2026 WFDF Annual Congress
Limerick, Ireland

2026 WFDF Annual Congress - Part 1

1. Call to Order

President Rauch opened the meeting at 8:05 am IST and welcomed participants joining both in person and online. He noted that the Congress had a full agenda and was scheduled to continue until approximately 17:30 IST, with breaks and panel discussions throughout the day.

The President provided an overview of meeting logistics, including access to Wi-Fi, the hybrid meeting arrangements, with Boliak mentioning the availability of live captions and translation for online and in-person participants. Members were reminded that the 2026 Congress Briefing Book was available through the QR code displayed during the meeting.

2. Roll call of National Associations present and confirmation of votes allotted

Nakasi informed delegates that attendance was being monitored via sign-in sheets for in-person attendees and online tracking. Rauch also noted that, as there were no votes scheduled during the morning session, the formal roll call and confirmation of votes would be deferred to the afternoon session, when the voting items would be consolidated. **See Annex 1 – list of participants.**

3. 2025 Congress Minutes (already approved)

The Secretary noted that the Minutes of the 2025 WFDF Annual Congress had already been approved and were included in the 2026 Congress Briefing Book for reference. Members were invited to raise any matters they wished to bring to the attention of the meeting.

4. Decisions between Annual Congress Meetings: 2025 to 2026

Nakasi referred Members to the report summarizing decisions taken between the 2025 and 2026 Annual Congress meetings. The report was included in the 2026 Congress Briefing Book for review and covered decisions on Bylaws, provisional and national memberships, membership changes, and the 2025 Board and Committee elections.

5. President's Report on 2025-2026 Activities

At the beginning of the meeting, President Rauch invited participants for a moment of silence in memory of two WFDF colleagues who had passed away since the last Congress: former Secretary General Volker Bernardi and Chair of the Beach Ultimate Committee Shiellah Quintos. Both are remembered for their significant contributions to WFDF and the global Flying Disc community.

A promotional video highlighting Flying Disc as a global sport was shown. Rauch reviewed key milestones from the previous year, including continued membership growth, particularly in Africa, the

appointment of Fumio Morooka as WFDF Flying Disc Ambassador for Life, expansion of the staff team, the appointment of Jonathan Rigby as Secretary General effective 1 February 2026, new institutional partnerships and agreements, the celebration of Spirit of the Game Day on 10 May, and continued development of the WFDF Academy.

Rauch highlighted the growth of major events, with approximately 3,400 athletes at the 2026 World Masters Ultimate Club Championships, 3,200 at the 2026 World Ultimate Club Championships in Limerick, Freestyle Worlds with FPA in Munich, and the largest ever World Team Disc Golf Championship coming up in Vilnius in September, demonstrating the breadth of global participation and interest in Flying Disc sports.

Other developments highlighted included the unveiling of the Chengdu Disc Golf Park as a legacy of the World Games, the introduction of the "Live! by BULA" results system, the establishment of the Oceania Flying Disc Federation (OFDF), and WFDF's strong position in the international governance review held by ARISF. President Rauch also highlighted WFDF's participation in the Southeast Asian Games, describing this as an important milestone in WFDF's engagement with the Olympic Movement and regional multi-sport events.

Looking ahead, President Rauch referred to the 2027 calendar, including the planned Congress and Under-24 Ultimate Championships in Kamisu, Japan, an in-person Board meeting, and the planned introduction of a World Indoor Ultimate Championship. Bids for 2028 events were under review.

Returning to WFDF's Strategic Plan, Rauch emphasized youth development as a key pathway for future growth, alongside Olympic Movement and multi-sport games participation, Spirit of the Game, athlete well-being, gender equality and diversity, audience development, the "frisbee lifestyle," and organizational effectiveness.

On membership, Rauch noted that strong post-COVID growth was beginning to slow and encouraged Member Federations to focus on increasing participation at all levels, including Sport for All initiatives, rather than solely elite participation. Female participation in Ultimate remained approximately 35%, although Disc Golf participation was considerably lower. WFDF would continue working with the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) on global development and participation, including gender equality. With 127 National Federations across all five (IOC) continents, WFDF's priority should increasingly be to strengthen the quality, depth and sustainability of existing Member Federations rather than focus solely on expansion into new countries.

Rauch described WFDF's governance structure as a functional Board, with members responsible for specific activities across the Executive Committee, Disc Sport Committees, Continental Associations, Commissions and other areas. He identified the active involvement of Board members as a strength and noted that the virtual office structure effectively leverages available resources without a physical headquarters. He also referred to WFDF's strong results in the international governance review and expressed confidence in its responsible and sustainable management.

The proposed Bylaws revisions to be considered in the afternoon were outlined as primarily technical changes. The principal amendments were the addition of the Managing Director of Events and

Operations to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors on a non-voting basis, together with the Secretary General, and adjustment of the Vice-President appointment to a two-year term. Other amendments would align the Bylaws with current WFDF practice and improve consistency and clarity.

Rauch also highlighted the July 2026 website revision, designed to place events and engage Flying Disc content more prominently while retaining policies, procedures and administrative information. Audience development was identified as an increasingly important strategic priority, with WFDF working with a broader group of Flying Disc organizations and major Member Federations to demonstrate the sport's overall reach and create opportunities for future sponsorship and commercial partnerships.

The WFDF Academy, spearheaded by Dillon Richardson, was highlighted as an important resource for coaches, leaders, administrators and players, covering technical skills, governance, youth development and gender engagement, with rules accreditation also incorporated.

On financial sustainability, Rauch noted significant budget growth over the previous decade but continued limited resources. He emphasized the need to increase sponsorship, donations and broadcast-related revenues to expand WFDF's capacity while limiting costs borne by athletes. A strategic planning session later in the year would consider the resources and actions needed to move WFDF to the next level. The 2025 audited financial statements had been completed and would be presented for approval in the afternoon.

President Rauch provided an overview of the Olympic Movement and WFDF's position within it as a member of ARISF. He reviewed WFDF's proposal for Brisbane 2032, focused on a youth-oriented, mixed-gender Beach Ultimate format designed to meet IOC requirements for athlete quotas, venue use and shorter competition formats.

He explained that the IOC's "Fit for the Future" review had shifted towards a discipline- and event-based approach to constructing the Olympic programme rather than based on a fixed list of sports included in the Olympic Charter. Candidate and incumbent disciplines will first be assessed against governance, anti-doping, competition integrity, and athlete health and safety criteria, followed by an analysis of factors including global appeal, cost, complexity, athlete participation and contribution to the overall value of the Games. The process will compare lower-ranked disciplines currently on the programme with leading candidate disciplines seeking inclusion.

Rauch noted that the changes represented a significant shift for existing Olympic sports, many of which depend heavily on IOC revenues, but was a required response to changing audience demographics and viewing habits which were putting pressure on the Olympic Movement to remain relevant to younger audiences. He was not optimistic about WFDF's inclusion prospects for Brisbane 2032, particularly given expected tighter athlete quotas, but considered the longer-term evolution of the Olympic Program potentially positive for Flying Disc and emphasized the importance of positioning WFDF for the future.

He encouraged Member Federations not yet recognized by their National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to pursue recognition, emphasizing its potential benefits regardless of Olympic inclusion,

including funding and resources, legitimacy, partnerships, and access to Olympic and other multi-sport competitions. WFDF has 25 of its Member Federations recognized by their NOCs, with a goal of reaching 40 within two years.

6. Secretary General's Report on 2026 Activities

Secretary General Jonathan Rigby presented his first report to Congress since joining WFDF on 1 February 2026. He explained that, unlike the detailed departmental reports scheduled later, his report reflected on his first five months in the role, what he had learned, and how he intended to contribute to WFDF's development and the delivery of its Strategic Plan.

Rigby reaffirmed WFDF's mission and emphasized that this remained the Federation's fundamental purpose and introduced his ambition for the next phase: "Making the Joy of Flying Disc Impossible to Ignore."

He stressed that this ambition did not replace the mission, but expressed how he believed it could be brought to life. Greater visibility and participation would strengthen Member Federations, increase volunteer involvement and partner interest, and create greater opportunities for investment. His role would therefore be to help WFDF evolve from a well-governed and increasingly credible International Federation into a more visible, relevant and commercially sustainable organization.

Rigby acknowledged the work of President Rauch, former Secretary General Volker Bernardi, the Board, Executive Committee, staff and volunteers in establishing WFDF's strong foundations. He stated that his intention was to build upon rather than reinvent them. His first months had focused on listening, understanding the organization, supporting staff during a particularly busy competition period, improving coordination and identifying areas where future investment could generate long-term value. He noted the breadth of work already underway across broadcasting, events, membership services, education, communications, governance, administration and commercial development.

The key challenge, he said, was not a lack of good work or ideas, but connecting these activities more effectively: events should reinforce storytelling, storytelling should strengthen the brand, commercial partnerships should support participation and development, education should strengthen Member Federations, and governance should build confidence.

Rigby noted that reaching 127 Member National Federations was a significant achievement, but that WFDF was entering a phase in which the priority should shift from simply increasing membership to strengthening existing federations. WFDF had therefore begun segmenting its 127 Member Federations according to their development and capacity, allowing more tailored support. He emphasized the shift from quantity to quality, recognizing the significant differences between established and developing federations. This approach would include targeted support, expanded education programmes and practical governance and operational resources.

Rigby stated that WFDF's Olympic ambitions remained relevant regardless of short-term inclusion. He noted that WFDF was already strong in several areas highlighted by the IOC, including gender equality, inclusion, governance and the development of suitable competition formats. However,

visibility and commerciality remained areas requiring further progress. He emphasized that, if multi-sport games and Olympic participation remained strategic objectives, increasing the visibility and marketability of Flying Disc would be fundamental, making visibility a central element of his approach as Secretary General.

Rigby outlined several interconnected priorities, beginning with strong foundations. He emphasized good processes, policies, protocols and governance as essential to sustainable growth and noted that WFDF needed systems capable of supporting a larger and more developed Federation. A governance review had therefore been initiated to assess existing policies and protocols and ensure they were fit for future growth, including helping Member Federations adopt and implement strong governance practices.

He also described the Disciplines Review, comparing Flying Disc to sports such as cycling that comprise several disciplines within one sporting family. WFDF should use evidence and data to understand the opportunities, strengths, and challenges of each discipline and establish appropriate priorities and development plans. The review would also remain open to emerging disciplines, with Dodge Disc mentioned as an example with it gaining traction in Asia.

The recruitment of WFDF's first dedicated Commercial Marketing Manager was highlighted as another early step toward developing the Federation's future commercial capacity. Increased visibility was identified as a second major pillar. Rigby highlighted the WFDF brand refresh and thanked Boliak and the wider team for creating a stronger and more cohesive presentation of the Federation. He also highlighted a more proactive and consistent communications approach, with WFDF moving beyond simply reporting event results to telling stories about its athletes, disciplines and communities in ways that engage new audiences. The new WFDF website was similarly designed to separate the excitement and appeal of Flying Disc from governance and administrative information. The administrative materials are now positioned under the "Inside WFDF" section, while the public-facing website serves as the main platform for events, impact and visibility.

Rigby identified youth development as a central long-term priority. He noted that many excellent initiatives already existed across Member Federations, but that they were often fragmented. WFDF's opportunity was to identify successful programmes, connect them more effectively and enable other federations to adapt them to their own circumstances. He emphasized the value of WFDF's global network in sharing successful approaches and developing practical, coordinated programmes, including clearer participation pathways and priority age groups.

Another priority would be to examine how WFDF's competition and events structure could become more connected and cohesive. National, continental and world-level events should form a clearer pathway and a coherent story for athletes, Member Federations, fans and potential commercial partners. Rigby acknowledged that this would require several years of work and would need to balance participation, organizational capacity, financial sustainability, and visibility. The objective would be a connected competition pathway beginning at local clubs, progressing through national and continental championships and culminating at the world level.

Rigby emphasized that increased commercial investment was necessary for the long-term development of Flying Disc. He explained that WFDF first needed to strengthen its foundations and visibility before expecting major external sponsors to invest significantly. Stronger governance and organizational capacity would support greater visibility, increased visibility would drive participation and audience growth, and these developments would create greater commercial value.

He stressed that commercial development was not an end in itself. Increased investment should ultimately be reinvested in Member Federations, events, athletes, education and the continued growth of Flying Disc.

7. Review of 2026 Member Census

Director of Membership Services and Sport Development Dillon Richardson was introduced to present the Annual Census Report. The 2026 Census Report covers self-reported data from WFDF Members for the 2025 calendar year, including organizational governance and health, education and development, recognitions and relationships, media and marketing, anti-doping, and Flying Disc disciplines.

Richardson presented the Annual Member Census, noting that the 50-page report provides an overview of positive developments as well as areas for improvement. The Census has been conducted since 2002 and is recognized as a best practice, providing a means of monitoring the growth and development of Flying Disc sports and allowing Member Federations to compare their position with others. WFDF is increasingly using the data to inform its development activities, including youth programmes and event-related initiatives.

Richardson noted that reported active and total player numbers had decreased by approximately 12%. He cautioned that the figures are self-reported and subject to different interpretations by Member Federations, and WFDF would work to define the data more clearly in future. Female participation remained stable at approximately 33–35%, with no significant growth in recent years. Participation was also highly concentrated: five Member Federations accounted for 71% of the active athlete population.

Ultimate remained the dominant discipline, with approximately 162,000 reported players and participation in 95% of Member Federations. Disc Golf was the second-largest discipline, with approximately 20,000 reported players, although the figures do not fully capture participation represented through the PDGA. WFDF is working with the PDGA and individual Member Federations to improve coordination between the two leading disciplines. Richardson also noted that only 61% of Member Federations currently represented Disc Golf within their structures, despite the Bylaw requirement that all disciplines be represented. Overall, approximately 80% reported representing all WFDF disciplines, while smaller disciplines such as Freestyle remained practiced by relatively few federations. WFDF will seek to strengthen connections between these communities and formalize the relevant structures.

In governance and finance, the Census highlighted limited professionalization and a funding gap. Approximately 51% of Member Federations had no paid staff, and around half operated with annual

budgets below US$1,000. Many smaller federations therefore have limited capacity and rely primarily on membership and event fees, where available. Government relations were trending positively, and key governance fundamentals such as strategic plans, codes of conduct and safeguarding were increasingly being adopted. WFDF will continue supporting Member Federations that have not yet established these systems.

In development and education, 73% of Member Federations reported youth-focused programming, while approximately 50% had no formal coaching structure. Similar gaps remained in Spirit of the Game education and gender equity programmes.

Richardson noted growing recognition of the value of external relationships, with approximately 60% of Member Federations reporting relationships with NGOs, sport ministries or similar organizations. NOC recognition was also increasing, with 31% reporting some form of recognition. He encouraged federations to pursue this, noting the potential benefits of direct funding and increased opportunities for athletes.

Looking at Member Federation priorities, youth participation and participation across all age groups remained key objectives, with federations seeking to build a broad base of active players rather than focusing exclusively on high performance. Other priorities included improving national-level events, high performance, coach education, marketing and partnerships.

Richardson encouraged Members to review the full Census in the Congress Briefing Book and offered to provide additional data and work directly with federations on tailored reports.

8. Events Report

Managing Director Events and Operations Karina Woldt presented the Events Report, beginning by introducing new members of the Events team. Andrew Portwine, based in Canada, joined late in 2025 and has focused on event administration, finance and the help desk. Dinko Simenc, based in Croatia, has focused on planning and event execution with Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), particularly registration, and has also supported Disc Golf planning.

Woldt reflected on the 2025 season, which included 10 events. While the events were highly successful, the length and volume of the season created administrative challenges. Weather also presented increased risks, including extreme heat and wind. In 2026, four major events are concentrated into a much shorter summer period, creating a different form of fatigue for administrators, Member Federations and participants attending multiple events.

She highlighted the particular scale of the 2026 Club events cycle, which requires WFDF to work directly with individual club teams rather than a single national team contact. Approximately 400 teams were involved, resulting in nearly daily communication with around 400 contacts. Woldt noted that Member Federations manage club teams very differently: some oversee rosters and uniform approvals closely, while others leave clubs largely to manage themselves. WFDF would welcome greater Federation involvement and ideas on how to create a stronger connection between club teams and their national federations.

The WFDF 2026 World Masters Ultimate Club Championships (WMUCC) in Nottingham, Great Britain, was highlighted as an exceptionally large and successful event, bringing together a very significant number of participants and involving nearly 700 games across two venues. Woldt thanked Hill, Tobiasiewicz, and the UK Ultimate team for their extensive organizational and logistical work and encouraged future event hosts to learn from their approach.

For the WFDF 2026 World Junior Ultimate Championships (WJUC) in Logroño, Spain, WFDF applied lessons from the previous year's venue challenges, including heat, lack of shade, water access, and difficulty providing first aid at a remote second venue. The number of teams was therefore capped and the second venue eliminated. Woldt emphasized that bigger is not always better and that WFDF's priority is to deliver high-standard, world-class events. This may require limiting the number of participating countries or teams and reconsidering how future bids are allocated, particularly as finding suitable venues becomes increasingly difficult.

As part of this approach, the next Club events cycle will again be split. Masters divisions will be separated from the Open, Women's and Mixed divisions, with the six older divisions held as a separate event. This is expected to reduce the size of the main event by approximately half. Woldt also noted that future approaches to individual-based events, such as the World Freestyle Championships, may be reviewed to strengthen connections with Member Federations and simplify the management of rules and participants.

For the WFDF 2026 World Ultimate Club Championships (WUCC) in Limerick, Ireland, Woldt noted that WFDF was returning to a known venue and experienced LOC, with approximately the same number of games as Nottingham despite having 14 fewer teams. She thanked Walsh, Grant, and the local team and emphasized the importance of all teams respecting staff, organizers, officials and other participants, particularly given the broader external environment. Member Federations were encouraged to raise any concerns with the WFDF Events team during the event.

Looking ahead, the WTDGC in Vilnius will take place shortly after Congress. The event has been in planning for four years following the original 2022 bid and will be the largest edition since the event's inception, with approximately 50 teams competing in Open (mixed gender) and Masters divisions.

WFDF is also planning a WFDF 2026 Virtual Sport World Team Disc Golf Championship (VSWTDGC), expected for late October or early November. A bulletin would be issued shortly, and Member Federations were encouraged to promote the event and support participation. Woldt highlighted virtual sport as an opportunity to reach new audiences and develop new partnerships beyond traditional physical participation.

Regarding the 2027 calendar, Woldt acknowledged that some events, particularly Disc Golf Continental Championships, had not yet been announced because venues were still being finalized. The Events team was working to confirm these as soon as possible and encouraged Member Federations to review bulletins and provide early feedback, particularly where event dates affect team nomination and selection processes. She explained that the delay was partly caused by a previously selected host country becoming unable to accommodate all WFDF Member Federations. This

disrupted not only one event but required significant restructuring of the wider two-year calendar and also affected planning for 2028. WFDF was using the Congress week to bring relevant parties together and hoped to release the 2028 calendar by 15 September.

Woldt also provided updates on several specific future events. The dates for the Asian Oceanic Ultimate and Guts Club Championships in Malaysia were being finalized, following a prolonged venue hold connected to the SEA Games, which had affected the scheduling of other events.

The planned World Indoor Ultimate Championships would proceed, but WFDF was still determining the appropriate scale and format. The Federation was seeking input from Member Federations, particularly on whether the event should involve club teams, national teams, or potentially a hybrid/multi-division format. Karina noted that the first edition might include multiple divisions depending on Federation feedback. Initial planning suggested a minimum of approximately 16 teams, but participation could potentially reach 50 teams. A questionnaire would be circulated to gather Member Federation input.

9. Medical and Anti-Doping Commission Report

Chair of the Medical and Anti-Doping Commission, Florian Beiglböck, reported substantial progress in strengthening the WFDF anti-doping programme, maintaining WADA compliance, improving athlete education and updating relevant policies. WFDF achieved updated WADA compliance in September 2025 and has prepared revised anti-doping rules for implementation of the 2027 WADA Code.

During 2025, WFDF reviewed and approved 33 Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs) and conducted 11 anti-doping tests, including eight in-competition and three out-of-competition tests. No anti-doping rule violations were identified through WFDF testing. It was noted, however, that National Anti-Doping Organizations (NADOs) may conduct independent testing at national and international events. One anti-doping rule violation involving a Colombian player who tested positive for cannabis resulted in a one-year suspension from Ultimate.

Separately, WFDF also revised its Transgender Athlete and Differences in Sex Development (DSD) Athlete Policy to improve terminology, consistency, and clarity regarding eligibility.

Education and outreach remained priorities, with regular anti-doping communications to Member National Federations, the launch of an Anti-Doping Hub within the WFDF Academy, which had received more than 28,000 views, and integration of anti-doping courses into WFDF's education programme. Two WFDF representatives were certified as International Clean Sport Educators.

Priorities for the coming period include finalizing and implementing the revised 2027 Anti-Doping Rules following WADA approval, expanding sport-specific education for athletes, coaches, medical personnel and administrators through the WFDF Academy, strengthening cooperation between Member National Federations and NADOs, and improving mechanisms for monitoring and supporting compliance at national level. Beiglböck noted that the overall objective is to move from maintaining compliance toward a more proactive and integrated clean sport programme combining testing, governance, education and international cooperation.

Rauch clarified that Flying Disc sports had experienced two anti-doping cases over the last decade identified through NADO testing, rather than WFDF testing, and emphasized that athletes may be tested outside WFDF events and should therefore remain aware of their anti-doping responsibilities.

Responding to a question from Tomas Burvall, representing Sweden, it has been clarified WFDF's position on the Transgender and DSD Policy. Rauch explained that WFDF continues to use a hormone-based eligibility framework. He explained that WFDF considers this approach a middle ground between full self-identification and a "biological-sex-based" approach, and that the current policy would therefore remain in place pending further developments.

A further discussion addressed differences between national policies and WFDF's rules in response to a question from Gerd Biesterfeld, representing Sweden. It was clarified that, at a WFDF event, the WFDF Transgender and DSD Policy would apply irrespective of the legal or administrative documentation issued by the host country. At events governed by another organization, the applicable governing body's rules would determine eligibility. It was also noted that national federations may establish their own policies for their domestic activities.

10. Commercial and Marketing Report

The Secretary General Jonathan Rigby introduced WFDF's first Commercial Marketing Manager Patrick Alexander and noted that the role had been created to strengthen WFDF's commercial and sponsorship capacity. The initial focus has been on building a global pipeline of potential sponsors, with approximately 250 target brands identified for outreach. WFDF intends to increase awareness of Flying Disc among potential commercial partners, noting that many brands remain unfamiliar with the sport despite its strong values and international reach.

WFDF also identified opportunities to generate additional commercial value from existing events and to better protect the rights of official partners. Recent examples included additional event-related commercial income from non-official brands, including arrangements allowing activation around WFDF events subject to appropriate licensing.

The commercial development programme was described as having three principal areas of focus: short-term commercial opportunities around existing events, development of partnerships in categories such as nutrition, hydration, eyewear and recovery products, and, in the longer term, a global partnership programme targeting major international brands.

Rigby also highlighted the potential for development-related partnerships involving the distribution of Flying Discs. WFDF currently distributes several thousand discs annually to developing countries, but a significantly larger-scale programme would be required to support global growth. Key challenges include disc costs and customs and distribution arrangements, and WFDF will explore potential commercial partnerships to address these barriers.

During the discussion, it was suggested using external commercial agencies and leveraging the contacts of Member Federations to identify potential sponsors. Rigby noticed that the collective

network of WFDF and its Member Federations could provide valuable introductions and stated that the list of approximately 250 target brands could potentially be shared with Member Federations to identify existing contacts.

Biesterfeld from Sweden mentioned a few potential international partners with an existing interest in Flying Disc and offered to facilitate contact. Rigby emphasized that major sponsors would generally be more interested in a coherent global proposition than separate country-by-country arrangements. He therefore stressed the importance of developing a coordinated international commercial structure that would allow sponsors to understand what they would receive, how their partnerships could be activated, and what the longer-term relationship with Flying Disc would look like.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of expanding the visibility of Flying Disc beyond existing audiences. Biesterfeld noted that the Disc Golf Network primarily reaches people already engaged with the sport and suggested pursuing broader television exposure, including through ESPN and other national broadcasters. The Secretary General welcomed the suggestion and emphasized that broader audience reach would in turn strengthen the attractiveness of Flying Disc to commercial partners. Rauch also noted the relevance of existing relationships between national federations and broadcasters, including USA Ultimate's experience with ESPN, and encouraged delegates to use such networks to support WFDF's broader commercial and media objectives.

11. Office Management Report

Oleksandra Boliak presented the Office Management Report, noting that she had moved into the Administrator and Office Manager role in November 2025 after previously serving as Executive Assistant. She explained that the role provides broad support to the Executive Committee and Board, including daily workflows, governance processes and the distribution of information.

During the year, she also supported human resources and staff recruitment processes as WFDF expanded its team. Other areas of work included the ongoing WFDF website updates and implementation of the refreshed WFDF brand. The first phase of the brand refresh, covering internal administrative and event staff, had been completed, with further phases to follow. Member Federations would receive additional information and guidance on the refreshed brand and updated logo in the coming months.

Looking ahead, priorities included continuing to develop the website, completing phases two and three of the brand refresh, finalizing staff and volunteer onboarding guidance, and maintaining WFDF's documentation and archives. Boliak emphasized that much of the administration team's work takes place behind the scenes but is essential to ensuring that WFDF's systems and information are organized, consistent and available when required.

12. Communications and Social Media Report

Communication and Social Media Manager Pablo Naya presented the report. While major championships remained the largest drivers of visibility, WFDF had increased communications during

non-event periods in order to represent the Federation as a whole and connect activities across development, governance, education, Member Federations and all disciplines.

An editorial calendar had improved coordination and planning across departments and events. Communications had also moved towards a more video-first and community-focused storytelling approach, placing greater emphasis on athletes, volunteers, officials and people contributing to their communities, including through youth development and grassroots participation, rather than focusing exclusively on competition results.

The Federation now had a full-year baseline for measuring communications performance. During the five-month non-event period from January to May 2026, WFDF generated approximately 4.7 million views, providing a benchmark for performance outside major championships. Across Facebook and Instagram, WFDF recorded approximately 24.7 million views, reached more than 3.3 million individual accounts, and generated more than 500,000 interactions during the reporting period.

Audience benchmarks were also being developed by event category, recognizing that different championships attract different audiences. Masters currently generated the lowest engagement, followed by Under-24 events, while open-age championships generally reached larger audiences. The 2025 World Games generated more than 6.2 million views in August 2025, making it WFDF's strongest month to date at that point. The 2025 Southeast Asian Games also generated particularly strong results, reaching almost one million accounts and becoming the second strongest month for views and engagement. Following the 2026 Masters and Junior World Championships, July 2026 became the second strongest month overall, with approximately 4.6 million views and more than 250,000 accounts reached.

The audience remained predominantly young, with approximately 67% aged 18–34. Approximately 60% were men and just under 40% women. The United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Colombia were the largest audience markets.

Beyond Facebook and Instagram, WFDF continued to expand activity on TikTok, RedNote, LinkedIn and YouTube. YouTube generated nearly one million views and approximately 2,900 new subscribers, with a significant contribution from the Southeast Asian Games broadcast. WFDF also highlighted the value of streaming national championships, including events in New Zealand and Australia, as a means of maintaining audience engagement between World Championships.

Looking ahead, priorities included improving planning and measurement during non-event periods, continuing video-first and community-focused storytelling, increasing activity on LinkedIn and TikTok, maintaining other digital channels, and developing stronger communications networks with Member Federations, LOCs and partners. WFDF also intended to improve access to event photography for Member Federations, LOCs and partners so that content generated around championships could continue to provide value beyond the events themselves.

In response to a question from Bekzod Kenjaev, representing Uzbekistan, asking how WFDF could support developing Ultimate communities through mentorship, knowledge exchange, joint projects and access to WFDF communications channels, it was explained that the WFDF team uses major

championships to establish connections with Member Federation communications teams. Federations unable to attend events were also encouraged to contact WFDF directly for support with content strategy, communications and sharing of material.

Rigby added that WFDF now had sufficient data to establish meaningful year-on-year benchmarks and noted the particularly strong performance of the 2026 Masters event. He emphasized that, although WFDF's direct social-media reach was significant, the combined reach of athletes, clubs, Member Federations, teams and other participants across the sport was substantially larger. He encouraged greater collaboration and cross-sharing of content across the Flying Disc community to strengthen collective reach and visibility.

13. National Olympic Committee Relations Report

Marco Tomasini, Director of NOC Relations presented the National Olympic Committee and International Relations Report, noting that WFDF had achieved significant progress in its international relationships and representation within the wider sports movement. WFDF had secured strong election results, including President Rauch's election to the Executive Committee of the International World Games Association (IWGA) and on the Board of the Association of the IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF), strengthening its position within the IOC-recognized international sports federation system. Tomasini noted that WFDF representatives had achieved the highest vote totals in both elections.

WFDF was also strengthening relationships with Continental Associations and Continental Olympic Committees. Recognition had been secured from ANOCA, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, while work was underway with the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Pan American recognition remained linked to the incorporation of the relevant Continental Association, with WFDF maintaining contact with the Association of Pan American Sport Confederations (ACODEPA). In Oceania, WFDF was working to complete incorporation of its Continental Association and pursue recognition through the relevant regional sports structure, particularly the Organisation of Sports Federations of Oceania (OSFO).

A major priority was increasing the number of Member Federations recognized by their National Olympic Committees (NOCs). Tomasini emphasized that such recognition could provide direct or indirect access to funding, including through national sport authorities and school systems, as well as increased opportunities to develop the sport. He encouraged Member Federations to approach their NOCs directly and noted that WFDF could provide templates, documentation, policies and assistance with formal applications and introductions. He observed that in many smaller countries the main obstacle was not unwillingness on the part of the NOC but the absence of a formal application from the federation.

WFDF would also continue developing relationships with SportAccord, ANOC and other international sports organizations in order to strengthen the Federation's credibility, recognition and opportunities for cooperation.

Ebrahim Dorr Taj, representing Islamic Republic of Iran, asked whether WFDF planned to establish cooperation with municipalities, local communities, where much grassroots activity takes place. In response, it was noted that WFDF was already involved with TAFISA and the International Sport for All Federation (FISPT), both of which promote active cities and communities, but otherwise relied on its national federations to coordinate most activity.

14. Membership and Development Report

Director of Membership Services and Sport Development Dillon Richardson presented the Membership and Development Report, noting that WFDF had achieved its strategic objective of reaching at least 125 Member National Federations, with 18 new Member Federations added during the previous three years.

The focus was now shifting towards targeted support for federations with the potential and foundations to scale and develop Flying Disc in their countries. WFDF was continuing to transition provisional Member Federations to full membership and had established a community-of-practice approach for newer federations. Federations that had joined during the previous two years were meeting regularly to exchange experiences, discuss challenges and learn from one another. WFDF intended to expand this collaborative approach while also encouraging more mature federations to contribute their experience without placing excessive demands on their capacity. Examples of targeted collaboration included connecting Maldives, which had expressed interest in Dodge Disc, with Hong Kong, China, and other emerging Member Federations interested in developing particular disciplines.

WFDF had also donated 1,400 discs in support of 11 development projects. Richardson expressed the ambition to increase this substantially through more targeted marketing projects and collaboration with Member Federations.

The WFDF Academy continued to be a major success, reaching approximately 61,000 users, with more than 50 self-study courses, certificates and digital badges, and approximately 8 million views. Rules accreditation had been integrated into the Academy, allowing stakeholders to access rules education alongside technical and non-technical courses through a single free account. The Academy also included content covering all of the different disciplines.

WFDF was reactivating and expanding cooperation with external organizations. Examples included an activation with a United Nations-related organization supporting youth development and opportunities for collaboration with the International School Sport Federation (ISF) and International University Sports Federation (FISU) particularly to strengthen grassroots and youth participation.

Looking ahead, WFDF will focus on identifying emerging Member Federations with strong development potential and providing more targeted support while continuing to offer resources to all members. Development of structured coaching pathways across disciplines was highlighted as an important objective, with WFDF seeking to collaborate with Member Federations that already have established coaching systems rather than duplicate existing resources. Support could include online delivery, on-site facilitators, shared educational content or locally delivered programmes. WFDF also planned

to centralize resources for Member Federations through a new Member National Federation Hub, intended to combine elements of a CRM, community of practice, resource library and discussion platform. Further priorities included strengthening governance and compliance, including representation of all WFDF disciplines and safeguarding requirements.

Richardson concluded by emphasizing that WFDF is a membership-based organization and encouraged Member Federations to engage actively with the development team, seek support and facilitate connections with other federations where appropriate.

15. Athletes' Commission Report

Chair of Athletes' Commission Caroline Tasson presented the Report, noting that the Commission had spent the past four years rebuilding its activities following the disruption caused by COVID-19. Its principal role remains to represent athletes at Board level.

The Commission had expanded its representation beyond Ultimate, with a broader structure of elected and appointed athlete representatives and an adapted election process allowing elections to take place at different events. Elections for the new term were underway.

The Commission's priorities for the next two years are to onboard the new Commission members, improve visibility and voter participation in elections, strengthen its capacity to represent athletes, and develop its own projects. Key areas will include supporting the creation of athlete commissions within national and continental federations, increasing female participation, and addressing athlete safeguarding.

16. Spirit of the Game Commission Report

Chair of Spirit of the Game (SOTG) Commission Wolfgang Maehr presented the Spirit of the Game Commission Report. He noted that the Commission had rebuilt its membership and activity following a decline during the COVID-19 period. It now had 16 members, 11 of whom had joined during the previous year, and had returned to regular meetings with a more bottom-up, community-focused approach. The Commission was also seeking broader representation across disciplines and regions.
The SOTG Commission continued to support the Events Team in identifying and preparing Spirit Directors for WFDF events, with preparations underway for the remaining 2026 events and recruitment for 2027 beginning.

Spirit of the Game Day had been moved to 10 May to establish a consistent annual date and better align with sporting seasons. In 2026, the Commission organized three live webinars and a photo contest, with selected content being further distributed through WFDF channels. Planning for 2027 will focus on broader community involvement and use the day not only as an internal celebration but also as an opportunity for recruitment, awareness and visibility.

A major development was the launch of the Spirit of the Game Hub on the WFDF Academy, providing a central location for current Spirit of the Game resources. The Commission was also finalizing a broader definition of Spirit of the Game applicable across WFDF disciplines, rather than one primarily

derived from Ultimate, and intended to clarify its relationship with sportsmanship and fair play. Additional resources included general Spirit of the Game scoring guidance, updated Ultimate scoring examples and a mobile scoring guide. Further materials and workshops were planned for Disc Golf and for different stakeholder groups, including athletes, coaches, captains, Spirit Directors, spectators, parents and commentators, across Ultimate, Disc Golf, Guts, Freestyle and Dodge Disc.

17. Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commission Report

Nakasi presented the report on behalf of Esther Omuseni, Chair of Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Commission, who was unable to attend. The Commission had been renamed from the Women in Sport Commission to the Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Commission, followed by a reconstitution of its membership to include all genders and a restructuring into defined roles and smaller working groups.

Key activities included delivery of the TAFISA Positive and Safe Coaching Pathway, including trainer identification, a six-month development pathway, monitoring and evaluation, and integration of the programme. The Commission also developed an athlete safeguarding policy template for Member Federations and a practical inclusive-language guide to support respectful communication across WFDF activities and documentation.

The Commission collaborated with Continental Federations on International Women's Day activities and with the Spirit of the Game Commission on a joint statement for Spirit of the Game Day 2026. It also contributed to the review of WFDF's safeguarding policy and maintained regular monthly Commission meetings to monitor progress.

Looking ahead, the Commission plans to launch a diversity and inclusion leadership mapping project to establish a baseline of diversity in leadership positions across WFDF and its Member Federations. The findings will support evidence-based GEDI initiatives, leadership development and governance planning. Continued cooperation with the Athletes Commission, Spirit of the Game Commission, Continental Federations and other WFDF commissions was also planned.

18. Oceanic Continental Association Report - OFDF

Natalie Robinson, President of OFDF presented the report, noting that the region's large geographic area and relatively small number of Member Federations made regional coordination an ongoing challenge. As a newly established Continental Federation, much of the past year had focused on foundational work, including governance arrangements and the launch of an OFDF website with WFDF support.

OFDF had also worked with WFDF on opportunities connected with the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Although there were no guarantees regarding Flying Disc's future participation, Robinson emphasized that hosting the Games in the region provided an important long-term focal point.

She highlighted increased athlete and team movement between Australia and New Zealand as one of the most positive developments of the past year, with teams participating in competitions across both countries. OFDF's priority going forward is to strengthen this regional community through greater communication, participation, competition pathways, high-performance development and sharing of knowledge and resources.

Robinson emphasized that OFDF did not want to create administration for its own sake, but rather identify areas where cooperation could provide greater value than separate national approaches.

Rauch suggested that OFDF also consider mapping potential expansion opportunities in the region, including countries such as Fiji, for possible discussion at a future Board meeting.

19. Asian Continental Association Report - AFDF

Jose "Ping" Bautista, President of the Asian Flying Disc Federation (AFDF), reported on the Federation's continued work to develop Flying Disc sports across Asia, with a focus on grassroots participation, governance and regional cooperation.

Key developments included progress towards AFDF's legal incorporation in Hong Kong, expansion of Dodge Disc, the introduction of Flying Disc as an official demonstration sport at the 33rd Southeast Asian Games, and the successful 2025 Asia-Oceania Ultimate Championships in Kamisu, Japan, which brought together more than 1,200 participants from 14 nations. Pakistan and Uzbekistan were welcomed as new members, alongside continued equipment and development support for national federations.

Upcoming activities include the AFDF Disc Golf Championships and AFDF Annual Congress in Suzhou, China, the Bangkok Dual – Continental Dodge Disc and Guts Championships, and the 2027 Juniors & Masters Ultimate Championships.

In response to a question from Deepak Nayak, representing India, the discussion addressed the further strengthening of AFDF, including the gradual delegation of activities and event management to the continental association, as well as development opportunities in South and Southeast Asia. It was noted that this would require a step-by-step approach, including further strengthening AFDF's legal and governance structures. Following a question from Ahmad Ibrahim Musabih from the United Arab Emirates, the discussion also highlighted opportunities to strengthen AFDF engagement in the Gulf region and to explore greater regional cooperation and development of flying disc sports in the Gulf states.

20. European Continental Association Report - EFDF

Haude Hermand, President of the European Flying Disc Federation (EFDF), reported that EFDF now has 36 members, following the addition of Greece and Serbia. The EFDF Board was re-elected at the January 2026 Congress. She also reported that the EFDF/IFDA case had been concluded and that the three-year INTERACT+ project had been completed, with EFDF continuing its focus on Sport for All activities.

Regarding Ultimate, the report highlighted the European Ultimate Federation's program of national-team, youth, Masters, Indoor and club competitions, including the European Youth Ultimate Championships, European Masters Ultimate Championships, European Ultimate Club Series and European Ultimate Indoor Championships.

For Beach Ultimate, EFDF and BULA jointly organized the 2025 European Beach Ultimate Club Championships in Gdańsk, Poland, with 52 teams and 727 players. For Disc Golf, the European Disc Golf Federation organized the 2025 European Disc Golf Championships in Norway, with 180 players, and the European Masters Disc Golf Championships in Germany, with 160 players. EDGF also prepared its future event programme through 2029 and supported WFDF's efforts concerning Disc Golf at the 2029 World Games in Karlsruhe.

Looking ahead, the 2026 programme includes the European Ultimate Indoor Championship, European Ultimate Club Series events, the European Masters Ultimate Club Championships, European Youth Ultimate Championships, European Disc Golf and Ultimate events, and the European Beach Ultimate Club Championship. Hermand also noted preparations for the 2027 continental championship year, including the European Ultimate Championships in Vichy, France, and European Disc Golf Championships in Tampere, Finland.

21. African Continental Association Report - AAFDF

Ronny Ochoro, President of the All Africa Flying Disc Federation (AAFDF), reported on the continued development of Flying Disc sports across the continent. He highlighted the 2025 All Africa Ultimate Championship in Kampala, Uganda, which brought together 240 athletes from 13 teams and represented the largest participation in the event's history, as well as continued Beach Ultimate, youth and grassroots development activities across the continent.

Ochoro also highlighted the expansion of Disc Golf in Africa, including cooperation with the PDGA and Paul McBeth Foundation, development of new courses and grassroots opportunities, and support secured for university-based Disc Golf development. He referred to preparations for further continental Disc Golf activity, including the planned PDGA African Disc Golf Championship in Johannesburg in November 2026.

On governance and institutional development, Ochoro emphasized the importance of strengthening national federation structures and improving recognition by governments and National Olympic Committees (NOCs). While welcoming WFDF's relationship with ANOCA, he noted that continental-level agreements did not always translate automatically into recognition or support at national level and encouraged stronger coordination to assist African Member Federations in meeting national governance and recognition requirements.

Looking ahead, Ochoro highlighted plans to strengthen AAFDF's governance and organizational capacity, expand strategic and commercial partnerships, and mobilize additional resources for developing federations.

Ochoro further expressed AAFDF's ambition to expand the range of major competitions hosted in Africa, including national-team and Beach Ultimate competition, and stated that the continent should increasingly be considered as a potential host for future WFDF world-level events.

Following the report, President Rauch encouraged AAFDF to coordinate with Tomasini and Richardson to identify African Member Federations with strong potential to obtain recognition from their National Olympic Committees or national sports authorities, allowing WFDF support to be targeted toward federations with appropriate governance structures and realistic recognition opportunities.

22. Americas Continental Association Report - PAFDF

Chasen Brokaw, President of the Pan American Flying Disc Federation (PAFDF), reported on the continued formalization and development of the organization. PAFDF adopted its first official bylaws in early 2026 and was incorporated as a legal entity in Colorado, USA, in April 2026.

PAFDF successfully hosted the Central American and Caribbean Ultimate Championships in San José, Costa Rica, with 8 teams and 160 players from 5 countries, and provided two disc grants to youth programs in Costa Rica. The Pan American Junior Committee was also updated.

Looking ahead, PAFDF plans to pursue 501(c)(3) status in the United States, support the 2027 Pan American Youth Ultimate Championships in Bogotá and PAUCC 2027 in San José, and increase development activities in Disc Golf, Guts, Overall, Freestyle and Dodge Disc.

23. Broadcasting Report

Tim Rockwood, Managing Director Broadcasting, reported that WFDF's broadcasting operation had moved to a sustainable financial model under the "players play and viewers pay" approach. The 2025 World Championship broadcasts generated a first-ever net profit of USD 26,929, while free daily coverage continued to be provided through YouTube. WFDF retained copyright and editorial control of its broadcast content.

The broadcasting programme is expected to generate a further 15% increase in net revenue in 2026. WFDF is also exploring expanded multilingual coverage and has entered into an agreement for production of the 2026 World Team Disc Golf Championships with Finnish production company Pulsea, together with financial support from PDGA.

Rockwood announced that he would step down as Managing Director Broadcasting following the 2026 season, while remaining available to support WFDF with broader media initiatives. The Congress thanked him for his long-standing contribution to WFDF broadcasting.

24. Special Presentation – Building an Audience and Developing Commercial Value

Jonathan Rigby, Secretary General, gave a presentation on how WFDF and the wider Flying Disc community could build a larger audience and increase the commercial value of the sport. He emphasized that growing the audience and fan base is important both for future participation and for developing sustainable commercial opportunities. A stronger audience can increase the value of

events, attract commercial partners, diversify WFDF's income and reduce reliance on athlete participation fees.

The presentation identified several factors that sponsors typically seek, including a clearly defined and measurable audience, opportunities to access and engage with that audience, compelling athlete and sport stories, a clear and consistent event structure, and demonstrable impact and value for the sponsor.

Rigby highlighted the strategic question of how WFDF can evolve from primarily participation-led events toward events that can also attract and engage spectators and fans, while maintaining the core participation model. He discussed the importance of creating compelling stories around athletes, teams, rankings and competition, as well as developing a more coherent season and event structure.

The presentation also highlighted opportunities to strengthen event presentation, broadcast reach and short-form digital content, including highlights, athlete stories and behind-the-scenes material. The potential for festival-style events combining competition, entertainment, community and accessibility was also discussed.

Rigby noted that WFDF's existing strengths, including its global reach, youthful audience, accessibility, community values, Spirit of the Game and mixed-gender format, provide a strong foundation for audience and commercial growth. He also emphasized the potential to develop impact programs around participation, schools, gender equality and inclusion as additional opportunities for commercial partnerships.

Further discussion considered how WFDF could increase the visibility of athletes and the sport while preserving its identity and values. Participants highlighted the potential of athlete personal brands, brand ambassadors, iconic event locations and greater flexibility in sponsorship packages. The possibility of developing a more regular international event series or world tour, including events in different countries and iconic locations, was raised as a way to provide athletes and teams with greater exposure throughout the year. It was noted that such a model would require significant additional funding and would need to take into account athletes' existing commitments and work obligations. The discussion also reflected on historical examples of large audiences and commercial investment in flying disc sports, including the significant promotional investment made by Wham-O in the 1970s. Participants noted that past success could provide useful lessons while recognizing that the current media and commercial environment is substantially different.

There was broad support for preserving Spirit of the Game and the ownership and participation culture of the sport as WFDF explores commercial and audience growth. It was emphasized that commercial development should not come at the expense of the sport's core identity.

Rigby and Rauch concluded that audience and event development should be viewed as a long-term evolutionary process, rather than a complete restructuring of the sport.

25. Adjournment of the morning session - Part 1

The morning session was adjourned for lunch. The Congress was scheduled to reconvene at 2:00 pm IST.

2026 WFDF Annual Congress - Part 2

26. Call to order

President Rauch continued the meeting at 2:04 pm IST and welcomed all attendees, both in person and online. Rauch emphasized the planned schedule, starting with the roll call, the voting session, Disc Disciplines reports, followed by a panel discussion on Development and maintenance of youth programs.

27. Voting Protocol

Secretary Nakasi introduced the electronic voting procedure to be used during the Congress. Voting would be conducted using QR codes and electronic links, with voting rights determined according to each member federation's status and applicable voting rights. Results would be announced following each vote. A test vote was conducted to allow members to familiarize themselves with the voting system. Members were reminded that only one representative per country could be designated as the formal voter, even if multiple delegates were present online or in person. Only member associations in good standing were eligible to vote.

28. Roll call of National Associations present and confirmation of votes allotted

See Annex 1 – list of participants.
A roll call of registered participants was conducted, with members attending in person confirming their presence and online participants confirming their attendance through the chat.

29. Financial Reports and Approvals

a) Presentation of year end 2025
Kate Bergeron, WFDF Treasurer, presented the 2025 financial results, noting that 2025 was a transition year for WFDF, including planned increases in staffing and related expenditure. Total expenditure increased from approximately USD 755,000 in 2024 to USD 962,000 in 2025. Although a deficit of more than USD 360,000 had originally been anticipated, higher-than-budgeted revenues reduced the actual deficit to approximately USD 60,000. Higher travel expenses were noted, primarily due to WFDF's involvement in the 2025 World Games in China, where support was provided for both Ultimate and Disc Golf. WFDF's total net assets at the end of 2025 were approximately USD 757,000.

WFDF's approach of receiving event funds in advance and working closely with local organizing committees was noted as having strengthened financial oversight and event management.

b) Vote: Approval of 2025 Audited Financial Statements

Bergeron presented the independent Auditor's written report, prepared by McMillen & Company based in Colorado Springs in accordance with US GAAP for not-for-profit organizations.

Congress voted on the question: "Do you approve the 2025 Audited Financial Statements?"

Votes in favor	Against	Abstain	Majority needed
99	0	1	51

The 2025 Audited Financial Statements were approved..

c) 2026 Update: Dues Collection
Bergeron reminded members to review the information regarding the 2026 Dues Collection available in the Briefing Book. The Congress was informed that dues collection was progressing well, with member federations generally paying dues during the first half of the year. The importance of timely payment and completion of the annual membership surveys was noted.

d) Interim June YTD 2026 Report
Bergeron presented the mid-year 2026 financial update, reporting that revenues and expenditures were generally tracking in line with expectations. Event sanctioning fees represented a significant source of 2026 revenue, while expenditure remained within the expected range. Based on the mid-year position, WFDF was expected to finish 2026 with a positive result.

e) Vote: Approval of 2027 Budget
WFDF Treasurer presented WFDF's five-year financial projections through 2031, explaining that the budgeting approach takes into account WFDF's event cycle, with larger events generally taking place in even years and smaller or regional activities in odd years.

The projections are based on expected event income, membership dues, broadcast income, grants, sanctioning fees, event management income and interest income. It was noted that sponsorship from non-endemic brands would be important to support WFDF's longer-term development plans.

On the expenditure side, staffing and programme/event costs remain the principal areas of expenditure, with additional allocations for marketing, travel and professional services.

For 2027, WFDF is currently projecting a deficit of approximately USD 300,000. The Congress was informed that this deficit is expected to be covered by existing reserves, while WFDF will continue to seek additional sponsorship and other revenue opportunities and monitor expenses closely.

Congress voted on the question: "Do you approve the 2027 Budget?"

Votes in favor	Against	Abstain	Majority needed
98	6	5	50

The 2027 Budget was approved.

f) Vote: Approval of 2026 Auditor

Bergeron presented a proposal to appoint BiggsKofford as WFDF's auditor for the 2026 financial year, replacing McMillan & Company. While the existing auditor has done a good job, the board felt the organisation needed to move to a larger firm that could handle the increased demands of WFDF. The proposed firm had been recommended through USA Ultimate and had received favorable references from other nonprofit organizations.

Congress voted on the question: "Do you approve the 2026 Auditor?"

Votes in favor	Against	Abstain	Majority needed
101	0	1	52

The appointment of BiggsKofford as WFDF's 2026 Auditor was approved.

30. Annual Risk Assessment

Rauch presented WFDF's Annual Risk Assessment, which is used to identify and monitor key operational, financial and strategic risks.

The risk areas identified were:

1. Sustaining or improving the quality and consistency in the delivery of all our events;
2. Ensuring safety and safety for participants, coaches, officials, spectators and volunteers;
3. WFDF's ability to recruit/attract sufficient volunteers;
4. Maintaining and increasing membership and participation;
5. Sustaining and improving financial viability;
6. Protecting or improving public image and reputation with stakeholders, regulators, potential sponsors, and media;
7. Maintaining Spirit of the Game (SOTG) as an essential component of flying disc sports;
8. Applying good corporate governance principles including compliance with regulatory and integrity requirements;
9. Managing geopolitical, travel and international participation risks;
10. Maintaining and growing digital, media and commercial relevance.

The Congress discussed risks associated with geopolitical developments, international travel and visa requirements, participant safety, and extreme weather. The importance of proactive risk management and regular review was emphasized.

Thomas Burvall, representing Sweden, asked about the most significant risks identified and the strategies in place to address them. The President identified athlete safety and international travel and participation, including visa requirements, as key current risks.

Simon Hill, representing Great Britain, highlighted the risks to WFDF and local organizing committee staff arising from geopolitical demonstrations, and noted that extreme weather should also be considered an increasing risk to large-scale events.

Erik van der Spek, representing the Netherlands, asked whether WFDF could facilitate constructive dialogue within the community regarding geopolitical tensions. The President acknowledged the difficulty of creating an appropriate forum and emphasized the need for any such dialogue to be constructive.

Ahmad Ibrahim Musabih, representing the United Arab Emirates, asked how WFDF's approach applies to athletes from different nationalities participating in clubs and local communities, including athletes from Israel, Palestine and Russia. The President clarified that no athletes were currently banned by WFDF and noted that different processes may apply depending on the organization or competition. A further question was raised regarding a dedicated committee for such matters. The President noted that WFDF has an Ethics Commission and Conduct Committees, while geopolitical participation issues are currently addressed at Board level.

The discussion emphasized the need to balance safety, non-discrimination and freedom of expression while maintaining an inclusive sporting environment.

Congress voted on the question: "Do you approve the Annual Risk Assessment?"

Votes in favor	Against	Abstain	Majority needed
93	0	0	48

The Annual Risk Assessment was approved.

31. Bylaws Revision

The President presented proposed revisions to the WFDF Bylaws. The amendments were described as largely technical and intended to align the Bylaws with current organizational practice and terminology.

Key proposed changes included:

- Revisions to the look and feel to reflect the updated branding;
- Various revisions to ensure consistency and clarity;
- Revision to approval of events and calendar to the Board of Directors to reflect practice;
- Revision to Member National Federation requirements, including Provisional to reflect best practices;
- Clarification on terminology with Disc Disciplines, Games and Sports to reflect intention throughout;
- Clarification on role of Medical and Anti-Doping Commission to reflect intention;
- Addition of Director of Events to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors;

- Adjustment of Vice-President role to a two (2) year term;
- Added Committee and Commission requirement related to Terms of Reference;
- Adjustment of the definition of sustainability to reflect the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Thomas Burvall, representing Sweden, asked about the transition requirement for member federations to represent all Disc Sports. It was clarified that the provision referenced in the Bylaws' version history was not part of the amendments proposed for adoption at the Congress, but reflected an earlier amendment and the subsequent transition period. The current provisions will apply to existing members through December 2026, with action plans required by June 2027 and completion of the transition by December 2027.

Deepak Nayak, representing India, asked about the proposed inclusion of the Managing Director of Events & Operations on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. It was explained that the amendment formalizes existing practice and reflects the strategic importance of event delivery to WFDF. The position would be non-voting.

Congress voted on the question: "Do you approve the Bylaw Revisions?"

Votes in favor	Against	Abstain	Majority needed
97	4	1	65

The proposed Bylaws revisions were approved.

32. Ultimate Committee Report

Brian Giesel, Chair of the Ultimate Committee, presented an update on Ultimate activities and planned developments. The Committee plans to reorganize the Ultimate Committee structure to provide clearer representation and responsibility across Ultimate disciplines. The proposed structure would retain an elected Ultimate Chair and Vice Chair, supported by discipline-specific subcommittees for Beach Ultimate, Grass Ultimate, Indoor Ultimate, Wheelchair Ultimate and Game Advisors. The Events Subcommittee would be discontinued, with responsibility for reviewing event bids transferred to the relevant discipline subcommittees.

The Committee also plans to establish more regular meeting structures, review and update the club team definition and roster approval process, and revise the WFDF Conduct Policy to provide clearer definitions and a more streamlined process for handling conduct matters.

The Congress was informed that the hybrid national/club continental event format introduced following COVID-19 would be discontinued. From 2027, the Asian Oceanic and Pan American Continental Championships will return to club-team formats, while the All-Africa and European structures will follow their existing formats. The Committee is also reviewing the structure of Masters-level events, with consideration being given to separating Masters from Grandmasters and older divisions following the large size of the WFDF 2026 World Masters Club Championships.

Other updates included continued review of forfeiture rules, development of a more standardized approach to event scheduling, and a pilot WFDF recognition system for major non-WFDF events.

Marco Tomasini, representing Italy, raised a question regarding consistency of rules and ranking points between WFDF and continental events, particularly in relation to transgender participation rules. It was noted by Felix Nemec, representing Austria, that Italy had previously raised this issue at the EUF Congress, proposing that the same transgender participation rules be applied at the European level as under WFDF. The proposal was rejected by the EUF membership, and it was clarified that EUF currently has its own rules in this area. Giesel noted that WFDF-run events follow WFDF rules and that, if the WFDF club-team rules are changed, the revised rules would apply consistently across WFDF events.

Chasen Brokaw, President of PAFDF, asked whether WFDF would consider raising the minimum age for participation in adult competitions, noting the importance of safeguarding and youth development. Giesel clarified that the current minimum age is 14, with National Federation, guardian and coach approval required for 14- and 15-year-old players, the general non-approval age limit is 16. He noted that WFDF reviews its event rules and appendices annually and would consider further changes to the age requirements as Junior Ultimate continues to develop.

The Committee indicated that these matters would continue to be reviewed as part of the annual review of WFDF event rules and appendices.

33. Disc Golf Committee Report

Craig Sheather presented an update on Disc Golf activities and the developing relationship between WFDF and the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). A key focus during the past year has been strengthening cooperation between WFDF and PDGA following Disc Golf's return to the World Games in Chengdu. The organizations have been working toward a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering areas including anti-doping, safeguarding, transgender participation, international sport structures, funding and government recognition. It was noted that the process has involved addressing differences in national and regional systems and building a common understanding before finalizing the new partnership framework.

The upcoming WFDF World Team Disc Golf Championships in Vilnius, Lithuania was highlighted as a major development, with approximately 750 participants expected and enhanced broadcast coverage planned through a partnership between WFDF and PDGA.

Looking ahead, WFDF and PDGA intend to support national associations and PDGA affiliates in countries where alignment between the relevant organizations is still required. Toolkits and other resources are expected to be developed to assist these organizations in reaching agreement. The objective is to have greater alignment in place by 2028.

Rauch thanked Sheather for his work in strengthening cooperation between WFDF and PDGA and noted the expectation that Disc Golf will again be included in the 2029 World Games, although no official confirmation had yet been announced.

34. Freestyle Committee Report

Mafer Bonilla, Chair of the Freestyle Committee, reported on the collaboration between WFDF and the Freestyle Players Association (FPA), including WFDF support for the World Freestyle Championship in Germany. The event attracted approximately 107 players from 15 countries and included participation from Israel, Switzerland, Sweden and Colombia.

Bonilla reported continued development of Freestyle in Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, including workshops and new player development. The FPA has also initiated a three-month marketing coordinator pilot to increase the visibility of Freestyle internationally. Bonilla highlighted ongoing efforts to integrate Freestyle into larger Ultimate events through workshops and to develop educational materials that could be shared through WFDF's educational platform. The FPA also noted plans for the 2027 World Freestyle Championship in Colombia, scheduled for late July, as well as the 50th Virginia States event in the United States and the Freestyle Hall of Fame in Jacksonville Beach.

Bonilla asked about continued WFDF support for the 2027 World Freestyle Championship and the future of the WFDF–FPA collaboration. The FPA also reported that WFDF-provided discs had been used for workshops and to support new players, alongside additional discs provided by the FPA.

35. Guts Committee Report

Steve Taylor, Chair of the Guts Committee, reported on the development and visibility of Guts, emphasizing the importance of increasing awareness of the discipline rather than requiring national federations to immediately establish Guts programs.

He highlighted the success of Guts development in Asia through the biennial Ultimate and Guts tournament and noted plans to work with Dodge Disc on an event in January. He proposed that WFDF and its discipline committees provide simple opportunities on WFDF websites and platforms for people interested in Guts and other disciplines to connect directly with the relevant discipline representatives.

The Committee noted the potential for further development of Guts in Europe, South America and Asia, with the objective of increasing the number of active countries over the coming years. Taylor emphasized that Guts remains a player-driven discipline and that greater visibility from WFDF would help interested players and communities develop the sport.

36. Overall and Sport for All Committee Report

Rob MacLeod, Chair of the Overall Committee, presented the report. He noted that the World Overall Championship will be held in Japan in 2027 and emphasized the importance of increasing the visibility of Overall through both content and opportunities for participation.

For Overall, the Committee highlighted the need for smaller-scale events and opportunities at regional, national and local levels. It was noted that Overall comprises seven disciplines, including Disc golf and Freestyle, and that greater exposure could help players discover disciplines beyond their primary sport. McLeod also highlighted the potential crossover benefits for Ultimate players, such as developing throwing and pulling skills through other disciplines. The Committee is working with WFDF's educational platform to provide additional content and resources.

McLeod reported on the Sport for All Commission work to promote recreational participation across the broader range of flying disc activities. Dodge Disc and Discflect were highlighted as activities being incorporated into the Commission's work. The Commission is also reviewing and categorizing more than 100 disc games to help people find accessible activities for different settings and levels of participation.

The importance of access to quality discs was discussed. It was noted that poor-quality promotional discs can negatively affect a participant's first experience with flying disc sports. The discussion also highlighted the challenges of sourcing, distributing and shipping quality discs internationally.

Rigby supported the need to focus not only on increasing the number of discs distributed, but also on ensuring that participants, particularly children, have a positive first experience with a suitable disc.

The discussion also considered opportunities to showcase smaller disciplines through larger WFDF events and potential festival concepts. Rigby suggested that disciplines such as Freestyle and Overall could also be promoted through demonstrations, social-media content, skills and challenges, and world-record activities, rather than relying exclusively on traditional competition formats.

McLeod noted that work on world records is ongoing, with increasing interest from young participants in attempting and improving records. Greater visibility of world records and personal-best challenges was identified as another potential way to engage new participants.

Gerd Biesterfeld from Sweden also highlighted the World Frisbee Arena in Båstad, Sweden, where facilities for multiple flying disc activities, including Disc Golf, Ultimate and Guts—are available within one venue, as an example of an integrated environment for practicing different disciplines.

37. Keynote and Panel Discussion - Development and maintenance of youth programs

The panel discussion started with a keynote presentation by Kevin Erlenbach, who outlined USA Ultimate's approach toward youth development, emphasizing long-term athlete development, quality coaching, age-appropriate training, physical literacy, and opportunities for children of different ages and abilities. He stressed that the objective should be to develop children as athletes and maintain their enjoyment and engagement in sport, rather than focusing solely on developing Ultimate players. He also highlighted the importance of coaching quality, noting that a positive and enjoyable experience is a key factor in retaining young participants.

Particular attention was given to participation trends at the middle-school level in the United States. Erlenbach explained that USA Ultimate is focusing significant development efforts on this age group,

including school-based initiatives, partnerships with organizations. He reported that approximately 30,000 children had their first opportunity to play Ultimate through Boys & Girls Clubs during the previous year. USA Ultimate is also working to strengthen its network of affiliated local programs and provide clubs and local leaders with resources, coaching materials and development tools. Digital marketing and parent/participant education are being used to increase awareness of Ultimate and the pathways available to young players.

Erlenbach further emphasized that youth development requires both access and retention. Quality coaching, enjoyable experiences and appropriate opportunities for different levels of ability were identified as important factors in keeping children involved. He also noted the importance of introducing children to flying disc sports before they reach the age when other major sports compete more strongly for their participation, including in particular the transition to high school sports for girls.

The panel discussion included Caroline Tisson, Chair of the WFDF Athletes Commission, Calvin K. Cheng, President of the Hong Kong Flying Disc Federation, Michael Zellinger, representing Austria; and Kevin Erlenbach of USA Ultimate, moderated by Nob Rauch. The discussion considered practical approaches to youth development in different national and local environments.

Tisson described youth development in Germany as largely decentralized, with programs often depending on highly committed individuals within local clubs. She identified access to schools, volunteer capacity and the ability to provide consistent training as significant challenges. She also shared examples from the recent European youth development conference, including programs relying on paid staff working with schools and volunteer-led initiatives. The Disc Kids project was mentioned as an example of an initiative aimed at introducing Disc Golf to children. Tisson emphasized that local momentum and opportunities for children to participate regularly can be important in identifying and retaining young players.

Cheng described Hong Kong's government-supported approach. The introduction of Dodge Disc into schools has provided opportunities for several thousand students to experience flying disc sports. He noted that school and government recognition can be particularly important in gaining parents' confidence and presenting flying disc sports as a legitimate sporting pathway. Hong Kong is also seeking further integration into the school credit system and using government platforms and community events to increase awareness among parents.

Zellinger described Austria's government-funded program, through which coaches introduce Ultimate and Disc Golf in schools and kindergartens. The current program provides approximately €80,000 per year and is planned to reach approximately 24,000 child-participations annually based on the number of school hours. Zellinger noted that previous iterations of the program had contributed to the development of national-team players and had also resulted in new clubs being established. He emphasized that school exposure needs to be complemented by opportunities for children to continue training through local clubs.

The panel also discussed safeguarding and coach development. In response to the discussion on working with younger children and third-party providers, Erlenbach explained that USA Ultimate uses coaching education, background screening and SafeSport requirements. He described the

Community Coach program as a way of making basic coaching resources available to volunteers while ensuring that appropriate safeguarding and coaching principles are followed. For younger children, he emphasized the importance of developing physical literacy and familiarity with throwing and catching a disc, rather than immediately introducing complex competitive Ultimate, thereby creating pathways into Ultimate, Disc Golf, Guts and other flying disc activities as children become older.

Daniel Rushton, representing South Africa, asked how federations approach teachers and coaches who may not already be familiar with flying disc sports, how parents are engaged and how relationships with governments are established to obtain funding. Cheng explained that Hong Kong initially seeks teachers and coaches with a general understanding of sports and then provides them with basic flying disc education and pathways into coaching courses. Parents are reached through community events and government-supported platforms. Erlenbach described USA Ultimate's approach as involving multiple pilot projects and partnerships, including working with teachers, local clubs and school districts. He also emphasized the importance of demonstrating the quality and value of the sport to parents and administrators. Zellinger highlighted Austria's system of continuing education for physical education teachers, through which teachers can be introduced to Ultimate and subsequently recommend it to colleagues. He also noted that demonstrating participation numbers and combining flying disc disciplines had helped support recognition and government funding.

In the concluding round,Rauch asked each panelist to identify three priorities for youth development. Cheng highlighted early exposure, clear pathways from introductory activities into organized flying disc sports, and maintaining both competitive and social/recreational pathways. Erlenbach identified exposure, diversity, equity and inclusion as a development strategy for reaching underserved groups, and the use of data to measure participation and retention. Zellinger emphasized broad exposure through schools, parks, events and other channels, communicating the distinctive values of flying disc sports, including self-officiation and Spirit of the Game, and adapting programs to local circumstances rather than applying a single model.

The panel concluded that early and repeated exposure, accessible local opportunities, quality coaching, appropriate safeguarding, and clear pathways for both competitive and recreational participation are central to sustainable youth development. The discussion also emphasized that youth programs need to be adapted to national and local circumstances and require cooperation between national federations, local clubs, schools, governments, coaches and parents.

38. Any Other Business

Richardson provided information on upcoming opportunities for member participation, including Athletes Commission elections, elections for Ultimate Subcommittees and the All African Flying Disc Federation, and opportunities to join WFDF Committees and Commissions. Members were encouraged to participate and contribute to the work of WFDF. It was also announced that the 2027 WFDF Congress is expected to be held in Kamisu, Japan on June 18-19 2027, alongside the 2027 World Under 24 Ultimate Championships.

A request was made for a list of Congress participants and their contact details. It was clarified that participant names would be included in the Congress minutes, while individual email addresses would not be circulated generally due to GDPR privacy considerations.

39. Adjournment of Congress

President Rauch thanked all participants attending in person and online for their participation and contributions. He encouraged members to share the information and ideas discussed during the Congress within their respective national federations. He declared the end of the Congress meeting at 17:40 IST and invited in-person participants for the Congress Reception with light snacks and refreshments.

40. End of Meeting

ANNEX

Annex 1: Members represented at WFDF Congress 2026

Country	Member Association	Delegate(s)	Votes		
			Not in good standing	Provisional	In good standing
AFG - Afghanistan	AFF	Abdul Shaiq Ahmadi, Abdul Rasheed Ghaznawi			2
AUS - Australia	AFDA	Nicole Footer, Adam Cheyne			6
AUT - Austria	ÖFSV	Felix Nemec, Michael Zellinger			4
BOL - Bolivia	ABDV	Jose Vargas	0		
BUR - Burkina Faso	BFDA	Tapsoba Stephane		0	
CAN - Canada	UC	Louis-Pierre Lauzon			6
CHI - Chile	FCDV	Sebastián Rencoret			1
CHN - People's Republic of China	CFDAC	Zhixing Xue, Ziyan Liu			4
COL - Colombia	FCDV	Miguel Rubio, Sara Carre			4
CRO - Croatia	HFDS	Dinko Simenc			1
CZE - Czechia	CALD	Michaela Cakrtova, Marie Adamusová, Martin Havel			5
EGY - Egypt	EUPA	Ahmed Samir			1
ESP - Spain	FEDV	Nicolas Chauveau			4

ETH - Ethiopia	EFDA	Haftamu Amare Nigussie, Meresa Zewdu Bihon		0	
FIN - Finland	FFDA	Ulla Kiili			3
FRA - France	FFFD	Florine Louis, Bastien Tramoni			6
GBR - Great Britain	UKU	Si Hill			6
GER - Germany	DFV	Stefan Neubauer, Jörg Benner			6
GHA - Ghana	GFDF	Desmond Kwame Mantey, Kenneth Nii Odartey Bruce	0		
GRE - Greece	HSFA	Theodoros Tsaganos, Niki Machaira			1
HKG - Hong Kong, China	HKFDF	Calvin K. Cheng			2
INA - Indonesia	IUPA	Randi Tulus, Vincent Tandiono			1
IND - India	FDSFI	Alex Sebastian, Sangeetha Manoharan, Deepak Nayak			4
IRI - Islamic Republic of Iran	FDAIRI	Mohamad Hasan Zebarjad, Ebrahim Dortaj	0		
IRL - Ireland	IFDA	Ian French, Tara Kelly			3
ISR - Israel	IFDA	Ayelet Ben Zion			2
ISV - Virgin Islands, United States	USVIUF	Mary Vargo			1

ITA - Italy	FIGeST	Marco Tomasini			5
JPN - Japan	JFDA	Yuta Saito			6
KEN - Kenya	KFDF	Patrick Siminyu Juma, Kisienya Cyprian			1
KOR - Republic of Korea	KUPA	Gangil Seo			2
KSA - Saudi Arabia	SFDC	Saleh Alsuwailem	0		
LBN - Lebanon	LFDA	Rayan Saade, Nourr Nasr			1
MDV - Maldives	MFDF	Aishath Uraiba Asif, Ahmed Naaif Mohamed		0	
MEX - Mexico	FMDV	Alvaro Roberto Díaz Mena, José de Jesús Rolando García Rodríguez			3
MGL - Mongolia	MFDF	Chintushig Tumenbayar, Munkhdemberel Ts		0	
MKD - North Macedonia	MFDSF	Andrijana Kolevska, Borjan Gerasimovski		0	
MLT - Malta	MFDA	Marco Tomasini	0		
MON - Monaco	FMSU	Marco Tomasini	0		
NAM - Namibia	NFDF	Oskar Heita, Danelle de Klerk	0		
NCA - Nicaragua	NFDF	Exequiel Rocha			1
NED - Netherlands	NFB	Erik van der Spek			5
NEP - Nepal	NFDF	Santosh Khadka,		0	

		Binaya Shrestha			
NOR - Norway	NAIF	Erik Hammer Staalesen			5
PAK - Pakistan	PFDF	Fraz Amjad Bukhari, Saima Ibrar		0	
PHI - Philippines	FDCP	Princess Trinidad	0		
PLE - Palestine	PFDF	A Ben			1
ROU - Romania	RFDF	Liviu Coicea, Vadim Postu			1
RSA - South Africa	SAFDA	Daniel Rushton, Michaela Scholtz, Charlotte Jordaan			3
RWA - Rwanda	RFDF	Godfrey Uwiringiyimana			1
SEN - Senegal	SFDA	Nizar Aassoul		0	
SGP - Singapore	SFDA	Sam Ee			4
SUI - Switzerland	SDS	David Moser			4
SVK - Slovakia	SAF	Richard Kollar			2
SWE - Sweden	SFF	Gerd Biestefeld, Tomas Burvall			3
TAN - United Republic of Tanzania	TFDF	Suleiman Hatim	0		
TUR - Türkiye	ORD	Selin Uzun, Burcu Durmuş			1
UAE - United Arab Emirates	UAESAF	Ahmad Ibrahim Musabih			1
UGA - Uganda	UFDA	Brian Kaswa, Ali Nasser			1

		Ssenfuma			
USA - United States of America	USAU	Kevin Erlenbach			6
UZB - Uzbekistan	UFDC	Bekzod Kenjaev, Odiljon Mirzakhamda-mov		0	
VEN - Venezuela	AVU	Ana Rico Perez, José Alejandro Cruces			2
ZIM - Zimbabwe	ZFDA	Langa Nindie		0	
FPA - Freestyle Players Association	FPA	Mafer Bonilla			1
USGPA - United States Guts Players Association	USGPA	Steve Taylor	0		
MFDC - Mediterranean Flying Disc Confederation	MFDC (Associate Member, not voting)	Marco Tomasini			

45 members in good standing were present accounting for 133 total votes, out of a possible 76 members in good standing with an effective total of 186 votes.