

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Conference Call at Sunday January 27, 2013; UK, POR- 15:00; GER- 16:00; RSA - 17:00; USA NY, VA, MI - 10:00; USA CO, AZ - 08:00; USA CA, CAN BC - 07:00; Japan - 00:00 (January 28); Taiwan - 23:00.

Board members present:

Robert "Nob" Rauch Thomas Griesbaum , Sandie Hammerly , Patrick van der Valk , Kate Bergeron , Fumio Morooka , Michael Hu Jack Cooksey Brian Gisel , Kevin "Skippy" Givens .

Also attending: Ryan Purcell (Athletes' Committee, non-voting), Volker Bernardi (Executive Director, non-voting).

Board members absent or excused:

Simon Hill, Ryan Scott.

Call to order

Report by the President

President Rauch welcomed all Board members for the first Board meeting in 2013 and thanked them for joining the conference call. He in particular welcomed Skippy Givens, newly appointed Freestyle chair (who had formerly been the WFDF Executive Director), to the call. The quorum was established with 10 members participating.

Previous Minutes

Attention was called to the minutes of the meeting in New York of November 3/4, 2012, and the minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2012. As Board members had only a limited time to review these, a poll will be set up to have the minutes approved by electronic vote next week.

Decisions between meetings

To approve of the nomination by the Freestyle Players Association for Kevin "Skippy" Givens to be appointed as the WFDF Freestyle Committee chair for one year and as such a member of the WFDF Board of Directors until elections can be held next year (Board of Directors January 2013) Yes (11), No (0), Abstain (0).

The WFDF 2012 elections were held electronically by Congress and completed 27 December 2012. The following individuals were elected for two year terms:

Board of Directors: Robert "Nob" Rauch (President); Patrick van der Valk (Beach Ultimate chair); Ryan Scott (Guts chair); Jack Cooksey (Overall Chair); Fumio Morooka (At Large) Ultimate Committee: Will Deaver (deputy chair); Rueben Berg (Rules subcommittee chair); Brian Gisel (Championships subcommittee chair)

Events

WUCC 2014

There were no further questions on the report submitted by Max Vitali for the 2014 WUCC event preparations.

WU23

President Rauch confirmed that the report submitted by Jason Robinson from TOC looks good. Van der Valk added that he spoke with the TOC about internet streaming. He wants to have a dedicated effort working on streaming and is in contact with NxGeN and a Czech/German group and asking them what prices they are getting for the streaming and whether they would be interested in working with us.

PAUCC2013

WFDF had received a bid on Friday from Brazil (FPD) to host the PAUCC on 14-17 November 2013. The bid package was sent to the Ultimate Committee and will be presented to the Board if it receives a favorable recommendation.

AOUCC2013

WFDF had approved the bid for AOUCC from Singapore ("UPA (S)") during the December meeting. The President met with the representatives of the TOC team in Singapore recently and commented that their organization appears to have become significantly more organized in the last several years. They are going to change the name of the association to Singapore Flying disc Association as soon as the legal paperwork can be completed. The event is planned for 9-11 August 2013 subject to final approval of the contract. It was agreed that the Philippines and Australia should be informed of the Board's decision before we officially announce the event.

The World Games 2013

Bernardi reported that WFDF had received the accreditation documents last week. By the end of next week, the World Games working group (Hill, Gisel, Berg, and Bernardi) will have established a list of proposed WFDF officials for the event and the allocation of accreditations to be approved by ExComm. On the planned out-of-competition testing in Cali, Bernardi has met with WADA and discussed proceedings with IWGA and CLOC in order to get their approval. Bernardi also confirmed that our officials would stay there during the same period as the athletes and that the officials cannot have extended stays as per CLOC's policy. Brian Gisel commented that he, Simon Hill and Rueben Vietl have had unofficial discussions on which officials we need there and are suggesting the following: a Competition Director, a Rules director, a SOTG Director, President and Executive Director. Sandie Hammerly inquired as to whether someone is needed for Communications. Rauch stated that he felt Bernardi could take on Communications as this worked very well at the WUGC in Sakai. Bernardi explained that the Technical Delegate (TD) Mauricio Moore and the Information and Communication Technician (ICT) have to be included as part of WFDF's officials quota.

ECBU 2013

Patrick van der Valk reported on the preparations for ECBU in Spain. The first team registration deadline is January 31, 2013, and a total number of 40 teams have registered to date. The event is budgeted for 48 teams but some key countries are still missing. The Womens Masters division has three countries so far (GER, FRA, GBR) and they have agreed to have a division set up even if there are only three nations. There are plans to set up an international team so there would be 4 teams. They have selected Five Ultimate as official merchandiser and the MoU will be signed soon. They are also doing Sponsorship efforts. The event is hoping to raise the funding for a company to do internet streaming, as well as other communications activities.

US Open 2013

Rauch informed the Board that in July 2013 USAU will be staging their second annual US Open and that they have asked WFDF to partner in the event, which will include a showcase tournament as well as a convention. The event will be a competition with the top four North American club teams and four international club teams in each of three divisions. Along with the competition, there will be Convention including a series of educational seminars and networking opportunities. USAU has offered to hold and cover the cost of producing educational seminars geared toward WFDF members, e.g. on media or coaching or other topics of interest from international perspective. USAU expects to have a premier broadcast partner for showcase games.

During the ensuing discussion, a variety of issues were discussed, including:

Benefits to WFDF and the international community: One of the biggest benefits we would hope to receive is the access to the convention side of the US Open. USAU is willing to underwrite the cost of educational sessions to be suggested by WFDF. Our NFs have often said they want a coaching training program and USAU is prepared to schedule that if there were interest. We could also propose session on things like spirit of the game or juniors development. Second, this will be a professionally run event with broadcast coverage, which will give us some experience and exposure that we do not yet have. Finally, we are showing that we are prepared to support a Member association in an important initiative for them.

Resources required of WFDF: USAU is willing to cover the cost of speakers and presentations, although international participants will have to cover their own travel and lodging costs. While there are no direct costs for WFDF, we obviously need to commit people resources to help identify and select international clubs to participate, to contribute to development of the educational program, and to promote the event among our members.

Endorsement of Observers: Hammerly pointed out that the competition, like any other event held in the US in which an international team participates, will be played with Observers. This is of clear concern to a number of the board members. Rauch acknowledged the concern that because the tournament will use Observers that this might be perceived that WFDF is seen as endorsing the use of Observers. He believes that this risk is mitigated by the fact that the event is the "US" Open, that this event has no impact on WFDF-sanctioned World Championship standings, that any international

team choosing to participate does so voluntarily, and that WFDF will have opportunities to state our views on and highlight the reason why we believe the self-refereeing is superior. It was also noted that the board agreed during our strategic planning session in November that WFDF needs to drive the global discussion of Spirit of the Game and self-refereeing and that getting more objective data was a goal for 2013. It is hoped that we can gain objective/subjective feedback from players who participate on teams playing in the event that can assist us in this process.

Conflict with WFDF Event Cycle: There are concerns that the US Open may conflict with the World Ultimate Club Championship in future years. The Ultimate Committee has already been asked by USAU to consider scheduling conflicts as USAU is moving a large part of their main elite season to the summer, at the urging of their potential broadcast partners. Rauch and Hammerly had agreed with USAU that the longer-term plans would need to be discussed but that with the WUCC 2014 schedule already set, we could assess our experience after this year's event and defer the broader discussion at this time.

Coaches training session: One of the ideas floated was that we would ask that there be a "train the trainer course". People from outside US would be trained on behalf of WFDF to be trained to become official trainers/coaches. However, it was noted that because USAU and WFDF play by different rules, there is a difference in on-field governance. If we train coaches under a USAU program, we must be sure that we review the USAU coaches training program and make adjustments to conform to general WFDF rules. Concern was expressed that because videos and training camps are already popping up in Europe, people who want higher education might not feel the need to fly to the US if they can get what they want in Europe.

Assessing interest of the international community in the US Open: There were questions of whether the US Open would be held in a venue easily accessible to international participants. It was agreed that this needs to be a consideration for USAU if they want to attract a broad international audience.

Other sports: Jack Cooksey asked whether it might be possible to demonstrate other disc sports at the US Open. Rauch felt that USAU would be open to something like that, perhaps a freestyle demonstration at half-times with lessons on the sidelines and that if professionally presented would be well-received.

SOTG: Several board members stated that we should be able to say that we stand for pure self-refereeing and make it clear that we do not play with observers. Our members are going to ask how we can stand for self-refereeing and at the same time support observed games. Rauch noted that USAU is entirely behind spirit of the game but believes it can exist with use of Observers. WFDF is trying to converge on SOTG scoring system for all countries and wants to have a SOTG scoring system finished by end of 2013. As a quid pro quo, perhaps we can suggest USAU use WFDF SOTG score sheets after each match. In that way we could get our ideas into the hands of the top North American teams.

Rauch noted that USAU has asked for an immediate response as they are seeking to finalize their plans with the broadcast partner and announce the event ASAP. He proposed that the WFDF board in principle agree to partner with USAU in the US Open in

2013 along the lines discussed. Approved with 9 for and 1 vote against.

WFDF Governance

IOC recognition procedure

NR reported on the application for IOC recognition. There is a new deadline given for 15 March 2013 to fulfil and report on 26 new evaluation criteria. There are three groups of criteria: questions requesting statistical information, criteria requiring new policies to be in place, and requirements that will need new commissions to be established.

On the question whether WFDF is really ready to go forward the President agreed that many criteria seem to be overkill for us but we must acknowledge that the IOC is trying to set up a one size fits all application process that encourages best practices. As an example of the benefits of such a framework, the President is pleased that we have received constructive input from the Athletes' Commission in the short time since it was established last summer. There are only 45 days remaining before the deadline with a lot of work to be done, but we are almost 95% of the way to having a complete application for IOC recognition. Rauch states that Bernardi will be responsible for coordinating the process and for preparing the responses to the IOC. Board members are requested to read the report and react within the next week. Rauch confirmed with the Board their desire to spend the resources on the IOC recognition effort and confirmed that other tasks will not be neglected in order to meet the IOC deadlines.

Discussion ensued regarding the process for approving new policies required by the IOC and whether they need to be approved by Congress or whether they could be approved by the Board. It was agreed that the level of the policies would be compared to similar policies approved by WFDF (such as Whistleblower, Conduct, Event Eligibility, etc) and a vote taken at the appropriate level. It was also agreed regardless of the approval process decided upon that all proposed policies would be circulated FIRST to member associations for their comments and recommended changes.

Concern was raised regarding the process for soliciting members to serve on the various commissions and the fact that the WFDF Board already has enough to do. Rauch reported that a plan of action for obtaining volunteers for these commissions would be provided shortly.

The Board members agreed unanimously to proceed with the IOC application procedure and will review and approve the policies and commissions once they are finalized.

Strategic planning exercise

President Rauch has yet to receive comments on new sources of revenues from members of the Board (as requested at December meeting), and asked that any ideas be put forward. As previously agreed, the Strategic Planning process will be resumed once we hear regarding our IOC application so that we can frame it in the proper context.

SportAccord

Bernardi informed the Board that the next SportAccord convention (including the annual

meetings of IWGA and SportAccord and the meetings of WFDF with WADA and CLOC) will take place from 26-31 May 2013 in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation. WFDF will be represented by the President, the Executive Director and Fumio Morooka.

WFDF 2012 elections - results

There were no further comments on the results from NomCom chair Hammerly as the election results have already been announced.

Athletes' Commission

Purcell referred to his written report. There were no questions.

2013 Annual census

Bernardi reported that the draft of the annual census would be established in the forthcoming week and be sent out to members no later than 7 February requesting responses by 7 March. Membership dues invoices shall be issued after 15 March 2013.

WFDF 2013 Congress Toronto (Canada)

Bernardi reported that the Congress is going to be held in Toronto, Canada, on the occasion of the World Under 23 Championships on Saturday/Sunday, 20/21 July 2013. He already has held a conference call with TOC on the preparations. The Congress shall be announced ASAP.

Anti-Doping program plan 2013

Bernardi informed the Board that the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) 2013 is established and procedures are running. Only one athlete has missed the required whereabouts filing and he will follow up with athlete's member association.

Membership issues

Application from Portugal for regular membership

The membership application from Portugal as a national member was approved by the Board with one abstention. The vote is now subject to approval by Congress and an electronic vote will be set up as soon as possible.

Application from Iceland for regular membership

The Board members felt that more information is needed with regards to players' activities and overall figures in Iceland. Bernardi will collect the additional information from Patrick Nadonley and asked board members to provide any other information they may have about the nature of the program in the country.

Membership issues: Mexico and Korea

Bernardi informed the Board that, in addition to the existing WFDF member KUPA there

are now two other organisations applying for WFDF membership (KFDF and KPDGA). Further discussions need to be conducted on the possibilities of their membership and to further investigate the potential conflicts with our current Member association in the country.

In Mexico the elections for a joint AJUM/AMEDIVO Board took place and the new Board has been working since January 2013.

Potential new members 2013

Bernardi reported that Morocco, Turkey, Uganda, and Uruguay are now potential candidates for WFDF membership.

Finance

Treasurer`s Report

Hammerly called attention to the previously submitted written report. Total revenue for the year to date is \$115,744 compared to a budget of \$103,224. Total expense to date is \$98,693 compared to a budget of \$117,154 although there are a few expenses that have yet to be recorded. Rauch asked Morooka whether WFDF should anticipate any revenues sharing from merchandising efforts at the WUGC. Morooka agreed to follow up immediately with the WUGC tournament organizers.

Website / IT – invoice 2012 and 2013 budget

The 2012 invoice for the IT expenses exceeded the budget by more than 40% and was submitted on the last day of the year. VB submitted a report on the issue. The Board approved the payment of the 2012 invoice with one abstention.

For 2013, no budget had been established for IT but clearly there will be expenses. A total cost of USD 2,000 is expected with USD 800 to be allocated to finalizing the WFDF Office project and USD 1,200 for monthly maintenance. Quarterly invoices will be required by the IT provider in an effort to manage costs and monitor activities performed. The Board unanimously approved an amendment to the budget to include these IT expenses for 2013. It was also agreed that any new IT projects would need to be approved by the board on a case by case basis.

SOTG mobile app – proposal by Patrick van der Valk

Patrick van der Valk presented the following proposal to the Board of Directors:

Proposal Wording: WFDF will provide funding to develop a Mobile Spirit of the Game scoring application. WFDF will set aside up to \$2000 USD from its 2012 Special Projects budget to fund this program. Any additional resources required must be approved by the WFDF Board. This funding is subject to approval by the WFDF Ultimate Committee. The scoring system will be based on the current WFDF scoring system.

It was noted that the SOTG committee has prepared a call for proposals with the plan that individuals who are capable of creating such an application will submit proposals for

consideration. Christian Schneider has agreed to assist in evaluating the proposals/potential programmers.

The Board approved a budget of up to USD 2,000 for the SOTG mobile app from the 2013 development budget with one abstention.

Development

Rauch reported on a proposal by Peace and Sport to establish a “social responsibility program benefiting the most vulnerable Colombia youth”. In coordination with AJUC, they propose to establish 10 youth centers to work with 200 kids in the Cali area, a 6 month project with a budget contribution by P&S of USD 9,300. Peace and Sport has asked WFDF to consider supporting the project by providing funding, equipment (discs), training personnel, as well as a “champion” to assist with marketing and fund raising efforts for the program.

Hammerly expressed concern that we have previously contributed a significant portion of money to Ultimate Peace in support of similar programs in Colombia and inquired how this effort is different from efforts that WFDF has already funded in Colombia via Ultimate Peace. Proposal indicates it is a 3 year plan, but the proposal does not go further than World Games. We should not duplicate efforts, everybody should be working together.

Rauch indicated that he intended to contact Ultimate Peace to discuss their plans and would be back to the board with a proposal of how WFDF should participate in development project in Colombia around World Games.

Other disc sports – Overall report

Cooksey reported on the WOC 2013 bid approval process. Liability insurance is the one problem, as the Swedish Frisbee Federation’s policy cannot list WFDF as a co-insured but he feels that a solution can be found. If worse comes to worst, Jack will ask the TOC to budget another USD 2,500 to purchase the liability policy through WFDF’s carrier. They may also look into coordinating through the PDGA to see if their policy might provide required coverage. He feels Sweden has submitted a solid bid and recommends approval. World titles would be awarded in all events except Freestyle and Disc Golf. Part 4 of the contract (Participation) needs to be amended to clean up some technical issues. Cooksey put the motion forward to approve WOC bid 2013 from Sweden, subject to satisfaction of the insurance requirement. The Board approved the bid subject to such condition unanimously.

Freestyle report

Givens gave his report and explained that FPA is thinking through how best to coordinate efforts with WFDF. The newly constituted Freestyle Committee will meet soon and a report will be provided.

Communications

Website - Phase 2: WFDF OFFICE

Rauch asked the Board members to have a look at the features and send feedback to Bernardi.

Social Media

Rauch launched WFDF's Facebook page during WUGC in 2012. It currently has over 1,200 "likes" and he tries to get something posted 3-4 times per week (official news and general interest). Rauch has (personally) paid a promotion fee twice to broaden the reach which in both cases led to a jump in likes. He plans to approach our NFs to ask them to encourage their constituent members to view the WFDF Facebook page and "like" it.

Next Meeting

Proposed date: February 23/24, 2013.

Closing

The meeting closed at UTC 17:43.

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary