

Saturday, January 31, 2015

Saturday January 31st, 2015; UK, POR- 22:00; GER, SUI, SWE, RSA - 23:00; USA NY, VA, MI 17:00; USA CO, AZ 15:00; USA CA, CAN BC 14:00; Japan 07:00 (Sunday February 1st); Taiwan 06:00 (Sunday February 1st).

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Thomas Griesbaum, Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Tomas Burvall, Patrick van der Valk, Kevin Givens, Steve Taylor.

Also attending: Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director, non-voting), Ryan Purcell (Athletes’ Commission, non-voting), Karina Woldt, Event Manager (non-voting).

Board members absent/excused:

Michael Downes, Vincent Gaillard, Jamie Nuwer, Michael Hu, Fumio Morooka.

Call to order (time: 23:07)

The quorum was reached with 8 votes present.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed all participants and thanked them for participating.

Decisions between meetings

Written report provided in Briefing Book.

**Minutes of meeting of November 15-16, 2014, Toronto
Minutes of meeting of 20 December 2014**

The minutes will be voted upon by electronic vote presented by Bernardi as soon as possible.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Olympic Games Target 2024: Broadcasting and sponsorship effort

Rauch informed the Board that the new IOC Olympic Agenda 2020 opens up a potential for having Flying Disc and other sports included in the Olympic Program much sooner than originally expected. Rauch met with the USAU Board last weekend and presented proposals to work together getting Flying Disc (Ultimate) in the program of the 2024 Olympic Games, requesting financial and other resource contributions from them. Together with the USAU President and CEO, he also met with the head of the USOC Scott Blackmun as well as with other important NGBs.

As a prerequisite, WFDF would need 75 country members to meet the minimum IOC

requirement. In addition, it is likely we would have to show the IOC some television broadcasting exposure and a global sponsor to be considered seriously. USAU has already made introductions on broadcast TV side to several networks with whom they have worked. Two of the USAU Board members expressed a willingness to support WFDF on the sponsor side. Rauch referenced his report to the Board and requested input. He affirmed that this project should not keep WFDF from other tasks but rather be an extension of our current strategies. Bernardi had asked if WFDF would only work together with USAU regarding the 2024 Olympic Games or if we would care for other NFs with potential applicant cities as well, and Rauch indicated that of course the approach was to be as inclusive as possible. However, given the size and resources of USAU, it was a good place to start.

Van der Valk welcomed the great opportunity and asked about the 75 countries needed as WFDF is standing at 58 national members. Rauch commented that the objective was to devote new resources to developing new members, not to achieve it by lowering our standards for membership. He acknowledged that even the nominal dues of US\$150 is a stumbling block for some countries, and so we need to get creative. Even if we bring in new resources and if we don't get a new member afterwards, so be it. Some aspiring countries are close to becoming members as we know. Rauch confirmed that it costs money to be organized. Griesbaum asked if WFDF should set up an Olympic Commission. Rauch mentioned that Board members are welcome to give input on that topic. And in addition we might reach out to people outside of the Board to bring in experience as in the areas of Broadcast and on the commercial side we are not necessarily experts.

Rauch added that we have some 25 additional countries with known disc activity and even competitive play on our contact list. It just takes solidifying those contacts and encouraging them to get more organized. Purcell requested that we come up with a plan and find out if we can do this within the time frame. Rauch added that if we target 25 countries and we fall short, we still will have new members being brought in. Purcell was willing to help as this is similar to other things the Athlete's Commission is doing. But there needs to be some higher level of strategic plan. Givens asked whether these countries have to be playing Ultimate and Rauch confirmed that whatever sports they are playing counts.

WFDF Logo and branding project with VC

Rauch referenced page 14 in the briefing book and opened up a broad discussion of the WFDF "brand," from the logo to the name of the organization itself. Per the strategic plan tactic of the board to explore a rebranding of WFDF, Vincent, Volker and Nob had reviewed recent trends with other IFs and worked with VC Ultimate on potential new designs for the logo. We discussed the pros and cons of a name change to "World Flying Disc," dropping the Federation, along the lines of updates by World Archery and World Rugby in the last year or so. We also discussed the logo, which had been designed in 1986, and VC pointed out some outdated elements such as the slant of the letters and the difficulties for print/embroidery due to the thin lines. Board members also commented on how it was hard to read because of the way the disc path cut through the letters. Rauch concluded the discussion by agreeing to discuss additional design ideas with VC Ultimate and to then put forward for further board discussion and a vote.

WUGC 2016 - bid from UKU - approval and contract

Gisel reported that the Ultimate Committee has approved the WUGC bid from UKU after a change of the date in the initial proposal due to a conflict with other events at the site. WUGC will use the same venue as WU23 2015 which should ensure that the event is run smoothly. Rauch added that working with Simon Hill as former Ultimate Chair makes many things easy. Bernardi requested clarification of the question on who will pay for the travel of Game Advisors in 2016. Gisel explained that TOC will pay for meals and housing for Game Advisors at WU23 but that WFDF would cover travel, since the budget for WU23 was already finalized before Game Advisors were considered. Rauch added that the question is still open for WUGC 2016 but that it should be a part of the event expenses.

Rauch made a motion to approve of the WUGC 2016 bid from UKU, seconded by Givens. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

Ultimate: WU23 Game Advisor Training proposal and budget

Gisel referenced page 25 in the Briefing book and suggested to hold a Game Advisor clinic in UK in spring. He has asked Greg Connelly to set up a training program for Game Advisors. The UKU College Mixed Championships in March in Manchester seem to be a good event for this clinic. Liam Kelly is the local contact. The Dutch have asked if the Windmill Windup could be a good place for another clinic. The costs of the Clinic are at US\$ 2,500, but Greg already found a ticket for US\$ 1,000, so the total cost could be down to US\$ 2,000. Gisel asked for approval of the program as we cannot manage with only 4 or 5 Game Advisors at WU23. Many games would not be covered. Ten GAs at WU23 would give us much more chances. Liam Kelly plans to do more work on this in advance of the May session.

Rauch made a motion to approve of the proposal with a budget of US\$ 7,000, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

WU23 Broadcast crowdfunding proposal from Skyd

Gisel reported that Broadcaster Skyd has asked for permission to conduct a crowdfunding campaign to raise the amount of US\$ 30,000 which is needed to pay for the WU23 Livestream production and for which there is no event or WFDF budget. A crowdfunding campaign was done for the Ultimate event at the 2013 World Games in Colombia. It was proposed that WFDF would make an initial contribution of US\$ 5-10,000 and Skyd would run the public campaign. VC could give away stuff for funders. Skyd needs to start in mid February as they need to book early and plan. There was a concern about the high cost and the potentially limited audience, and questions if there wasn't a local group who could do it much more cost-effectively if there were no travel costs. Brian mentioned that Si Hill had initial discussions with Playo out of the Czech Republic. There was a concern that crowdfunding fatigue might occur in the community, but Gisel stated that it might not hurt to try anyway.

Rauch commented that video streaming would be great for WU23, but he was not sure how big the audience would be. WFDF could make a small budget for it but the

biggest obstacle for Skyd is the travel costs. In summary, an amount of US\$ 30,000 seems out of proportion to the community benefit. The proposal for the crowdfunding project was not supported by the Board.

Bernardi added that EUF has asked WFDF to fund streaming at EUC 2015.

Anti-Doping - nomination of TUEC and MADC Commissions

Bernardi reported that he had worked with Jamie Nuwer to fill out the Medical and Anti-Doping Committee and Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee. Another person will come in from UK. There are three additional members proposed from USA. It is hard to find qualified medical personnel from our sport to volunteer.

A motion was made to accept the proposal on the composition of the MADC and TUEC by Griesbaum, seconded by van der Valk. The motion was accepted unanimously.

IPC recognition / Formation of Para Flying Disc Working Group

Bernardi reported that PDGA has not come up with proposals so far for working group members from the Disc Golf community and thus he did not present a working group list as it only included Ultimate representatives so far. He hopes to have the PDGA list of candidates next week and then he would make a proposal either electronically or at the next Board meeting.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

WFDF Strategic Plan Task list follow up

Rauch reminded the Board members of their tasks for which they took responsibility during the Toronto Board meeting and asked them to work toward completing them by the stated deadlines.

Athletes' Commission Report and Survey

Purcell reported that the event participant survey is ready but did not go out yet. Rauch commented that the survey should be out next week.

Purcell proposed to hold a coaching event at WCBU in Dubai taking some 2-3 hours. 1-2 members from each country could speak with some coaching expert. There could be a panel with experts. This could be very helpful for participants from UAE, India, Uganda, etc. He suggested to fund a flight for Ryan Purcell to WCBU and confirmed that he would not play there. There is time to pull that together. The event should be held on-site at the venue directly.

A motion was made to approve a budget of US\$1,500 by Bergeron, seconded by van der Valk. The motion was approved unanimously.

Potential new member countries - status

Bernardi reported about the status regarding potential new members. There are two countries registered for WCBU who are not WFDF members. They are short on meeting the minimum 50 members and are not organized financially. They are not formally recognised in their country. Van der Valk gave an update as he talked with Mike McGuirk some minutes before the Board meeting and reports that disc activity is going well in Kenya.

Rauch commented that the main concern WFDF has is the level of institutionalization; if a potential or current organization is not so well organized, then there is the risk that if the important leader drops out (or an expat moves) there is no sustaining structure to keep things organized. Getting government approval is very difficult, e.g. USA just got it last year, so while this is very important, it cannot be a gating issue to membership. We need to make sure that we have enough players and clearly one pick up team is not enough. Having 4-5 big cities with clubs/teams is a good start in ensuring a country has potential. We agreed to review our membership requirements and make sure we are still comfortable with what we demand.

WFDF Merchandising partner - contract

Rauch referenced the briefing book and reported about the contract which is signed now with VC Ultimate.

WU23 2015 - contract

Rauch referenced the briefing book and reported about the contract which is signed now with TOC in London.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf (Downes)

There was no report given by the disc golf chair.

Freestyle (Givens)

Written report provided in Briefing Book. There seem to be difficulties in the co-operation with FPA on the establishment of a WFDF sanctioned World Championship event.

Guts (Taylor)

Taylor reported about the AOGCC proposal made by Michael Hu. Singapore and Australia may be interested, and the USA might come from outside the region. 5 - 6 countries are possible, several teams from Chinese Taipei. Good Japanese players who could not make it to Worlds could be coming.

There was a motion made by Rauch to accept the Chinese Taipei bid for 2015 WFDF Asia Oceanic Guts Club Championships, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Overall (Burvall)

Written report was provided in the Briefing Book.

Ultimate Events and others

Continental 2015 (PAUC, AOUC, EUC)

The Board discussed the proposal made by HKUPA to host AOUC 2015 in Hong Kong, China. The Ultimate Committee has approved of the bid.

Gisel made a motion to award the AOUC 2015 event to HKUPA, seconded by Rauch. The proposal was accepted unanimously.

WCBU 2015 - update

Van der Valk referenced his written report and reported about the preparations for WCBU in Dubai.

There were no questions re the other events listed on the agenda.

Finance

Treasurer report

Bergeron informed the Board that WFDF concluded the year satisfactorily but some things were more expensive than expected. Sanctioning fees from WUCC remain outstanding but it is unclear where the TOC is in managing the financial difficulties they experienced. The year end cash position is satisfactory and in line with budget. She will be following up with the Auditor.

Other business

Van der Valk asked WFDF to provide the approval of the Get Horizontal contract for WCBU.

On the championship appendices released by the Ultimate Committee Bernardi confirmed that he got final approval from Pfender and Berg.

The protocol on ceremonies for WCBU will be sent to van der Valk asap.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was proposed for 28 February/1 March 2015.

Closing

Rauch thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting and contribution.
The meeting closed at 01:22 CEST.

Submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary