Sunday, March 22nd, 2026
USA (CA), CAN (BC): 06:00 / CAN (Calgary): 07:00 / USA (NC, Central): 08:00 / COL: 08:00 / USA (NY, MI, VA), CAN (Montreal): 09:00 / DOM: 09:00 / CPV: 12:00 / GBR: 13:00 / GER, FRA: 14:00 / UGA, KEN: 16:00 / SGP, PHI: 21:00 / AUS: 23:00

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), Mafer Meza Bonilla (Chair, Freestyle Committee), Rob McLeod (Chair, Overall Committee), Steve Taylor (Chair, Guts Committee), Ronny Ochoro (Continental Representative – AAFDF), Jose Maria Javier Weber Bautista (Continental Representative – AFDF), Chasen Brokaw (Continental Representative – PAFDF), Haude Hermand (Continental Representative – EFDF), Natalie Robinson (Continental Representative – OFDF), Esther Omuseni (Director at Large, GEDI Chairperson), Nicole Bulos (Director at Large, by proxy to Chasen Brokaw), Wolfgang Maehr (Chair, SOTG Committee), Florian Beiglböck (Chair, Medical & Anti-Doping Committee), Caroline Tisson (Chair, Athletes Commission), Jonathan Rigby (Secretary General, non-voting)

Also attending (non-voting): 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:
Shiellah Quintos (Chair, Beach Ultimate Committee), Filomena Fortes (Non-Executive Board member, non-voting)

Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 14:04 CET. Quorum was confirmed with 18 votes (10/19 required).

Report by the President
The meeting opened with confirmation of quorum. Rauch welcomed participants, emphasized the full agenda and the number of items to be addressed, and encouraged concise contributions to ensure efficiency.

Approval of previous minutes

Minutes of the meeting –Board of Directors -18 January 2026: Already approved via online voting with the Executive Committee meeting minutes, provided in the briefing book for Board information

Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting-15th February 2026, were presented for approval by ExComm members: A motion to approve was made by Gisel and seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes of or input from the Board

Action Items from Minutes
Rauch introduced a centralized tracking system to track items requiring follow-up from previous meetings, developed by Secretary General Rigby to improve accountability and serve as a reminder. The Board reviewed outstanding items related to governance, events, membership, anti-doping, and communications.

WFDF Events Team Report: 2026-27 Plans
Šimenc reported that 2025 was WFDF's largest event year in WFDF history, with record participation and strong financial results exceeding expectations

2026: Simenc noted that the calendar would be lighter, with four confirmed events including the World Team Disc Golf Championships in Lithuania (48 teams, double the previous edition). Most events will be delivered by experienced Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), allowing the Events Team to focus more on quality, planning, and operational improvements rather than foundational support. Additional events under consideration include Beach Ultimate and a virtual Disc Golf Competition 2026.

Financial and operational preparations are well advanced, with team registrations and fee payments already progressing across several events.

2027: Simenc emphasized that the year is expected to be more demanding, with a larger number of events, new LOCs, and first-time host federations. The formal approval of host bids by the Board is necessary to proceed with contracts and detailed planning.

Japan to host the 2027 World Under-24 Ultimate Championships. A motion was made by Brokaw to approve the host bid from Japan, seconded by Gisel. The motion passed unanimously.

South Africa to host the 2027 All-Africa Ultimate Championships. A motion was made by Gisel to approve the host bid from South Africa, seconded by Maehr. The motion was passed unanimously.

Malaysia to host the 2027 Asia-Oceanic Ultimate Club Championships. A motion was made by Gisel to approve the host bid from Malaysia, seconded by Maehr. The motion was passed unanimously.

Costa Rica to host the 2027 Pan American Ultimate Championships.
A motion was made by Gisel to approve the application from Costa Rica, seconded by Sheather. The motion was passed unanimously.

Taylor raised concerns about the inclusion of Guts in the Asia-Oceanic Ultimate Club Championships bid. He noted previous discussions had indicated interest including Guts, but the current bid documentation did not reference it. Rauch noted clarification was needed but recommended proceeding with approval of the bid, while noting that inclusion of Guts remains under discussion and subject to confirmation

Additional events for 2027 remain under development, including Disc Golf events, Wheelchair Ultimate Championships, and Overall Championships, and further discussion and confirmation of host bids.

Events Team is currently reviewing and updating internal documentation, including event manuals and registration systems, to ensure readiness for the upcoming event cycle.

Board members and staff who had previously expressed interest in participating in event delivery will be contacted regarding potential roles, including both operational and representational responsibilities.

Board members asked about the timing of the next in-person meeting and discussed the flying disc sports program for the 2029 World Games. Rauch stated that he expected the proposed program to be presented and approved at the upcoming IWGA AGM.

Championship Appendix for Grass Ultimate
Gisel presented the proposed updates to the Championship Appendix for Grass Ultimate to clarify rules on forfeits, participation requirements, and event standards. The updates were aligned with recent event experiences and feedback from organizers and committees.

A motion to approve the revised Championship Appendix for Grass Ultimate was made by Maehr, seconded by Sheather. The motion passed unanimously.

WFDF Brand Refresh Update

Rigby proposed modernizing WFDF's visual identity, including updates to the color palette, design system, and logo (removing "federation" for clarity). He explained that the current branding is perceived as overly formal and inconsistent across platforms, and stated that a refreshed identity would support WFDF's commercial objectives, digital presence, and broader audience engagement. The proposal suggests removing "Federation" from the logo to present the organization simply as "World Flying Disc" for clearer, friendlier branding, while keeping the legal name unchanged.

Bergeron highlighted the need to secure additional website domains moving to support future growth. Board members endorsed the initiative, emphasizing that a modern and consistent brand is essential for enhancing visibility and strengthening commercial positioning.

Rauch proposed dividing approval process into two parts: First, the visual update, and second, the logo update.

A motion to approve the visual refresh was made by Tisson, seconded by Maehr. A motion to approve the Logo modification was made by Maehr, seconded by Bergeron. Both motions passed unanimously. Boliak will provide ongoing support in implementing updates across the organization, including coordination across platforms and internal workspaces.

The Board received an update on the recruitment of the Commercial Marketing Manager from Rigby, who reported that 49 applications had been received. Rigby expressed appreciation to staff for their support and noted that 10 shortlisted candidates would be interviewed in the coming week.

Finance: YTD 2025-2026 report

An overview of WFDF's financial performance for 2025 and updates to the 2026 budget were presented. Bergeron reported that 2025 exceeded expectations with a projected deficit reduced due to higher participation and revenue sharing with Local Organizing Committees This represents a substantially improved financial position entering 2026. Rauch provided an additional explanation of the WFDF event revenue model, outlining its structure and key components.

2026 budget: Bergeron outlined proposed revisions, including, increase in revenue and expenses. Revenue expected to exceed budget by approximately USD 500,000 while expenses were only larger than approximately USD 150,000, resulting in the budgeted deficit being neutralized. She noted that 2026 is expected to be a strong revenue year within the quadrennial cycle, supported by event activity and ongoing commercial development.

The Board emphasized financial discipline while supporting strategic priorities, including staffing, development programs, and commercial growth.

Rauch encouraged Board members, Continental Association Presidents and Committee and Commission Chairs, to submit any proposals requiring budget allocation in order to ensure proper review and inclusion in the 2027 budget planning process.

Bergeron added remarks regarding currency exchange risks and noted that a review of insurance coverage is ongoing, and confirmed circulation of the revised 2026 budget to the Board within a couple months.

Membership Change of UAE

Richardson proposed an update to the membership status of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), transitioning the organization to a formally recognized national federation operating under a “Sport for All” framework, giving more opportunities and support from the Ministry of Sport. The change reflects structural improvements and alignment with WFDF governance standards.

A motion was made by Bautista to approve the membership change of UAE, seconded by McLeod. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership Proposal/Change of NGR

Richardson presented a proposal regarding Nigeria’s membership, outlining a two-step process to address the inactivity of the current member organization and to support the transition to a new, active federation structure. The proposal included the revocation of the existing inactive member and the approval of a new, engaged organization to represent the sport in Nigeria. The Board discussed the importance of ensuring continuity for athletes while maintaining governance standards.

A motion was made by McLeod to approve the proposed two-step process related to Nigeria’s membership, seconded by Nakasi. The motion passed unanimously and will now be presented to Congress.

Proposal Membership Application of BUR (#127)

Richardson presented the membership application of Burkina Faso, noting the federation's active development, grassroots engagement, and alignment with WFDF requirements. He confirmed the minimum participation thresholds had been met and governance structures, including non-discrimination provisions, were in place.

A motion to forward the Burkina Faso application to Congress for approval was made by Maehr, seconded by Sheather. The motion passed unanimously and will now be presented to Congress.

Membership and Development Strategy

Richardson presented a revised Membership & Development Strategy, shifting focus from rapid expansion to strengthening existing federations. Rigby noted the difference in member maturation levels required different approaches.

Richardson emphasized that while organizational growth remains important, the current priority is to support the sustainability of national federations, strengthen governance and operational capacity, improve revenue models, and reduce reliance on WFDF support.

The Board discussed challenges related to dues collection, including underreporting of player numbers and financial constraints among smaller federations. Sheather highlighted opportunities to engage new countries, noting that several countries affiliated with the PDGA are not yet WFDF members. He stressed the need for targeted outreach and enhanced cooperation to support their potential inclusion.

Richardson outlined ongoing initiatives requiring incremental budget allocations, including development support programs, expansion of the WFDF Academy, and enhanced tools for federation management. Bergeron proposed increasing the travel budget to USD 15,000, citing the current geopolitical situation and its impact on travel costs. The Board expressed support for the revised strategic direction.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the revised budget for the implementation of the Membership and Development Strategy, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Revision of Athletes' Commission Election Policy

Richardson presented proposed revisions to the Athletes' Commission Election Policy, aimed at improving inclusivity and expanding the pool of eligible candidates. The key change involved extending the eligibility window for former athletes to participate in elections, permitting individuals up to eight years' post-event participation to stand as candidates. This adjustment is intended to attract more experienced and recently retired athletes to contribute to governance.

Tisson suggested postponing the deadline for Athletes’ Commission candidate nominations to allow for broader participation. The Board expressed support for the revisions, noting that they strengthen athlete representation while maintaining relevance to current competition structures.

A motion was made by Robinson to approve the Athletes’ Commission Election Policy, seconded by Tisson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Revision of Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference

Richardson presented minor revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Athletes’ Commission, focusing on clarifying roles, responsibilities, and operational procedures. The revisions aim to ensure better alignment with WFDF governance structures and to strengthen the Commission’s ability to represent athlete interests effectively. The Board supported the proposed updates, recognizing their importance in reinforcing the Commission’s mandate.

A motion was made by Tisson to approve the Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference, seconded by Omuseni. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Athletes' Commission Election Committee

Richardson presented the proposed composition of the Athletes’ Commission Election Committee responsible for overseeing the upcoming election process. The Board reviewed the proposed members that included:

- Chair: Cathy Nakasi (UGA), WFDF ExCo
- Administrator: Dillon Richardson (CAN), WFDF Staff
- First Scrutineer: Sevval Cihankaya (TUR), WFDF Athletes’ Commission Current Member
- Second Scrutineer: Joshua Tews (USA) WFDF Athletes’ Commission Current Member

A motion was made by Robinson to approve the Athletes' Commission Election Committee, seconded by Sheather. The motion passed unanimously.

Membership and Development Report

Richardson provided an update on ongoing membership and development activities. He reported continued progress in membership engagement, implementation of development programs, and expansion of educational initiatives.

The WFDF Academy continues to grow, with increasing usage and integration of new learning content. Efforts are also underway to strengthen federation support mechanisms and improve data collection through census and reporting processes.

Reports and Updates

Anti-Doping Report

Beiglböck reported alignment with WADA requirements and challenges with the new Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) process, which requires review by multiple independent physicians, increasing administrative complexity.

The WADA Regional Symposium in Baku was postponed, resulting in delays to the distribution of templates for implementing the 2027 Code and Rules. Richardson confirmed planned activities, highlighting support from NADOs through the provision of booths at several events. The importance of education was emphasized, particularly for athletes not regularly participating in international competitions. Plans to introduce more accessible education courses to reach more domestic/local athletes are underway

Athletes' Commission Report

Tisson reported on the recent activities of the Athletes' Commission, noting renewed engagement and internal alignment on its role within WFDF governance. She emphasized that the Commission remains focused on athlete representation within WFDF structures and encouraged broader election participation to actively promote the upcoming elections, particularly to athletes from underrepresented regions.

SOTG Commission report

Maehr presented an update from the Spirit of the Game Commission. Website profile updates have been completed and are ready for publication, with coordination requested from Boliak. The Commission is progressing with onboarding and role distribution, though gaps remain in social media management and Spirit Director coordination. Maehr noted ongoing efforts to strengthen diversity, including plans to recruit a non-binary member, and highlighted improved representation across disciplines.

On events, Spirit Directors for 2026 tournaments are being confirmed, with preparations focused on refining best practices such as Spirit scoring visibility and game procedures. New workshop materials are being developed in collaboration with Trapp to create modular, cross-disciplinary educational resources. Maehr also reported on preparations for the upcoming SOTG Day initiative on May 10, themed "Spirit Beyond Sport," which will include outreach activities and educational content.

Additionally, Maehr raised a governance concern regarding geopolitical issues in sport, suggesting that WFDF develop a clearer policy on athlete participation to ensure inclusion of all players adhering to Spirit of the Game, regardless of nationality.

Communication and Social Media Report

Naya highlighted strong digital engagement, noting strong engagement metrics across WFDF platforms. Recent content has achieved significant reach, including high-performing video content and increased audience growth.

Efforts are underway to further structure content planning through a centralized calendar and to ensure balanced representation across disciplines and regions.

Rauch inquired about the establishment of the TikTok platform, and Naya confirmed ongoing publications, among other channels. The importance of coordinated storytelling and encouraged continued contributions from committees and federations was noted.

Broadcasting and Marketing Report

Rockwood reported strong media revenues and ongoing venue logistics to be finalized by end of March. He highlighted continued collaboration with partners such as Ultiworld and noted that licensing and media revenues have exceeded initial expectations. The Board acknowledged the progress and emphasized the importance of leveraging media exposure to support WFDF's commercial and development objectives.

GEDI Commission Report

Omuseni reported on GEDI initiatives, noting a focus on strengthening collaboration with Continental Associations and embedding inclusion across WFDF structures. She emphasized the importance of developing measurable indicators to assess impact and track progress.

Omuseni reported on the ongoing review of WFDF policies related to safeguarding, as well as the work of a working group on the development of an Athlete Safeguarding Policy template to support national federations in strengthening athlete protection frameworks. She appreciated Richardson's support with materials.

She highlighted a successful International Women's Day online campaign on social media, delivered with the support of Naya.

Continental Association Reports

AAFDF (Africa):
Ochoro emphasized the region’s commitment to maintaining momentum across its 26 member countries, with a focus on strengthening development. On membership and expansion, he reported close collaboration with Richardson, highlighting successful outreach efforts through social media and PR activities, which have led to new engagement from Burkina Faso.

He highlighted ongoing structural challenge: a disconnect between the Continental Association and some National Federations, and noted ongoing efforts to harmonize communication and reinforce governance processes.

He noted the need for greater inclusion of Continental Associations in WFDF initiatives, outlining development target of engaging universities and international schools in African countries.

AFDF (Asia):
Bautista highlighted limited recent activity, but noting ongoing strategic developments. The AFDF headquarters, initially planned for Hong Kong, is now being reconsidered due to high costs. Alternative locations under discussion include the Philippines and Thailand, while a potential option in the UAE has been paused pending further evaluation of the geopolitical situation.

He highlighted youth development with a focus on expanding youth tournaments beyond traditional junior categories to include younger age groups. He indicated alignment with WFDF’s coaching certification initiatives in Asia. Additional development areas included: Ultimate, Beach Ultimate, Disc Golf, and Dodge Disc, as well as exploring smaller-sided formats such as Ultimate Fives or Fours for indoor and school-based programs.

With events, he reported ongoing challenges in organizing the Junior Mixed Ultimate Championships, primarily due to rising travel costs and difficulty securing a venue. He provided an update on the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games, confirming support for Malaysia as the next host.

EFDF
Hermand reported on the EFDF Congress held in January, with the Board re-elected for another two-year term. Two new member federations, Greece and Serbia, joined, bringing total membership to 36.

She also reported participation in an Erasmus project application, submitted in collaboration with the German federation, represented by Jörg Benner. Additionally, EFDF has continued discussions with legal representatives regarding IFDA matters, noting that recent meetings have been more productive and may lead to a negotiated resolution.

OFDF (Oceania)

Robinson confirmed the establishment of the Oceanic Flying Disc Federation and upcoming policy development and publication of OFDF bylaws and policies. She highlighted an expected increase in activity in the coming period, particularly in alignment with regional development opportunities and potential engagement related to Brisbane 2032. Rauch acknowledged the report and proposed arranging a meeting in the coming weeks to provide further support.

PAFDF

Brokaw reported focus on 2026 events with primary focus on the Central American and Caribbean Ultimate Championships (CACUC), the Latin American Disc Golf Nations Cup, and the South American Ultimate Championships (SAUC).
He mentioned that the process of incorporation had been initiated, and thanked Quintos for serving as interim Treasurer to support the process. Rauch confirmed that legal counsel had been approached, although no update has yet been received.

Brokaw highlighted ongoing efforts to mediate conflicts within some National Federations, with the possibility of further developments depending on how the situations evolve in the coming weeks.

Disc Sport Committee Reports

Sheather provided a brief update on Disc Golf, referenced his report in briefing book highlighting ongoing discussions with the PDGA. He noted ongoing preparations for upcoming international events, including the World Team Disc Golf Championships in Vilnius. Discussions on a proposed USD 30,000 contribution from the PDGA for the event broadcast is progressing well, with total projected costs reaching approximately USD 40,000 which is significantly higher than previous budgets. Final decisions are pending responses from production companies, after which value assessment will be conducted.

Freestyle Committee Report

Bonilla provided an update on Freestyle and talked about the ongoing preparations and progress for the World Freestyle Championship in Munich. Although securing funding for new players remains challenging due to sponsor concerns about investment value, most organizational aspects are in place.

She reported ongoing development efforts in Colombia, including workshops at Ultimate events and national team activities aimed at increasing interest in Freestyle. Mafer proposed integrating Freestyle demonstrations and workshops into other WFDF events, such as World Championships, to promote the discipline.

Rauch confirmed that such integration has been supported in the past and encouraged further collaboration. He emphasized the importance of formalizing arrangements for co-branded events between WFDF and FPA to enable better coordination and support, with the goal of developing events into broader “Frisbee festivals” showcasing multiple disciplines.

Overall Committee Report
McLeod reported completion of 10 promotional /educational videos, ready for publication pending final review. Future work on additional disciplines is expected later in the year. He also emphasized the need for more on-the-ground engagement to encourage participation across disc sports.

Guts Committee Report
Taylor noted ongoing efforts to align officiating systems more closely with WFDF’s Game Advisor model, while acknowledging traditional call-making to likely continue in the United States. He raised strategic considerations for 2027 event planning, particularly around affordability and accessibility. While Malaysia is a potential host, alternative locations such as Thailand are being considered to reduce costs and enable broader participation from developing countries.

Taylor reported that there are currently at least 175 active Guts players in the United States, with additional outreach underway through development initiatives. He emphasized the need for a clear strategic direction to support global growth of the discipline.

Rauch highlighted the rapid growth of Dodge Disc in Japan and Hong Kong, China, suggesting it could serve as an entry pathway into Guts and other disc sports. Taylor agreed idea is an opportunity and noted potential collaboration with regional stakeholders.

Beach Ultimate Committee Report
Rauch highlighted a couple key elements of the Beach Ultimate Committee report, as Quintos was not present. She had proposed the replacement of one of the Committee members with Ana Rico, referencing the candidate’s CV included in the meeting materials.

A motion was made by Robinson to approve the Beach Ultimate Committee member replacement, seconded by Hermand. The motion passed unanimously.

Rauch mentioned ongoing revisions to the Beach Ultimate rules appendix following recent updates to the grass rules, further refinement of Beach 4s rules, and discussions separating the Masters division from the World Beach Ultimate Championships due to growing participation. The proposal aims to establish a stand-alone Masters event in response to increased demand.

Sport for All Committee

Rauch highlighted a couple themes from the report submitted by McLeod and Roddick. The Committee continues to focus on implementing the strategic framework, strengthening community engagement, leveraging major events to increase participation, and promoting grassroots development globally. Emphasis remains on combining global visibility with local action to grow flying disc sports.

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

Rauch thanked all participants and noted that the upcoming season will significantly increase activity across regions. He encouraged members to follow up on action items and maintain communication to ensure progress.

Next meetings

ExComm: 18/19 APR; Board: 9/10 MAY

Closing: 16:34 CET

Submitted by Catherine Nakasi
WFDF Secretary