
Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Sunday October 29th, 2023
9am PDT / noon NY / 5pm CEST / 8pm GST / midnight China Time

Attending:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Volker Bernardi, Igor Janković, Patrick Fourcampré-Maye

Call to order

17:05 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 Meeting Minutes 23/24 SEP 2023 meeting

Will be presented at a later time.

WFDF 2023/24 events update

The past events of 2023 had been successful and planning for upcoming events was going as expected. Wrapping up WU24 was still ongoing with chances it would be finalized by November 28th. Fourcampré-Maye noted that WFDF still had not received full access to unbranded photos taken by Kolakovic at the All Africa Ultimate Championships.

As for 2024, the World Ultimate Championships (WUC) in Australia had not yet received fees from enough teams to make the event feasible. The WFDF Event Team was in discussion with LOC how to decrease the budget to be able to run the event without any loss. LOC expressed willingness to buffer a potential loss by reducing administrative staff costs.

The interest expressed in participating at the event suggested it was likely that many more teams would attend, but their inability to make the financial commitment was missed by the deadline put the event in a difficult position. Gisel noted that for many teams travel costs were high and asking for player fees so early in advance made it difficult to pay even for teams from countries with high GDP per capita.

Rauch added that hosts in Ireland and Poland had been queried as to whether they might be able to host WUC 2024 and Poland expressed availability in Wroclaw in case needed.

Fourcampré-Maye reported that negotiations with a potential host for the European Beach Ultimate Championships (EBUC) in Valencia (Spain) were running well. All bulletins for 2024 had been released and calls for bids for 2025 and 2026 had all been sent.

Event Registration system

The Event Team is continuing to work with the event accreditation software provider RFIDentikit to get the structure and the format right for WFDF's needs. A next step would be the testing of payments to ensure that they show up in WFDF's accounts. Bergeron agreed to set up an account for these tests.

Disc Licensing Program

Invoices to disc manufacturers would be sent out in the following week. Rauch asked to update the respective web page on wfdf.sport as preparation for 2024 and drop every manufacturer who does not pay by the middle of November.

Rauch added that there could be a potentially very competitive bidding process for the title of the official WFDF disc starting in the second half of 2024.

At the request of Gisel, Fourcampré-Maye advised that the registration for the World Ultimate Junior Championships in 2024 had not started yet as it was planned to use the new registration system for this event. Registration was expected to start in mid or late December.

Disc Golf Sponsor for 2023-2024

There was no update on the question of offering a dual sponsorship for PATDGC 2023 and TWG 2025.

TWG 2025 Qualification system for Ultimate/Disc Golf

Gisel presented the proposal for the TWG 2025 Qualification system for Ultimate which was the same as planned to be used for TWG 2021. The qualification event will be WUC 2024. Seven teams could qualify with the Peoples' Republic of China as host nation receiving a wild card spot, provided that a team participates at WUC 2024 in either the Mixed, Open or Women's Division. Fourcamps-Maye noted that of the potential TWG contenders Italy had not signed up for WUC 2024. Gisel added that he also saw New Zealand and the Philippines as TWG contenders who had not yet signed up.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the TWG 2025 Qualification system for Ultimate, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Gisel asked to set up a small budget for the SOTG committee. Bergeron informed that this already existed with US\$ 3,000. It needed to be communicated more clearly to the committee.

Gisel then noted that he was confident that WUC 2024 would work out in Australia and the number of teams to make the event feasible would be reached. Several high potential countries in the region had not yet confirmed their initial interest such as New Zealand and China, but this would likely change later.

The Ultimate Committee is proposing updates to the Ultimate Rules Appendix for 2024. Significant Changes are:

- i. Number of timeouts per game changed from 2 per half to 2 per game (per team)
- ii. System for stopping games based on Air Quality Index readings added
- iii. Minimum age for a player at WUC / WUCC changed from 14 to 16

The UC was considering to reduce the time between points for 2025 and test this at TWG 2025. Gisel did not consider using TWG as a test event to shorten the time by something like 10 seconds as a problem. It could rather be helpful for this event.

Gisel reported on an incident at AOUGC involving inappropriate behavior between a GA and an athlete. The incident was handled reasonably during the event by the Tournament Rules Group. Further investigations were being done to find out if sanctions should be imposed on the GA. Rauch urged to put this in the hands of a Conduct Committee should further action be needed.

Gisel then brought up questions about the how and when the WFDF 3.0 Staff Search should happen. Rauch stated that the position for Olympic Movement Consultant would be filled after a targeted search and the other three positions would be filled through a public search. Since adding the annual salaries to WFDF's budget required approval by Congress, the search could only start after the approval process which had started but would last until mid-November. It was planned to give a rather short application timeline and expected that the appointees could start in early 2024.

TWG 2025 1st Competition Managers Meeting 24/25 OCT 2023 - Report

The 1st Competition Managers Meeting was seen as successful. On visiting the Ultimate venue it became clear that it provided too little seating and a switch to a stadium with 10,000 seats was agreed on. The field in this stadium needs to be improved but Gisel expected this to happen by 2024. Athletes are planned to be housed in one complex, creating a true Athlete Village for the first time at a World Games event. However, commuting time in Chengdu could be a problem. If travel time to a sports venue were to exceed certain yet-to-be-defined limits, athletes might have to be housed closer.

The park for the Disc Golf venue looked very suitable, but there is no course there yet.

Bernardi added that after this first meeting no decisions were final and changes could still be made. He asked if WFDF should consider to go to a stadium with 45,000 seats. The local Ultimate community estimated that Ultimate could attract 20,000 to 25,000 spectators.

Gisel added that there were several Ultimate pickup games every night in Chengdu and while touring the park for Disc Golf he saw a large group of people playing frisbee. Overall he felt that flying disc was well established in Chengdu.

China Meetings Recap

Bernardi attended the Asian Games in Hangzhou and met officials to talk about having Flying Disc included in future games. AOFDF needs to apply for Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) recognition. It was noted that AOFDF has more Asian members than numerous other sports on the program.

In Beijing Bernardi met representatives from the Chinese Olympic Committee who expressed interest in Flying Disc. As part of the search for global sponsors he met with Nanjing Xempower Sports Technology, Geely Auto Group, and ElectroX

Company. Further meetings planned are with the Industrial Commerce Bank of China (ICBC) and the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (SPD Bank).

Other meetings were held with CFDAC (Chinese Flying Disc Administrative Committee, the WFDF NF in China) and CLSAC (Chinese Leisure Sport Administrative Committee, the parent organization of CFDAC).

Finance: Treasurer's YTD 2023 report

Bergeron noted that expenses so far had exceeded the 2023 budget more than expected. This was mainly due to higher travel expenses, but she expected also a higher income. She highlighted that the Auditor sent a draft of WFDF's 990 form (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) and she would review and sign it off. More expense forms had been received recently. She added that with the situation about WUC 2024 WFDF might need to expect more expenses.

Rauch noted that the net asset still gave WFDF a good financial cushion despite 2023 being expected to be a deficit year.

Broadcast Update

Currently the focus was on WBUC and advertising for the live streams. All WBUC participants had been asked to invite their friends and families to watch. Bernardi had informed the NFs about the coverage. Ultiworld was showing ads for WBUC in USAU streams. Ads from sponsors were finalized and Internet checks on location would happen soon.

For the next event PAUC staff and commentators for English and Spanish were being searched for.

WBUC had no budget for streaming but PAUC's budget included an item for live coverage. Gisel added that planning for WUC 2024 coverage was assuming that LOC would not have a budget, either.

Gisel added that for future events the Broadcast Team would consider to use targeted ads on social media.

WFDF 2023 elections - preparations

Bernardi reported that, apart from Brian Gisel as the Ultimate Chair, no nominations have been received for other positions. The Spirit of the Game Committee Chair position has no candidates. Malone, an At-Large Board Member, will not stand for re-election and will also resign as the Woman in Sport Commission Chair. Malone has suggested Esther Omuseni (KEN) as a person interested in taking over her position. Bernardi added that Malone has a nomination for the IOC GEDI Award, facilitated by an IOC Commission member, Dr. Holger Preuß from the Mainz university in Germany.

Rauch will contact SOTG Commission members to solicit interest in the Chair position.

The election tool still needed to be set up and Bernardi would reach out to the WFDF IT Administrator for support.

WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report

Bernardi had informed all members that they needed to pay their dues for 2023 by November 15th to be eligible to vote in the WFDF elections. He added that AOFDF would have votes in December and PAFDF starting on November 15th.

Currently US\$84,000 dues had been collected and US\$5,000 were outstanding. Bernardi mentioned India as the biggest outstanding due, followed by Brazil, and Rauch suggested following up personally on the large organizations that haven't paid.

Other Business

In a short discussion about visas for entry to China, Bergeron recommended that anyone going there for Chengdu should apply for a visa well in advance, preferably with multiple entries. Bernardi added that all athletes who qualify for TWG would receive an invitation letter by IWGA.

Bernardi noted that, at the upcoming MENA tournament in Dubai, teams from three non-WFDF member countries had registered: Oman, Iraq, and Azerbaijan. He suggested that Fourcampré-Maye approach these teams to make them aware that their countries could apply for WFDF membership.

Next meeting

Board 16/17 DEC; ExComm: 20/21 JAN

Closing at 19:19 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary