
Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Monday March 3rd, 2025

7.30 am PDT / 10.30 am NY / 16.30 CET / 18.30pm EAT/ 7.30 pm GST

Attending:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (President), Brian Gisel, (Vice President/Chair, Ultimate Committee), Kate Bergeron (Treasurer), Catherine Nakasi (Secretary), Volker Bernardi (Secretary General, non-voting), Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Dillon Richardson (Director of Membership Services and Sport Development), Yenny Pardo (Event Coordinator), Oleksandra Boliak (Executive Assistant)

Call to order

16:31 CET

Overview by the President

President Rauch opened the meeting and briefly introduced the agenda.

Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExComm

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 19 JAN 2025 meeting

The Board of Directors meeting minutes of January 19, 2025, were presented to Executive Committee for review. Rauch reminded members that the minutes had been circulated for online voting and asked Executive Committee members to review and approve them before the upcoming face-to-face Board meeting to avoid delays.

WFDF Events Team Report

Woldt provided an update on 2025 events. All bulletins have been released, and event registrations are open, except for the WFDF 2025 All Africa Ultimate Championships (AAUC) as they required budget adjustments.

Registration for the WFDF 2025 World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships (WWUC) is open but has seen a limited response so far. The LOC is working with a reduced budget due to the replacement of player fees with a small team fee. Woldt asked Bernardi about the required number of officials and whether classifiers' accommodation costs would be covered. Rauch suggested to discuss the matter further outside the meeting.

The WFDF 2025 World Guts Club Championships (WGCC) lacks sufficient team registrations. Taylor is pushing for global representation but is facing challenges in securing American team participation.

Player registration for the World Games 2025 is set to open. Woldt mentioned an issue with Colombia, which has not paid its fees yet. Rauch highlighted broader issues with Colombia, including potential intervention from the Colombian Olympic Committee. Woldt continued with the update, mentioning that New Zealand initially withdrew its bid for the Disc Golf discipline, which was then allocated to Lithuania. Later New Zealand tried to reclaim its spot, but their request was denied as no other teams had dropped out. All teams except China have submitted rosters for participation in the World Games 2025 in Chengdu.

The World Virtual Team Disc Golf event, based on the app Disc Golf Valley, is being added to the calendar. Rauch emphasized the need for a confirmed date and an official announcement within the next week, ensuring the distribution of information one month before the event. Woldt and Rauch discussed the possibility of monetizing participation, charging a small entry fee for preliminary rounds in the future.

Currently WFDF has four major events for 2026. Woldt is on-site in Limerick, Ireland for the venue announcement to host the WFDF 2026 World Ultimate Club Championships (WUCC). She reported on the need for additional accommodations for athletes. Hosts have been identified for other 2026 events.

Woldt informed the committee that call for bids for the 2027-2028 events is set to be launched next month. Rauch confirmed that the process would follow the established structure, where continental events remain under the governing body's purview. Woldt plans to make an official announcement in the first half of April.

Update on Independent Contractor Hiring Process

Rauch and Gisel have already conducted their interviews with shortlisted candidates for the Event Manager and Communications and Social Media Manager positions. Bernardi has his final interviews scheduled for this week as well.

Woldt noted that shortlisted candidates for the Communications and Social Media Manager role were asked to complete a 30-second content creation challenge. Some candidates took longer than expected to schedule their three-hour time slots. It was agreed that Bernardi will share his candidate rankings after the final interviews. If a consensus is reached, hiring decisions will proceed immediately.

Woldt clarified that new staff members are expected to attend the upcoming face-to-face Board meeting in Frankfurt. All candidates were informed of the dates during the interview process.

Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation (MFDC) MoU - approval of draft

Bernardi provided an update on the finalization of the MoU between WFDF and the Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation (MFDC), which had been under negotiation for several months. He noted a jurisdictional clause related to the United States, which was not present in the previous draft but should not be a problem.

The MoU is essential for proceeding with the upcoming Congress and the election of the MFDC Board. This will allow WFDF to strengthen engagement with Mediterranean multi-sport events, including the Mediterranean Games and particularly the Mediterranean Beach Games.

Bernardi mentioned encouraging discussions on this topic during the European Olympic Committees General Assembly in Frankfurt, highlighting the importance of signing the MoU for further development. Rauch clarified the role of regional federations like MFDC and Bernardi emphasized that being recognized by the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (CIJM) would support national federations in the region in securing funding and technical assistance.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the MFDC MoU draft, seconded by Nakasi. The motion was approved unanimously.

Budget proposal WFDF Olympic/Multisport Games attendance

Bernardi presented the budget proposal for travel to Brisbane, Australia and to the 2025 the Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in Bangkok, Thailand. The purpose of the travel to Australia is to engage with the host city's Olympic program selection process, particularly considering other sports lobbying for inclusion.

With flying disc inclusion as a demonstration sport for the SEA Games it is necessary to advance the flying disc sport's inclusion as a medal event in the 2027 SEA Games in Malaysia. Bernardi emphasized the need for direct intervention to secure the Southeast Asian Games Federation and Olympic Council of Asia's recognition.

Bergeron acknowledged the strategic importance of these trips and requested a comprehensive list of Bernardi's travel plans for the year to ensure they fit within the

organization's financial constraints. It was suggested to approve the trip to Brisbane for May and to Bangkok under conditional approval subject to Bergeron's final sign off.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the budget proposal for WFDF Olympic/Multisport Games attendance, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Taking on an Intern reporting to Rauch

Rauch proposed bringing in an unpaid intern to assist with analytics and website cleanup. The intern would report to the WFDF President but also be available to support others within the organization. Considering that the internship would not have a financial impact on the organization, Bergeron confirmed that no formal approval is necessary. The proposal was accepted, and Rauch will proceed with onboarding the intern.

Finance: YTD 2024 report

Bergeron reported that the 2024 budget was closing with a positive balance rather than the previously expected USD\$ 45,000 loss. Woldt mentioned that this is thanks to the additional sponsorship payment that was secured during WUC 2024.

Bergeron noted that 2025 is expected to be financially challenging due to increased spending on the World Games and the onboarding of new staff members. An internal budget review will take place next week before the next face-to-face Board meeting at the end of the month. In the meantime, financial documents will be prepared for the 2024 audit.

Rauch suggested a few financial reporting adjustments to improve transparency. He asked for a year-end balance sheet comparison to be included, in addition to the month-on-month comparison.

Agenda draft F2F Board Meeting

Rauch highlighted that the agenda for the upcoming face-to-face Board meeting was still being finalized and would first be circulated to the Executive Committee for feedback before being sent to the Board.

Bernardi raised his concern regarding the extensive number of topics submitted for discussion at the face-to-face Board meeting. He emphasized the need to prioritize agenda items and rely on the Executive Committee's assistance in narrowing down

the list. Rauch requested Bernardi to share the topics that had submitted with him for his review

Woldt confirmed that most attendees would stay over Sunday evening, with only a few leaving earlier. She provided an update on visa challenges for some Board members. All flights and accommodations were confirmed and managed by WFDF. Woldt stated that this would be the largest face-to-face Board meeting held so far.

Continental Association proposal on ownership of continental events

Rauch introduced the proposal regarding the potential shift of ownership of continental and regional events to the respective Continental Associations. He acknowledged the need for financial support for these associations but raised significant concerns regarding governance, efficiency, and accountability. Rauch suggested that funding should be granted only for specific, accountable projects rather than through an unrestricted budget allocation.

Bernardi provided historical context on the establishment of Continental Associations and highlighted major governance issues. Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of Continental Associations in expanding membership and developing the sport. He stressed that ownership of events should only be considered once CAs demonstrate maturity in governance, behavior, accountability, and event management.

Bergeron encouraged for a strategic approach, suggesting clear governance and financial structures before delegating event ownership. While stronger Continental Associations could be beneficial, she stressed the need for accountability

Nakasi highlighted the benefits that could be got from CAs, however she mentioned the recent governance issues, specifically in AAFDF, and encouraged a strategic step-by-step approach to support CAs. She and Bergeron supported a standardized KPI system to measure Continental Associations' performance consistently.

Woldt highlighted that the proposal was signed by four CA presidents without consulting their boards or the ExComm, raising concerns about governance oversight. Woldt noted that some Associations, like AAFDF, rely on WFDF funding rather than generating their own revenue.

Gisel proposed that the response should outline a constructive partnership model with a focus on growing the sport collectively. He acknowledged that some Continental

Associations could play a greater role in running certain events, such as juniors, masters, or regional competitions, as long as they are structured collaboratively.

Rauch requested Richardson to review how other international federations structure their relationships with continental associations which he agreed to do

It was agreed to draft a response outlining concerns and proposing an alternative funding model based on project-based allocations. The Executive Committee will develop a strategy to engage Continental Associations constructively, focusing on partnerships.

54th EOC General Assembly - WFDF attendance report

Bernardi provided an update on the EOC General Assembly attendance, which provided an opportunity for networking and discussions with various National Olympic Committees (NOCs).

Meetings were held with European members of the International Committee of Mediterranean Games (CIJM) and representatives from smaller European nations, who are members of the Games of the Small States of Europe (GSSE) but are not yet WFDF full members. Discussions with Iceland's Secretary General focused on re-engagement, as Iceland has been a silent member for a long time. Bernardi mentioned the emerging of potential collaboration opportunities regarding the European Games in Istanbul in 2027. He received an invitation to the SportAccord Convention event scheduled for June 9-12 in Istanbul. Bernardi recommended encouraging participation from the WFDF Turkish member to reduce travel costs. Bernardi mentioned the upcoming WADA Symposium in March, which remains mandatory.

Conduct Committee on FECODV Colombia

The Federacion Colombiana de Disco Volador (FECODV) has been under probation since 2023 for various problems, and is currently under review due to unpaid fees, financial mismanagement, and a lack of legitimate elections. Issues had been brought to our attention by individuals within the country requesting our investigation. Additionally, FECODV failed to pay outstanding fees despite multiple warnings. Rauch presented a letter from the Colombian Olympic Committee (COC).

Woldt mentioned that the priority should be ensuring financial accountability. Bergeron and Gisel agreed that late-stage involvement from other organizations is not a possible solution. Bernardi stressed that an expulsion of Colombia could lead to legal

complications. The recommended approach is to separate governance issues from athlete participation.

It was agreed to prepare a formal response to the Colombian Olympic Committee and monitor the FECODV elections, assessing whether governance issues are resolved. The Colombian member must pay its outstanding fees immediately or face potential suspension from other events.

Closing Remarks

Rauch thanked everyone for their input and participation.

Next meetings/wrap-up

Board F2F: 28-30 MAR; ExComm: 26/27 APR

Closing: 18:07 CET

Submitted by: Catherine Nakasi
WFDF Secretary