
Sunday April 28, 2024

15:00 CEST / USA CA, CAN BC: 06:00 / CAN Calgary: 07:00 / NCA: 07:00 / USA CDT: 08:00 / USA NY, MI, VA, CAN Montreal: 09:00 / GER, FRA: 15:00 / UGA: 16:00 / KEN: 16:00 / UAE: 17:00 / SGP: 21:00 / PHI: 21:00 / KOR: 22:00 / 9:00 am EDT / 6:00 am PDT.

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (chair), Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Rob McLeod, Daniel O’Neill, Esther Omuseni, Steve Taylor, Alex Matovu, Shiellah Quintos, Charlie Mead (by proxy to Thomas Griesbaum), Wolfgang Maehr, Haude Hermand, Caroline Tisson

Also attending (non-voting): Volker Bernardi (Secretary General), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), Patrick Fourcampre-Maye (Event Manager), Yenny Pardo (Event Coordinator), Dillon Richardson (Director of Membership Services and Sport Development), Samantha Kehl (Director of Communications and Social Media), Oleksandra Boliak (Executive Assistant)

Board members absent/excused:

Kate Bergeron, Jose Maria Javier Weber Bautista, Jamie Nuwer, Yoonee Jeong, Chasen Brokaw

Call to order (time: 15:08 CEST)

Quorum reached with 13 votes of 10/18 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed everybody and thanked all for participating.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors - 18 February 2024

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors – 18 February seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee – 6 April 2024

Presented for information with a reference regarding an Executive Committee meeting planned in March, which was moved to April due to scheduling conflicts.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

WFDF staff onboarding, coordination and planning

Rauch welcomed new staff members, Samantha Kehl (Director of Communications and Social Media), Dillon Richardson (Director of Membership Services and Sport Development), and Oleksandra Boliak (Executive Assistant). An organizational chart was provided for reference, to ensure clarity on roles and communication. A plan was discussed for staff to meet monthly to improve coordination between formal board/ExComm meetings.

Rauch also confirmed Marco Tomasini's volunteer role, approved at the Executive Committee meeting, focusing on outreach with National Olympic Committees.

WFDF Events Team Report: 2023-2024 Plans

Fourcampre-Maye provided an overview of the 2024 events, highlighting improvements in team registrations for the WFDF 2024 World Ultimate Championships (WUC), the WFDF 2024 World Guts Championships (WGC) and positive expectations for upcoming events 2024. The WFDF 2024 Asia Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC) also looks to be progressing smoothly.

Approval of bids to host WFDF events

Fourcampre-Maye described bids that have been reviewed by the events subcommittee and selection process for 2025, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The following hosts of future WFDF events were offered for voting and viewing:

- The WFDF 2025 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships (WU24) – Logroño, Spain
- The WFDF 2025 Pan American Ultimate Championships (PAUC) - Cap Cana, Dominican Republic
- The WFDF 2025 Asia Oceanic Ultimate & Guts Championships (AOUGC) - Kamisu City, Japan
- The WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) - Algarve, Portugal

Rauch upon request was provided the rationale of the bids that were not selected.

Concerns were raised about the head of LOC of the WFDF 2025 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships (WU24) in Logroño, Spain, previously an organizer of the 2014 WFDF World Ultimate Club Championship (WUCC) in Lecco, Italy, mentioning past issues with event management.

Rauch confirmed that he had conversations with Woldt regarding this topic. She noted that the bid was well-thought-out and communication had been direct with attention to details and acknowledgment of challenges in the past. Fourcample-May confirmed Woldt's careful consideration of the topic before proceeding with a bid proposal.

Gisel highlighted structural changes in financial management for events, aiming to allocate funds more efficiently that will make a huge difference in WFDF's ability to direct LOCs to appropriate solutions, holding off on rampant spending in different areas. Bernardi noted positive changes and expressed support for the LOC. Hermand recommended that due to concerns among Europeans regarding the LOC WFD should be ready to address related questions.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the application from Spain to host WFDF 2025 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships (WU24) in Logroño, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved with 1 abstention.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the application from Dominican Republic to host WFDF 2025 Pan American Ultimate Championships (PAUC) in Cap Cana, seconded by Quintos. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Taylor to approve the application from Japan to host WFDF 2025 Asia Oceanic Ultimate & Guts Championships (AOUGC) in Kamisu City, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Matovu to approve the application from Portugal to host the WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) in Algarve, seconded by Hermand. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rauch assumed that the WFDF 2025 World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships (WWUC) is planned for Lithuania with dates and bid logistics still under preparation. McLeod confirmed that the contract for WOC had been received from the LOC in Sweden.

Fourcample-May highlighted the need for a budgetary vote for a site visit for the World Games 2025 (TWG 2025) by a disc golf course designer. The requested max

budget for this visit is US\$ 6,000. Rauch confirmed that these would be WFDF expenses as neither the Chengdu LOC nor IWGA will contribute. The suggested use of Google Maps for course design, was seen as inadequate as there was a lack of Disc Golf design expertise in China. The course needed to be well-designed and high-level while taking aspects of video coverage such as power drops and drone coverage into account. Bernardi reminded that Chengdu plans a temporary venue in the park and clarified that it is undecided if it will become permanent.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the budget for visiting a site for Disc Golf in China, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Fourcampre-Maye proposed a timeline for bid selection, aiming to finalize 2026 bids by the end of May and the to open bids for 2027 by the end of the year. It is important to notify our member federations of where events will be held well in advance.

Sponsorship

Rauch highlighted plans for sponsorship solicitation for Disc Golf in the coming weeks and mentioned expiration of two big sponsorship packages with merchandise and the approved disc for Ultimate at the end of this year.

Ultimate 2024 Championship Appendix, Final version

Brian Gisel provided an update on the Championship appendix, noting the main following changes:

- in 2025 the number of timeouts per team will be reduced to 1 per half from 2 per half. This rule change, which is being announced in the 2024 Appendix but will not be in place until 2025;
- safety adjustments were made, requiring mandate footwear for all players in grass Ultimate;
- changes in eligibility date that will be January 1 of the year of the event, rather than the start date of the event;
- increasing the minimum age of a player participating in the Open, Women's or Mixed divisions from 14 to 16.

Hermend asked if WFDF's policy regarding Russian and Belarusian participation at WFDF events was still in place, which Rauch confirmed.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the Championship appendix, seconded by Hermend. The motion was approved unanimously.

Finance: Chart of Accounts revision, YTD 2024 report

The financial report highlighted a positive net result of US\$ 2,700 for the 2023 reconciliation, vs. the original budget of a net deficit of over US\$150,000. The total net assets as of year-end were US\$ 1.16 million, while the WFDF year-end net asset value is approximately US\$ 800,000, due to working capital net liabilities. Year-to-date performance was positive. It was reached through a significant sanctioning fee income in the first quarter, contributing to positive net working capital. Rauch provided an overview of the revision of the chart of accounts, which was done to reflect current business operations.

Bylaws Revision

Rauch outlined plans to present a series of bylaws revisions for Congress in late August. Among various proposals, addressing the transition phase for member federations to represent all disc sports by 2026 and 2027 was highlighted. With the support of Dillon Richardson, Director of Membership Services and Sport Development, WFDF will assist members to in meeting the requirements to ensure organizations provide mechanisms for all recognized disciplines within WFDF.

O'Neill suggested offering resources and guidance to support member organizations in expanding their involvement in other disciplines and to fall into compliance. Rauch emphasized the difference between governance, administration, and the promotion of new disciplines, highlighting the role of disc sport committees as the driving force to achieve this goal. The promotion of interest in new sports should primarily be responsibility of these committees, with the support of board for sensible strategies. Taylor proposed to post information about other disciplines on main platforms (website, Facebook), realizing the challenge of generating interest but highlighting the importance of efforts.

Hermand asked clarification on whether beach ultimate was considered a separate discipline, different from ultimate. Rauch confirmed and explained that federations handling both ultimate and beach ultimate, for instance like USA and Canada, are already managing two distinct disciplines, while not taking any responsibility for coordinating other disciplines.

Among other proposed changes to bylaws, transitioning election terms from two to four years was also included. In the world of sports IFs, a four-year term is much more common. At the same time, limits are set for 3 consecutive election cycles starting with the next election. The transition process for the new election cycle

would require further discussion to determine the best approach for staggering the elections.

Additionally, Rauch mentioned a semantics change to bylaws with updating the name and description of the Women in Sport Commission to align with IOC guidelines. The new name would be Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Commission. Omuseni was asked to review and comment on the revised mandates.

Rauch encouraged Board do review of a redline version of the bylaws and share feedback in the next couple of weeks before it is presented to the Congress for a vote.

Bernardi outlined the addition of up to two independent directors. Rauch explained their role and intent of this decision, clarifying that they would be non-voting directors who could provide strategic input due to their expertise or connections within the sport industry.

TWG 2025 Chengdu - WFDF IF Commitment / distribution of Officials proposal

The introduction of accreditation quotas for the World Games 2025 (TWG 2025) in Chengdu was made. Bernardi outlined the accreditation opportunities for international officials, which are clearly limited to 22, emphasizing that they must cover the entire duration of the event, 10 days, to avoid losing accreditations for the second discipline. Ultimate and Disc Golf are included in the Competition Program of TWG 2025. Few individuals, like Volker Bernardi and Jamie Nuwer, were not included in the list due to their extra order accreditation slots related to IWGA. Bernardi informed the board that the list would be completed by October, ready for submission for the final Competition Managers' Meeting in Chengdu.

Appointment of WFDF Director of NOC Relations

Robert Rauch informed the board about two appointments approved at the last Executive Committee meeting. The first appointment is Marco Tomasini as Director of NOC Relations, who replaced Michele Barbone, who stepped down due to health reasons. The position is unpaid and includes assisting in outreach with national Olympic committees.

Rauch was aware of concerns due to past work experience with Tomasini but recent meetings with him had shown that he was very well suited for this WFDF position.

Appointments related to the WFDF Ethics Commission

Rauch introduced Ana Paula Provenza Degreeef, a new chair of the Ethics Commission, highlighting her significant legal sports background. Bernardi endorsed the appointment, citing his personal acquaintance with Provenza and affirming her experience in anti-doping matters, strong legal background based on her profession as a litigation lawyer and mediator in Scotland.

Report on WFDF - ANOC relations/WBG and budget proposal for ANOC Assembly

The potential cooperation opportunities such as participation in the World Beach Games and showcasing beach ultimate events on ANOC TV were mentioned. Rauch proposed a special budget of US\$ 9,800, prepared by Bernardi, for participation at the ANOC General Assembly, which is going to be in Cascais, Portugal, in early November. All 206 National Olympic committees are expected to attend this event.

A motion was made by McLeod to approve the special budget of US\$ 9,800 for participation of WFDF at the ANOC General Assembly, seconded by Maehr. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report on Meetings in Athens - EOC/CIJM/HOC/HELSEFA/Sport Ministry of Greece

Bernardi reported about recent meetings in Athens, Greece during the period from 23rd to 31st March, where he held the successful week of meetings to enhance the presence of flying disc sports in Europe and the Mediterranean area. During the meeting with European Olympic Committee President, Spyros Capralos, an IOC member, he discussed potential participation of flying disc sports in European Games, at least as a demonstration sport. The 2027 European Games will be hosted in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting with Iakovos Filippousis, Secretary General of the International Committee for the Mediterranean Games (ICMG/CIJM) opened up prospects for future inclusion of flying disc sports in Mediterranean Games and beach ultimate in the Mediterranean Beach Games. This meeting also helped to establish contacts for assistance in recognizing national federations in various countries of the Mediterranean area and to find a way to get into several countries like Kosovo and Montenegro.

Report on the Sportaccord convention attendance of WFDF

Rauch mentioned that during the SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit, the following meetings were held:

- with ARISF President Raffaele Chiulli (Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations)
- with the ANOC delegation to discuss the ANOC-WFDF cooperation possibilities, namely the inclusion of Beach Ultimate in the AWBG (ANOC World Beach Games) and the contributions of WFDF to ANOC.tv.
- with the IOC Sports Department, IOC Head of Recognised International Federations/ Organisations Tania Tchea
- with representative of TEQ (Tourism and Event Queensland/Brisbane) Scott Collins, Sports and Lifestyle Events Director to discuss the 2024 WFDF events to be held in Gold Coast/Queensland.
- with Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (I.S.S.F) Secretary General Mr. Nasser Ayman Majali to discuss the possibilities of ISSF support for the recognition of the WFDF Member National Federations by their National Olympic Committees (NOCs) in the Islamic countries and addition of Flying Disc Sports to the programme of the Islamic Solidarity Games.

WADA CCQ Update and ITA Agreement execution

Bernardi explained the necessity of updating the risk assessment and test distribution plan to comply with new WADA requirements, emphasizing the changes in dimensions of doping risks and the presence of flying discs sport on the program of TWG. WFDF will have to include Disc Golf. Bernardi stressed the need for board approval.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the proposed test distribution plan, seconded by Tisson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi informed that the proposed risk assessment would remain in effect until the next WADA code is established in 2028, and that any material changes in the WADA code would necessitate modifications to the risk assessment.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the risk assessment, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brisbane 2032 meeting report

Rauch provided a brief overview of his trip in late March to Australia, where he met with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games organizing committee, the president of AFDA, as well as the chairman of the AFDA events group. While it was in the early

stage of discussions, it was a great opportunity to present reasons for considering ultimate for the Olympic programme. Additionally, a video conference with John Coates, IOC Vice-President with further discussions was held as a follow up. Rauch shared plans to invite representatives from the organizing committee to the WFDF 2024 World Ultimate Championships (WUC).

IT Report

The report covered changes in the ticket system, help desk, contingency plans for Tobiasiewicz's times of absence, and onboarding of staff. Rauch noted that in the future even more effort in the area of IT would be needed and that together with Tobiasiewicz he was looking at opportunities to expand the amount of time that can be dedicated to WFDF activities.

Fourcampre-Maye expressed disappointment with the developer of the new registration system RFIDentikit and its failure to deliver on promises. Rauch suggested exploring alternatives if nothing will be achieved by the end of the week.

Broadcast: 2023 recap and 2024 proposal

Rockwood shared that a licensing fee agreement had been reached with a contact in Beijing for coverage of the WFDF 2024 World Ultimate Championships (WUC), ensuring a break-even production. However, it is not possible to provide the coverage for WFDF 2024 World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) because of the overlap with the Olympic games. For WFDF 2024 World Masters Ultimate Championships (WMUC) there are still some options.

Gisel highlighted ongoing efforts to find partners for streaming and sponsorship opportunities to cover event expenses to figure out a way to turn broadcast into a revenue and a visibility generator. Updates are expected by the next board meeting.

Rauch encouraged the board consider a two-part contingent proposal: one from Ultiworld and another from the Ultimate Frisbee Association (UFA), requesting the board's approval for the Ultiworld proposal with final tweaks, and second, to allow the broadcast team to explore a potential deal with UFA. Expected terms and conditions were outlined.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the two-part contingent proposal for broadcast, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report

Bernardi provided an update on the census and new membership developments, referring to the report and confirming ongoing follow-up with some members. Data collection methods for 2024 have been improved by Richardson. The invoicing process continues to ensure reporting before the 2024 events.

WFDF new membership developments:

The upcoming Congress will vote on admitting Azerbaijan and Comoros as member countries 108 and 109 respectively. There will be a voting of Congress for both new memberships simultaneously. Bernardi expressed optimism regarding bringing the total national member federations to at least 115 by mid-2025.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Taking into the consideration previous board meeting discussions, Tisson highlighted a focus on reviewing voting procedures to include more athletes, with plans to draft proposals in collaboration with Commission members, Richardson, and the Events team for the next board meeting. Tisson expressed athletes' concern about communication regarding issues like the Palestine situation and work of the board, with a proposal to find better ways to share information with athletes to avoid frustration. Lastly, there was a discussion about the strategic plan regarding the future of ultimate 4s and ultimate 7s and there will be further discussion with Gisel and the athletes' commission.

Rauch addressed concerns about a statement regarding the Palestine, highlighting the complexity of the situation and the need for balanced communication. He mentioned the recent podcast interview with Ultiworld where he addressed this issue. Regarding ultimate's format in multi-sport events, Rauch emphasized the importance of quotas and clarified that the 4v4 format is meant to complement rather than replace traditional ultimate. Tisson emphasized the importance of communication for delivering such messages to a broader audience.

SOTG Commission report

Maehr had completed all but one one-on-one session with the Commission members to establish goals for 2024. Assigning Spirit Directors for the upcoming WFDF events was the most urgent task.

Bernardi suggested to the Commission to establish partnerships with European Fair Play Movement and Panathlon International, perhaps for an Annual Spirit Award what would greatly promote our visibility within the Olympic movement.

Rauch mentioned the importance of revisiting the concept of Spirit of the Game Day, urging the committee to prioritize planning in advance to achieve successful execution. Tisson suggested to move the date into the playing season but for 2024 it was likely too late for a change.

Women in Sport Commission Report

Omuseni provided an update on the Girls Positive and Safe Coaching Pathway program by TAFISA. Trainers have been identified, and framework development is underway. Trainers are progressing with their training materials, planning for in-person workshops and participant recruitment is ongoing. Omuseni also mentioned the webinar series participation, which was delayed due to awaiting approval. A meeting with TAFISA at the beginning of May is scheduled to discuss progress and next steps.

WFDF Communications Report

An overview of the Communication report was presented. Kehl highlighted efforts to ensure consistent branding, like the use of the same logo, the same colors, and communication terminology across WFDF public-facing communications. Rauch expressed satisfaction with the report and looked forward to seeing more developments.

Continental Association Reports

PAFDF

Rauch mentioned that PAFDF was focused on organizing a Youth Committee, preparing a bid request for the PAYUC 2025 Tournament, helping Peru to apply for a US AID grant, and supporting member federations by connecting them with necessary resources to further development.

EFDF

Hermand mentioned efforts to contact members, sanctioning the first Double Disc Court European Open Championships in Germany this summer. The beginning of the club competition season was marked by the organization of top five tournaments simultaneously through Europe with 81 teams and more than 1,500 players. EFDF is

now using an algorithm to rank all the teams all around Europe. Hermand also discussed coordination with the WFDF events team for the 2025 calendar, engagement with Disc Golf with the support of Mead, and potential involvement in European team events.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

The Overall Committee Report

McLeod reported that Sweden has signed the contract for the 2025 World Overall Flying Disc Championships (WOC 2025) in Ängelholm, ensuring a successful event. He also highlighted the recent Virginia overall event, which had about 150 participants. Despite an increasing number of participants under 60, there are still active individuals like Harvey Brandt competing at a high level even at 70 years old.

The Guts Committee Report

Taylor informed about a scheduling miscommunication with Australia, resulting in games being played on different dates than initially planned. As a result, the decision to proceed with a new schedule to avoid complications was made. Additionally, Taylor mentioned upcoming Hall of Fame inductions for Guts Frisbee. Rauch suggested keeping Kehl informed for a potential press release.

Beach Ultimate Committee Report

Quintos presented the report and suggested exploring the idea of introducing 4v4 Ultimate for beach tournaments, which will be discussed further in the next meeting.

Freestyle Committee Report

O'Neill provided an update on Freestyle, mentioning upcoming national championships and the 2024 FPA World Championships in Warsaw, Poland, which will have a high-quality livestream. Rauch asked Kehl to be informed about these events and inquired about the possibility of co-branding a FPA World Championship with a WFDF Freestyle World Championship. O'Neill explained the current setup and agreed to review the idea with the FPA board. Rauch emphasized the importance of branding for WFDF's involvement to ensure visibility and coordination with national federations. Rockwood requested to be kept informed about potential host feeds for events to utilize for social media.

Bernardi suggested to consider transitioning to 4v4 format for beach tournaments to increase the chances of inclusion in Multisport games. Additionally, he shared information regarding a potential host for the World Games 2029 (TWG 2029), proposing freestyle as a demonstration sport, advising O'Neill to coordinate with the host to improve the chances of inclusion.

Rauch asked O'Neill to send high-quality footage to Sam to build up a library for future reference.

Next meetings/wrap-up

ExComm: 25/26 MAY; Board: 22/23 JUN

Closing: 17:16 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary