
Sunday, September 14th, 2025

USA CA, CAN BC: 06:00 / CAN Calgary, NCA: 07:00 / USA CDT: 08:00 /
USA NY, MI, VA, CAN Montreal, DOM: 09:00 / CPV: 12:00 / GER, FRA: 15:00 /
UGA, KEN: 16:00 / UAE: 17:00 / SGP, PHI: 21:00

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (President), Brian Gisel, (Vice President/Chair, Ultimate Committee), Kate Bergeron (Treasurer), Catherine Nakasi (Secretary), Craig Sheather (Chair, Disc Golf Committee), Paul Kenny (Chair, Freestyle Committee), Rob McLeod (Chair, Overall Committee), Steve Taylor (Chair, Guts Committee), Shiellah Quintos (Chair, Beach Ultimate Committee), Ronny Ochoro (Continental Representative - AAFDF), Chasen Brokaw (Continental Representative – PAFDF), Haude Hermand (Continental Representative - EFDF), Esther Omuseni (Director at Large, GEDI Chairperson), Nicole Bulos (Director at Large), Wolfgang Maehr (Chair, SOTG Committee), Jamie Nuwer (Chair, Medical & Anti-Doping Committee), Caroline Tisson (Chair, Athletes Commission).

Also attending (non-voting): Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director, Broadcasting and Marketing), Dillon Richardson (Director of Membership Services and Sport Development), Marco Tomasini (Director of NOC Relations), Yenny Pardo (Communications & Social Media Manager), Ernest Toney (Event Manager), Pablo Naya (Content Creator), Oleksandra Boliak (Executive Assistant)

Board members absent/excused:

Jose Maria Javier Weber Bautista (Continental Representative - AOFDF), Filomena Fortes (Non-Executive Board member, non-voting)

Call to order (time: 15:10 CEST)

Quorum reached with 17 votes of 10/18 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed everybody to the fourth Board Meeting of the year and thanked all for participating. The meeting opened with confirmation of quorum.

Minutes of the meeting - Board of Directors- 18th May 2025 - already approved

Rauch indicated that the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting had already been approved and provided in the Briefing Book for information.

Minutes of the meeting - Executive Committee – 13th July 2025 - already approved

Rauch acknowledged that the minutes from the July Executive Committee Meeting had already been approved.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

Secretary General Transition Plan

The Board observed 30 seconds of silence in memory of Volker Bernardi, WFDF Secretary General, who passed away last month. His funeral was scheduled for the following day in Germany.

Rauch reported on transition measures undertaken. Official notices had been sent to all staff and volunteers on commissions and committees, member federations, IFs, and Olympic Movement contacts, a total of 667 letters. Administratively we have been reviewing emails and will be gaining access to all digital files. The Executive Committee approved three months of continued compensation for his family. A GoFundMe campaign had raised almost EUR 11,000 to support his widow and two teenage daughters. At the same time, Richardson is going to coordinate anti-doping matters as the staff point person with the Chair of the Medical and Anti-Doping Commission, with Boliak as secondary contact to achieve a smooth transition. Richardson is also going to oversee election preparations and protocols. Ongoing discussions with the IOC Sports Department, WADA, and ITA are being maintained.

WFDF engaged the executive search company Odgers to manage the search for a new Secretary General. A contract has already been signed, and the search for the Secretary General is expected to take two to three months, with the aim of an early 2026 commencement. Brokaw inquired about the difference in the job description compared to the previous one. Rauch clarified that the job description was updated to include commercial development and an additional incentive for securing new non-endemic sponsorships, given WFDF's constrained fixed budget. Board members acknowledged that the candidate profile cannot replicate Bernardi's unique legal, anti-doping, and Olympic Movement background. In this case, WFDF may rely more on external counsel for legal and regulatory compliance depending on the hire. Compliance and regulatory expertise were emphasized as key requirements in the recruitment process.

Tisson raised concerns regarding the impact on WFDF's Olympic inclusion efforts. Rauch reassured the Board that the process remains on track, as many steps were already programmed.

Zimbabwe Flying Disc Association (ZFDA) - membership #119 application
Senegalese Flying Disc Association (SFDA) - membership #120 application
Nepal Flying Disc Federation (NFDF) - membership #121 application
Botswana Flying Disc Federation (BFDF) - membership #122 application

Richardson presented four membership applications, providing a short background on each. The Zimbabwe Flying Disc Association, initiated by a former player returning from South Africa, has now established a solid structure. The Senegalese Flying Disc Association evolved from small games in the capital into a national federation. The Nepal Flying Disc Federation originated from a school-based program and has since formalized into a national body. The Botswana Flying Disc Federation was established following discussions at the ANOC General Assembly attended by Rauch, Bernardi, Tomasini, and Tisson last year in Portugal.

All four federations meet WFDF criteria, including activity on the ground and non-discrimination clauses in their bylaws. Support letters from national federations and continental associations have been received.

Bergeron noted that three of the four do not yet have bank accounts, which may create challenges for dues collection, but this should not delay approval. Richardson explained that incorporation status often delays account setup.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve forwarding the WFDF membership application #119 of Zimbabwe Flying Disc Association (ZFDA) to Congress, seconded by Bulos. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Sheather to approve forwarding the WFDF membership application #120 of Senegalese Flying Disc Association (SFDA) to Congress, seconded by Bulos. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve forwarding the WFDF membership application #121 of Nepal Flying Disc Federation (NFDF) to Congress, seconded by Tisson. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Tisson to approve forwarding the WFDF membership application #122 of Botswana Flying Disc Federation (BFDF) to Congress, seconded by Maehr. The motion was approved unanimously.

These applications will now be forwarded to Members for approval. of note, with these additions, WFDF will soon have 25 African member countries.

Democratic Republic of Congo (FCDV): Revocation and Replacement Application

The Board reviewed the situation of the inactive Democratic Republic of Congo member federation. Richardson mentioned that the former group, originally supported by a Japanese player and JFDA, has been inactive for several years and has shown no interest in renewal or cooperation. A new group has since emerged, with strong activity, collaboration with Decathlon, and official support from the Ministry of Sport.

A motion was made by Gisela to recommend the revocation of the current Democratic Republic of Congo federation's membership for Congress approval, seconded by Brokaw. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Sheather to approve the Provisional National Membership Application of the proposed member, the Fédération Congolaise de Disc Sports (FCDS), to represent the Democratic Republic of Congo, for Congress approval, seconded by Taylor. The motion was approved unanimously.

These proposals will now be forwarded to Members for their vote.

Proposal: Election Policy 2025

Richardson presented revisions to the election policy, which remains fundamentally without any major change. He pointed out the updated procedures on candidate campaigning and manifestos, publication of members in good/poor standing, deadlines, and the recruitment period. The rotation cycle is normally four years, but this "Rotation B" will be for a term of five years, as it is the transition needed to get the elections to one every other year. Bergeron asked if there was a possibility of the term being for three years instead of five years. Rauch noted that at the five-year term was what had been approved by Congress, but members could resign earlier if needed and be replaced.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve the revised Election Policy 2025, seconded by Brokaw. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposal: Election 2025 Nominating Committee

Richardson introduced the Election 2025 Nominating Committee, consisting of Chair – Robert ‘Nob’ Rauch, WFDF President; Administrator – Dillon Richardson, WFDF Director of Membership and Development; and two Scrutineers: Rolando Garcia, NF MEX Outgoing President, and Aber Gadelrab, NF MAR Vice-President.

A motion was made by Sheather to approve the Election 2025 Nominating Committee, seconded by Nuwer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Interim Commission Chair appointments: Development and Para sports

In order to fill the vacancies in two positions previously filled by our late Secretary general, a motion was made by Brokaw to appoint Dillon Richardson as Interim Chair of the Development and Para Sport Commissions, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commission/Committees members: Sustainability, Development, Overall, SOTG, GEDI

Richardson presented the new members recruited after a public call for the Sustainability & Legacy Commission, noting that the group balanced regional expertise.

Maehr asked about the “legacy” role, where Rauch clarified that it means ensuring a positive community impact (for example, a permanent disc golf course was established in Chengdu after the World Games). Tisson expressed interest in adding a few female members related to the Athletes Commission.

Richardson then presented the updated list of members of the Development Commission for Board approval.

A motion was made by Sheather to approve the members of the Sustainability & Legacy Commission and the Development Commission, seconded by Quintos. The motion was approved unanimously.

Maehr presented a new member for the Spirit of the Game Commission, Dario Lucisano from Italy, who has long contributed as a coach and to SOTG development within Europe.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve Dario Lucisano as a member of the SOTG Commission, seconded by Hermand. The motion was approved unanimously.

Omuseni proposed eight new members for the Gender, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (GEDI) Commission. Applications were reviewed, and candidates demonstrated clear motivation. Membership includes both female- and male-matching individuals.

A motion was made by Maehr to approve eight new members of the GEDI Commission, seconded by Tisson. The motion was approved unanimously.

McLeod proposed the addition of two new members to the Overall Committee – Yarden Borkow and Ebrahim Dorr Taj. Both have been active in developing Overall in their countries.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve two new members of the Overall Committee, seconded by Nakasi. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Events Team Report 2025-2028 Plans

Woldt began the report by sharing the World Games experience in Chengdu. Preparation for TWG required extensive work especially in the six months leading up to the event. TWG were a success, with Disc Golf elevated from demonstration status in Birmingham 2022 to medal sport in Chengdu. Positive reports were received on the competition and atmosphere. Woldt thanked Sheather and his team for their role in Disc Golf gaining notable attention. There were significantly higher challenges than normal due to language barriers and the LOC's different working style. Despite the difficulties, both Ultimate and Disc Golf competitions were delivered successfully. Woldt noted that the future World Games 2029, planned for Karlsruhe in Germany, will benefit from language familiarity and closer logistical oversight.

She continued with reporting on recent events. The WFDF 2025 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships (WU24) were challenging due to hot weather. The loss of revenue caused by late withdrawals was mentioned. Woldt suggested that WFDF restrict spending for the remainder of the year and rely on 2026 events to replenish reserves.

Woldt also reported on recent concerns regarding the WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC), when the city and environmental agency attempted to close the venue for sand works. After seven weeks of uncertainty, WFDF received written approval to proceed, though with reduced field capacity. The event is confirmed and scheduled with nearly 140 teams, the largest WFDF beach event to date. Other upcoming events include the WFDF World Wheelchair Ultimate Championships

(WWUC), the WFDF All Africa Ultimate Championships (AAUC), and the WFDF World Pan American Ultimate Championships (PAUC).

Yenny Pardo transitioned fully from the Events Team to Communications and Social Media work. Andrew Portwine has been appointed as an Event Manager with 20h/week, alongside Ernest Toney, keeping total events staffing at 80h/week. Andrew had been a strong candidate in earlier recruitment.

Woldt continued with a list of major events scheduled for 2026:

- WFDF 2026 World Ultimate Club Championships (WUCC)
- WFDF 2026 World Masters Ultimate Club Championships (WMUCC)
- WFDF 2026 World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC)
- WFDF 2026 World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC)
- WFDF 2026 World Beach Ultimate 4's Championships (WBU4)

WMUCC is anticipated to reach more than 160 teams with a large waitlist. WJUC 2026 dates were shifted further into the summer school holidays after a successful event in Logrono this year. Another planned event is the Freestyle World Championships in Munich. Woldt emphasized that 2026 will be a critical financial year, projected as WFDF's largest events calendar. Tomasini reminded the Board of the 2026 Mediterranean Games, requiring WFDF to stage qualifying competitions to secure inclusion.

For events in 2027–2028, a call for bids has been issued. Expressions of interest for 2028 have been received, with further host evaluation and identification ongoing.

Woldt stressed the necessity of timely submission of reports and audit documentation, especially with late-year events complicating audit timelines.

Feedback on The World Games

There was praise for the Disc Golf event, which included a bronze medal playoff with three extra holes, as well as the Ultimate event, which featured multiple universe point matches. The establishment of a permanent disc golf course in Chengdu in the park where the event was staged was noted as a positive legacy. In addition to the competitions, Rauch mentioned meetings with PDGA, USA Ultimate, and UFA to explore collaboration and joint positioning for sponsors, media, and fans.

McLeod observed that spectator attendance in Ultimate broadcasts appeared low due to camera placement, which affected perception, while actual attendance was higher.

Maehr enquired about SOTG scores and recommended publishing event announcements with links to the broadcasting platform earlier to boost visibility. Woldt informed Maehr that she would share the spirit scores with him.

Brisbane 2032 Update

While the IOC has postponed the final program announcement until 2026, the Brisbane OCOG confirmed that they will conduct their potential new sports review in the last four months of 2025, with the goal of establishing a short list for more in-depth review in early 2026. WFDF is preparing a background deck and videos focused on Beach Ultimate, with materials drafted by Rauch with the pro-bono support of outside sports consultant HFP. Board members suggested some corrections and were encouraged to provide feedback within the week, while Sheather recommended increasing global diversity in photos. Rauch explained the qualification concept, which considers host and continental allocations, along with a rating system to ensure global representation. Ochoro requested clarification on ranking criteria, and Rauch confirmed that these steps are under development.

Finance: YTD 2025 report

Bergeron presented the financial update, highlighting the recent huge expense for World Games participation, with unusually high travel costs compared to previous editions in the US or Europe.

Broadcast and event sanctioning fees remain the main source of income, with WBUC 2025 in Portugal being particularly important for financial stability. While income and expenses are in order, accounts payable remain high with LOC payments outstanding. WFDF is projecting a loss this year, though the final gap should be smaller than budgeted, and the period from October to December will focus on event reconciliations and year-end closures.

In discussion, concerns were raised about long-term budget pressures from staff expansion and the need to increase revenue for future sustainability, especially with the higher expected salary for the next Secretary General. Bergeron noted that this had been modelled in long-term projections, with sponsorship and broader disc sports cooperation seen as key opportunities.

Reports and Updates

Athletes' Commission Report

Following the International Athletes' Forum, Tisson reconnected personally with commission members, resulting in renewed activity and enthusiasm. The Commission launched an Instagram account and athlete feedback form, though responses have been limited so far. One issue raised by athletes is the exclusion of non-nationals from national championships. Board members explained that this may be linked to national funding requirements, though alternative models exist. Tisson to follow up with the issue to understand it better to be able to provide support

Tisson proposed establishing a dedicated budget for the Athletes Commission to ensure greater independence, based on player fees and projected to generate USD 4,000–5,000 annually in a strong year. This budget would be used to enhance visibility, provide services and webinars to athletes, and support presence at events with one commission member attending each year to represent athletes. Rauch emphasized WFDF's support in principle for funding commissions but stressed that proposals must be integrated into the broader WFDF budgeting cycle, with clear projects and cost estimates. Tisson acknowledged the feedback and agreed to return with a detailed proposal for 2026.

SOTG Commission report

Maehr provided a recruitment update, noting 12 applications with 11 interviews completed, including one-disc golf representative and two World Games participants. Promising candidates will be proposed for Board approval in November. An updated membership management process with soft on boarding before formal Board approval was introduced.

Maehr pointed out the need for Spirit Directors for AAUC and PAUC 2025 and mentioned ongoing work with Woldt to identify a Spirit Director for WBUC 2025 in Portugal.

He also informed the Board about a webinar with the "Spirit 101" presentation held for the All Africa Flying Disc Federation, with materials made available to other organizations, including updated Spirit scoring examples for ultimate and Spirit Captain resources. Appreciated Dillon and other volunteers for their role and work

Collaboration with Live! by Bula enables integration of spirit scores, improving visibility and access. Rauch emphasized the need for consistent processes to collect post-event scores, and Maehr introduced a Google Drive folder to centralize commission reports and Board materials for review.

GEDI Commission Report

Omuseni reported on the TAFISA project, with three training sessions completed and one yet to be organized, and confirmed that the media report for the program had been submitted.

Planned tasks include developing an expanded online course on gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, supporting NFs in establishing their own GEDI Commissions, improving event data collection to track gender equity and diversity impact and building partnerships with external stakeholders in the field of equity.

WFDF Media Report

Pardo, now fully responsible for Communications and Social Media, began by clarifying that AI tools are used carefully and that all content remains reviewed for quality.

She provided an update on recent media and content planning, including the World Games in Chengdu. McLeod appreciated the report and asked whether there is any money involved in boosting the posts. WFDF has not used paid targeting for promotion but has achieved strong organic growth, with Instagram gaining 6,000 followers in three months and Facebook 1,500, with particularly high engagement through disc golf, freestyle, and guts content. In August, there were 20,000 Facebook interactions and 100,000 Instagram interactions. Partnership with Marshall mirrors WFDF content on WeChat and RedNote and includes translation of Ultimate films for Chinese audiences.

Ochoro highlighted the need for greater visibility of African federations on WFDF platforms. Pardo agreed and will enhance coverage in cooperation with continental leadership.

Ongoing strategy includes synchronizing content across the website, social media, and videos produced by Naya.

Broadcasting and Marketing Report

Rockwood reported on the World Games in Chengdu, where broadcasting averaged 14,000 unique daily viewers with an average watch time of 18.5 minutes. The commentator team has been confirmed for WBUC 2025 in Portugal, with invitations extended to Olympic Channel and ANOC TV. He also noted ongoing discussions with Chinese partners about single game distribution and potential wider collaboration with UFA and USAU.

Rauch added that Ultimate and Disc Golf at the SEA Games in Thailand in December 2025 will not be broadcast, as they are demonstration sports, and it was agreed to explore WFDF self-produced coverage with remote commentary.

Continental Association Reports

AAFDF

Ochoro reported on the SOTG webinar organized with the support of Richardson and Maehr for AAFDF members, noting its aim to establish a culture of learning beyond competitions. He encouraged better integration of continental leaders in various commission recruitments to ensure African representation. Rauch mentioned the upcoming update of Committees and Commissions members and invited chairs to integrate recommended candidates.

AOFDF

Rauch reported on discussions with the Thailand Flying Disc Federation and Bautista regarding the inclusion of Flying Disc in the SEA Games. This will mark WFDF's first participation in a fully Olympic Movement multi-sport Games, an important milestone, with five nations competing in Ultimate and four in Disc Golf, totalling 106 athletes. Next steps will include formalizing and incorporating the Asian Flying Disc Federation.

PAFDF

Brokaw noted the upcoming elections in November 2025, which will be critical for supporting the PAFDF restructuring and new bylaws. He highlighted the importance of promoting regional events to provide opportunities for less-developed nations and build stories for funding applications. Within the framework of a development grant, 300 Discraft discs were allocated, with 70 applications received and 20 grants awarded across 14 countries.

EFDF

Hermand reported on recent successful events, including the European Youth Ultimate Championships in Slovakia, the European Beach Ultimate Club Championship in Poland, and the European Masters Ultimate Club Championships in Sweden. She noted that the European Disc Golf Federation signed an MoU with PDGA Europe, agreeing on financing for EDGC. Meanwhile, the EDGF President was contacted by PDGA to support preparations for the World Games 2029 in Karlsruhe, and Sheather was requested to coordinate with him to ensure alignment.

Tisson added that the Karlsruhe LOC is working with the city to establish a permanent disc golf course, supported by PDGA, but identification of the correct local contact person was still required.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

The Disc Golf Committee Report

Sheather reported on the ongoing recruitment of three candidates to the Disc Golf Committee on a trial basis, with CVs to be presented once confirmed. He also suggested engaging with the Athletes' Commission to address disc golf concerns. He highlighted the strong viewership of the Disc Golf final in Chengdu, where 15–16 million households watched the event on CCTV

Freestyle Committee Report

Kenny outlined plans for the freestyle world championships in Munich next year, which will be a part of a broader frisbee festival. He discussed potential co-branding opportunities, collaboration with Ultiworld for streaming, and challenges related to live streaming rights and music licensing, with Rockwood agreeing to provide technical advice.

Kenny also requested WFDF's assistance in securing Discraft discs at discounted rates to support promotional activity. He highlighted ongoing promotional efforts, including showcase events at Ultimate tournaments, and emphasized the importance of exposing freestyle to already-skilled disc athletes as a strong return on investment.

The Guts Committee Report

Taylor reported on the WFDF 2025 World Guts Club Championships, noting that while it was a good tournament, logistics were hindered by spread-out venues and weather challenges.

He described ongoing development efforts in Asia, where countries such as Thailand and Hong Kong, China have active Guts communities but face financial barriers to travel. He stressed the need for less expensive local tournaments to increase participation.

The Overall Committee Report

McLeod reported on planning for the 2027 World Overall Championships, which aim to be held again in Europe, with potential bids from Germany, Finland, or Italy.

He highlighted strong participation from China, including a youth team, at the recent WFDF 2025 World Overall Flying Disc Championships.

He also mentioned exploring cooperation with Supersonic, a new European disc brand, while plans include expanding continental overall competitions in Pan America, Asia, and Europe. McLeod noted the recent global growth of interest, with more

countries seeking to host events, a success also linked to WFDF's digital library and WFDF Academy.

Beach Ultimate Committee Report

Quintos reported ongoing Committee work and plans to introduce a new member at the next Board meeting. She mentioned preparations for a Beach Ultimate introduction for WFDF Academy, though she noted low volunteer engagement from committee members. An in-person Committee meeting is scheduled during the WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships in Portugal.

Rauch requested the urgent finalization of Beach 4s rules and Appendix, stressing the need for completion within the next few weeks. Quintos confirmed a near-final draft exists, requiring review by other experienced members and possible input from the Athletes' Commission.

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

Rauch thanked the Board for their participation and concluded the meeting.

Next meetings

ExComm: 18/19 OCT; Board: 22/23 NOV

Closing: 17:45 CEST

Submitted by Catherine Nakasi
WFDF Secretary