
Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Sunday January 21st, 2024
9am PDT / noon NY / 5pm CEST / 9pm GST

Attending:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Volker Bernardi, Igor Janković, Karina Woldt, Yenny Pardo

Call to order (Rauch)

18:01 CET

Overview by the President (Rauch)

President Rauch opened the meeting and briefly introduced the agenda.

Decisions between meetings (Rauch)

Results of 2023 WFDF elections and Congress’ approval of Mongolia’s MFDF WFDF national membership application.

Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExCom

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 17 DEC 2023 meeting

(not yet available)

Event Management Report

Woldt reported that testing and developing of the RFIDentikit event management software was progressing and final testing was expected soon. The Event team planned to use EBUC and AOBUC as test events. Automating payments is the biggest win WFDF will get from the system as matching incoming payments on the WFDF account with registrations is very time consuming for all involved.

Closing of WFDF events of 2023 was not finished yet. Some LOCs were very slow to submit final documents and sometimes were not very responsive. It was discussed if WFDF should make the event profit share of LOCs dependent on the time needed to submit the final documents after an event. The share could be higher for submission

up to six weeks after the event and lowered if the final documents arrived later with two months as upper bound. Woldt added that in 2024 there will be three events which end in November making it extra hard to close them by year end.

Of the seven WFDF events in 2024 five have finished registration. All event preparations were running smoothly after expectations for WUC had to be lowered. WMUC has 40 teams registered but this number was expected to rise.

For the 2025 and 2026 events around 50 host bids had been received.

Two options for hosting Congress were discussed, one at WJUC in Birmingham, UK, and the other WUC/WGC in Gold Coast, AUS. While travelling costs for ExComm members from Europe would be higher for Australia, it was felt that the in person turnout of members could be higher in Australia than at WJUC. Congress in Australia would benefit from splitting the meeting into two sessions: One in the late afternoon used for discussions and another one early next morning for votes, which would allow more remote attendees to join from different time zones. A final decision on the location would be made within the next weeks.

Ultimate Committee Report

The Ultimate Committee was finishing the 2024 WFDF Appendix of the Ultimate Rules. All decisions had been made with only minor changes, only the document needed to be finalized.

Azerbaijan Membership Proposal #108

Azerbaijan would become the 31st member in the Asia-Oceanic region. Since AOFDF was applying for OCA recognition it would fit nicely if this would coincide with Azerbaijan's approval. Bernardi reported that all documents had been received except for a detailed financial report. He expected it to be sent within a week. The fact that all clubs were located in the capital city raised slight concerns but with other members in the same situation in the past it had been seen that after WFDF approval the sports normally spread within the country.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve sending the application from Azerbaijan to Congress when Azerbaijan has submitted the missing budget, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

South Korea Membership Issue

WFDF's current member in South Korea is KUPA. The new South Korean association Korean Flying Disc Union (KFDU) aims to be an umbrella for all Flying Disc activities in South Korea and as such to become the new WFDF member. But so far KFDU had only submitted documents in Korean and more work needed to be done. The former Korean Flying Disc Association which had been created with the same intention technically no longer exists. Woldt informed that in 2024 Korean athletes and teams had registered for WUC and WTDGC as KUPA, the current WFDF member. Bernardi would meet representatives from KFDU in the next week and discuss how KFDU and KUPA could proceed to make the change from KUPA's WFDF membership to KFDU.

Discussion on Geopolitical Issues: Israel/Palestine

WFDF is being urged through an open letter signed by members of some teams and federations to release a statement about the war situation in Gaza demanding a ceasefire and condemning the violence against Palestinians. As a step forward it had been suggested that WFDF take part in a video call with the initiators of the open letter.

It was discussed that WFDF's board would continue to discuss the situation and would not release any further statement besides the one released on November 5th, 2023.

Finance: Treasurer's YTD 2024 report

The financial statement for 2023 was not yet finalized but the initial draft showed a US\$ 243,000 net loss. Woldt noted that the financial statement did not yet include the profit shares from WU24 and PAUC and recovery of some WFDF expenditures which would be paid by the LOCs. Overall this could reduce the net loss by around US\$ 100,000. Rauch added that WFDF might finish 2023 with a financial cushion of around US\$ 700,000.

WFDF Annual Census and Dues Invoices report

Bernardi reported that of the US\$ 90,000 dues invoiced around US\$ 2,000 were yet to be paid. WFDF needed to decide on what to do about dormant members. Bernardi also noted that UAE had not paid dues but at the same time there is a bid from the country to host a WFDF event. It was agreed that UAE needed to be in good standing before its bid could be considered.

Job Hiring Status

The applications for the Communications Director had been narrowed down to the top 3 to 5 after an initial round. The next step was that Rauch would conduct interviews with these candidates together with Bergeron and Gisel.

Bernardi would present suitable candidates for the position of WFDF Olympic Movement Consultant shortly.

ITA Agreement 2024 draft

The International Testing Agency (ITA) has presented a proposal to WFDF to take over all testing needed to comply with WADA with three options with 8, 12 and 16 tests. WADA has approved that Flying Disc is a low risk sport and it seems fair and fine for Flying Disc to do fewer tests.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve four tests in the Testing Pool and four Out-Of-Competition tests, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Broadcast Update

There have been talks with USAU about discussing an umbrella approach toward broadcasts and there will also be talks with the Ultimate Frisbee Association (UFA, former AUDL). The latter plans to have one weekly free game broadcast.

TAFISA Girls Safe and Positive Coaching Pathway

The Women in Sport commission chair Omuseni has informed WFDF that TAFISA will pay a stipend of US\$ 1,000 each to two coaches for the Girls Safe and Positive Coaching Pathway program. She asked WFDF to help identify such coaches. Gisel was in contact with Omuseni to clarify details such as where the coaching should take place.

Other Business

Bernardi reported that Omuseni had asked to conduct several surveys annually about all disc sports and women topics with the plan to be able to see changes during the year. He was going to discuss further given the reluctance of our members to handle these types of administrative tasks.

Rauch reported that he had spoken with the new Freestyle Committee Chair Daniel O'Neill. He expressed interest to develop more youth involvement in Freestyle and envisioned a standalone (separate from WOC) WFDF Freestyle Championship perhaps in conjunction with FPA Worlds.

Bernardi noted that ARISF had sent a request to receive short promotional video clips of all flying disc disciplines, but WFDF still does not have videos for all disciplines.

Next meeting

Board: 17/18FEB; ExComm: 23/24MAR

Closing at 19:43 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary