
Sunday September 24, 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, Chasen Brokaw, Caroline Tisson, Rob McLeod, Fumio Morooka, Steve Taylor, José Amoroso, Charlie Mead, Alex Matovu

Also attending (non-voting): Volker Bernardi, (Secretary General), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), Yenny Pardo (Event Intern), Patrick Fourcamps-Maye (Event Coordinator)

Board members absent/excused:

Jamie Nuwer, Yoonee Jeong, Caroline "Caz" Malone, Lori Daniels, Haude Hermand, Shiellah Quintos

Call to order (time: 15:06 CEST)

Quorum was reached with 12 votes of 10/18 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed Chasen Brokaw as interim PAFDF president and Yenny Pardo, currently intern on the Events team and thanked all for participating.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 18 June 2023

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 18 June 2023, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the Congress meeting - 1 July 2023

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the Congress meeting - 1 July 2023, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 26 August 2023

Preliminary minutes provided for information.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

WFDF Events Team Report: 2023-2024 Plans

For WU24 in Nottingham (GBR) the Event Team was working on closing off the financials and the post event report. AOUGC in Manila (PHI) was attended by over 1,000 athletes and is considered a success.

The upcoming inaugural World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships in Lignano Sabbiadoro (ITA) has two countries (Italy and Germany) confirmed and with two teams from Italy and an international team, for a total of four teams competing.

The All African Ultimate Championships in Kisumu (KEN) has 8 teams signed up with potentially more late additions. WFDF is sending videographer Nathan Kolakovic to assist in media coverage and to instruct people in the region.

WBUC in Huntington LA (USA) has 44 teams registered, much less than expected after the last WBUC in 2017. The budget has been cut back but the event will occur as planned.

The inaugural Pan-American Team Disc Golf Championships (PATDGC) in Appling, GA (USA) has 5 countries registered. The schedule and the format are finalized.

PAUC in Punta Cana (DOM) has 77 teams registered and most fees have been collected.

The Asia-Oceanic Team Disc Golf Championships (AOTDGC) in Taipei City, (TPE) will receive support from the host city and registration has opened.

The 2024 WUC and WGC in Australia have not yet received enough fee payments to make it viable. The payment deadline has been extended to the end of October.

The French city of Royan has retracted its interest to host EBUC in 2024. The Event Team is working with the city of Valencia (ESP) as alternative host.

Event Registration system

Customization of the selected registration system and testing by the Events Team was continuing. WFDF's bookkeeper Gray has been involved to assess the interface with QuickBooks, ensuring that it meets the desired level of robustness.

Pardo confirmed the ongoing work with the team to facilitate online registrations. The plan is to open the portal for upcoming events once the testing is completed. They are working closely with the programming team to ensure the system's effectiveness.

Disc Licensing Program

WFDF will introduce a nominal licensing fee for Ultimate discs which have been certified by USAU to be listed on its web site as officially approved discs. All manufacturers of currently approved discs have been asked to sign the contract. So far after the deadline of September 15th only four replies have been received and two manufacturers have signed the contract. The manufacturers will be approached again and those who do not sign the new licensing contract will be taken off the list on WFDF's web site.

Disc Golf Sponsor for 2023-2024

Rauch discussed the potential for securing a disc golf sponsor for two upcoming events: the Pan American and the World Team Disc Golf Championships. Due to the tight time frame for PATDGC 2023 and because contact details for DG disc producers needed to be researched Rauch suggested to target the major manufacturers first.

WFDF Strategic Plan 2023-2028

The latest draft of the Strategic Plan was presented which introduced the concept of WFDF 3.0 to tackle the lack of commercial sponsor interest and broad spectator base and to be as good or better than many of the Olympic IFs.

Gisel suggested to highlight WFDF's activities to a greater extent on Social Media. Staff was needed to produce more content to show the sport. Amoroso added that

WFDF's approach should be based on scientific research. This could be funded by EU programs such as ERASMUS+.

Rauch asked to receive tangible suggestions and feedback to be incorporated into the Strategic Plan by the beginning of October so that it could be presented to Congress for vote together with the budget and Congress minutes.

WFDF 3.0 Staffing proposal and budget

While discussing the Strategic Plan WFDF 3.0 and the goal to get to the next level within the world of sport, including perhaps inclusion on the Olympic Programme, it became clear that WFDF needed more resources. Rauch presented the proposal for four new paid staff positions:

- 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
- Director of Communications and Social Media – full time position
- WFDF Olympic Movement Consultant (pure consulting and advisory)

The budget impact of these staff additions is an estimated additional expense of about US\$120,000 per year. This is manageable for the next two years but would not be sustainable if WFDF were not able to increase sponsorship resources by at least US\$100,000 per year.

A motion was made by McLeod to approve the WFDF 3.0 Staffing proposal and budget, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

A second part-time position for the Events Team had been approved before and the Events Team proposed Yenny Pardo from Colombia, living in Dubai, for the position. She was an intern since 2022. Her elevation to a part-time position would start on October 1st, 2023.

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

IT Backup Coverage Plan

Rauch discussed the need for an IT backup coverage plan to ensure that IT resources remain sufficient to meet the organization's requirements, especially considering the

introduction of WFDF 3.0. IT Director Tobiasiewicz is committed to his role and cleared his schedule to increase his availability. A helpdesk and ticket system would be set up. Additionally, two individuals will be trained to serve as backup when Tobiasiewicz were unavailable: Sarah Jane Powell (primary) who has worked with WFDF staff and officers as the IT Support Volunteer at WU24 in Nottingham this year and Alex Johnson (secondary) who has been involved in beta testing of the WFDF Voting System & Website.

A motion was made by Mead to approve the IT Backup Coverage Plan with the understanding that Tobiasiewicz is the primary consultant, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance: Treasurer's YTD 2023 report

Bergeron provided an update on the financial status of WFDF. She mentioned that Nottingham is being wrapped up, and merchandise sales at the AOUGC were positive, which is good for future returns. Financially, WFDF is on track despite the expectation of running a deficit. Numbers in the Congress expense category were higher than expected due to the Face-to-Face meeting with high travel costs which had not been budgeted for. Bergeron mentioned some concerns about registration numbers for the 2023 Australia event, which could affect revenue projections.

Broadcast/Media Update

Rockwood presented viewer and financial numbers of the past events WU24 in Nottingham and AOUGC in Manila. Usually, most viewers are from the USA but at WU24 due to the time difference to the UK the numbers were not as high as projected. He expected a deficit for WFDF of around US\$ 6,000. Viewer numbers were also lower than expected at AOUGC and the expected deficit for WFDF is around US\$ 12,000. Rockwood noted that stream piracy has become noticeable.

Upcoming events with live coverage were WBUC in Los Angeles, USA, and PAUC in WBUC, DOM. With 77 teams registered for PAUC Rockwood projected that WFDF would break even with production costs. For WBUC he proposed that to ensure top quality live coverage WFDF should allocate up to US\$35,000 to cover production costs. While this was not an insignificant budget, Rockwood pointed out that WFDF did not have any recent videos from Beach Ultimate. Also, the event was in the USA and in a suitable time zone for WFDF's core viewers in the USA. It was suggested that Rockwood discuss offline with Gisel and Bergeron about ways to reduce this cost.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve that WFDF allocates a maximum of US\$35,000 and that Bergeron, Gisel and Rockwood discuss how to potentially reduce that amount, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF 2023 elections - preparations

Bernardi explained that the board positions of Treasurer, Ultimate Committee Chair, Freestyle Chair, Overall Chair, and SOTG Chair are set to be elected. The Continental associations in Asia and Pan America will elect new presidents. Bernardi asked Brokaw and Morooka to oversee the elections in their respective continental associations and urged them to communicate the results promptly, as the new positions will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Also, the Medical Chair and an At-Large Board Member will be appointed by the Board of Directors. The Woman and Sport Commission Chair Malone will resign by year end and a replacement was needed.

Bernardi asked the incumbents to submit their application documents by November 1st for the election process to start on November 15th.

It was added that the AAFDF president elections in Africa would be carried out during the upcoming AAUC.

WFDF new membership proposal: 107 Mongolia

Bernardi presented the membership application of the Mongolian Flying Disc Federation (MFDF), outlining their efforts over the past two and a half years to establish a credible federation. He highlighted that Mongolia had submitted the required documentation, received letters of recommendation from AFDA and FIGeST, and presented an updated budget template. Bernardi expressed confidence in Mongolia's credibility and recommended sending their application, along with necessary documentation, to the WFDF Congress for approval.

MFDF has assured Bernardi that they will amend their bylaws to add a non-discrimination clause in 2024.

A motion was made by Morooka to approve the membership application by the Mongolian Flying Disc Federation (MFDF) to be forwarded to Congress for approval, seconded by Mead. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report

Bernardi advised that invoices totaling around US\$ 89,000 had been issued in 2023, of which US\$ 84,000 had already been received. Some members had requested to pay later in the year. Some members with small membership fees questioned the practicality of paying a comparably high bank transfer fee. This issue needed to be addressed.

WFDF 2023 Anti-Doping Test Distribution Plan, WADA Code Compliance

WFDF had received the WADA corrective action report with three critical actions to be taken, which was a relatively low number compared to other international federations. There is a conference call scheduled with WADA's Lausanne office compliance department the following week to discuss their expectations. The report and corrective actions would be provided to ExComm for approval as the critical actions needed to be addressed by the end of November.

Rauch applauded the efforts in maintaining a low number of critical issues with WADA.

WFDF 2023 Development Programme including grants awards

Bernardi presented projects for approval from Argentina, Nigeria, South Africa, and Togo. He noted that applications for grant awards needed to be coordinated by the respective National Federations and so far, he had not received a confirmation by the Nigerian Flying Disc Association.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the four projects with the caveat that the Nigeria proposal is subject to coordination with the National Federation, seconded by Tisson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Tisson reported that the commission had created a "Guidebook on Collaboration for the AC" to increase accountability and lay down some principles on how the AC works.

She then asked for clarification which type of athletes the commission was expected to represent. Rauch and Bernardi replied, that since the commission had been elected

by international athletes attending a world championship the commission was expected to represent these athletes and not all players in the world.

The commission was working on ways to achieve a higher participation at the next AC elections. Raising awareness could be achieved through WFDF's social media channels or on the WFDF web site.

Commission member Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo would attend the bi-annual IOC International Athletes' Forum in Lausanne in October.

Overall, the commission is striving to be more active and connected within WFDF.

SOTG Commission report

Amoroso presented a poster about SOTG for use at schools. After input from the Freestyle Committee Chair, he also created several proposals for a SOTG poster for Freestyle. He plans to create similar posters for Disc Golf and Guts and is looking for input from the respective Chairs. Rauch noted that the poster should be less text heavy and have more visuals and perhaps a QR code to direct to more detailed information.

He was also working on scientific articles in the context of SOTG. He noted that for these articles he was trying to collect data about SOTG at WU24 in Nottingham which was not as successful as hoped and he planned to collect more data at other WFDF events in 2023.

Amoroso presented plans für the international SOTG Day 2023 based on the idea of online Community Exchange. He planned to set up forums or video conference discussion rooms, where participants can share their experiences, questions and ideas related to SOTG. He needed IT help to achieve this. The community would also be invited to create short video clips to talk about SOTG to be posted on Social Media. Rauch agreed that interactive events in the past had worked well. He noted that details needed to be decided on by the end of October to have enough time to promote the event.

University and School Sport / Youth and Sport report

During his visit to Nottingham, Amoroso had a productive conversation with Rebecca Boulton, a PhD holder with expertise in biology and a long-standing connection to ultimate. He believes that she would be a valuable addition to the group.

A motion was made by Mead to approve Rebecca Boulton as new member of the University and School Sport / Youth and Sport Committee, seconded by Matovu. The motion was approved unanimously.

Amoroso gave updates for various projects: The first draft of an eBook in several languages to promote disc sports in schools was expected for October 2023 and the final version in November 2023. A concept for WFDF training workshops for PE Teachers about disc sports had been worked out with plans to have them in place for use in different parts of the world by 2024. Disc sports as part of the Portuguese PE curriculum will be introduced in Cape Verde in the new school year of 2023.

Mead noted that there were similar books about disc sports for teachers in the UK and in Australia.

Women in Sport Commission Report

(none)

Continental Association Reports

AAFDF

Matovu provided an update on the All African Ultimate Championships and the challenges they faced in getting teams from certain countries to participate, mainly due to financial constraints and logistical difficulties in traveling across the vast African continent.

Despite these challenges, around 13 teams were expected to participate, of which one could be an African Union team to accommodate individual players without teams. He thanked WFDF and the Japanese Flying Disc Federation for their support in providing discs for African teams.

There had been plans to have a tournament with teams from Ghana, Niger, Mali, and Nigeria, but they had to adjust the location to Ghana due to the war situation in Niger.

Matovu noted that he would run again as president of the AAFDF and try to get its board members more active.

AOFDF

The General Assembly had taken place in Manila on September 5th, with 11 countries in attendance. Discussions included the draft of changes to the Constitution, with member associations set to vote on it on October 1. Elections for officers for the next two years were also discussed.

AOUCC (Asia Oceania Ultimate & Guts Championships) in Manila saw successful participation from 15 countries, including the USA. Ultiworld provided live streaming, and Morooka expressed his gratitude to the organizing team, including Fourcampré-Maye, Pardo, and Taylor, the Guts Committee chair. Morooka suggested that at future events the participating countries' national flags should be shown to improve the event's international visibility.

The Asian Games had commenced in Guangzhou, China, two days ago. A meeting was scheduled with the Vice-President of the OCA (Olympic Council of Asia) on October 4th with WFDF represented by Bernardi. This would be helpful for AOFDF to become a member of OCA.

The second Juniors Masters Ultimate Championships will be held in Malaysia on December 16-17.

Morro mentioned that the next WFDF Board meeting would likely be his last and expressed his gratitude to the board members. The meeting concluded with an acknowledgement of Moro's upcoming retirement as AOFDF President.

PAFDF

Interim PAFDF (Pan American Flying Disc Federation) president Brokaw presented the ongoing project to connect with international American School Associations (AASCA, ACCAS, and ASOMEX) across Latin America to promote youth Ultimate in the region.

The first Pan American Junior tournament with 6 teams was held in July in Mexico. Although small, it marked a significant start in the youth division. PAFDF plans to provide more accessible regional tournaments in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean that everybody can travel to.

In his interim role, Brokaw plans to connect with PAFDF members and to request updates on their activities and contact information. He aims to build a team which will actively support the PAFDF board.

Bernardi emphasized the potential for growth in the Pan American area, especially in Spanish-speaking countries like Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Cuba, which are not WFDF members but have active playing communities.

EFDF

The EFDF (European Flying Disc Federation) report focused on the successful events that took place during the summer. It was noted that the city of Royan, France, had terminated its previous agreement to host the venue for EBUC 24, and alternatives were being explored.

Additionally, the report mentioned the upcoming EFDF Congress scheduled for January 2024. This congress would include elections, an agenda outline, and a call for candidates for 2023, and the budget for 2024. It was noted that Sweden had requested full membership in EFDF.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

Disc Golf

Mead proposed to include the Briton Tim Flanders who resides in China as a member to the Disc Golf Committee. He will serve as the main advisor leading up to the World Games and will provide valuable insights and assistance.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve Tim Flanders as new Disc Golf Committee member, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mead then proposed to appoint Jianchao “Gabriel” Long from Guangzhou, China, as the representative of the WFDF Disc Golf Committee at official IWGA/TWG meetings on occasions when the Chair could not attend, as was the case for the upcoming TWG Competition Director meeting.

A motion was made by Rauch to appoint Jianchao “Gabriel” Long as acting Competition Director at the TWG Competition Director meeting at end of October, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi emphasized the importance of finding a permanent TWG Competition Manager for disc golf in order to secure this unique position for the future. Mead clarified that he will be the Competition Manager for the World Games.

Mead mentioned that 2025 would mark 40 years since the inception of WFDF, and he suggested commemorating this milestone in some way.

Overall

McLeod stated that the WFDF Events Team had recommended not to run a World Overall Championship in 2025 as there would be too many events in that year. Therefore, the Overall Committee had plans to organize the WOC by themselves. There was already a bid from Italy. The Overall Committee was thinking about setting up a federation for Overall similar to the Freestyle Players Association. Rauch suggested to discuss with the Events Team. He reminded that to simplify organizing and running WOC there had been ideas to reduce the number of disciplines at WOC. It was agreed that this needed to be discussed more outside of the Board meeting.

On request McLeod informed that of the videos he had agreed to create about every discipline, two had been finalized and for three others the scripts were being worked on.

Guts

Taylor reported that AOUGC was a success for Guts. Although only few national teams attended, he made many contacts with individuals from several countries of the region who had interest to create teams, notably in China. Having a US team at AOUGC helped very much, despite the fact that it could not be included in the final ranking. Japan won, ahead of Chinese Taipei, and Thailand finished third.

As for WGC 2024 in Australia it was clear that many teams needed to attend for a meaningful impact. Japan had announced to send two or three teams. Taylor set the goal to have 16 Open teams and four Women's team to attend WGC 2024.

He added that in the USA Guts tournaments were having more attendants than in the past and he estimated that the average age was around 30, much younger than in recent decades.

Freestyle

There had been a discussion about co-hosting WFDF Freestyle Championships and the FPA World Championship. It was decided that it was too late to adapt this plan for the FPA Worlds which took place in Medellin, Colombia, in August 2023. It would be considered for 2024.

The FPA Worlds in Medellin started with clinics to raise interest in Freestyle. In spring Virtual Youth Championships took place with at least six countries attending. FPA is setting up a Gender Equity Committee. There were ideas to have an all-women's Freestyle event. The report also included a reference to the SOTG poster Amoroso had created for Freestyle.

Next meetings/wrap-up

ExComm 28/29OCT; Board 2/3DEC

Closing: 19:19 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary