
Sunday, January 18th, 2026

15:00 CET / USA CA, CAN BC:06:00 / CAN Calgary: 07:00 / USA NCA: 08:00 / USA CST: 08:00 / USA NY, MI, VA, CAN Montreal: 09:00 / COL: 09:00 / DOM: 10:00 / CPV: 13:00 / UK: 14:00 / GER, FRA: 15:00/ UGA, KEN: 17:00 / SGP, PHI: 22:00 / AUS: 01:00, (19th January)

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (President), Catherine Nakasi (Secretary), Mafer Meza Bonilla (Chair, Freestyle Committee), Rob McLeod (Chair, Overall Committee), Shiellah Quintos (Chair, Beach Ultimate Committee), Ronny Ochoro (Continental Representative – AAFDF), Jose Maria Javier Weber Bautista (Continental Representative – AFDF), Chasen Brokaw (Continental Representative – PAFDF, by proxy to Nicole Bulos), Haude Hermand (Continental Representative – EFDF), Esther Omuseni (Director at Large, GEDI Chairperson), Nicole Bulos (Director at Large), Wolfgang Maehr (Chair, SOTG Committee), Florian Beiglböck (Chair, Medical & Anti-Doping Committee), Caroline Tisson (Chair, Athletes Commission), Filomena Fortes (Non-Executive Board member, non-voting), Jonathan Rigby (Secretary General, non-voting)

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), Pablo Naya (Communications & Social Media Manager), Dinko Šimenc (Event Manager), Oleksandra Boliak (Administrator and Office Manager)

Board members absent/excused:

Brian Gisel (Vice President/Chair, Ultimate Committee), Kate Bergeron (Treasurer), Craig Sheather (Chair, Disc Golf Committee), Steve Taylor (Chair, Guts Committee), Natalie Robinson (Continental Representative – OFDF)

Call to Order and Quorum

President Rauch called the meeting to order at 15:08 CET. Quorum was confirmed with 14 votes (10 of 19 required).

President’s Report

Rauch welcomed members to the first Board meeting of 2026. He reported that WFDF concluded a strong year and anticipates a busy 2026 with several major events

planned. He introduced the newly appointed Secretary General, Jonathan Rigby, who will assume full-time duties on 1st February.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Board of Directors meeting– 30 November 2025: already approved.

Executive Committee – 20 December 2025: included in the Briefing Book for Board information.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

Responsibilities as a WFDF Board Member

Rauch reviewed Board responsibilities and expectations, emphasizing: regular monitoring of WFDF email; prompt responses to requests; clear and concise electronic communication; participation in five to six online meetings during 2026 (no face-to-face Board meeting planned in 2026); adherence to WFDF's mission and strategic plan; identification and disclosure of conflicts of interest; compliance with legal and governance standards; and managing the organization in accordance with approved budgets and contracts.

Members were reminded to act prudently, observe WFDF's ethics and conflict of interest policies, and maintain confidentiality of Board discussions to foster open dialogue and protect differing viewpoints. Effective email practices were reiterated, including clear subject lines and explicit action items with deadlines.

WFDF Organization Chart (effective 1 February)

The Board reviewed the organizational structure effective 1st February. Rauch confirmed Rigby's appointment as Secretary General and the part-time appointment of Bruno Gravato to support event IT.

Appointments

Vice-President: The Board re-elected Brian Gisel; approved without objection or abstention.

Executive Committee: The Board approved the formal appointment of Karina Woldt to the Executive Committee, recognizing her longstanding contribution to Executive Committee discussions and her role in event operations.

WFDF Events Team Report: 2025 Recap and 2026–2027 Plans

Woldt reported that 2025 was WFDF's largest event year to date, with 12–13 events delivered. All events were completed as planned, champions were crowned across all

divisions, and overall financial performance was strong. The WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) in Portimão were highlighted as a key contributor to exceeding financial expectations. Despite staff turnover in the events team, the season was described as highly successful.

Participation and the number of countries represented at WFDF events continued to grow. Woldt noted that event operations have shifted from traditional logistics toward risk management, collaboration with local authorities, and occasional geopolitical considerations, making much of the team's work less visible but operationally critical. Financial reporting for 2025 is being finalized and currently includes estimates. Sanctioning fee income met targets, several events achieved profit-sharing, and Beach events made a particularly strong contribution.

Looking to 2026, the calendar is lighter. With the exception of Disc Golf, all events are hosted by experienced Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), which should facilitate delivery and allow greater focus on risk management. Four events are confirmed, with additional smaller events under consideration. A 4v4 Beach Ultimate event remains under review, contingent on developments related to a potential Brisbane 2032 Olympic shortlisting. A virtual Disc Golf event is also being considered, which could bring the total number of 2026 events to six.

Woldt added that venues are well-known, LOCs are experienced, and financial preparations are significantly ahead of schedule. For 2027, planning is more intensive: new LOCs, new venues, and several first-time host federations will require additional support. A meeting with the Ultimate Committee is scheduled to begin finalizing 2027 Ultimate hosts, alongside ongoing discussions with other discipline chairs regarding 2027–2028. Proposed hosts for major events are expected to be ready for presentation in early February following the Ultimate Committee meeting.

Following a poll on event attendance, Board and staff will be contacted regarding event roles ranging from representational duties to operational support, including the appointment of Spirit Directors.

In response to Rockwood's question about replacing the Flick coaching and training partnership (which concluded in December), Woldt confirmed discussions are underway with several potential partners. She emphasized the need to clarify WFDF's priorities, define required materials, and ensure effective audience reach. Rauch noted the importance of balancing advanced coaching strategies with accessible foundational programs, potentially via the WFDF Academy, and Rockwood suggested revisiting prior certification work with the Australian Flying Disc Federation undertaken during the COVID period.

Finance: Year-to-Date 2025 Report

Rauch presented a preliminary financial overview, noting that figures remain provisional pending reconciliation of several events. A material positive revenue adjustment is expected upon completion of reconciliations, which should further reduce the budgeted deficit. 2025 was a high-cost year due to the World Games, the face-to-face board meeting, and a lower-income event cycle.

Revenue year to date was approximately 50% above budget. Membership dues were close to budget, sponsorship income slightly below expectations, and broadcast income marginally under budget. Program services and general administrative expenses exceeded budget. The projected deficit stands at approximately USD 260,000, compared to the originally budgeted USD 360,000. This outcome aligns with planned staff expansion, and WFDF is expected to grow into these costs. 2026 is forecast to be the strongest revenue year in the quadrennial cycle.

Net assets declined from just over USD 800,000 to approximately USD 560,000. Additional income estimated at USD 50,000–80,000 may be realized once event reconciliations are completed within the next month. Rockwood noted that broadcast income would increase by approximately USD 17,000 once outstanding invoicing related to Ultiworld is finalized.

WFDF Rebranding

Rauch and Rigby presented an exploratory proposal to rebrand 'World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)' to 'World Frisbee.' The discussion is preliminary and complex, given that 'Frisbee' is a trademark owned by Wham-O in certain jurisdictions. Initial discussions with Wham-O indicated conditional interest.

WFDF would only consider proceeding if granted perpetual, irrevocable, cost-free usage rights. Several Secretary General candidates independently raised the concept during recruitment. Potential approaches range from a full legal name change to adopting 'World Frisbee' as a brand identity, as seen in other Olympic federations. Relevant domain names have been secured. Any change would be gradual and subject to further Board updates.

IOC Letter: Participation of Russian and Belarusian Youth Athletes

An IOC letter dated 19th December informed WFDF of an Executive Board decision allowing youth athletes holding Russian or Belarusian passports to participate in international youth competitions. The IOC left the definition of 'youth,' participation protocols, and the question of neutral status, to individual International Federations,

while maintaining restrictions on accrediting government officials. No changes were indicated for non-youth athletes.

WFDF has a fully subscribed junior event with a waiting list. WFDF is in contact with the Russian Flying Disc Federation and plans to meet in late February or early March to discuss implications and implementation. The original IOC guidance from March 2023 was referenced for context.

Brisbane 2032 Update

Rauch reported acknowledgement from the Brisbane 2032 Chief Sport Officer of WFDF's December submission following the Quantum Evaluation Report for the Chengdu World Games. The anticipated shortlisting timeline may be delayed due to the IOC's 'Fit for the Future' process. Fortes noted that this initiative reflects the IOC President's broader consultation with stakeholders and the work of several commissions and working groups on the future direction of the Games.

Supporting materials provided to Brisbane included viewership and ticketing data, where Flying Disc sports ranked strongly among evaluated sports, and a comprehensive supplemental data pack addressing seven criteria outlined by Brisbane. While athlete quotas and overall program size remain challenges, WFDF compares favorably with many candidate sports across multiple criteria.

Membership and Development Report

Richardson reported that North Macedonia and Pakistan had been admitted as WFDF members, bringing total membership to 124. The annual Census was launched earlier than usual, with a 16th February deadline aligned to the updated dues structure. Invoicing has begun, and Census submissions and dues payments are being received.

The Athletes' Commission elections have been launched with a deadline of 31 March. Increasing visibility and representation across all flying disc disciplines remains a priority, and Board members and discipline leaders were encouraged to support outreach. Eight new learning courses were added through the WF Coaching HER® partnership, offering free access and helping centralize educational content in WFDF systems. Disc Development Support Programs through Continental Associations have been launched with a deadline of 2 March.

Upcoming initiatives include developing a National Federation Hub, preparing for the Annual Congress in coordination with Boliak and Woldt, and integrating ICOACHKIDS courses into WFDF's education platform.

Elections 2025 Report

Richardson summarized the recent WFDF elections, noting voter turnout of approximately 80%, consistent with previous cycles. The elections proceeded smoothly with no unexpected outcomes. He thanked the Nominating Committee for its work and confirmed that WFDF has transitioned to four-year terms with Rotations A and B; the next elections are scheduled for the end of 2028.

New Membership Applications (#125 and #126)

Richardson presented the applications of the Uzbekistan Flying Disc Community (UFDC) and the Benin Flying Disc Association (BDFA). Uzbekistan represents a small but developing community in Central Asia, aligned with the WFDF structure, with participation in regional and some international tournaments. BDFA operates in a challenging but promising environment with a strong grassroots focus, external equipment support—particularly from Ghana—and ongoing progress toward recognition and internal development.

In both cases, minimum participation requirements were met, active communities were verified, and bylaws included non-discrimination clauses.

A motion by Bulos to forward WFDF membership application #125 (Uzbekistan) to Congress, seconded by Maehr, was approved unanimously.

A motion by Ochoro to forward membership application #126 (Benin) to Congress, seconded by Brokaw, was also approved unanimously.

Pending Congress approval, WFDF would reach 126 member nations.

Proposal Committee and Commission Recruitment

Richardson proposed improving recruitment and engagement across committees and commissions through a clearer, more transparent process, potentially aligned with the start of the year or Congress. The approach aims to help volunteers understand expectations and opportunities more clearly, moving beyond reliance on personal networks.

Tisson strongly supported the proposal, noting that elected commissions would continue to follow formal processes, while most committees and commissions would benefit from a structured and visible approach.

Rauch endorsed the initiative and emphasized that while interest does not guarantee appointment, transparency would help identify needs and suitable candidates, maintain appropriate commission sizes, and allow for vetting. Richardson will proceed in coordination with committee and commission chairs.

Communications Content Planning

Rigby and Naya presented updates to communications and content planning. Rigby emphasized that consistent, engaging storytelling is critical to supporting WFDF's commercial objectives and broadening its fan base. Given the small communications team, contributions from across the organization are essential to surface compelling stories. A structured social media content calendar is being implemented to balance event and non-event content and ensure fair representation across all disciplines, including smaller ones.

A new shared online system for submitting story ideas has been developed. Submissions will be reviewed and categorized based on impact and relevance across eight thematic focus areas, including flagship events, youth pathways, global growth, Spirit of the Game, athlete visibility, inclusion and equality, and impact beyond competition. Board members and commissions were encouraged to contribute content via this system.

Naya noted that the content calendar is a flexible, evolving tool that will be used to proactively request content from disciplines and commissions. The calendar and supporting spreadsheet will be accessible to Board members to aid planning and coordination. In December, media performance was strong—particularly around the SEA Games—with more than three million views across Facebook and Instagram (including over 1.1 million views from a single clip). December ranked as the second-strongest month for total views and the strongest for unique audience reach, exceeding one million individual accounts; YouTube videos also reached 40,000–100,000 views.

Rauch observed that these results underscore the potential of strategic content to expand audience engagement and create commercial opportunities. He emphasized combining event highlights with human-interest stories and closer collaboration with LOCs and media partners. Bautista reported positive regional feedback, citing increased visibility and grassroots impact in the Philippines, and Ochoro confirmed similar effects in Africa. Aggregate social media and engagement metrics will be refined to provide a clearer global overview of WFDF's reach.

Anti-Doping Report

Beiglböck reported that WFDF has updated its anti-doping rules in line with WADA requirements. He outlined changes to the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) process: applications can no longer be reviewed and approved by a single physician; three independent doctors must now review each application, creating challenges in meeting the 21-day processing timeframe.

Colombia recorded its Flying Disc's first ever anti-doping violations, with three positive findings attributed to a single Ultimate player while at a national championship. Beiglböck emphasized the growing risk posed by the recreational use of certain substances and the differing legal statuses across countries.

Rauch stressed the need for improved education, particularly clarifying the distinction between in-competition and out-of-competition use of prohibited substances. A short, accessible anti-doping education resource for athletes who do not regularly compete in WFDF international events—and who therefore may not complete full ADEL education—was suggested. Tisson supported this approach and shared the example of Anti-Doping Ambassadors in Germany serving as peer educators and role models.

Such an initiative could enhance WFDF's visibility at regional events and provide added value to participants. Beiglböck confirmed ongoing education efforts, including closer engagement with national federations and increased use of communication channels.

Athletes' Commission Report

Tisson reported renewed engagement within the Athletes' Commission following discussions triggered by an open letter concerning participation of the Israeli team. The Commission has refocused on athlete advocacy within WFDF's statutory framework rather than taking positions on geopolitical conflicts.

She reminded the Board that Athletes' Commission elections will take place later in the year and emphasized proactive outreach by National Federations to encourage athletes—particularly from Africa and Asia—to apply.

Spirit of the Game Commission report

Maehr reported a relatively quiet December focused on onboarding ten new Commission members. Regional engagement has increased, including the appointment of Phylis Wasike as Spirit Director for Africa and outreach to European representatives and potential new members—such as Donia Nasr—to strengthen gender and regional diversity.

The Spirit Director report from the WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC) was received and reviewed positively, while follow-up remains outstanding for the WFDF 2025 Pan American Ultimate Championships (PAUC), where informal concerns were raised. Maehr confirmed that, following collaboration with Richardson, Spirit of the Game principles have been incorporated into the draft Dodge Disc rules.

Maehr raised a broader strategic question for future discussion: the relationship between Spirit of the Game and self-officiation. Upcoming priorities include appointing Spirit Directors for 2026 events and planning Spirit of the Game Day.

Broadcasting and Marketing Report

Rockwood summarized the broadcast and media strategy for 2026, which includes a tiered event model and detailed distribution plans for the WFDF 2026 World Ultimate Club Championships—the largest event of the year. Short-form and interstitial content will be used to drive WFDF membership and Ultiworld subscriptions.

Licensing and royalty income from Ultiworld exceeded expectations, reaching USD 17,000 compared to a projected USD 5,000 in the first year of the current contract. Progress in distribution includes upcoming streaming of the WFDF 2025 World Beach Ultimate Championships via ANOC TV, alongside continued presence on the Olympic Channel. While audience numbers on these platforms remain modest, they provide prestige and brand value. Additional achievements include direct licensing income from China and total licensing revenues of approximately USD 22,000.

Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission Report

Omuseri stated that the Commission's main priority is strengthening collaboration within WFDF and with Continental Associations. Several initiatives and strategic priorities have been identified, with two already underway in cooperation with Richardson and plans to launch the remaining initiatives during the year. A key objective is to introduce measurable indicators to assess impact and report concrete outcomes by year-end. Ochoro confirmed the appointment of a representative from Uganda as the GEDI focal point for Africa and reported that African member federations are being encouraged to include GEDI representation on their boards. Omuseri welcomed this support.

Continental Association Reports

AAFDF: Rauch noted ongoing discussions among Continental Associations regarding legal incorporation and proposed allowing time until late February or early March to develop coordinated plans with appropriate support. Ochoro reported engagement with Sudan Flying Disc, which is progressing toward forming a unified national federation covering both Disc Golf and Ultimate. He highlighted challenges with government and NOC recognition across Africa and introduced a proposal for a continental-level national teams championship to strengthen national identity and visibility. Egypt is the proposed host, with a provisional date of 8 October 2026. Rauch emphasized early coordination with Woldt and Gisel to ensure proper oversight and support. Ochoro also reported efforts to align Disc Golf and Ultimate governance in

Africa, strong support from PDGA, and plans to register the African Continental Association to enable partnerships and funding opportunities.

AFDF: Bautista highlighted positive outcomes from the SEA Games, including strong participation and interest from additional Southeast Asian nations. Preparations are underway for the 34th SEA Games in Malaysia with regional cooperation planned. Singapore is well prepared, while Laos, host in 2031, requires significant development support. Initial contacts have been made to support long-term federation development there.

EFDF: Hermand reported that the EFDF tribunal dismissed all motions in the IFDA case related to EYUC 2024, with IFDA seeking discussions prior to any potential CAS appeal. The second European DDC Championships will take place in Helsinki, Finland, and preparations for the European Congress in January are ongoing, with elections upcoming.

OFDF: Robinson reported the formal establishment of the Oceanic Flying Disc Federation, with increased activity expected following the holiday period and alignment with potential Brisbane 2032 efforts.

PAFDF: Bulos noted increased visibility of the Continental Association at the WFDF 2025 Pan American Ultimate Championships (PAUC). Recruitment continues for two PAFDF Board positions, particularly a Treasurer. For 2026, several events are planned, including the PAFDF Central American and Caribbean Ultimate Championships (CACUC), the PAFDF Latin American Disc Golf Nations Cup, the PAFDF South American Ultimate Championships (SAUC), and an additional Overall/Guts event.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

Disc Golf Committee: Sheather's update included a proposal to prepare a WFDF–PDGA Memorandum of Understanding, preparations for the World Team Disc Golf Championships in Vilnius, confirmation of PDGA financial support for course development for the World Games in Karlsruhe, and updates on rankings and educational content.

Freestyle Committee: Bonilla reported a strong year for the Freestyle community. The Frisbeer Cup in the Czech Republic served as a successful tournament, bringing together many Freestyle legends and providing preparation for the World Championships in Canada. In partnership with WFDF, the next Freestyle World Championships will take place in Munich, Germany, in 2026—the first such event run

in formal collaboration with WFDF. The Frisbeer Cup will be held again in March. Bonilla is also organizing an international Freestyle tournament in Colombia.

Overall Committee: McLeod reported on the Disciplines Video Project: a draft Disc Golf promotional video is complete; a Beach Ultimate video is in progress using footage from WBUC. Separately, discussions regarding future Overall event hosting continue, including interest from Finland for 2029 and preliminary conversations with Chinese Taipei and Sweden. There is exploration of reviving a Pan-American Overall event, potentially rebranded and co-hosted with a Guts tournament. McLeod proposed adding Catherine Fidd to the Sport for All Commission; the Board approved the appointment.

Guts Committee: In Taylor's absence, Rauch summarized positive developments, including potential presence of USA Guts at the 2026 PDGA Disc Golf Championships in Michigan to increase visibility. A global Guts calendar will be published in the coming weeks, with continued focus on growth in Asia and expansion into South and Central America.

Beach Ultimate Committee: Quintos reported no new updates since the previous Board meeting; further information will be provided at the next meeting.

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

Rauch reminded Board members to familiarize themselves with the WFDF Office file system. He emphasized the importance of transitioning to a centralized and well-organized document management system in the coming months and encouraged members to contact Boliak for guidance and support. Rauch thanked participants for their engagement and concluded the meeting.

Next Meetings and Adjournment

Executive Committee: 14–15 February 2026.

Board of Directors: 21–22 March 2026.

Closing time: 17:29 CET.

Submitted by Catherine Nakasi, WFDF Secretary.