

WFDF 2019 Annual Congress Minutes

Mäetaguse Manor Hotel Spa

Alutaguse, Ida-Virumaa, Estonia

Sunday, August 25, 2019 09:00 - 14:00

1 Call to order (time: 09:07 am)

President Rauch welcomed all participants and stated that this was the first Congress to be held around a WFDF Disc Golf World Championship. He stated that while many members of WFDF were not able to attend Congress in person, many more were participating through via telephone connection or proxy.

2 Roll call of National Associations present & confirmation of votes allotted

See Annex 1 – list of participants.

3 2018 Congress Minutes (already approved)

The 2018 Congress minutes were approved by Congress in an electronic vote and were included in the briefing book.

4 Decisions taken by Congress between 2018 and 2019 Congresses

Additional bylaw revisions were agreed on in September 2018. From November 2018, Congress approved WFDF members from Kazakhstan, Malta, Sri Lanka, and the US Virgin Islands. Bulgaria became the 85th WFDF member in July 2019. Luxembourg was promoted to regular member and the merger of Thailand was approved. Board member elections took place and WFDF 2018 Congress minutes were approved.

5 Report by the President

Rauch highlighted key elements of development. WFDF continued to expand membership, with Bulgaria as the 85th member. WFDF aspires to grow to 100 members by the end of 2020. On the events side, the number of events and participants has grown, the 3rd edition of the World Team Disc Golf Championships has been held and the continental championships have grown. Overall, having around 8 events so far this year, the event calendar has been active and productive regarding WFDF competitions.

On the governance side, the Bylaws were updated last year. WFDF successfully developed a new strategic plan for 2018/2024. Last December, after the Bylaws changed, the number of women on the Board increased up to 39% (7 out of 18). A sustainability officer has been appointed. New policies were introduced on transgender athletes and WFDF is working on the concussion protocol concerning our athletes' safety policies. A GDPR policy in line with EU requirements was set up a year ago to protect WFDF and its members. Disc licensing policy along with the financial policy has been updated. The second gender equality conference was organized in Asia.

A governance study prepared by GAISF and patterned after the ASOIF study placed WFDF 3rd out of 54 among ARISG and AIMS members for good governance, which is an affirmation of our approach. Another confirmation of

the good work is Freestyle being accepted for the World Urban Games (WUG). This was particularly important because the WUG initially was supposed to have 15 sports, but due to financial reasons will have only 6 on the program in Budapest this September.

For TV and Broadcasting, major progress has been made across all social media platforms, such as YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. Viewership is growing significantly. Major WFDF events were streamed on the Olympic Channel.

The membership numbers and the number of countries have been growing strongly since 2014. Sponsor relations is something that the WFDF is working on constantly.

Rauch mentioned that there is a big agenda ahead of WFDF regarding the development and promotion of sports. Within the Olympic movement, WFDF is well regarded and discussed for becoming a regular part of the Olympics. Back in the days flying disc was only the topic for chats but that's no longer the case and everyone is very excited about that.

6 Report by the Executive Director

Bernardi mentioned that 2018 to 2019 was a significant journey for membership and growth. The response to the championships participation around the world was very good.

85 member associations are currently within the WFDF, but with Malawi in process and 6 more federations expecting to be recognized, WFDF could end this year with approximately 92 members. The federations expected to join WFDF soon are the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Mali, Mauritius and Côte d'Ivoire.

Voting members requested to participate in voting procedures for recognizing new members due to procedural requirements.

19 federations have been recognized by NOCs and 3 more expected by the end of 2019. Bernardi gave the example of France that had undergone a 4 year process before being recognized by the French NOC.

As Rauch already mentioned, Flying Disc Freestyle is currently one of six in the World Urban Games. Bernardi expects the number of sports to increase in the next edition of the games. However, the fact that disc sports is one of the six is significant for the WFDF. At the World Beach Games 2021, Beach Ultimate and Freestyle are expected to be part of the official program. Bernardi expects that WFDF could apply at YOG in Dakar (Senegal) which is recommended by the IOC. WFDF is accepted in 2020 Sport for All TAFISA World Games, in Lisbon Portugal. WFDF will be represented with Disc Golf, Guts, and Overall. This is a good event to showcase flying disc sports.

Inactive members of the commissions have been replaced so that they can be more effective..

7 Review of 2019 Member Census

Rauch presented a report of the results of the 2019 member census which was included in the briefing book. He highlighted that all members represented around 173,000 individual members of which 35% were female, the accumulated budgets of all members were around US\$10 million, with Sweden receiving the largest amount of government funding. All of the information can be found on the WFDF website.

8 Review of 2019 Community Survey Results

2019 Community Survey was the 3rd edition of the Survey. With around 1,950 respondents, the report card is shown with very good scores overall, and what the WFDF focus should be. When asked about whether inclusion in the Olympics should be a priority for WFDF, 53.4% of respondents said it should be the highest or an “extremely high” priority for WFDF, and another 36% said it should be pursued by WFDF but not to the exclusion of other priorities. There is also an understanding of the necessity of anti-doping measures and that they have to be part of WFDF procedures, with only 9% of respondents saying they are uncomfortable with or opposed to anti-doping programs within WFDF.

9 Annual Risk Assessment

Rauch presented the annual risk assessment and highlighted eight areas important to WFDF along with the operations identifying them. The presented WFDF Annual Risk Assessment was approved unanimously, with one abstention (China).

10 Discussion topics: How should WFDF define its role regarding Disc Golf? How can WFDF best work with EDGF and PDGA?

Charlie referred that there is not just one path to grow Disc Golf globally and that each member association should have their own approach. He envisions that Disc Golf should be developed via international events by applying a continental mode.

Cooperation with PDGA and other associations across the globe are key and at the moment everything is going in the right direction. WFDF has been developing its policies in conjunction with the PDGA to ensure alignment. The PDGA provides a strong basic infrastructure for a handicapping system, rules development, and disc certification and WFDF has no desire to try to duplicate or compete with that. On the other side, WFDF has a well-developed national member structure that is recognized within the Olympic Movement and access to the Multi-Sport Events that exist. The PDGA focuses on individual memberships while WFDF’s members are national association, and PDGA events are focused on individuals while WFDF’s world championships are national teams, so the possibility of conflicts are minimal. Charlie has been working to ensure that WFDF and PDGA are generally in agreement as to how international growth will proceed.

Charlie provided detailed information on PDGA, EDGF about WFDF and the opportunities for Disc Golf through WFDF. EDGF Disc Golf Championships and Masters are sanctioned and run by the EDGF and PDGA Europe. Charlie answered that this is a very complicated system based on ratings and number of people. This is completely different to WFDF with regards to individual and team competitions.

Rauch explained that, in the 1980s and 1990s, most federations oversaw all disc sports, with a big emphasis on overall. As Disc Golf and Ultimate grew strongly in the 1980s, players became more specialized and by the early 2000s new associations became more focused on one or the other of those disciplines. As a multi-discipline sport, WFDF oversees all of those as the sport of Flying Disc with many disciplines, similar to skiing with downhill, jumping, snowboarding, and the many variations within that. The WFDF is trying to unify national disc sports associations and make disc sports communities work together, and revised the Bylaws in 2018 in order to foster that.

There was a question regarding development issues and strategic planning. Charlie explained that WFDF help is needed for school programs, kindergartens, etc. Nob commented that WFDF is trying to avoid conflicts with the PDGA, and therefore is introducing new initiatives slowly and only after consultation with the PDGA. WFDF tries to aspire to get visibility of Disc Golf at some major multi-sports events. WFDF intends to promote Disc Golf in the countries with very small representation or none of the Disc Golf.

Charlie concluded that WFDF has no designated Disc Golf budget, but there is a Development Committee that could help in preparing some educational and promo material.

11 Financial Report

a) 2019 Dues Update

Most member are in good standing, but Iceland and Morocco are in arrears. Bernardi continues to have an active dialogue with all members.

b) Vote: Approval of 2018 Audited Financial Statements

Rauch provided information that 2018 was a very successful year and highlighted that a new set of financial policies had been adopted in keeping with the recommendation of the auditor.

The 2018 Audited Financial Statements for WFDF were approved unanimously.

c) Presentation of year-end 2018 and interim 2019 reports

The end of the year 2018 and 2019 interim reports were presented.

d) Vote: Approval of revised 2019 budget

Two part-time staff joined WFDF, Patrick Fourcampre-Maye as Event Coordinator and Igor Janković as Administrative Coordinator, which caused the budget to be revised. The expected net loss for the year would be US\$36,000, but manageable over the four year cash cycle of WFDF.

The revised 2019 WFDF budget was approved unanimously, with Italy abstaining.

e) Vote: Approval of 2020 budget

The budget is in line with previous years, with Increased expenses due to travel and an increased number of events. Anti-doping cost is covered by WFDF at WFDF events.

The 2020 WFDF budget was approved unanimously, with two abstentions from Italy and Lithuania.

f) Vote: Approval of 2019 Auditor

Lane McMillan has provided auditing services for many years, and covers many of the NGBs in the Colorado Springs, CO USA area. He has split with his partner to form a new company on his own, and has proposed to continue to cover WFDF as our auditor.

The proposed Auditor for 2019 was approved unanimously.

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12 Event Manager Report

Karina reported that this year WFDF had eight events. Karina's role is to enforce standards and keep the world standards within other events. Three events from last year set a benchmark. Progress is already visible in recent events, so each event should maintain the high profile. Each event has its flavor, country to country, but some deliverables are universal from a logistical perspective. NFs should be aware that the TOCs have limitations. Their focus is to deliver the event but there are plenty of opportunities to take advantage of, and NFs can build around the events by engaging schools and the local community. However, TOCs often don't have the time and resources to take advantage of these additional opportunities.

It is important for the events team to receive a timely response from the NF when bulletins are sent and for NFs to respond within given deadlines. Any answer, positive or negative is important. Respecting notice and payment deadlines is essential from the perspective of organizational matters.

The TOC know what they need and what they can source locally, however, the involvement of the flying disc community cannot be overlooked. Communication and responsiveness are crucial, especially when it comes to rescheduling events or postponing the games due to bad weather.

Site visits are increasingly being organized to provide deeper insight into prospects and other important aspects of hosting an event.

Reports after the events are very important to enable WFDF to take all necessary steps to successfully prepare the next event.

13 Disc Sport Committee Reports

a) Disc Golf

Charlie explained that information on player involvement in different countries is very important regarding tracking the progress of Disc Golf and crucial task for EDGF.

The committee is working with PDGA to promote the sport. There is a huge responsibility for tracking the rankings of all members.

Croatia had been recommended to host the 2021 World Team Disc Golf Championships, but there are other candidates as well. Bid proposals will be discussed by the Board. The Croatian NOC has been involved in the bidding procedure. The city to host Disc Golf event will be Varazdin, 80 km north from Zagreb.

b) Freestyle

The upcoming World Urban Games planned for 13-15 Sep 2019 in Budapest was discussed. Rauch highlighted the importance of the solid display of the Freestyle by participating members.

Freestyle athletes participated at the 1st African Beach Games, in June 2019 in Cape Verde and put on a number of successful demonstrations and school visits.

c) Guts

Rauch reminded everyone that Guts is the oldest disc sports, and provided brief information based on the Disc Sport Committee report. Next big event is the 2020 WUGC.

Brian discussed and reflected on the Guts discipline. There are still people pushing it forward. Showcasing could help in growing Guts.

d) Overall/Field Events

The World Overall Championships (WOC) 2019 had been held in Richmond, Virginia. This event has very complicated logistics with 110 athletes participating in total. Congress has proposed to establish a curriculum and certification system to develop basic skills. The Overall Committee is discussing various options within the disciplines.

e) Ultimate and Beach Ultimate

Brian explained that event organization continued to improve and that the management and oversight of the relationship with TOCs was a crucial factor.

Increasing requests by a number of national members to use game advisors confirms the necessity of continued training. The biggest problem is that there are not enough opportunities for the people that are trained to apply their skills, so it is a full circle feedback loop that we need to manage.

As our World Championship events have become larger, the logistics have become almost unmanageable, so we may not be able to accommodate all countries as we have in past events. We are considering several versions of a qualification process to have a fair way of allocating invitations. has been created and it should re-activate some countries, as few of them lost participation due to inactivity. Nonetheless, being able to invite all countries to events is beneficial for the growth of the sport so we will try to strike a good balance. Karina explained that several teams will not be invited to play at WUGC in the Netherlands due to failure of their national member to meet deadlines, which is the first impact of these limits.

Rauch reported on Beach Ultimate, based on the Committee report.

14 WFDF Anti-Doping Program & WADA Compliance

Bernardi explained that WFDF has finalized its updates to the WADA compliance procedure. The testing program has been conducted successfully since 2011 and there are no positive results so far. The education program is an important area of development for WFDF. With more education, tests can be performed less frequently. At present,

there is a limited pool of nine athletes. WFDF will attend the WADA conference in Poland in 2021 to be familiarised with the new code. WADA requirements are expanding rapidly and biological passports will be created in the future.

WFDF is seeking to ensure that all 86 member associations are operating some form of anti-doping programs. WE have made a proposal to WADA that WFDF acts as the anti-doping authority in member countries which don't have the resources to establish their own standalone programs.

15 Marketing and Broadcast Report

Rauch highlighted the WFDF 2019 Broadcasting and Marketing Report, and discussed the recent marketing trip to China where WFDF to Alibaba Sports and other potential sponsors. There appears to be significant opportunities for WFDF in expanding our sponsorship and broadcast footprint.

The team will be working to produce short video clips from the World Urban Games.

16 Media Report

The current focus is on brand building to extend the partnership, but the website is not the primary destination of our community. While there is significant growth within social media, the current goal is to increase the amount of content produced.

Rauch explained that developing the fan base is crucial. Maintaining a good relationship with the Olympic Channel is very important.

17 Discussion Topic: What It Will Take to Get on the 2028 Olympic Games Programme

Rauch had included two publications in the briefing book: "A New Age of Sports," by Sports Innovation Lab (Angelo Ruggiero) and "The Future of Global Sport," by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), which he highlighted discussed different aspects of the evolving nature of sport consumption and the new demands on international federations. Rauch stated that transparent governance is essential and that WFDF's approach will help us access opportunities in the Olympic movement. Further, development of a strong fan base, using technology, broadcasting, sharing and re-sharing with other partners.

Bernardi has already developed several interesting projects that created great relationships and shared resources (e.g. the sustainability project with floorball).

Rauch strongly recommended reading and understanding both articles included in the Briefing Book. For WFDF, LA 2028 participation is the target and efforts on many levels have been mobilized. The approach WFDF took with the spirit of the game, regarding a diverse portfolio, gender equality and youth orientation is crucial. This is a shift within the Olympics that is going to happen in the future according to Rauch.

Inclusion in the World Urban Games is very important alongside participating in the other multi-sport events to show that WFDF is worthy to be considered as part of the Olympics in the future.

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18 Commission Reports

a) Athletes' Commission

Rauch explained that the Athletes' Commission was reconstituted this year. Several additional members were appointed. The Athletes' Commission is currently conducting conference calls via Google Groups, using this way of communication to educate athletes on Anti-doping rules and WADA codes of conduct.

b) Women in Sport Commission

The Women in Sport Commission has done two major workshops over the last year, at the 2018 World Ultimate Club Championship and the 2019 Asian-Oceanic Overall Championship. The idea was to outline what gender equality is and to help participants understand what non-discrimination is, among other issues. A gender equality policy has been drafted.

c) Youth Commission

The Youth Commission is in charge of youth development matters, increasing participation among young people. The Commission wasn't as active as it could have been, but with more school championships, there is an opportunity to have more events to promote WFDF and its various disciplines.

d) Sport for All/Development Commission

The Development Commission has not been as active as it should be but Bernardi is working to reactivate it as there is a significant amount of work to be done in applying the development resources we have.

The Development Grant Application Form can be downloaded from the WFDF website in the development section for members who need it.

e) Entourage Commission

Rauch explained the work of Entourage Commission, in establishing and overseeing the protocol around the supporting members around the athletes, including National Federation representatives, medical staff, team managers and coaches, etc.

f) University and School Sport Commission

The group started working on some projects, preparing an e-book for PE teachers. A manual in Portuguese is already prepared and there are a variety of activities for the group happening.

(g) Spirit of the Game Commission

This Commission has been one of the most active of WFDF's Commissions.

Among other things, Rauch remarked that certain countries introduced a modified form of game advisor in youth games to provide instruction and guidance for the young athletes. Travis Smith will provide more information on this.

h) IT Commission

WFDF set up the IT Commission earlier this year as it needs to revamp its entire technology platform in the coming year. WFDF is going to be introducing a new website later this year and engage a paid administrator to assist in the many projects to be undertaken. New features will include a registration system, score reporting, etc.

19 Discussion Topic: Transition of Ultimate-Centric Member Countries to Multi-Disciplinary Associations

This was one of the main topics discussed over the year. Bylaws have been revised to ensure that all disciplines can be represented by their national member associations in order to unify the disc sports community. Transition to this model should start next year.

20 Continental Association Reports

a) Africa - AAFDF

AAFDF provided important missionary work to promote disc sports, especially among the potential future WFDF members from Africa.

b) Americas - PAFDF

63% of all registered players are registered with PAFDF which is a significant number to work with. There is a potential for more activities and new members from South America which should be supported by the PAFDF and WFDF itself.

c) Asia/Oceania - AFDF

Fumio Morooka presented AFDF report. The first AOBUC with 10 participating countries was held in Shanghai during July 2019.

By the end of 2019, a new president and General Secretary should be elected and new Bylaws have been introduced through electronic voting.

The upcoming World Masters Games in 2021 is a very important showcase event for the AFDF.

d) Europe - EFDF

The overview provided by the EFDF and EUF. Gender equality manual is being created as one of the main documents created by EFDF.

At the EUC, 66 games were streamed live across Europe.

There is also significant progress in terms of sponsorship having commercial partners to support EUF activities.

21 Other Business & Special Reports

Rauch closed the meeting and thanked everyone for participating.

22 Adjournment

The Congress was adjourned at 02:00 pm.

Annex 1: Members represented at WFDF 2019 Congress

Present

Country/Association	Votes
Australia	5
Croatia (provisional)	0
Estonia	1
Japan	5
People's Republic of China	2

Online

Country/Association	Votes
Germany	5
India	5
Italy	4
Lithuania	1

Proxy submitted

Country/Association	Votes
Canada	5
Colombia	4
Czech Republic	4
Finland	3
France	5
Great Britain	5
Hong Kong, China	2
Hungary	3
Mexico	4
Netherlands	4
New Zealand	3
Norway	5
Philippines	2
Russian Federation	3
Singapore	4
Switzerland	4
USAU	5
USAGPA	1

Total votes: 94