
Minutes of the WFDF Executive Committee meeting Sunday, July 13th, 2025 9:00
am PDT / 11:00 am CDT / noon EDT / 6:00 pm CEST / 7:00 pm EAT / 08:00 pm Dubai

Attending:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (President), Brian Gisel, (Vice President/Chair, Ultimate Committee), Kate Bergeron (Treasurer), Catherine Nakasi (Secretary), Volker Bernardi (Secretary General, non-voting), Dillon Richardson (Director of Membership Services and Sport Development), Marco Tomasini (Director of NOC Relations), Ernest Toney (Event Manager), Yenny Pardo (Communications & Social Media Manager), Oleksandra Boliak (Executive Assistant)

Absent with Apology:

Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations)

Call to order

6:08 pm CEST

Overview by the President

President Rauch opened the meeting and briefly introduced the agenda.

Decisions requiring votes of or specific input from the ExComm

Approval of WFDF 2025 Congress Minutes 20-21 June 2025

Rauch mentioned that the draft minutes from the WFDF Congress 2025 had been circulated to the Board and Staff members and minor comments which had been made were incorporated in the minutes. Nakasi pointed out another comment from Volker in his presentation, which she indicated was to be addressed before sharing final minutes

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the Minutes of the WFDF Congress 2025, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

The WFDF Congress Minutes 2025 will be finalized and distributed to members for final approval.

WFDF Events Team Report

Toney provided a brief overview of recent event and plans. WFDF 2025 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships in Logroño had concluded successfully.

However, some unresolved discrepancies remain, particularly related to large payments for medical and food services. A significant medical service invoice of around USD\$ 26,000 was identified without prior budgetary approval. The matter is under review. Toney continued with an update on the upcoming World Games. Preparation is going well and all participants were approved and uploaded to system. Sheather is leading efforts on the Disc Golf event, including preparation of scorecards, which Toney will carry with him to Chengdu.

Pardo reported on video production and communications planning in cooperation with newly appointed staff member, Content Creator Pablo Naya. Post-event highlights from WU24 are in production, with four video deliverables in progress, including World Games promotion and 40-year WFDF celebration video that has been published on YouTube. A major campaign for the World Games is underway, including outreach to athletes in Disc Golf and Ultimate for photo and media materials. Rauch asked for the finalized social media plan with thematic structuring to be circulated when ready and to prepare a short promotional video for the Brisbane 2032 pitch.

Rauch noted, referring to Woldt's report that most tournament bulletins for next year are now released. The 2026 event calendar should be uploaded to the WFDF website as soon as possible.

Toney informed that a total of nearly 80 bid expressions of interest were received for 2027–2028 events. Evaluation will begin in the coming weeks to prepare decisions for later in the year.

Finance: YTD 2025 report

Bergeron provided a mid-year financial overview. On the income side, WFDF is nearly in line with the overall budget, with dues collection approaching the target and sponsorships right on track. Efforts are underway to secure broadcast income, though this revenue has not materialized yet. Expenses have been higher in the first half of the year due to increased travel from the in-person Board meeting, as expected. Although the spending appears higher, the total annual travel budget was set at USD\$ 120,000 and this will be monitored closely, especially with upcoming travel to the World Games in China. Despite these factors, WFDF remains slightly ahead of the projected annual deficit. Concerns remain regarding recent WU24-related expenses, which could potentially decrease profits-sharing. Bergeron indicated that there is nothing of concern at the moment.

Rauch suggested a modification to the balance sheet presentation to show the previous year end, and inquired about one of the large accounts payables. Bergeron clarified

that payable was related to the travel agency used by Karina for travel bookings for WFDF personnel to go to The World Games.

Proposal - Public Donations via WFDF Website

Bergeron and Richardson introduced a proposal to set up a public donation button on the WFDF website to help generate additional revenue for development activities. WFDF's charitable status allows such donations. The plan is to launch this feature on the website, with more active promotion to follow. Funds will be earmarked for development purposes. Rauch advised that for large donations donors should be encouraged to contact WFDF directly to avoid PayPal processing fees.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the proposal for Public Donations via WFDF Website, seconded by Nakasi. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposal - Special Projects

Richardson presented an update on five targeted special projects funded through the support of the IOC Development Funding totalling US\$ 5,000, including a previously approved USD\$ 1,000 budget for shipping discs. These initiatives aim to create foundational turnkey programs for the online WFDF Academy, such as curriculum and coaching education, that can benefit all members. The idea is to combine the best

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Rauch asked for clarification on the types of content creation expenses. Richardson explained that these might include content design, branding, and digital production, based on the internal capacity of Naya and Pardo, that might require external support. Rauch suggested that preliminary work could be scheduled for November, when staff capacity may increase after the events season.

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Rauch inquired about the certification program. Gisel confirmed the benefit of the proposal, specifically for coaching certification. WFDF aims to develop its own certification structure, starting with a basic Level 1 and possibly introducing fee-based Level 2 and Level 3 certifications in the future. The possibility of budgeting for project development thanks to sponsorship has been discussed.

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A motion was made by Gisel to approve the proposal for Special Projects, seconded by Nakasi. The motion was approved unanimously.

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Proposal - Development Grant Program 2025

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Bernardi introduced the Development Grant Program 2025 proposal, which includes input from Continental Association representatives. The budget was intentionally reduced to allow for greater investment in the Special Projects category.

Richardson presented in detail the selected proposals. The recommended grants ensure at least one supported project per region and are paired with the disc donation program. Selected proposals include projects in Azerbaijan, Burundi, Congo, Ghana, India, Kenya, Morocco, Rwanda and Venezuela. The recent developments in India were discussed.

Richardson emphasized that while the grants may only cover part of each budget, the amounts are meaningful given local contexts. Some rejected proposals included non-sport-related or impractical requests. The Executive Committee acknowledged that the partial funding approach was appropriate and sustainable.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the proposal for Development Grant Program 2025, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Additionally, Rauch requested that the list of approved Development Grant Programs and Special Projects be shared with the WFDF Board promptly, ahead of the next Board meeting, to ensure transparency and to give Board members a chance to review in case of any concerns.

Continental Association matters

Rauch discussed ongoing efforts to formalize Continental Associations in Africa, Pan America, and Asia. A structural template of Bylaws has been created and will be shared with these organisations to help unify basic frameworks while allowing regional flexibility. The template cannot be fitted for Europe as Europe's historical background is different, with EFDF, EUF, and EDGF evolving independently before being consolidated under one umbrella. Rauch indicated that the template was to be shared with everyone.

Bergeron asked about WFDF's anticipated involvement and expected expenses in guiding these organisations through bylaw development. Rauch replied that significant support would be required, including WFDF staff involvement and possible funding for registration and legal assistance. Bernardi and Richardson, are going to take care of facilitating the process, and also Tomasini particularly where coordination with National Olympic Committees is concerned. Rauch commented that there will be a budget towards the support of the legal registration of the CAs next year.

Rauch advised that the ongoing voting on the Bylaws revisions will be completed by next week on Wednesday. He requested Dillon share an update of countries that haven't voted so that a reminder could be sent.

Rauch provided an update on ongoing discussion with AOFDF regarding Asia potentially separating from the Oceania region under the current AOFDF umbrella. He is waiting for Bautista to share the update on discussions with other member NFs. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) provides for continued Asian-Oceanic competition, aligning with Olympic sport precedents.

The recent budget request from All-Africa Flying Disc Federation has been discussed. Rauch highlighted that WFDF can respond to budget requests but it is important for them to be submitted in advance with tangible programs. He requested Dillon, Volker and Cathy to check in with Ronny (AAFDF President) to understand the budget he is asking for.

Proposal - Joint Pledge on Sport for Inclusion and Protection

Richardson introduced a proposal to sign a Pledge on Sport for Inclusion and Protection, aligning with similar actions by other federations. There are no financial or attendance obligations. Nakasi added that such public commitments would enhance national federations' visibility, especially in humanitarian or refugee-focused initiatives like those in Uganda. She emphasized the importance of IF-level recognition when collaborating with organizations such as the Olympic Refugee Foundation.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the proposal for WFDF to sign the Joint Pledge on Sport for Inclusion and Protection, seconded by Nakasi. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposal - Annual Congress "Policies"

Richardson, supported by Bernardi, Nakasi and Boliak, presented draft policies for formalizing Congress attendance and participation rules, including clarity on voting and speaking rights. The proposal aligns with the upcoming bylaw changes, including the restriction that only members in good standing may vote.

Bernardi clarified that this is not an amended election policy. A modified election policy will be proposed in the next Board meeting in September for the next election cycle. Rauch recommended separating and defining voting and speaking rights in distinct

sections in this new policy as there were some unclear aspects. It was agreed to revise the draft and introduce it at the next WFDF Board meeting.

ARISF fall elections and WFDF candidacy

Rauch informed the Executive Committee of his intention to run as WFDF's candidate for the ARISF Council at the upcoming IF Forum. He stated that the position is not expected to be overly time-consuming but presents an opportunity to contribute to shaping ARISF's strategic direction. Bernardi added that the proposal followed informal consultations with ARISF member federations, which expressed support for Rauch's nomination to strengthen the Council's financial expertise. He noted that the ARISF Council is relatively small and that WFDF's involvement could help ensure the body becomes more effective in representing the interests of International Federations. The Executive Committee expressed its support for Rauch's candidature.

MFDC and WFDF approach on Mediterranean Games

Bernardi provided an update on the Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation (MFDC) and Mediterranean Games. The MFDC held its Extraordinary General Assembly, during which the statutes were approved and a Board of Directors elected, as requested by the International Committee of the Mediterranean Games (CIJM). Vanessa Soraya Padre Eterno, representing Portugal, was elected as the president and Marco Tomasini, representing Italy, was elected as the Secretary General.

Statutory amendments recommended by CIJM were adopted. CIJM is considering Flying Disc as a demonstration sport at the 2026 Mediterranean Games in Taranto. WFDF and MFDC have 1–2 months to submit the required documentation. A key CIJM condition is the creation of an active competition structure, including a Mediterranean Flying Disc Championship in 2025 as a qualification event.

Rauch added that within 26 Mediterranean countries, 15 are WFDF members across Europe, Asia, and Africa. Tomasini also shared that feedback from national federations on the WFDF General Assembly was positive. The application is nearly complete and will be sent to WFDF for review, with final submission to CIJM expected in July.

OCA and Asian Beach Games

Bernardi reported that Flying Disc was not included on the fixed sport list for the 2026 Asian Beach Games in Sanya, China. OCA (Olympic Council of Asia) explained this exclusion as resulting from the rescheduling of the 2020 Games to 2026 due to

COVID-19, during which WFDF was not actively considered by OCA or Chinese organizers.

Bernardi expressed concerns over the lack of engagement by AOFDF in promoting WFDF's inclusion and WFDF is currently exploring the possibility of Flying Disc being included in the Asian Beach Games as a demonstration sport, drawing on successful strategies used in the Southeast Asian Games and Mediterranean Games. Bergeron shared the impression that this situation is primarily driven by politics, which Bernardi confirmed.

Rauch encouraged Pardo to follow up on implementation of new social media agreement signed with organiser of International Beach Ultimate Elite Invite in Hainan.

WFDF and Olympic eSports Games

Rauch informed the Executive Committee that WFDF had been approached via the IOC's Olympic Esports Group to potentially affiliate with a product developed by ASICS Ventures called "DISC" – a hybrid virtual game resembling air hockey and hallway Guts. While the product has just been launched, the developers are interested in affiliating with WFDF to be eligible for potential inclusion in the Olympic Esport Games. Rauch will await their concrete proposal before deciding further. The benefit of increased visibility was acknowledged.

WFDF and ANOC.TV

Bernardi provided an update on the Memorandum of Understanding with ANOC.TV, highlighting a recent request from ANOC for clarification on WFDF's streaming and content-sharing policies. ANOC request to make short daily highlight clips from competition with length about 30 seconds, available in targeted NOCs territories. This differs from the Olympic Channel model, which solely uses embargoed content. Bernardi requested a meeting with relevant parties, including Ultiworld, Rockwood, and Gisel, to clarify and maximize value from this partnership. Rauch confirmed that the MOU with ANOC.TV allows for short highlight clips and that this was approved by Ultiworld. It has been agreed that it will be fine to either provide a direct video feed with delayed usage rights or have WFDF produce the highlights, with the implementation to be determined by staff.

Brisbane 2032 update

Rauch reported that he and Bernardi are preparing updated presentations for both the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee and the IOC, now that a new IOC President is

in place. WFDF is going to have assistance from the HFP GmbH, a professional sports marketing firm, which has previously worked with FIFA and UEFA, to help refine messaging and elevate the presentation quality. The goal is to conduct these meetings and work after the World Games.

WFDF Member Census, Dues, Bylaws vote

Richardson reported that dues collection is progressing well, with only 1.9% outstanding, with positive developments such as Iran being in good standing for the first time in three years. Progress is ongoing with Zimbabwe and Senegal that are expected to be ready for a vote at the next WFDF Annual Congress.

WFDF is currently in the voting phase for proposed Bylaws revisions, with 10 days remaining. Richardson reported a 54% response rate. Rauch emphasized the need to secure a two-thirds majority of all members.

Closing Remarks

Rauch thanked for the participation and concluded the meeting.

Next meetings/wrap-up

Board: 13/14 SEP; ExComm: 11/12 OCT

Closing: 7:30 pm CEST

submitted by Catherine Nakasi
WFDF Secretary