

Sunday September 29, 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, Thomas Griesbaum, Rob McLeod, Jamie Nuwer, Caroline Tisson, Daniel O'Neill, Steve Taylor, Alex Matovu, Shiellah Quintos, Wolfgang Maehr, Haude Hermand (by proxy to Thomas Griesbaum), Chasen Brokaw (by proxy to Robert "Nob" Rauch), Volker Bernardi (Secretary General, non-voting)

Also attending (non-voting): Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), 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, Yoonee Jeong, Esther Omuseni, Jose Maria Javier Weber Bautista, Charlie Mead

Call to order (time: 15:05 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 - 23 June 2024 - already approved

Presented to the Board for information.

Minutes of the meeting Executive Committee - 13 July 2024 - already approved

Presented to the Board for information.

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 World Ultimate Championships (WUC) and WFDF 2024 World Guts Championships (WGC) in Australia and mentioned upcoming WFDF events in 2024 are moving according to plan:

- WFDF 2024 World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC) in Australia
- WFDF 2024 World Masters Ultimate Championships (WMUC) in the U.S.A.

24 countries will send national teams to WTDGC and the top 16 teams will qualify for the World Games 2025 in Chengdu. Woldt confirmed to Maehr that she would take over the role of Spirit Director at WTDGC.

WFDF is sanctioning the 5v5 Hainan Elite Invitational Beach Ultimate Tournament (IBUT5v5) in China with collaboration on Game Advisor programs. A coaching clinic will be hosted in Hainan, China, for game advisors.

For AOBUC 2024 there is no profit to share, but all bills have been covered. The event's budget was tight, and the local organising committee has been encouraged to increase fees for the next event in 2025 event to ensure sustainability. The WJUC2024 is expected to generate a profit share.

The WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) originally scheduled for November in Portugal, has been postponed because the Moto GP has been scheduled there during the same weekend. New dates are being looked at and they might clash with national events. Woldt mentioned that the 2025 event calendar is finalised, and the 2026 calendar is smaller, with contracts currently being worked through. The following events are planned for 2026:

- WFDF 2026 World Junior Ultimate Championships in Spain
- WFDF 2026 World Masters Ultimate Club Championships in Great Britain
- WFDF 2026 World Ultimate Club Championships in Ireland
- WFDF 2026 World Team Disc Golf Championships in Lithuania

The WFDF Board will additionally vote for these bids' approval.

Sponsorships and requests for proposals for clothes, discs, bags, gloves, and eyewear were discussed. Tisson stressed the need for longer-term contracts with disc manufacturers, noting that frequent changes affect elite-level gameplay. Stability in equipment is extremely important for experienced players. It has been decided to continue the partnership with Flik for coaching resources for one more year.

The bidding process for 2027 has been postponed to early 2025 due to workload in closing off financials for 2024.

There will be additional update on the recruitment process to the Event Team and next steps due to the resigning of Event Manager Patrick Fourcampre-Maye.

The development of a transparent RFP process for Broadcasting was discussed and Rauch encouraged Rockwood, Gisel and Woldt to work together in getting out an RFP before year end.

WFDF Showcase 4v4 Beach Ultimate game - Lol with BULA

Woldt mentioned that the Beach Ultimate Showcase Game is scheduled for 19 October 2024 in Portugal. Rauch presented the Letter of Intent with BULA. A rematch “friendly” game of the 2023 beach mixed finals between Spain and France will be held, with eight players per roster. The event aims to showcase the 4v4 format for potential Olympic consideration and to capture promotional video footage.

Bernardi informed that the director of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) World Beach Games had confirmed his attendance, which is seen as a significant step forward for the inclusion of beach ultimate in these Games. While previous attempts to feature beach ultimate were unsuccessful, due to the cancellation of the event in Indonesia, this new partnership with ANOC brings new opportunities. Additionally, the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (CIJM) is planning to send a delegate. Bernardi inquired about the possibility of arranging a livestream via ANOC.tv, as requested by Andrés Santi and Gustavo Arvada, to provide an opportunity to join online for invited guests who are unable to attend the event in person. Rockwood confirmed it is feasible to stream the event live and make it available through various channels.

WWUC 2025 bid from Lithuania - approval

Bernardi presented the bid for 2025 WFDF World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships in Lithuania and reported about the recent visit there. The event would take place in Druskininkai, a city well-suited for accessibility as it is known as the largest rehabilitation city in the Baltic region. This, combined with transportation links from Vilnius Airport, made it an ideal location for wheelchair athletes. Bernardi also discussed the Lithuanian National Paralympic Committee and the local government’s commitment to supporting the event, both logistically and financially. Meetings with the Deputy Sports Minister, the Mayor, and other local officials further

confirmed their ability to host a successful championship. The event is planned for August 28-31, 2025, with a classification session preceding it. Bernardi concluded with recommending Lithuania's application to the Board.

A motion was made by Nuwer to approve the WWUC 2025 bid from Lithuania, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Heat and Air Quality policy for TWG 2025

Nuwer presented Heat and Air Quality policy for the World Games 2025 in Chengdu, outlining its unique format, where athletes play fewer games per day, making the event less risky in terms of heat exposure than typical tournaments. She noted that while the athletes are well-conditioned, special measures regarding heat must be taken. The proposal involved increasing halftime duration to allow athletes to access cooling rooms and reconsidering game cancellations based on heat levels. Gisel confirmed that cooling rooms and other provisions for athlete comfort would be in place at the venue. However, he mentioned the LOC limitations on moving games to earlier and later in the days to avoid midday heat due to the overall schedule.

Tisson shared feedback from the athletes, emphasising the importance of having adequate cooling resources and transparency in communication with teams regarding heat preparation. Rauch suggested that the Board consult with the IWGA to ensure alignment with broader standards and consider input from television partners regarding extended breaks. Bernardi emphasised the collaborative nature of the World Games, explaining that multiple stakeholders are involved in the event's operations, including the IWGA, International sports partners, the local organising committee and competition managers. He highlighted that decisions such as game cancellations due to heat need to be aligned with general policy, coordinated through the IWGA medical committee. Bernardi noted the importance of ensuring that the heat management policy covers all sports within the World Games and WFDF policy will not be specific to any one international federation but will be universal. Bernardi recommended that Gisel and Mead discuss the matter with the competition managers in Chengdu in four weeks. Gisel clarified that the local organising committee in Chengdu specifically requested that each sport submit its own heat policy. Gisel suggested discussing further details and questions at the competition managers' meeting. Woldt mentioned that this might be part of an effort by the IWGA Medical Committee to consolidate and review all policies for appropriateness across all sports. Further clarifications are required.

Rockwood emphasised the importance of also considering the health and safety of all staff, like camera operators covering up to five games per day, not just athletes,

during the planning of heat-related policies. Gisela has adjusted schedules to allow operators to take breaks during the hottest part of the day.

WFDF Report on Olympic Games attendance / update on Multisport Game WFDF Report on Paralympic Games attendance

Bernardi presented the report on his meetings during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, emphasising the success of strategic discussions with various continental Olympic organisations. The meetings included the European Olympic Committees (EOC), the Oceania National Olympic Committees (ONOC), the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), Pan American Sports, and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).

Bernardi highlighted agreements to establish Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with these organisations, aimed at strengthening relationships and opportunities for involvement in future events. The first of these MoU is expected to be discussed with ANOCA during their General Assembly at the end of October in Cascais, Portugal, where 206 NOCs will be attending and the WFDF will have a presentation booth.

A significant development from these discussions was the discovery of the opportunity for Flying Disc to be included in the program of African Games and the African Beach Games. Bernardi mentioned a meeting with the National Olympic Committee of Equatorial Guinea, which is organising the African Beach Games in 2027, where they have secured a place on the program.

In addition, there was progress with Flying Disc representation at the ANOC World Beach Games and a continued presence of WFDF at key events such as the European Olympic Committees' General Assembly in Bucharest, Romania and the upcoming Pan American Sports General Assembly in Asunción, Paraguay. Bernardi expressed his gratitude to everyone involved in the Paris visit, mentioning the importance of these connections and the opportunities they present for future participation in multisport events. He encouraged board members to review the detailed reports provided and to reach out with any questions.

Annual Congress 2024 approval of minutes and recap

Rauch provided a quick overview of the Annual Congress in Australia and presented minutes, highlighting the addition of four new national federations, the revisions to the bylaws, the formalities of the risk assessment approval, financial matters, and a

discussion of the two member proposals. All this is summarised in that press release as well.

Bernardi suggested that, considering the short notice in which board members received the Congress minutes, an electronic vote should be conducted to allow everyone to thoroughly review the document. This would ensure that no member federation could claim that the minutes were approved without proper review. The proposal was accepted, members were encouraged to submit their votes in the coming days.

Finance: YTD 2024 report

Rauch presented the financial report, covering up through September 2024. It was noted that the net loss for the nine months of 2024 was generally in line with what had been budgeted, with dues being ahead of planned and sponsorship a little lower. Event sanctioning fees and event management income were performing better than expected, helping the total income exceed the budget projections.

On the expense side, Rauch mentioned that travel expenses had exceeded the budget due to additional staff members, while equipment, clothing, and medals also saw higher-than-anticipated expenditures. Marketing and public relations are the main drivers of the increased expenses. Overall, expenses are slightly above expectations. As of September, total net assets stood at approximately US\$ 750,000. It is expected that by the end of the year, the organisation would maintain a similar financial position to the previous year.

Monaco Urban Sports Federation (MUSF) application for WFDF National membership

The topic of upgrading the Monaco Urban Sports Federation from provisional membership to full national membership was presented. Rauch reminded the Board that it is solely the responsibility of the Board to approve such upgrades, based on the organisation's performance and compliance with bylaws.

Bernardi provided further details, noting that the Monaco Urban Sports Federation had been granted provisional membership two years ago. Since then, the Federation had been actively involved in national activities with Monaco's Ministry of Sports and had a potential partnership with the National Olympic Committee (NOC), and both organisations had indicated their support for the Federation to continue as a unified body for various sports, including Flying disc. Bernardi highlighted that the Monaco

Federation had achieved all the expectations set two years ago when they were first granted provisional membership and recommended upgrading the Federation to full national membership.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve the Monaco Urban Sports Federation (MUSF) application for WFDF National membership, seconded by Quintos. The motion was approved unanimously.

Athletes' Commission elections 2024 - update and terms of reference

Tisson provided an update on the Athletes' Commission elections, mentioning her cooperation with Richardson to update the composition of the Commission, ensuring a more balanced representation of different disc sports. One key change proposed was that members wishing to become chair of the Commission must have served on the Commission for at least one year to ensure they are familiar with its workings. Tisson mentioned that she planned to reach out new members via email soon and organise an informal meeting to introduce the new members before holding a formal meeting after the disc golf event and additional elections in late November or early December.

Rauch thanked Tisson for the update and appreciated her efforts to improve the Commission's functionality.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the Athletes' Commission: Terms of Reference, seconded by Nuwer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Appointment of a non-Executive Director to the WFDF Board of Directors as per Article IV.1 WFDF Bylaws

Bernardi proposed the appointment of Filomena Fortes from Cape Verde as an independent director on the Board. He highlighted her impressive achievements, including her role as an IOC member, President of the Cape Verde National Olympic Committee, and President of ACOLOP (Association of Portuguese-speaking National Olympic Committees). Her experience and influence in the African and Portuguese-speaking sports communities would be invaluable to the WFDF.

There were discussions with Fortes since early 2023, and she had agreed to take up the position after careful consideration. Bernardi expressed confidence that her appointment would strengthen the organisation's connections in Africa, support the

development of new federations, and help navigate the complex political landscape of the Olympic movement.

Maehr asked about the specific responsibilities Fortes would be expected to fulfil. Rauch explained that her role would primarily involve providing insight into the African sports scene, supporting the development of federations in Africa, and offering guidance on navigating IOC protocols. He also mentioned that her experience in Portuguese-speaking countries would be beneficial for respective WFDF members.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the appointment of Filomena Fortes as a non-Executive Director to the WFDF Board of Directors as per Article IV.1 WFDF Bylaws, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF 2024 Elections

Rauch presented the document that outlined the last elections, current terms, and upcoming elections. Rauch noted that a key decision had to be made on whether to keep elections every year or stagger them over a two-year cycle. Bernardi emphasized the significance of the election cycle, noting that important positions such as the President and Secretary were up for election. The Board had previously extended terms from two to four years, which had aligned with best practices in good governance. Bernardi also highlighted that WFDF ranked third in the latest good governance survey out of 54 members but pointed out that the lack of term limits for positions was one area holding back a higher ranking.

Rauch suggested one option where elections could be held every second year, starting in 2024 for some positions and 2026 for others. Maehr expressed his support for the proposal but suggested that a slow transition, perhaps involving a temporary one-year term, might be necessary. Bernardi explained that international organisations often prefer longer terms, but in cases of transition, a one-year term could be a practical solution. Rauch proposed that the election this year remain a four-year term and that next year's election include a one-time five-year, and then go back to a four-year term to facilitate the transition to staggered elections.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the proposed Elections cycle, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bernardi confirmed that this adjustment did not require Congress approval, as it was a technical adjustment in line with the bylaws.

Broadcast: 2024 plans

Rockwood provided an update on the recent WUC 2024 broadcast, highlighting a significant increase in viewership and revenue compared to previous years. The total hours watched had increased by 42%, while total viewers grew by 25%. The revenue from event subscriptions for the World Ultimate Championships was 25% higher than last year's U24 Championship. Additionally, the revenue from the World Junior Ultimate Championships in Birmingham doubled compared to last year's Beach Worlds.

Rockwood mentioned the high level of professionalism and teamwork during the broadcast, particularly noting the efforts of Ultiworld, who were responsible for production. Technical issues were minimal, thanks to the efforts of Fourcampre-Maye, and the overall execution was successful.

A notable point was the reported 6.07 million views from the People's Republic of China. This exposure was a major milestone, even though the viewership was not monetized.

Rockwood pointed out that the North American audience accounted for approximately 90% of paying viewers. Countries like Australia, the UK, and Germany showed some engagement, but additional efforts to increase participation from other countries like Colombia are still required.

WFDF Annual Census and dues invoices report

Bernardi briefly introduced the census and dues report, confirming that US\$ 102,000 had been collected, leaving only US\$ 2,000 not paid. He acknowledged that a few federations had delayed payments, but overall, the result was positive. Bernardi thanked Richardson for his work in managing the report and the dues collection process.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

There were no additional updates to provide regarding the Athletes Commission, except the elections and Terms of reference presented before.

SOTG Commission report

Maehr provided an update on the activities of the Spirit of the Game (SOTG) Commission. He noted that the Commission has struggled with maintaining momentum due to time zone differences. The membership of the commission has remained stable.

Maehr presented the report, acknowledging the successful AOBUC. The plan to connect with Spirit Directors from other events to share resources and strategies was mentioned. Also he highlighted the collaboration with SDs in preparation for events, particularly for WJUC and WUC, WGC in Australia. Maehr mentioned the submitted report with key takeaways, which included an updated Spirit Director's briefing book.

The formation of a WhatsApp community for SOTG leaders, currently involving around 130 spirit captains from past major events, has been discussed. The aim is to increase engagement through regular polls and updates.

Feedback has been provided regarding the draft for the 2025-2028 rules update.

Maehr outlined plans for the upcoming Spirit of the Game Day, scheduled for December 7. He noted that no volunteers from the commission have come forward to take charge of this year's event. The plan is to adopt a more grassroots approach, encouraging teams, clubs to celebrate the day. Instead of selecting a specific theme, the event will focus on a general celebration of Spirit of the Game.

Rauch suggested that early communication, even if less structured, could help improve the engagement and overall success of the day.

Women in Sport Commission Report

Omusei was not able to attend the meeting but had presented a written report.

WFDF Communications Report

Kehl provided an update on the third quarter of the year, which included two major events: WJUC and WUC/WGC. The social media reach had significantly expanded, particularly around WUC, where a large amount of collaborative content was generated. Members of various teams and federations were actively tagging and resharing content with great engagement. Kehl highlighted that WFDF gained several thousand new followers across both X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram, with

the majority of growth around WUC. WUC content will go live on WFDF channels beginning October 7, 2024. The World Games also collaborated with WFDF on some of the content, further boosting reach. Kehl pointed out the positive feedback from the local community around WUC, many of whom were watching Ultimate for the first time. Plans to develop additional support and guidelines for social media and external communications for LOCs were mentioned.

Bernardi asked if there had been any follow-up, such as podcasts or Olympic Channel coverage. Rockwood explained that while the finals were available on Olympic Channel a week after the event, no viewership data had yet been received, though it was expected soon.

Continental Association Reports

PAFDF

Rauch mentioned that Brokaw was unable to attend but had submitted key highlights. Rauch mentioned a successful community event at the Torneo Centroamericano y El Caribe happened July 19-21, which introduced new teams and countries. The Pan American Youth Ultimate Championship in Costa Rica was reasonably successful, with three new youth programs initiated. Rauch also highlighted the upcoming Pan American Flying Disc Federation Annual Congress in January 2025, which would focus on strengthening ties between member federations and national Olympic committees.

AOFDF

Rauch mentioned a request from the Asia Oceania Flying Disc Federation (AOFDF) for financial support for an upcoming game advisor seminar. AOFDF is seeking US\$ 1,000 for trainers' flight from the UK due to difficulties in finding more localised game advisors to run the training. Gisela clarified that this request could likely be covered under the existing Game Advisor training budget, without the need for additional grant approval. Bernardi suggested that this type of training should be under the IOC Development funding.

The 33rd Southeast Asian Games will be held in Thailand, where ultimate, along with disc golf and guts will be included as the demonstration sports. Rauch noted that teams from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines had already committed to participating.

AAFDF

Matovu provided an update on activities in Africa, mentioning the recent tournament in Kampala, which brought players across several countries, including Zimbabwe

and Kenya. Matovu also discussed the challenges faced in shipping donated discs into Kenya and Uganda, noting lengthy negotiations with the Kenya Revenue Authority. The plan moving forward is to establish Kenya as a hub for receiving and distributing discs across East Africa, West Africa with similar plans for South Africa and Ghana.

Bernardi offered to assist Matovu thanks to WFDF's connections with national Olympic committees, suggesting that these organisations could help find a solution. Rauch suggested continuing discussions offline to explore possibilities to support future shipments.

EFDF

Rauch provided an update on the European Flying Disc Federation (EFDF). EFDF is currently establishing its schedule for major events in 2025, which includes:

- EBUCC – European Beach Ultimate Club Championship, planned for June 6-8 in Gdansk, Poland
- EDGC – European Disc-Golf Championship, planned for June 26-29 in Langevag, Norway
- EMDGC – European Masters Disc Golf Championship, planned for August 27-30 in Salzgitter, Germany
- EUCF – European Ultimate Championships Finals, planned for September 27-29 in Oostende, Belgium

An unfortunate security incident affecting the Israeli team occurred at the European Youth Ultimate Championships (EYUC) in Ghent, Belgium, in August. An appeal has been lodged with EFDF, and a tribunal is being established to review the situation.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

Beach Ultimate Committee Report

Rauch briefed everyone on Quintos's report, mentioning that players are adapting to the introduction of game advisors in AOBUC. Based on the information gleaned from Congress, increasing the participation of beach ultimate in multi-sports events, the Beach Ultimate Committee is exploring the possibility of introducing a 4v4 beach event in 2026.

Maehr raised questions regarding the necessity of game advisors in beach ultimate. Game advisors are intended to enhance the experience across all formats of ultimate, not just grass. Feedback from players has been largely positive regarding their presence at events. Bernardi noted that the presence of game advisors, especially during high-profile competitions, helps manage the game and avoid delays, particularly with international broadcasting involved. He stressed that their

role is to expedite discussions without removing player responsibility. Tisson mentioned that game advisors are helpful for education and rule clarification, their role should focus on fostering understanding among less experienced teams. Maehr concluded that a clear plan regarding the use of game advisors within different disciplines should be established to guide future decisions.

The Overall Committee Report

McLeod provided an update, mentioning the ongoing work with voiceovers for Discipline video and preparations for the 2025 World Overall Flying Disc Championships (WOC 2025) in Sweden.

The Guts Committee Report

Taylor shared his gratitude for the support from the staff during the events in Australia. He mentioned acceptance of Japan's proposal for organising an Asia-Oceanic Ultimate and Guts Club Championship in 2027 and to initiate a Pan-American Ultimate and Guts Cup Championship. There are ongoing efforts to grow the representation of the Guts Committee by identifying international members.

Rauch thanked everyone for their contributions and active participation in the meeting.

Next meetings/wrap-up

ExComm: 26/27 OCT; Board: 23/24 NOV

Closing: 17:50 CEST

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum
WFDF Secretary