
Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Sunday July 13th, 2024

6.00am PDT / 8.00 am CDT / 9:00 am NY / 3.00 pm CEST / 4.00pm Türkiye / 5.00 pm GST

Attending:

Robert "Nob" Rauch (chair), Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Volker Bernardi, Karina Woldt, Dillon Richardson, Samantha Kehl, Patrick Fourcampre-Maye, Yenny Pardo, Oleksandra Boliak

Call to order

15:04 CEST

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 ExComm

Finance: YTD 2024 report

Bergeron noted that the financial accounting general ledger tree of accounts had been revised starting in 2024 to better match with categories used by the auditor. Currently, YTD income is US\$16,000 ahead of budget, thanks to Richardson's and Bernardi's efforts with dues. Income sources include dues, sponsorship, broadcast, grants, sanctioning fees, and interest income. Some expenses, like travel, are a bit higher than expected because of the increased staff of WFDF resulting in additional travel. The balance sheet remains healthy.

Approval of Financial files for Congress: Audit, Budgets, Auditor appointment

Bergeron provided a 5-year budget planning review for 2025-2029. 2023 was successful because of event management income. For the next couple years, the income will be lower. Thanks to Richardson and Bernardi, WFDF has a complete picture of members. Recovery to pre-COVID levels is expected, projecting modest growth.

Bergeron highlighted the expiration of major sponsor agreements this year and expressed optimism about new deals, including sponsors and broadcast licensing.

There has been a significant dialogue with the event team forecast costs and income from events depending on the number of participants and the level of competition. The positive impact of attracting sponsors by LOC was mentioned. Bergeron provided a summary of expected expenses, highlighting travel that increased from 15% to 25% due to more staff and higher travel costs.

Contract labor expenses have also increased due to the hiring of additional staff as part of WFDF 3.0 Strategic Plan, which at the same time indicates growth of WFDF. Bergeron emphasized the need to explore other income streams by 2027 to avoid financial strains.

Richardson presented dues projections from 2025 to 2029, anticipating 5% growth initially, slowing to 3% in 2028-2029, that relates to federations moving from provisional to national members. Rauch emphasized the need to bolster revenue through member dues, sponsorships, sanctioning fees, and broadcast.

Bergeron presented the event schedule on a 4-year cycle, noting the income generated from each event based on participation fees. Rauch discussed upcoming sponsorship renewals and announced the readiness of the RFPs in the following months to find sponsors for the following years, including non-endemic sponsors.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the Budget 2025 – 2029 to be presented to Congress, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bergeron proposed using the same auditor next year as this year since WFDF's financial staff confirmed to work successfully with the firm.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the Auditor appointment to be presented to Congress, seconded by Griesbaum. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Annual Congress 2024: voting system, majorities, final agenda

Rauch discussed the proposed agenda and briefly talked about the voting system. Griesbaum confirmed the use of the voting system created by Fourcample-Maye, which is a better fit with WFDF's needs compared to others, and expressed confidence in managing the hybrid meeting online again. Griesbaum recommended using Zoom over Google Meet due to more options and online participants' high familiarity with Zoom.

Bergeron suggested having two cameras for the online stream at the venue. Griesbaum agreed that it would improve the quality of the stream and mentioned the additional costs and equipment needs in this case. Rauch asked that the team plan the setup to avoid any issues in Australia and requested Kehl to support from the communication side at the venue.

Woldt confirmed the attendance of several board members, advisors, independent contractors, and, according to confirmations received as of July 10 provided by Richardson, 11 members in person.

The Friday session of Congress will focus on presentations and discussions without voting, and Saturday morning will handle the official voting. Both sessions will be made available via Zoom. Bergeron suggested adding the start times of both sessions in multiple time zones to the Agenda to avoid confusion.

2024 Census Report for Congress

Richardson presented the census data with improved visuals for better interpretation. Bergeron suggested changing the colors on the pie charts for visual accessibility. Rauch asked about the consistency of reported numbers between 2023 and 2024, as the number of players greatly increased. Richardson will analyze the statistical data and revise to be consistent prior to this being presented to Congress.

Athletes' Commission voting process

Rauch discussed the promotional tools through press releases and social media for encouraging athletes to apply. Some form of an electronic voting system for the Athletes' Commission candidates during Worlds, instead of a paper ballot, was requested. It is important to have a mechanism to qualify votes that should be simple, with reminders available just through using phones. Woldt shared her previous discussions with Tisson regarding nominations through the application of short CVs and introducing candidates to the athletes. Bernardi informed about ongoing discussions with Tisson regarding age limitation and principles for voting and provided past voting statistics, which show about 25-30% of participants voting. Rauch suggested providing a QR code for teams for voting during the competition, the quickest and easiest way to get a response. Richardson clarified the eligibility and advised using Google Forms to collect votes. Rauch and Bernardi discussed the possibility of integrating different disc disciplines into the voting process and agreed to further discuss and finalize the system.

Palestine proposal from Indonesia

Rauch informed that a proposal was received from Indonesia regarding Palestine, supported by the representation of 22 national federations. Indonesia claims that these 22 WFDF members represent over 25% of the voting power and is calling a special meeting of Congress on this matter. Among the reasons WFDF cannot act in this case are the lack of 25% voting representation as 14 out of the 22 signatories are not in good standing due to unpaid dues or incomplete census reports. Indonesia had stated that this might be remedied in time for Congress.

Membership proposals: Azerbaijan (108), Comoros (109)

Bernardi noted that the Azerbaijan membership proposal was approved by the Board three months ago but had not been sent to Congress yet. The Comoros proposal has been finalized and Richardson will additionally share it with ExComm for a vote. Other proposals require additional discussions with NOCs and countries during the upcoming Olympics.

Acceptance of PayPal for Member Dues in Nominal Amounts

Richardson presented the proposal to start using PayPal for small member dues, up to US\$500, in addition to the existing option of bank transfers. Rauch inquired about appropriate fee amounts. Woldt suggested involving Gray in this discussion due to past issues with PayPal, including affiliation, correctness of payments for a non-profit organization, and account shutdowns. Bernardi confirmed that PayPal cannot be used for event fees, but only for nominal amounts for membership dues, as discussed with Richardson and Gray. Bergeron suggested working through the details and coming back with a plan to get the right things from PayPal as well.

Associate Members Application Requirements

Bernardi presented the proposal on establishing internal requirements for potential Associate Members and their applications for WFDF Membership to assess inquiries and proceed with the Membership Application. Bernardi mentioned a recent application from a local group in the US for associate membership, which prompted

the development of this proposal. It was decided to present the proposal and make the final decision at the September Board meeting.

Sport for Nature agreement for WFDF

Rauch asked about the specifics of the Sport for Nature initiative and its obligations. Bernardi explained the background and significance, highlighting the association with notable partners and the potential media exposure during the Olympic Games in Paris. Obligations include protecting nature, restoring habitats, educating on environmental actions, and submitting an annual report. Bernardi suggested signing the agreement before or during the event in Paris for maximum media impact.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the Sport for Nature agreement for WFDF, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF 2024 Development Programme - IOC Funding proposal

Bernardi presented the latest version of the WFDF 2024 Development Programme, part of the IOC Funding proposal, which includes the following projects:

- Development of Ultimate for the Islands of the Indian Ocean (Mauritius) - US\$ 1,500
- National Mongolian Ultimate Frisbee Tournament (Mongolia) - US\$ 1,500
- Alhalimun (Egypt) alignment with Strategic Plan with a focus on youth and refugees - US\$ 1,500
- Introducing Ultimate Frisbee to Ugandan Universities (Uganda) - US\$ 750
- Escuela de Ultimate Frisbee Junior (Argentina) - US\$ 1,000

A part of these have already been approved by the board from last year to be paid this year. Woldt raised concerns regarding Uganda's grant, suggesting using this communication to secure a commitment and responsiveness for the All-Africa event next year. It was decided to inform the recipients and proceed with payments before the Paralympic Games in Paris.

Event Management Report

Woldt mentioned the importance of budget management for 2024 and 2025. There is no surplus income forecasted to come in at this time. The current surplus for

Australia will be used to pay for lighting for night games to increase the number of spectators.

There is not much forward progress on finding a solution to automate registration and team fee payments, as the system being reviewed does not have the capability to interface with Quickbooks despite the initial promises. Rauch suggested requesting a refund from the current contractor due to unfulfilled tasks and promises.

Another suggestion was to ask other sports federations about their registration systems to understand the benefits and determine the terms of cooperation with third parties. Richardson shared his own experience with the organization of athlete registrations, mentioning charging a license fee for the season for all athletes based on the GDP of their country. The system was linked to the finance system through payments with credit cards and additional bank fees.

Woldt asked about the possibility of buying a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature Indicator System, which is around US\$ 700-800, for the upcoming events. This would be especially useful for the World Games in China and complies with a heat policy. Bergeron suggested buying two units to avoid transit issues and ensure availability.

Woldt provided an update on broadcasting arrangements for Disc Golf discussed with Mead and the possibility of including local Chinese broadcasters to go straight into dual-language broadcasting between English and Mandarin on site. The need for a photographer for the World Games 2025 in Chengdu, possibly a representative of the WFDF, was discussed. Woldt mentioned upcoming Game Advisor training sessions in the Philippines and China.

Woldt reported that draft contracts for 2025 events are ready, and letters of intent have been received from most LOCs, except Japan and Uganda. Woldt mentioned the need to follow up with Gisel to finalize the 2026 event calendar. The upcoming event is the WFDF 2024 World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) in Birmingham next week. Fourcample-May and Pardo will take care of all preparations on-site.

Report on Türkiye trip (NOC, Istanbul 2027 European Games, Sport Ministry, NF)

Bernardi reported on a recent trip to Türkiye, which included a few important meetings in Istanbul and Ankara. The first meeting was with the National Olympic Committee of Türkiye, attended by the Secretary General, Sports Director, and other

specialists, regarding the European Games 2027. Positive support from the National Olympic Committee for the European and Mediterranean Games was mentioned. Most notably, the Turkish Olympic Committee is responsible for all the delegations from the European Games. The most likely chance for a flying disc participation could be a low quota of 48, maximum 64, because the low quota of 48 athletes gives flying disc sport the benefit of possibly being considered as a medal spot.

Another meeting with the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Ankara discussed the national member's recognition issues. As the Ministry of Youth and Sports and NOC are not accepting new federations anymore, it was suggested to include either the Developing Sports Federation or a multi-sport federation, which is already accepted as a member of the NOC. The Ministry expressed positive support for flying disc sport.

WFDF Annual Census and Dues Invoices report

Bernardi presented an updated report with recommendations for the adjustment of dues. Rauch suggested further consideration of recommendations for members' exceptional/open cases offline.

Other Business

Rauch mentioned being approached by PDGA to co-sign and open letter to the Disc Golf community regarding issues in the US about transgender players.

Next meetings/wrap-up

Board: 14/15 SEP; ExComm: 12/13 OCT

Closing: 17:00 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary