Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
June 20th, 2026

Saturday, June 20th, 2026
07:00 PDT / 10:00 EDT / 15:00 BST / 16:00 CEST / 17:00 EAT

Attending:
Robert "Nob" Rauch (President), Brian Gisel (Vice President/Chair, Ultimate Committee), Kate Bergeron (Treasurer), Catherine Nakasi (Secretary), Jonathan Rigby (Secretary General, non-voting), Karina Woldt (Managing Director Events and Operations, non-voting), Dillon Richardson (Director of Membership Services and Sport Development), Patrick Alexander (Commercial Marketing Manager), Oleksandra Boliak (Administrator and Office Manager)

Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 17:03 CEST by President Rauch.

Overview by the President
Rauch welcomed participants and outlined the agenda, noting that the meeting would focus primarily on reviewing and finalizing materials for the upcoming WFDF Congress.

Minutes - Board of Directors Meeting - 10 May 2026
The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on 10 May 2026 were presented to the Executive Committee for information.

Action Items from Minutes
Members were encouraged to continue progressing outstanding actions within their areas of responsibility. It was agreed that the growing action item list should be reviewed and streamlined.

Finance: YTD 2026 report and Congress files
Bergeron reported that WFDF remained in a healthy financial position. Income exceeded expectations due to stronger sanctioning fee and sponsorship revenue. Overall, the federation was performing ahead of budget, with no significant financial concerns anticipated for 2026.

The draft of the 2027–2031 budget was reviewed. Bergeron invited final comments before circulation to the Board. Discussion focused on sponsorship projections. Rauch explained that the budget included ambitious revenue targets. These reflected strategic aspirations and the expense budget would be reviewed if commercial income did not materialize.

Rigby emphasized that achieving these targets would require a stronger commercial proposition rather than maintaining existing practices. He highlighted the need to improve event presentation, digital engagement, sponsorship activation, and long-term commercial planning.

Members also discussed conservative sanctioning fee projections and future fee adjustments. Woldt explained that participation estimates reflected recent trends, including declining player numbers following the post-pandemic surge and differences between club and national team events. The Executive Committee agreed that a broader strategic discussion on sponsorship, events, and commercial development should take place later in the year.

Bergeron reported that the 2025 audited financial statements were expected shortly and remained on schedule for inclusion in the Congress materials. The Executive Committee discussed delays and its reasons in this year's audit process. Woldt noted that next year's earlier Congress would require the federation to close its accounts sooner regardless of the audit provider.

UBS/Multi-Currency

Rauch updated the Executive Committee on discussions with UBS Lausanne regarding a multi-currency banking solution. Although onboarding and ongoing fees would apply, the arrangement would provide access to multiple major currencies and improve international banking operations. Discussions will continue before a final decision is made.

Foreign Event Insurance

Rigby presented the proposed renewal of WFDF's Foreign Events General Liability Insurance. The policy would increase liability coverage from USD 1 million to USD 3 million at an annual premium of USD 9,095.

Woldt emphasized that while Local Organising Committees are required to obtain liability insurance from contractors and suppliers, WFDF also has a duty of care for the event itself and therefore requires its own liability coverage. She noted that the increased premium remained cost-effective.

The Executive Committee discussed alternative insurance providers. Woldt and Bergeron noted that previous reviews of specialist sports event insurance had found premiums to be significantly higher. Woldt suggested exploring insurance arrangements used by National Federations, while Bergeron proposed also investigating European companies. Rigby recommended proceeding with the renewal to ensure uninterrupted coverage for upcoming events, noting that operating without insurance represented a significantly greater governance risk.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the renewal of the Foreign Events General Liability Insurance as presented, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Disciplines Review

Rigby provided an update on the Disciplines Review Project. Standardized review templates had been distributed to all Disc Sport Committees, with submissions due by the end of July.

Rigby reported that the Disc Golf Committee had submitted a comprehensive first draft, which was recognized as an excellent example of the expected format. The remaining Committees would be reminded to submit their reports on time.

WFDF Events Team Report

Woldt reported that preparations for the 2026 events season were progressing well. Preparations for the WFDF 2026 WMUCC in Nottingham remained on schedule. She praised the experience of the Local Organising Committee but noted that the event demonstrated the practical limits of hosting championships of this size, and future planning would consider smaller or more segmented formats. Approximately USD 65,000 in outstanding team payments remained to be collected before the event. Final invoices could not be issued until roster changes were completed, and teams would not be permitted to compete until all financial obligations had been met.

Preparations for the WFDF 2026 WJUC in Logroño are progressing well. To reduce heat exposure, the competition schedule had been limited to four rounds per day. Woldt also outlined enhanced security measures, including a fully accredited and ticketed venue, a shortened opening parade, and reduced activities within the city in response to the local protest environment.

Preparations for the WFDF 2026 WUCC in Limerick continued as planned. Team rosters had been finalized, with 136 teams confirmed. Higher average roster sizes had increased projected sanctioning fee revenue above budget estimates.

Woldt reported positive progress for other events, including the expanded Disc Golf Championships with the addition of a Masters division.

Looking ahead to 2027, contracts had been secured or were progressing for several events, while discussions continued regarding the Indoor Championships and the Asia-Oceania Guts Championships in Malaysia, with venue availability being the primary outstanding issue.

Woldt reminded the Executive Committee that the federation was entering its busiest operational period and requested members to be mindful of staff workload. She noted that recent additions of Portwine and Simenc to the Events Team had significantly strengthened operational capacity.

Membership and Development Report

Richardson reported that the application for Flying Disc to be included within the official framework of the SouthEast Asian Games remained under review. Although inclusion in the 2027 Games appeared unlikely, the application represented an important step toward future recognition, and the Malaysian Flying Disc Federation continued to support the process.

He reported continued progress across development initiatives noting WFDF secured an extension of its TAFISA development grant, while IOC-funded development projects continued to advance. The WFDF Academy was expected to exceed 60,000 registered users following the successful integration of the Rules Accreditation programme.

Richardson updated the Executive Committee on preparations for the 2026 WFDF Congress, reporting that 101 Member Federations had registered and that no motions had been submitted before the deadline. Rauch requested a list of participants registered to attend Congress in person to assist with ongoing planning.

Richardson reported that the revised Anti-Doping Rules were being finalized in cooperation with WADA and the International Testing Agency (ITA) to maintain compliance with the forthcoming Anti-Doping Code. He noted that more than 100 Therapeutic Use Exemption requests had already been processed, representing a significant workload for the Medical and Anti-Doping team.

Commercial and Marketing Report

Alexander presented an update on commercial development activities since joining WFDF. His work has focused on supporting localized sponsorship opportunities with Proposition Lab while simultaneously engaging larger non-endemic brands to assess market interest and build long-term partnerships.

Alexander reported that an outreach had been made to more than 100 potential partners, with several initial responses leading to discussions with companies across the sports, health, and consumer sectors. Current conversations include potential partnerships for development discs, sports equipment, sun care, kinesiology tape, and other products aligned with Flying Disc sports. Discussions were also underway with Forza regarding a development disc partnership targeting emerging markets in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Americas.

He further reported that the local sponsorship campaign for the WFDF 2026 WMUCC, conducted with Proposition Lab, had provided valuable insights despite mixed results. Lessons learned would be applied to the sponsorship campaign for Limerick, which would target both local businesses and Irish national brands.

Alexander noted that while several promising discussions had begun, long-term commercial success would depend on strengthening WFDF's commercial proposition, including greater year-round engagement with the Flying Disc community and more consistent activation opportunities beyond major events.

Gisel suggested exploring potential partnerships with Japanese hydration brands ahead of the 2027 U24 World Championships. Alexander welcomed suggestions from Executive Committee members and encouraged them to share existing industry contacts that could help establish introductions with prospective sponsors.

Rigby noted that the commercial strategy was progressing on three parallel tracks: securing short-term opportunities, developing relationships with medium-sized brands, and building long-term partnerships with major non-endemic sponsors. Early market feedback would help refine WFDF's commercial strategy and identify where future efforts should be focused.

New Website Development Progress Update

Rigby presented an update on the redevelopment of the WFDF website. He explained that the new structure had been designed to create a clearer distinction between public-facing content, such as events, rankings and development activities, and governance-related information available in the dedicated "Inside WFDF" section.

The redesigned website would also enable individual event pages to be hosted directly within the WFDF platform, reducing reliance on separate event websites and providing Local Organising Committees with standardized templates. New event pages would include event information, maps, countdown timers, calendars and an updates section to improve communication with participants.

Rigby reported that the new website retained all existing content while significantly improving navigation, usability and backend administration. Although further content review would continue after launch, he recommended releasing the website during the upcoming events season to begin operating in a live environment and support ongoing commercial activities. The Executive Committee discussed the proposal and confirmed that the website had been optimized for desktop and mobile devices.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the launch of the redesigned WFDF website, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was agreed that the website would initially be soft-launched, with broader communication and social media promotion to follow once the team was satisfied that the new platform was operating as expected.

2026 Annual Congress Agenda Discussion

Rauch presented the preliminary agenda for the 2026 WFDF Congress and invited feedback from the Executive Committee. The proposed programme included regular agenda items, networking breaks and two workshop discussions.

Bergeron suggested moving the Finance session later in the programme to better accommodate the meeting schedule. The Executive Committee agreed to review the agenda further over the coming days and provide any additional comments before finalization.

Annual Risk Assessment for Congress

Rigby presented the annual review of the federation's Risk Assessment. He recommended retaining the existing risk categories while adding two new strategic risks: geopolitical, travel and international participation risks, and digital, media and commercial relevance, reflecting the federation's evolving priorities.

The Executive Committee supported the proposed additions and agreed that the updated Risk Assessment should be circulated to the Board for further review.

Bylaws Revisions

Rauch presented an overview of the proposed bylaw amendments prepared by Richardson. He noted that several proposals aligned the bylaws with current governance practices, while others required further consideration before being presented to the Board.

Discussion focused on the proposed extension of the Vice President's term from one to four years. Bergeron proposed that the appointment be for a two-year term to preserve flexibility in Board appointments.

The Executive Committee also discussed proposals relating to special meetings, governance terminology, member standards, and event approval procedures. Richardson noted that some amendments were intended to address governance recommendations and clarify the approval process for sanctioned events.

Gisel raised the need to ensure consistency regarding paid staff serving on the Board. Rauch explained that the ex-officio positions given to the Secretary General and Event MD were non-voting positions. The Executive Committee agreed that Rauch, Rigby and Richardson would undertake a final review of the proposed amendments before they were presented to the Board.

WFDF Annual Census

Richardson presented an overview of the annual Membership Census, noting that the results were broadly consistent with previous years. Ultimate continued to account for the majority of participation, while Disc Golf remained underrepresented within many National Federations despite significantly higher participation reflected in external data. He also noted that some reported participation figures likely required further validation and that improvements to data collection and centralization should be considered.

Discussion focused on the slowing participation growth in several established National Federations and the continued dependence on a relatively small number of active members within the WFDF event system. Richardson highlighted that Sweden, Denmark and Estonia remained examples where Disc Golf participation was not reflected in WFDF membership data.

Rauch expressed optimism that continued cooperation with the PDGA and the upcoming WTDGC would improve Disc Golf representation within WFDF. He also noted that supporting smaller and developing National Federations remained a key strategic priority.

Proposal Return of MNFs to Provisional

Richardson raised concerns regarding a number of National Federations that remained not in good standing due to small outstanding membership fees. He noted that, while WFDF had successfully collected approximately 98% of membership dues by value, a large number of low-value invoices remained unpaid. Considerable staff time was being spent pursuing payments of as little as USD 25–50, despite many of these federations having limited organizational capacity and little engagement with WFDF activities.

Richardson referred to an earlier Board decision allowing inactive federations to remain as provisional members and suggested that this approach should be reconsidered, as the current system created an unnecessary administrative burden while providing limited benefit to either the federations or WFDF.

The Executive Committee agreed that the issue extended beyond unpaid dues and reflected broader challenges in developing emerging National Federations. Rauch emphasized that these organizations should be supported through a structured development approach that encouraged stronger governance, the development of a revenue model, and long-term sustainability.

Gisel suggested that Continental Associations could play a greater role in supporting developing federations within their regions, particularly where stronger regional structures already existed. Rauch acknowledged the potential value of this approach while noting that Continental Associations also faced capacity constraints.

The Executive Committee discussed future opportunities to support developing federations through development initiatives, including the potential distribution of development discs and closer engagement with National Olympic Committees. It was agreed that this issue formed part of a broader strategic discussion on federation development and should be revisited later in the year.

Game Default Policy for Ultimate

Gisel presented a draft Game Default Policy intended to provide consistent internal guidance for

handling forfeits at WFDF events while reflecting the existing provisions of the Official Rules. The document clarified notification procedures, responsibilities of teams and event staff, and the practical application of the current rules without introducing new policy.

Gisel explained that teams would be required to notify a Tournament Rules Group representative or the WFDF Events Team directly if they intended to forfeit a match. Notification could be provided in person, by telephone, text message or WhatsApp, with the forfeit only becoming official once acknowledged by WFDF.

The Executive Committee discussed whether future forfeits should carry stronger sporting consequences similar to those used by some National Federations. While members acknowledged the potential benefits of stricter sanctions, they agreed that no changes to the existing rules should be proposed at this stage. It was confirmed that guidance on forfeits would be incorporated into the Coaches' and Captains' briefing materials for upcoming events to ensure participating teams clearly understood the applicable procedures and consequences.

Establish Framework for MNF RUS and BLR

Rauch presented a proposed framework for addressing the potential return of Russian and Belarusian participation in WFDF activities following recent updates to IOC guidance. He recommended postponing any decision until after the upcoming IOC Session, as further changes to the IOC's position were anticipated. The Executive Committee agreed that the WFDF Working group should continue aligning its approach with IOC guidance and prepare a proposal for consideration at the next Board meeting.

Proposal - Update of Transgender and DSD Athletes' Eligibility Policy

Richardson presented a comprehensive technical review of the Transgender and DSD Athletes' Eligibility Policy. He explained that the proposed revisions did not alter athlete eligibility criteria but corrected inconsistent terminology, updated references, improved formatting, and clarified wording to reduce confusion for athletes and administrators. Beiglböck had also reviewed the revisions and supported the proposed updates. Rauch recommended approving the revisions subject to a final formatting review and publishing the updated policy without a formal announcement, as the changes were administrative rather than substantive.

A motion was made by Bergeron to approve the revised Transgender and DSD Athletes' Eligibility Policy, seconded by Nakasi. The motion was approved unanimously.

Appointment of Fontenette to the TUE Commission

Richardson proposed the appointment of Dr. Dominique Fontenette to the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Commission. He explained that the increasing volume of TUE applications and the requirement

to process each application within 21 days had placed considerable pressure on the Commission. Fontenette had already been assisting with reviews and would strengthen the Commission's capacity to ensure timely and compliant processing of applications.

Rauch noted Fontenette's extensive experience as Head of the Medical Commission of the International World Games Association (IWGA) and her previous collaboration with WFDF through the IWGA Medical Commission.

A motion was made by Rauch to approve the appointment of Fontenette to the TUE Commission, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Closing Remarks and Acknowledgments

The meeting concluded with brief discussion regarding future event opportunities. Rauch thanked everyone for participation.

Next meetings

BoD: 18/19 JUL; ExComm: 6 SEP

Closing: 18:32 CEST

Submitted by Catherine Nakasi
WFDF Secretary