budget**

Rauch proposed the creation of four new positions and presented a budget to pay for them:

- WFDF Executive Assistant (PA to the Secretary General and ExComm officers) – full time position
- WFDF Director of Membership Services and Sport Development – full time position
- WFDF Olympic Movement Consultant (pure consulting and advisory) background IOC staff or IOC member
- Director of Communications and Social Media – full time position

It was felt that WFDF needed to provide more resources to key areas within WFDF on the personnel side to achieve its objectives for WFDF 3.0.

Rauch expected these positions to cost WFDF around US\$ 120,000 per year, which WFDF could pay for now but would need more income to cover in the upcoming years. Suitable candidates would be sought after through public press releases. He proposed to get ExComm and Board approval and then submit the proposal to Congress.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the creation of these four new paid positions at WFDF, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rauch continued that Congress had already approved a 2024 budget which included a second part-time WFDF Event Coordinator. The Events team strongly recommends that WFDF offer this position to Colombian Yenny Pardo, based in Dubai, who has been working as an intern for WFDF since WUCC 2022 in Cincinnati. She also supported the team at the WU24s in Nottingham. She would officially start on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve Yenny Pardo as new Event Coordinator, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **IT Consultant**

Rauch noted that IT Consultant Tobiasiewicz's availability over the last several years did not match WFDF's expectations. This was only in part due to Tobiasiewicz's work as TD for WU24. Rauch proposed setting up a meeting within the next week to discuss this matter with the consultant, inviting interested ExComm members.

## **Finance: Treasurer's YTD 2023 report**

Bergeron provided a brief financial update, mentioning that the financials for July were relatively better than the budget had projected, resulting in a slightly smaller deficit.

## **Broadcast Update**

Broadcasting revenue from the Nottingham WU24 event had seen moderate uptake, with some challenges related to the time zone difference between North America and Europe. However, when combined with the US\$10,000 from China's rights fees, WFDF almost broke even with the production costs for the event.

For the first time WFDF will stream from AOUGC using local partner Upstream Sports and it will serve as a test of how well this will work out.

For WBUC stronger revenues streams were expected due to the event being in the USA. It was planned that WFDF would need to allocate around US\$ 30,000. Revenue would be split with Ultiworld. Since no teams from China are participating there was likely no interest there to distribute a stream. The Olympic Channel was always interested in streaming our championship events and Gisel stated that they would receive a number of streams or videos.

Gisel also mentioned plans for the Pan American Ultimate Championships (PAUC) and the need for multilingual coverage in central and South America markets. Ultiworld was enthusiastic about providing coverage.

Regarding advertising, Gisel emphasized the importance of proactive advertising for event streams and mentioned allocating US\$5,000 for advertising expenses, focusing on both the disc community and non-endemic sports communities.

Gisel presented an update to WFDF's Policy for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's /Drones). This would explicitly allow for drones above the playing field, but not above players. Gisel asked for approval by ExComm.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the update to WFDF's Policy for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, seconded by Rauch. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **WFDF proposal for the IOC 2023 IOC GEDI Champions Awards: Nomination**

Bernardi presented the IOC Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Champions to be awarded annually. He suggested that WFDF nominate a suitable person to IOC and proposed Catherine "Caz" Malone, Chairperson of the WFDF Women in Sport Commission. Bernardi volunteered to contact Malone and write the nomination. ExComm agreed to proceed accordingly.

### **WFDF 2023 elections - preparations**

Bernardi emphasized the importance of starting the election process early to allow sufficient time for candidates to decide and for the election cycle to run smoothly. He asked the incumbent officers to inform him if they are running again for their positions. The election process for PAFDF and Africa Continental Presidents also needed to be arranged for.

### **WFDF new membership proposal: 107 Mongolia**

Bernardi presented the membership application of Mongolia. The documented activities showed that the minimum number of active athletes was reached. Rauch noted that the bylaws lacked a non-discrimination clause, but Bernardi said he would receive an official written decision within a week by their Executive Committee to include a non-discrimination clause in their next revision of the bylaws.

### **WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report**

Bernardi reported that still 10 members had not submitted their census for 2023, of which four hadn't done so for several years. The rate of payments had improved and Bernardi would take up work trying to reactivate the "silent members" as discussed at a recent meeting.

### **WFDF 2023 Development Programme**

Bernardi presented the ten applications for 2023 of which he considered two or three to be more suitable for 2024. Again, several uncoordinated applications from one country had been received without endorsement by the NF thus reducing the chances of being accepted. Three applications included requests which WFDF does not support through its grant program: buying land, buying discs or paying for flights merely to attend WFDF sanctioned events.

The development grant proposals would be examined by the WFDF Sport for All and Development Commission, and feedback would be obtained. The final approval would be decided by the Board of Directors at the end of the month

Bernardi added that WFDF had received the corrective action report from WADA. WADA has commented that we have one of the lowest numbers of corrective actions, but there are still three. WFDF needs to respond to these corrective actions and implement them shortly

### **Other Business**

Bernardi noted that the deadline for registering the Disc Golf representative to the Competition Manager Meeting in October 2023 for The World Games 2025 in Chengdu was approaching fast and it was unclear who would attend. Woldt informed that Mead had suggested Tim Flanders who lived in China and spoke Chinese, but he was not available on the dates of the meeting. Flanders recommended Gabriel, a Disc Golf and Ultimate player who lived in China and was also fluent in Chinese. Woldt would present this suggestion to Mead and have him sign up in time for the Competition Manager Meeting. Gisel had already registered as Competition Manager for Ultimate.

Gisel noted that he had spoken with Sion Scone from Flik during WU24 and they would take up work on giving WFDF members access to the coaching plans as agreed. In the Australian coaching program which was planned to be distributed within China, unforeseen circumstances had stopped the process. Gisel would send a summary of the status of both coaching programs to ExComm.

### **Next meeting**

Board 23/24SEP; ExComm: 28/29OCT

Closing at 17:02 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum  
WFDF Secretary