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### **Sunday December 17, 2023**

USA HI: 04:00 / USA CA, CAN BC: 06:00 / USA CO, CAN Calgary: 07:00 / USA NY, MI, VA, CAN Montreal: 09:00 / DOM: 10:00 UK, IRL, POR: 14:00 / GER, SRB, FRA: 15:00 / UGA: 17:00 / UAE: 18.00 / SGP: 22:00 / JPN, KOR: 23:00

#### **Board members present:**

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Caroline Tisson (by proxy of Gisel), Yoonee Jeong, Jamie Nuwer, Rob McLeod, Haude Hermand, Caroline "Caz" Malone, José Amoroso, Steve Taylor, Shiellah Quintos

**Also attending (non voting):** Volker Bernardi, (Secretary General), Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Igor Janković (Administrative Coordinator), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), Esther Omuseni (Women in Sports Commission), Paul Walczak (Vice-Chair Athletes' Commission), Yenny Pardo (Event Coordinator), Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Manager)

#### **Board members absent/excused:**

Charlie Mead, Alex Matovu, Fumio Morooka, Chasen Brokaw, Lori Daniels

#### **Call to order (time: 15:04 CET)**

Quorum reached with 13 votes of 10/18 needed.

#### **Report by the President**

Nob welcomed everybody and thanked all for participating.

#### **Decisions between meetings**

Congress votes on Strategic Plan, Revised Budget, Congress Minutes 2023, Mongolia member no. 107 (all approved).

#### **Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 24 September 2023**

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 24 September 2023, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

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## **Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 29 October 2023**

For information and vote by ExComm members.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 29 October 2023, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously by ExComm members.

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

#### **IT Update: 2023 activity and projects for 2024**

IT Administrator Tobiesiewicz could not join the meeting and will present a written report for year end.

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

The WFDF Event Team had handled seven events in 2023 with the Asia-Oceanic Team Disc Golf Championships coming up in Chinese Taipei at year end. The standard at all events had been good, but WFDF's spending had been higher than planned. However, Woldt projected that the extra costs would be covered by higher income, especially through WU24, were LOC had spent less money, and PAUC which had attracted more and larger teams than expected. None of the events, including the All-African Ultimate Championships and the World Beach Ultimate Championships, had incurred losses.

Malone passed on a request to have a WFDF Women Great Grandmasters division in 2024. Gisel noted that he will do research to find out if there would be enough interest.

Woldt noted that the WUC 2024 in Australia now had 37 firm teams with 35 needed for the event to be feasible and with continued interest she expected at least 40 teams to participate, with chances of up to 45 to 50 teams.

For the testing of the new registration and payment system, the Event Team had decided to choose an event later in 2024 than Junior Worlds, as some NFs wanted to send payments for this event before the system would be ready for launch. It was now planned to use EBUC for the test. It was then discussed if the final payments of past events could also be used for testing.

Greatest Bags, Discraft Ultimate Discs, Layout Gloves and VC Apparel/Merchandise are all contracts with sponsors that will expire at the end of Dec 2024. The Event Team plans to send out RFPs in Q1 of 2024.

Gisel noted that he could report on the outcome of the contract with Flik as Official Coaching Resource Partner by January or February.

Woldt reported that the update of the list of WFDF licensed Ultimate discs had been finalized. Only three producers had signed the new license arrangement and paid the small fee.

### **China Cup Proposal**

WFDF received a proposal from the Sanya Hainan Frisbee Club in China, asking WFDF to support and endorse an International Mixed Beach Ultimate Tournament in May 2024. There is a possible opportunity to fund 50% of the 16 teams attending (8 international teams outside of the Asia-Oceanic region) with pre-paid flights and accommodation and a possibility to put some funding to prize money. The WFDF Event Team will continue to work with the LOC to build a basic budget and to check feasibility of such exercise. The event would be by WFDF invite only and would be a competition to showcase Beach Ultimate 4's over a 4 day period.

A motion was made by Bergeron to conditionally approve that WFDF will work with the Sanya Hainan Frisbee Club, seconded by Quintos. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **WFDF 3.0 Staffing proposal – search status**

Rauch informed about the numbers of applications received for the new paid positions for Director of Membership Services and Sport Development, Director of Communications and Social Media, and WFDF Executive Assistant. He planned to create short lists with the top five to seven applicants. They would then be interviewed by him, Gisel, and any Board and staff members interested to help.

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

WFDF had spent about US\$ 70,000 more than budgeted due to increases in travel expenses, medals, Congress, and special projects (such as funding for the Wheelchair World Championships). Rauch noted that the positive contributions from

the WU24 and PAUC events that had not yet been finally reconciled could help offset some of these expenses.

### **Broadcast/Media Update**

Rockwood analyzed the financial results from the subscription and pay per event models that had been continued with broadcast partner in 2023, with the conclusion that the willingness of the flying disc community to pay for content was significantly lower than expected. Until a sponsor were to be found that could contribute significantly to covering the production costs of broadcasting, he had discussed with Gisel to reduce costs by single-camera coverage for the initial days of tournaments, exploring remote production possibilities, and relying more on local production staff. WU24 turned out to be more successful than expected and produced more income than PAUC's streams.

Bergeron noted that WFDF's usage of Instagram had improved and perhaps social media could give a boost to the sport's appearance.

### **Appointment of 2 at-Large Board members: Medical chair, Women in Sport Commission chair**

The WFDF Board was asked to appoint the Medical chair and the Women in Sport Commission chair who would also be at-large Board members. Rauch presented the resume of Jamie Nuwer, the current Medical chair.

A motion was made by Malone to approve Jamie Nuwer as Medical chair and at-large Board member, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously with Nuwer recusing from the vote.

As Malone was stepping down from her position Rauch then presented the resume of Esther Omuseni Akiso and her application as Women in Sport Commission chair.

A motion was made by Jeong to approve Esther Omuseni Akiso as Women in Sport Commission chair and at-large Board member, seconded by Malone. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi added that Nuwer had been appointed to the IWGA antidoping committee and he appreciated Malone's significant contribution in the past. He mentioned that Malone was nominated for the IOC Diversity and Women in Sport Commission Award, expressing gratitude for her guidance over the last several years. Rauch and

Bernardi thanked Malone for her work, and Rauch expressed the board's shared appreciation. Malone expressed her willingness to stay connected.

### **Continental elections: AAFDF election results, PAFDF elections**

Bernardi reported that AAFDF had elections and that Alex Matovu had been confirmed as president. At PAFDF elections Chasen Brokaw had been elected president, replacing Nicole Bulos. EFDF would hold elections in January 2024.

### **WFDF new membership developments**

Bernardi reported that Mongolia's membership application had been approved by Congress and WFDF now had 107 national federation members. He was in contact with many other countries of which some were missing a few documents to submit for a complete application. He hoped to reach 110 members by the first quarter of 2024.

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

Bernardi reported that through the work of Janković more membership dues for 2023 had been received, e. g. by India and FPA. He expected that one of the first tasks of the new WFDF Director of Member Services would be to contact other countries which still had not paid.

### **WFDF 2024 Anti-Doping Test Distribution Plan, WADA Code Compliance**

Nuwer announced that due to the absolute no/low-risk nature of doping in Flying Disc sports WFDF would apply to WADA in order to request the exemption of out-of-competition testing.

She added that WADA had suggested for WFDF to move from the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier Testing Pool (TP) with its minimum of testing once per year and per athlete to a 3<sup>rd</sup> tier "Other Pool." This would give WFDF more flexibility with the level of whereabouts requested and number of tests. Rauch asked what other sports had been assigned to the "Other Pool" but Nuwer and Bernardi did not know. But Bernardi added that WADA suggesting this switch of pools to WFDF could be seen as coming from not having any positive doping tests over the last dozen years.

A motion was made by Malone to accept the proposal to transition to the "Other Pool" for Anti-Doping testing, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Nuwer then presented the Anti-Doping testing plan for 2024. This would include Disc Golf as it will be an official sport at The World Games 2025. The “Other Pool” needed to include athletes from the top seven nations from the WFDF World Ultimate Rankings and from China, the TWG host nation. These athletes would have to give their whereabouts via ADAMS to be located and subjected to OOC Testing. Gisel noted that the WFDF World Ultimate Rankings did not yet include the results from PAUC.

A motion was made by Jeong to approve the testing plan subject to the clarification if the WFDF World Ultimate Rankings list is current, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **WFDF 2023 Development Programme**

Bernardi was preparing the final report to IOC which had been delayed due to late payments. For 2024 he asked the Board to notify him as early as possible about any projects besides the applications received.

### **Conflict regions**

#### **Ukraine-Russia Conflict**

With IOC allowing individual athletes from Russia and Belarus to attend the Olympic games 2024 Rauch expressed the need to discuss WFDF’s stance. With WFDF events being primarily team events he suggested that WFDF need not change its policy from that adopted in March 2022. However, in Europe EFDF had to deal with requests from club teams to allow Russian players who had left Russia long ago and were integrated well into the club teams to play at European championships. EFDF had set up criteria for Russian athletes living abroad to participate at EFDF team events. Rauch suggested that WFDF and EFDF try to be consistent and EFDF president Hermand offered to pass on these criteria to the WFDF Ultimate Committee. She added that the Ukrainian rule that no Ukrainian athlete may attend a sports event which was also attended by Russian athletes had been loosened and the Ukrainian federation did not object to the EFDF criteria, but suggested that Russian athletes do not participate in the Spirit circle after each game.

#### **Israel-Palestine Conflict**

After a thorough and extended discussion during the board meeting, it was emphasized that the topic remains a high priority and will continue to be actively

addressed in the coming weeks. The board expressed deep concern about the ongoing humanitarian crisis and highlighted the importance of identifying actions that can genuinely benefit the affected players in the region but felt that the issue was incredibly complicated given the politics of both sides. The commitment was made to engage in further discussions to determine the most appropriate and helpful course of action.

## **Reports and Updates**

### **Athletes' Commission Report**

Paul Walczak reported that the commission had been very busy with discussions and requests about the Israel-Palestine Conflict. Also, ideas had been exchanged about how to make WUC 2024 in Australia feasible and he was happy to hear that the event would indeed happen. The commission expressed openness to further discussions and input from the board.

### **SOTG Commission report**

Amoroso reported that the SOTG posters for Ultimate and Freestyle had received minor corrections and were available in high resolution. He hoped to receive input for SOTG posters for Disc Golf and Guts. The QR codes on the posters would help schools to reach the WFDF web site. Rauch suggested that the posters should be made available for download from the WFDF web site.

Amoroso mentioned that he was awaiting the publication of an article in *Frontiers in Psychology* related to his study at WU24 in Nottingham. There are ongoing efforts to secure funding through Erasmus Plus projects, with a deadline in March 2024. On the iSOTG day around 20 people had joined the video calls.

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

Malone emphasized the importance of the Gender Equity Toolkit and suggested a potential project for the coming year, involving TAFISA and Nike's Girls Positive and Safe Coaching Pathway Project.

She expressed gratitude for the collaboration over the past eight years in her role as the chair of the commission and encouraged to support Esther Omuseni Akiso.

Rauch thanked Caz for her significant contributions and acknowledged her positive impact on the organization.

## **Continental Association Reports**

### **AOFDF**

Currently the 2nd AOFDF Junior and Masters Ultimate Championships were taking place in Malaysia with another major event the AOTDGC coming up in Chinese Taipei. AOFDF elections were being held with a deadline on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

The WFDF Board conveys its sincere appreciation to Morro for his remarkable contributions over the decades, both in Japan and globally. As he concludes his tenure as AOFDF president and WFDF board member, we extend our heartfelt thanks for his unwavering dedication and significant impact on the flying disc community. Morro's instrumental role in opening doors to IWGA and GAISF/ SportAccord memberships, as well as securing the World Games official sport position for flying disc, reflects his enduring commitment. Beyond his official roles, Morro's continuous support for events like the World Masters Games 2027 and AOFDF initiatives as an Honorary Life president is testament to his profound contributions. We express deep gratitude for the wonderful memories and 31 years of Morro's board membership, marking a legacy that will be cherished by all.

### **PAFDF**

The report mentioned PAUC as its highlight in 2023 with WBUC and PATDGC as other events in the Pan-American region. PAFDF was trying to establish easily accessible regional championships. The new PAFD web site has been set up. Elections had ended on December 15<sup>th</sup> with Brokaw being elected president.

### **EFDF**

Hermand noted that the EFDF Congress with board elections would happen in January. Almost the entire board will continue, including Hermand. Gisel addressed an email received regarding a proposed 4 vs. 4 ultimate format by EUF, expressing support for the idea but cautioning against potential misconceptions. Haude clarified that the EUF aims to explore this format within Europe and sought WFDF's approval officially, which Gisel affirmed.

## **Disc Sport Committee Reports**

### **Beach Ultimate**

Quntos thanked the Events Team and Gisel in supporting her as Technical Director at WBUC in Los Angeles.



### Overall

Robert McLeod provided a brief update on Overall, mentioning the potential return to Sweden for events, upcoming activities in the New Year related to certifications, and emphasizes the importance of introducing overall to encourage participation in the next few years.

### Guts

Taylor met Yuta Saito in the Philippines and with his help he is trying to get a good Guts representative in Japan. The LOC was trying to push for Guts teams to sign up for WGC 2024 in Gold Coast. Taylor was also collecting information to be used for a SOTG Poster about Guts.

### Other Business

Bernardi noted that it was still difficult to establish connection with some members, such as Qatar and South Korea. He had good talks with a member from the Sri Lankan National Olympic Committee who could help to connect WFDF's member there. Jeong noted that she would try to get in touch with a South Korean representative.

Amoroso proposed the addition of a new member, Hellen Koskinen from Finland, to the University and School Sport / Youth and Sport Commission. Koskinen is on the EUF Youth Committee and Youth Coordinator of the Finish association FFDA.

A motion was made by Malone to approve the appointment of Hellen Koskinen to the University and School Sport / Youth and Sport Commission, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi added that the WFDF elections had closed and the Nomination Committee would soon present the tally.

### Next meetings:

ExComm: 20/21 JAN, Board: 17/18 FEB

### Closing: 18:03 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum  
WFDF Secretary