

Sunday October 20, 2019; UK, POR- 14:00; GER, SUI- 15:00; UGA- 15:00;
USA NY, VA, MI 09:00; USA CO, AZ 07:00; USA CA, CAN BC 06:00; JPN 22:00;
HKG 21:00; PHI 21:00

Board members present:

Robert „Nob“ Rauch, Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Thomas Griesbaum, Caroline „Caz“ Malone, Yoonee Jeong, Amandine Constant, Jesus Loreto, Travis Smith, Rob McLeod, Kevin Givens

Also attending (non voting):

Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director), Karina Woldt (WFDF Managing Director Events and Operations), Tim Rockwood (Managing Director Broadcasting and Marketing), David Raflo, Patrick Fourcampré-Maye (Event Coordinator)

Board members absent/excused:

Karen Cabrera, Ali Tincknell (Smith), Charlie Mead, Fumio Morooka, Alex Matovu, Steve Taylor, Jamie Nuwer

Call to order (time: 15:05 CET)

The quorum was reached with 11 votes present out of 18.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed everybody and thanked all for participating.

Decisions between meetings

(none)

Minutes of WFDF Annual Congress 2019

Motion:

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the minutes of the WFDF Annual Congress 2019 to be sent to Congress, seconded by Loreto. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of last meeting Board of Directors - 9 June 2019

Motion:

A motion was made by Givens to approve the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting of 9 June 2019, seconded by Travis Smith. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes of last meeting Executive Committee - 29 September 2019

Rauch presented the minutes of the last Executive Committee's meeting.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Awarding Footwear partnership, Universe Point Cleats (period of 2020-2024)

Gisel presented the Request for Proposals for WFDF Official Footwear Supplier & Sponsor. WFDF had received two bids from Universe Point and Tokay. After careful review of both bids Gisel proposed that WFDF should sign a 4-year contract with Universe Point. UP's proposal offered significantly more in financial compensation. Gisel also favored a 4-year contract over 2 years as the market was so small and he did not expect to see many more Ultimate cleat producers within the next 2 years.

Woldt confirmed that the contract period would end in 2023. She also noted that the other bidder had asked for information about the selection process. Gisel confirmed he would contact the other bidder.

Motion:

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the contract with Universe Point Cleats for 4 years, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

IT and Website project

Rauch presented the website launch timeline suggested by WFDF IT Committee Chair Luke Tobiasiewicz. The transfer would start on October 22, 2019, and expected to be completed on/around November the 1st under the new domain wfdf.sport.

Rauch thanked Steve Taylor for the very significant work in developing the new more up to date and mobile oriented web presence.

On request Rauch explained that GAISF had secured the registrar rights to the "dot sport" domain. It provided to international federations that used this domain a recognition as being the legitimate holders of the rights to the sport. Quite a few IFs had already adopted the domain. Bernardi added that the domain would be available only to GAISF members.

Rauch added that the wfdf.org email addresses would soon be changed to wfdf.sport.

Bernardi cautioned that the current web site was still needed for the upcoming elections and should not be shut down until after the elections.

WFDF memberships proposal - Cayman Islands

Bernardi presented the application of member no. 87 (Cayman Islands). He also provided the update that Malawi (member no. 86) was still working on its first official meeting. Bernardi proposed Cayman Islands for approval. They had been endorsed by Venezuela.

Rauch commented on the missing non-discrimination clause in the bylaws which WFDF required.

Bernardi answered that the current bylaws without a non-discrimination clause had been officially approved by the government. The clause would be included for the next government approval. This procedure had been followed in other applications before and so far, it had always worked out.

Motion:

A motion was made by Loreto to send the application of Cayman Islands for approval to Congress, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF memberships of Colombia and Indonesia - changes

Bernardi advised about the meetings with FECODV representatives from Colombia in Heidelberg. He was informed that FECODV had already taken over running the sport from AJUC. AJUC had been founded and run by players, but FECODV was a federation of region organizations as it is structured in many South American countries. After initial opposition by AJUC, Bernardi had now obtained AJUC's approval to transfer the WFDF membership to FECODV.

Bernardi reported that the Indonesian federation had not responded to any requests for 8 years but now they have come alive again and asked for a change to a newly founded officially recognized federation. It was discussed if Indonesia was implicitly applying for regular membership. This would allow them to participate in WFDF events but would require them to pay dues. Bernardi confirmed that the new federation was aware of the dues and was seeking regular membership.

Rauch was concerned about the name "Indonesia Ultimate Players Association," since WFDF had agreed that all new members should not be just an Ultimate federation but rather a Flying Disc Federation for all disciplines. Rauch did not want to stop the approval but just wanted to know the situation.

Bernardi confirmed that everyone agreed on that but since they had done all the paper work under the name Ultimate forcing them to change their name now would imply that the process needed to be started from the beginning. He preferred to accept them now as a member and have them then work on changing the name.

Rauch suggested to inform prospective members immediately from the first contact that they should not be set as "Ultimate" only associations but should adopt the format "[country name] Flying Disc Association."

Motion:

A motion was made by Loreto to present the transfer of membership for Colombia from AJUC to FECODV to Congress for approval, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion:

A motion was made by Malone to present the application for regular membership of Indonesia to Congress for approval, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

BULA/WFDF MOU - Timeline on decision/negotiation with BULA, EOI 2021/2022

Rauch informed the board that the MoU discussion with BULA as well as other Beach Ultimate related decisions (World Beach Games and calls for Expression of Interest to host Beach events) had been delayed due to a lack of response from the Beach Ultimate Committee Chair. He had finally reached BUC Chair Cabrera to discuss her unresponsiveness and ask how we should proceed. Cabrera expressed that she was unable to put in the time for the BUC and that it would be best for her to step down and to have an interim chair from among the BUC be appointed to serve out her term, and recommended David Raflo from among the current committee members. Rauch had already spoken with David Raflo, staff member of USAU, and with Tom Crawford (CEO USAU), and Raflo agreed to serve as interim BUC chair through the end of 2020 term.

Raflo had been invited to the board meeting and introduced himself, and confirmed he would be happy to become interim chair provided USAU gave him final permission.

Motion:

A motion was made by Gisel to approve David Raflo as interim Beach Ultimate Committee Chair on the condition of approval by USAU and Cabrera stepping down, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rauch explained that Raflo would become interim chair as soon as USAU had given permission and at the same time Cabrera would no longer be WFDF board member.

Approval: Including Disc Golf to the TWG 2021 Demonstration Program

Bernardi explained that Disc Golf had not been accepted for The World Games 2021 in Birmingham, USA, as medal sport, but it had a chance to become an official demonstration sport. ExComm had decided to propose Disc Golf over other flying disc disciplines, also with the perspective of perhaps getting Disc Golf into TWG 2025 in China. Mead had presented a proposal for Disc Golf at TWG 2021.

Bernardi asked the Board for approval to propose Disc Golf to IWGA as demonstration sport at TWG 2021.

Motion:

A motion was made by McLeod to approve to propose Disc Golf as demonstration sport at TWG, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval: Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts, Overall in TAFISA World Sport for All Games 2020

Bernardi stated that, at the 2020 TAFISA World Sport for All multi-sport event in Lisbon, Portugal, WFDF had the chance to propose Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts and Overall as official sports. At this time even TAFISA did not know yet how many sports and athletes could possibly be admitted to the event. But with an upcoming deadline Bernardi preferred to receive confirmation by the Board to propose these disciplines in the mentioned order to TAFISA and wait and see how many disciplines could be accepted. He mentioned that the LOC of the TAFISA World Sport for All Games 2020 in Lisbon would pay the local costs for 10 athletes per discipline, but the athletes had to pay for travel costs to and from Lisbon.

Rauch added that this was a Sport for All event that was focused on participation, not on elite athletes.

Motion:

A motion was made by Travis Smith to approve to propose Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts and Overall to be included at TAFISA Games 2020 in Lisbon, seconded by McLeod. The motion was approved unanimously.

McLeod suggested that since athletes had to pay for their own flights, WFDF could send athletes who could do several of the events. Rauch commented that the goal would be to give as many athletes a chance to participate so we should remain flexible.

WFDF Commissions - proposed appointments

Bernardi presented two additions to the commissions, both women. He proposed to add Sue Summers from Australia to the Disc Golf Committee and Surbhi Kulwelkar from India to the University and School Sport Commission.

Motion:

A motion was made by Malone to approve the inclusion of the above-mentioned candidates into the respective commissions, seconded by Jeong. The motion was approved unanimously.

Initial feedback: World Urban Games, Budapest 2019 - preparations 2021

Givens presented his report. He felt the WUG was a very high profile event for Freestyle, and hopefully one that would initiate a higher sense of urgency with the challenges Freestyle faced. Post event discussion at FPA Worlds showed it had a strong impression on all athletes.

Bernardi agreed that WUG had taken Freestyle to a new level and WUG was a huge success for WFDF. All rounds had been broadcast live and were still available as Video on Demand on the Olympic Channel. However, GAISF's initial feedback had strongly urged a few changes, such as:

- Youth: While the average age was 33 one athlete was 58 years old and that did not fit with the youth image GAISF was trying to build up for the World Urban Games
- Staging: GAISF felt that the performance lacked a "Wow" effect

Bernardi stated that if WFDF did not prove to GAISF that WFDF would improve the appearance of Freestyle events GAISF would downgrade WFDF to a demonstration sport at WUG 2021. He confirmed, though, that there were many positive aspects and WFDF had full potential to be included as medal sport with prize money if WFDF listened to GAISF and implemented the needed modifications.

Rauch explained that WFDF needed to demonstrate to GAISF in 2020 at a Freestyle event that it could present the sport in a manner GAISF was looking for. The event needed to be in Europe (accessible from Lausanne) and produced in an urban area attracting many spectators. It could be part of a festival. Routines should be sped up and the time between routines shortened. All athletes should give the event a young appearance.

Woldt suggested to host this Freestyle event during the WUGC 2020 in Leeuwarden (NED). Rauch agreed that it could just be a demonstration event around WUGC. Bernardi confirmed that GAISF had shown interest to come to the WUGC.

Rauch asked for a meeting to further discuss this matter.

WFDF 2019 Development Programme and Grants - Update

Bernardi reported that due to a lack of communication with the chair of the Sport for all and Development Commission he needed proposals for spending the development grants 2019 urgently.

Bernardi asked all disc committee chairs to send him proposals for 2019. The total sum for development was US\$6,000 and usually a proposal would get up to US\$1,500. Rauch added that proposals needed to be sustainable projects with a lasting effect. Malone mentioned she could send a proposal within a few days from the Women in Sport Commission.

A discussion arose how to improve this situation with the Sport for all and Development Commission in the future. It was suggested to find a replacement of the chair through another member of the commission.

Division name - Motion regarding “Open” vs “Men”

Travis Smith had submitted a proposal to change the name of the “Men’s division” to “Open.” He stated his proposal was an attempt to be accurate and reflect the current state of gender labeling.

Rauch stated that the term “Open” had been used by WFDF up until a few years ago. It had been changed due to confusion with the term as “Open” almost exclusively meant men at World Championships. The change of term did not change the rule, however, meaning that women could still play in the Men’s division.

Gisel confirmed that the name “Open Champion” had caused some confusion in the past. Women could still play in the Men’s division but WFDF still had a Women’s and a Mixed division.

Malone agreed that it was good to consider gender topics. She felt the Women in Sports Commission needed more time to make a decision about this proposal.

Gisel mentioned that at multi-sports games events it was common to have just Men’s divisions. And if WFDF wanted to attend these events it needed to follow the events’ definition of these divisions.

Jeong agreed that she felt more time was needed to discuss the proposal.

Bernardi noted that the IOC did not allow an Open division as no females were allowed to play in the Men’s division, only in a Mixed division.

Rauch concluded that this topic needed more discussion. He urged the stake holders to engage in offline discussions and he proposed to table the decision until the next Board meeting in December 2019.

Reports and Updates

Overview of events in 2019-2020: Events Report / Post-events Reports and Issues to flag

Fourcampré-Maye reported that all events in 2019 had been well attended. He was currently focusing on closing the accounts and finishing the reports. He confirmed that WU24 started with difficulties but once they were overcome the event was good.

Call to Bid all 2020/2021 events Press Release

Karina said that she had prepared a draft press release for the Call to Bid for all grass and Beach Ultimate Championships in 2021 and 2022, eight events in total. She still needed to get in touch with McLeod for the Call to Bid for the Overall event.

Rauch reminded the Board that the World Beach Games were now expected to take place in 2021 and that Beach Ultimate might be considered (it was on the original list for 2019 before it was downscaled due to budget restrictions). He asked the event team and the Beach Ultimate Chair to coordinate with Bernardi to avoid an overlap with a WFDF event.

Karina replied that deadlines for expression of interests were in February and hopefully by then WFDF would have some further info on WBG. At that point WFDF would need to decide which event might be the qualifier.

Athletes' Commission Report

(not available)

SOTG Committee report

Travis Smith reported that of the eight events in 2019, SOTG Directors had been appointed for six. He asked if a Spirit Director were needed for the Pan-American Masters Games in Rio. Rauch said that was unclear at that time and Woldt confirmed that SOTG would not be ignored at this event.

Travis Smith reminded the board that it had been previously agreed that the International SOTG day would be changed to a weekend day on the first weekend in December, starting in 2019 on December 7th.

Also, he mentioned that there was an open membership slot in the SOTG Committee and he was currently trying to fill the spot with a representative from USAU, but would be open to fill it with anyone from any other country.

Rauch asked Smith to get in touch with Jen Thomas about putting International SOTG day on WFDF social media.

Rauch reminded the board that when WFDF set up that arrangement with ERIC, it was agreed that the end of 2019 would be the end of contract without extension. It has been a very productive partnership with a worthy cause and WFDF will now oversee iSOTG Day on its own commencing in 2020.

Media and Broadcast Plans for 2019/20

Rockwood referred to the Congress report regarding viewing numbers at WU24 in Heidelberg. Viewing numbers of AOUGC 2019 in China were 700,000 page views with 10,000 distinct views which made AOUGC the most widely viewed Ultimate event.

For the WUGC 2020 in Leeuwarden, he expected high interest from major US sports television network (which were primarily interested in US play).

Continental Association Reports (Chairs)

Loreto reported that an unprecedented 69 teams from 13 countries of PAFDF would attend PAUCC. Bernardi reminded that elections were due for PAFDF in Sarasota at PAUCC and asked if PAFDF had identified candidates yet. Loreto said that he had spoke, to several possible candidates. Elections would happen at the beginning of the next year.

Constant said that she had received the report for 2019 from EUF and shared it before the WFDF Board meeting. She had started to clarify the links between EFDF, EDGF and EUF. Many players were waiting to hear if the WFDF-BULA MoU would be renewed.

Disc Discipline Committee Reports (Chairs)

McLeod reported that cameraman had been hired during Overall and had a significant amount of raw footage. He could create 1-2 minutes clip for all disciplines as WFDF did not have good footage for these disciplines yet. He expected the costs to be US\$ 300 per video and asked for the approval for a total budget of US\$3,000.

Rockwood confirmed it would be good to present such videos at the relaunch of the new WFDF web site.

Bernardi informed that this was a typical project which could be funded from the development funding from IOC.

Rauch asked for McLeod to put together 2 paragraphs with more information. Scripts should be reviewed with disc sports chairs. It should be sent within next couple of days to him.

Upcoming elections

Bernardi reminded that elections 2019 would start on November the 15th and last until December the 15th. Next week we would publish the call for candidates. All incumbent candidates should respect deadlines to submit their application documents. Formally there would be separate elections for continental associations.

The Medical chair and the at Large Board member would be appointed by Board. But they should also apply for reappointment in the December Board meeting.

Finance

Treasurer's report (Rauch)

Kate stated that the cash flow was good and WFDF was running better than expected under the revised budget. Expense side travel went way up this year with additional personnel. WFDF may be under budgeted for travel in 2020.

Karina informed that WFDF might be able to reduce the Game Advisor budget. Kate said that she rather be conservative for next year. If an event in 2020 went well WFDF could ramp up. Generally, things looked good. She asked any outstanding expenses to be sent in soon.

Rauch inquired about the number of payables and if they had already been paid. Kate answered that many were in process.

Next Meeting

Proposed: Board Dec. 14/15; ExComm: Nov 23/24

Closing: 17:38 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary