
Sunday June 23, 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 / UK: 14:00 / GER, FRA: 15:00 / Turkey: 16:00 / UGA: 16:00 / KEN: 16:00 / UAE: 17:00 / SGP: 21:00 / PHI: 21:00 / KOR: 22:00

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Brian Gisel, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Rob McLeod, Jose Maria Javier Weber Bautista, Esther Omuseni, Steve Taylor, Alex Matovu, Charlie Mead, Shiellah Quintos (by proxy to Thomas Griesbaum), Wolfgang Maehr, Haude Hermand, Chasen Brokaw, Volker Bernardi (Secretary General, non-voting)

Also attending (non-voting): Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), Patrick Fourcample-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:

Jamie Nuwer, Yoonee Jeong, Caroline Tisson, Daniel O'Neill

Call to order (time: 15:05 CEST)

Quorum reached with 14 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 - 28 April 2024

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the meeting Board of Directors – 28 April seconded by Maehr. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee – 2 June 2024

Presented to the Board for information.

A motion was made by Bergeron for ExComm to approve the Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee – 2 June seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

WFDF Events Team Report: 2024-2025 Plans

Woldt provided an update on the recent WFDF 2024 Asia Oceanic Beach Ultimate Championships (AOBUC). Based on Quintos' report Woldt suggested additional training and more comprehensive notes in the tournament handbook to address any technical gaps. Despite being a smaller event compared to other continental championships, the competition in Japan was successful.

There is currently no beach continental event planned in the Pan America region and in Europe, where the event faced a lack of applications due to a very full calendar and crossover between grass and beach players.

All upcoming WFDF events in 2024 are moving according to plan:

- World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) in England
- World Ultimate Championships (WUC) and WFDF 2024 World Guts Championships (WGC) in Australia
- World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC) in Australia
- World Masters Ultimate Championships (WMUC) in the U.S.A.

Bergeron noted that the Event Team's financial projections for the 2024 events did not look as good as expected considering how many events were happening. Woldt explained that different types of WFDF events produce different financial outcomes for WFDF. Most tournament generated money comes from sanctioning fees. Events for smaller divisions as well as events which are expensive to reach attract fewer teams. Club events have more teams attending than national team events. With most WFDF events happening every four years there is also a four-year cycle for tournament generated income. To help more teams attend WFDF events, the Event team continues to look at hosting events in cheaper countries to encourage more participation, a strategy that has worked well in the past.

Rauch commented that the goal is not to generate a profit from events but to balance expenses and revenues, providing affordable tournaments and making sure that costs are as reasonable to the players as possible. Hosting our events this year in Australia is rather an exception and is necessary for regional fairness and involvement.

Several WFDF sponsorship contracts will end in 2024 and RFPs to secure exclusive rights for bags, gloves, apparel and discs will be sent out soon. Richardson was asked to help scout for potential water, energy drink sponsors and other new categories. Woldt suggested to stagger future contracts to avoid that all sponsorships end simultaneously.

Rauch asked about an update on the disc golf sponsorship and suggested a follow-up discussion with Mead for further actions. Woldt reported that a request for sponsorship proposals had been sent to major disc golf manufactures regarding discs and baskets, but major manufacturers declined to bid, referring to the tough times and lack of benefit. Rauch emphasized the need for a deeper discussion with manufacturers about the long-term benefits of supporting WFDF to grow disc golf globally.

Woldt updated on DGA baskets, which offered a 30% discount for baskets specifically for the World Games. However, this offer did not extend to other events. Mead noted that it has been standard practice to use only Innova and DGA Disc Golf Baskets at world championship levels and expressed concerns that using unfamiliar baskets could disadvantage international competitors.

Mead explained that disc golf companies already have established networks and channels for their events. He suggested that the World Games 2025 in Chengdu could be a pivotal moment for disc golf companies to realize the benefits of international competition that never happened before.

Rauch mentioned that DGA had offered a 30% discount on baskets for the temporary course construction. Mead agreed that this could be beneficial and noted that documentation for the World Games through the IWGA system specifies only certain basket types.

Brokaw suggested to explore sponsorship opportunities with stores involved in both ultimate and disc golf as he believed they might be open to considering proposals. Rauch acknowledged the suggestion and proposed that they take this discussion offline to explore it further. The importance of interaction with IWGA regarding equipment use was highlighted.

For 2025, almost all contracts and dates have been finalized. Most major events in 2026 will likely to be held in Europe due to venue availability.

Woldt reported on the meeting between Fourcampre-Maye and the CEO of RFIDentikit about the problems with the WFDF event registration system. It is more challenging than expected to automate payments through QuickBooks online and the company was offering another system but with fees added to each payment.

Finance: YTD 2024 report, plan for budget 2025

Bergeron noted the financial situation looked positive overall. She highlighted the significant efforts by Richardson and Bernardi on dues collection and the importance of sanctioning fees as a major income source. Bergeron mentioned the predicted increase in travel and event-related costs in the busier second half of the year. General and administrative expenses were stable. Bergeron thanked Woldt, Event team and Gray for their effective management.

The audit showed financial consistency with previous years, reflecting stability. The net assets were steady at around US\$ 800,000, providing a base for future planning.

The budgeting process for 2025 with updated projections for events and sponsorships was mentioned. Rauch noted that the budget will be reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting before sending to Congress for approval.

WFDF update on Multisport Games approach

Following meetings in Athens and Rome, WFDF received an invitation to attend the European Olympic Committees 53rd General Assembly on 6 and 7 June, in Bucharest, Romania. It was a unique opportunity to meet a lot of NOCs.

The invitation to attend the ANOC General Assembly in Cascais, Portugal on 28 October – 2 November as an observer has been received. WE will also contract for a booth. There will be an opportunity to meet, get in contact, and see all the 206 National Olympic Committees, with the goal of helping our national federations thereafter to be recognized.

Progress with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) for recognition was mentioned, highlighting optimism about provisional recognition at the next OCA General Assembly. It is helping us in our Multisport Games approach for the Asian Games and for the Asian Beach Games.

Bernardi also outlined plans for Mediterranean Games and Mediterranean Beach Games inclusion, focusing on demonstration of Ultimate and Beach Ultimate sports for edition in Taranto, Italy 2026. Plans for a Beach Ultimate as a medal sport inclusion for the Mediterranean Beach Games 2027 (Portimão & Lagoa, Portugal) and inclusion of Ultimate as a medal sport for the Mediterranean Games 2030 (Pristina, Kosovo) were highlighted.

Bernardi mentioned the approval of Ultimate as demonstration sport for Southeast Asian Games 2025 (Bangkok, Thailand) hosted by Southeast Asian Games Federation (SEAGF) after the WFDF application in October 2022.

An upcoming fourth edition of the European Games is planned to be held in 2027 in Istanbul, Türkiye. The WFDF Secretary General discussed options with the LOC and will travel to Istanbul and Ankara with representatives of the WFDF member NF in Türkiye upon recommendation of the EOC to discuss a possibility of Ultimate or Beach Ultimate inclusion in the Sports Demonstration.

2024 Annual Congress agenda draft

Rauch presented an updated Annual Congress Agenda, using last year's Agenda as a template, and invited Board members to suggest topics for inclusion over the next couple of weeks.

Bergeron asked about the Friday session's timing in US time zones to avoid scheduling problems for financial report. Woldt confirmed that the timings, listed in a spreadsheet, were suitable for most regions except some Asian countries, and noted that voting will be on Saturday morning in Australia.

Annual Risk Assessment for Congress

Rauch presented the Annual Risk Assessment, highlighting key concerns for the organization and its member associations. He mentioned that Richardson had provided some updates and asked everyone to review the document in the next few days, providing feedback for any adjustments, additions, or subtractions to finalize for the Congress Briefing Book.

Lebanon Congress proposal on tiered event fee system

Rauch introduced a proposal from the Lebanon member regarding adjusting tournament fees based on GDP per capita. The complexity of the issue was mentioned, emphasizing that event fees are a small part of overall travel costs for major events. Maehr suggested to positively consider the proposal, encouraging Lebanon to provide a more detailed plan and participate in regional events for reducing travel expenses.

Woldt mentioned that the expenses of WFDF's continental events are as low as 30% of what a world's tournament is and pointed out that Lebanon's focus should be on attending local and regional events, noting their low participation in such competitions, and emphasizing the importance of grassroots development. Maehr assumed that for some countries in the Middle East, attending Mediterranean events might be more practical than Asian ones due to travel logistics. Bernardi mentioned the political and practical challenges, stressing the need for a financial analysis before any fee adjustments and doubts about the proposal's feasibility and support by members, which would have to pay more.

Rauch suggested further consideration of the proposal, possibly presenting it to Congress for broader discussion after asking Lebanon for a more detailed proposal.

Proposal Learning Management System

Richardson presented the proposal of a Learning Management System which meets the objectives of the strategic plan, its scalability, reliability, and cost-effectiveness. The proposed platform is Moodle. Its potential to support global growth, particularly in less developed regions was emphasized. Richardson explained the benefits of the LMS, including centralized support for coaching resources, potential monetization through sponsored certifications. The cost is US\$1,400 upfront and US\$ 800 annually that would cover server space and help-desk support.

Taylor expressed full support for the proposal, emphasizing the benefits of centralization and the potential for effective grant use.

Maehr asked about the main goal of the LMS. Richardson explained its multifaceted objectives, including centralization and accessibility of educational content such as developing training resources, spirit of the game and coach certification programs.

Rockwood discussed a potential revenue model, suggesting that existing coaching certification programs, like the one from Australia, could be integrated and licensed

to other federations. Richardson agreed, mentioning a flexibility of system to support such initiatives depends on the country and their requirements.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the Learning Management System Proposal, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report on EOC General Assembly attendance and outcome

Bernardi expressed gratitude to the Italian member federation and CONI for their crucial support in getting the invitation. Bernardi personally met with representatives from 19 member NOCs and EOC executive committee members, promoting the WFDF priorities.

The interesting part of the General Assembly included the session on the future of sport with artificial intelligence and sustainability, offering valuable takeaways.

Bernardi announced that the next EOC General Assembly would be held on February 28 and March 1, 2025, in Frankfurt, at the German Olympic Sports Confederation and the largest hotel in Europe.

Report on the MEI Summit attendance of WFDF

Bernardi provided an update on participation in the MEI Summit held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne on June 18-20. As Sport Events Rights holder WFDF was invited by Claudio Ballor to attend the event and WFDF for the first time accepted the invitation.

The summit featured expert suppliers, international federations and hosts cities with more than 250 international delegates attending. It was primarily focused on supplier technology for event management.

Bernardi emphasized that the summit was beneficial for networking and making contacts and mentioned that they would evaluate the commercial value of attending the 2025 summit based on this year's experience.

Broadcast: 2024 plans

Rockwood provided an update on the broadcast plans, mentioning a signed

contract with Ultiworld. Ultiworld committed funds to cover all expenses for the production of the three main ultimate events this year: WFDF 2024 World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC), WFDF 2024 World Ultimate Championships (WUC) and WFDF 2024 World Masters Ultimate Championships (WMUC).

For WJUC there will be live-stream of one showcase field with 4 cameras plus commentary, 4 matches/day and 2 fields without commentary, throughout the tournament. Longtime WFDF commentators Hannah Pendlebury (coordinator), Liam Grant, Geegee Morrison, and Lorcán Murray will be behind the microphones.

For WUC, WFDF plan to live-stream two showcase fields, with 4 cameras each plus a shared drone, 4 matches per field per day. In addition, coverage of at least 2 fields without commentary will be provided. There are plans to stream one of the fields live to China. Indications are that WFDF will be again on CCTV's online sports channel, which in 2022 got us a million views during the tournament.

WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report

Bernardi provided an update on the census and dues invoices update, confirming ongoing follow-up with some members. Thanks to Richardson's extensive work on the issue, a record number 95 of essential reports has been received. 52 invoices had been paid; 14 members reports are still open.

Bernardi addressed exceptional cases involving countries with dues payment issues, mentioning the event fee reduction proposal from Lebanon. The specific cases discussed included Palestine and Ukraine.

Rauch suggested taking these cases and conducting a comprehensive review for the upcoming Executive Committee meeting in July. A full recommendation would then be provided to the Board.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Rauch highlighted the ongoing discussions regarding the upcoming election process of Athletes Commission as a main topic.

SOTG Commission report

Maehr presented the report, acknowledging the successful AOBUC event and commended Nao and especially Senco for her effective role as Spirit Director. The plan to connect with spirit directors from other events to share resources and strategies was mentioned.

Maehr also noted that USAU is testing a new spirit scoring system and expressed interest in the results. The plan for Spirit of the Game Day is still in progress and will be addressed soon. Bergeron reminded Maehr to inform the team about any planned expenditures for Spirit of the Game Day in advance.

Omuseni expressed concerns about declining Spirit of the Game in local tournaments in Kenya. She emphasized the need for measures to uphold the Spirit of the Game at local levels and suggest including training materials in the LMS.

Maehr agreed on the importance of the LMS for disseminating Spirit of the Game materials.

Women in Sport Commission Report

Omuseni highlighted the ongoing the Girls Positive and Safe Coaching Pathway program by TAFISA. Omuseni confirmed that the first installment invoice was submitted and received by WFDF.

Omuseni announced the IWGA (International World Games Association) – Free Women leadership course scheduled for November, with Woldt and Pardo nominated to participate. Additionally, Omuseni mentioned a second workshop planned for 2025.

Bernardi inquired about renaming the commission to align with the IOC's regulations: Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission. This will be discussed among the commission members.

Rauch clarified that the name change proposal did not involve membership changes but aimed to reflect the IOC's nomenclature.

WFDF Communications Report

Kehl highlighted growth across social media channels, and collaborations in cross-promotions with the World Games and UFA. AOBUC event content was heavily promoted through reels, with plans to continue leading up to WJUC. News releases

included the next World Games 2029 host city announcements and Disc Golf sponsor requests. Kehl mentioned plans to announce the 2025 event calendar.

Continental Association Reports

EFDF

Hermand reported on preparations for the EYUC for U17s in Ghent (Belgium). The host city had raised questions regarding the participation of Israel. Those questions were addressed and answered by EUF, by referring concerned parties to the WFDF policies. The new structure of European Ultimate Club Season is still on-going with numerous events and high participation. Plans for the EBUCC 2025 aim for early June. Additionally, the first DDC European Championships is scheduled for July in Germany.

Hermand also sought updates from Mead on the nomination of continental representatives for the Disc Golf committee.

PAFDF

Brokaw emphasized the importance of regional events for developing nations, noting an upcoming tournament in Costa Rica and potential events in South America. PAFDF was focused on organizing a Youth Committee, preparing a bid request for the PAYUC 2025 Tournament to support youth development. The PAFDF Academy continues to offer educational webinars. Unfortunately, Peru was notified that they did not receive the USAID grant this year, but they will continue to look for other funding opportunities.

AOFDF

Bautista updated on the situation in AOFDF, highlighting positive feedback from AOBUC event in Japan and ongoing support requests from Hong Kong and the Philippines. In particular, Philippine Flying Disc Association (PFDA) is requesting for support to hold a Game Advisor Seminar for their country and Flying Disc Federation of Hong Kong (FDFHK) is requesting for support to organize and introduce Dodge Disc to the region. Regarding the upcoming events, bids for the JMUC 2024 have been received from Qatar, Malaysia and Philippines (December 2024). The Asia Oceanic Ultimate Collegiate Championships will be held in Hangzhou, China (October 2024).

The 33rd Southeast Asian Games will be held in Thailand and Ultimate will be one of the demonstration sports. Bernardi recommended to explore forming a Southeast Asian Flying Disc Federation as a subgroup of AOFDF to not increase administrative

burden and to make sure that WFDF have a legacy from Thailand and are included in the next Southeast Asian Beach Games and Southeast Asian Games.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

The Disc Golf Committee Report

Mead highlighted the finalization of team registrations for the upcoming WFDF 2024 World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC) in November and ongoing preparations for the World Games 2025. Mead called for further contributions and coordination among continental representatives to enhance the growth and organization of Disc Golf. He mentioned difficulties in finding European representatives for the Disc Golf Committee and expressed the need for additional support.

Beach Ultimate Committee Report

Rauch briefed everyone on Quintos's report, which mentioned upcoming Beach Ultimate Committee members meeting in September and highlights regarding some logistical challenges at the AOBUC, but overall positive outcomes.

The Overall Committee Report

McLeod gave an update, confirming the contract signing for the 2025 World Overall Flying Disc Championships (WOC 2025) in Sweden and discussing plans for promotional videos for YouTube distribution. Kehl offered technical assistance. McLeod mentioned the communication with Richardson regarding the educational content for LMS and expressed his interest in delivering knowledge about Dodge Disc.

The Guts Committee Report

Taylor informed about work on schedule of the WFDF 2024 World Guts Championship (WGC) in Australia. The Guts Committee is seeking volunteers and discussing promotional strategies for future events. Taylor mentioned Morooka's upcoming induction into the Guts Frisbee Hall of Fame.

Rauch thanked everyone for their contributions and looked forward to the busy months ahead.

Next meetings/wrap-up

ExComm: 13/14 JUL; Board: 14/15 SEP

Closing: 17:26 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary