Proposal WFDF 2010.16: Separate U19s from World Ultimate Championships submitted by Jonathan Potts

A. Background:

U19s have been a part of the World Ultimate Championships since the first World Championships in 1983. In 1999 Congress decided to move from a 2 year cycle of World Championships to a 4 year cycle, which necessitated the creation of a separate U19 event, the World Junior Ultimate Championships, in 2002, 2006 and 2010, so that U19s could continue to be held every 2 years and provide regular opportunities for juniors to participate.

Initially, those separate junior championships struggled slightly to gain the same participation as the divisions attached to WUC, however the imminent success of WJUC2010 indicates that the divisions can flourish as a separate event.

	Host	U19 Men	U19 Women
WUGC2000	Heilbronn, Germany	8	4
WJUC2002	Riga, Latvia	7	5
WUGC2004	Turku, Finland	11	7
WJUC2006	Boston, USA	8	4
WUGC2008	Vancouver, Canada	8	7
WJUC2010	Heilbronn, Germany	20	12

It can be seen that participation has not been particularly harmed by holding separate juniors events, and has possibly been more dependent on where the event is held, unsurprisingly.

WUC is outgrowing most possible venues. In 2012, it is very likely that division sizes will be limited, and teams turned away. Moving U19s out of WUC will allow larger divisions in the remainder of the event, thereby allowing more countries, especially our developing countries, to participate.

It will also allow the U19 divisions to grow, unhindered by any constraints on overall tournament size.

But probably the main reason to separate juniors from adults is risk management.

A separate motion proposes the banning of alcohol from U19 events. That can't happen if U19s are a part of WUC.

As well, at WUC there are a large number of adults from very different cultural backgrounds, who may be tempted to lead U19 athletes astray, most likely as a bit of "fun", but not really thinking through the consequences, or possibly something more malicious. WUC is not a well-controlled environment, and it would take a lot of effort to make that environment suitable for children.

It could be possible to hold WJUC in a location close to WUGC immediately before or after WUC, or even by hold WJUC at the same venue as WUGC but the week before or after. Having it at exactly the same venue will have some problems with crossover of accommodation requirements and the extra burden on the organisers of holding the two events back-to-back. It will be up to the hosting process to weight up the pros and cons of any synergies.

The attached Events Cycle Discussion Paper also includes a calendar, which shows how the events would play out.

B. Proposal Wording:

That World Junior Ultimate Championships be held every 2 years, starting in 2012, separate from the senior divisions at World Ultimate Championships.

C. Pros/Cons:

Pros	Cons	
To provide more space in WUC for the other	Lose the sideline support of the senior teams at	
existing divisions to grow to include more	WUC.	
countries, and to accommodate new divisions such		
as Masters Women.		
To allow the U19 divisions to grow, outside of the	Players miss out on being part of an undeniably	
size constraints of WUC.	larger event.	
To allow the U19 competition to be held as part of	Eliminates last remaining WFDF opportunity for	
an alcohol-free event.	youth players to participate in an event with adult	
	role models and heroes.	
To allow support staff, who are often senior players		
on the open, mixed or women's teams from that		
country, to give their full support to the juniors		
without having to play at the same event.		
To reduce the risks of interaction between U19	Note that all of the cons are currently addressed at	
players, especially minors, and senior players from	the current separate WJUC events, which have	
other countries that have no duty of care towards	already proven to be successful events.	
the players and may even think it fun to involve		
them in adult social activities.		

D. Financial Implications:

Separating U19s will allow World Ultimate Championships to grow. Taking 20 teams out of WUC will allow another 20 teams to join WUC, from WUC first-timers and possibly in a women's masters division. 20 teams = 400 athletes @ \$30 per player = US\$12,000 additional revenue for WFDF. Amortised over the 4 year cycle that is \$3,000 per year.

There will be some costs associated with running WJUC as a separate event in those years.

E. Conclusion:

This will no doubt be a difficult decision, as most of us are emotionally attached to being able to see the juniors flourish at World Ultimate Championships, and for many of us it was the first exposure to a juniors program, however it is in the best interests of junior ultimate to separate them, and will also allow a packed WUC program to grow.

Submitted on 23 May 2010 by Jonathan Potts, WFDF President