

Sunday, January 24, 2016

Sunday January 24th, 2016; UK, POR- 14:00; GER, SUI, SWE- 15:00; RSA- 16:00; QAT- 17:00; USA NY, VA, MI- 09:00; USA CO, AZ- 07:00; USA CA, CAN BC- 06:00; JPN- 23:00; TPE- 22:00.

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Brian Gisel, Patrick van der Valk, Tomas Burvall, Michael Downes, Steve Taylor, Fumio Morooka, Michael Hu, Caroline Malone, Ryan Purcell.

Also attending: Volker Bernardi, Executive Director (non-voting), Karina Woldt, Event Manager (non-voting) and Tim Rockwood, Managing Director of Broadcasting and Marketing (non-voting).

Board members absent/excused:

Kevin Givens, Jamie Nuwer.

Call to order (time: 15:05)

The quorum was reached with 12 votes, with 8/14 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed the participants and thanked all for their participation. In particular he welcomed incoming Board member Caroline Malone to the Board meeting and thanked outgoing member Vincent Gaillard for his service.

Decisions between meetings

The votes 2015.9-10 have been approved by the WFDF Congress dealing with the membership proposal of EUPA (Egypt - new regular membership) and the 2014 financial audit. The Congress unanimously approved of all proposals with the respective majority needed.

Minutes of 19 December 2015 meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes by van der Valk, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Game Advisor Sub-Committee proposal

Gisel reported that the proposal is to formalize work being done so far informally, writing down how work and adjustments are being done over the years. WFDF can see interest from non-WFDF events in using Game Advisors. A written process will help to spread the idea. Van der Valk suggested that it would make sense to have a member of the SOTG Sub-Committee in the new Sub-Committee. As Gisel confirmed van der Valk will see who might be willing to volunteer. Rauch asked whether the chair of the Sub-Committee would be a member of the Ultimate Committee. Gisel explained that the idea was to only have the chair report to the UC. Purcell mentioned that the Board did not have a discussion about increasing the GA program and requested that the Sub-Committee would help to roll this out. Purcell wanted to make sure that WFDF’s stakeholders will recognize what is created by the Sub-Committee as this would keep the member associations from setting up their

own GA program.

A motion was made to approve of the proposal by Gisel, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

WUGC 2016 - New Zealand team eligibility request

Gisel reported that the New Zealand Masters team had requested that they be allowed to add one person of another nationality to their team. Gisel felt that WFDF should not be too loose on these eligibility criteria and stated that the Ultimate Committee did not approve this exception. Bernardi added that the topic needs to be discussed as there needs to be reporting to the Board since such requests are continuously being made to WFDF, and that UC decisions need to be communicated back to WFDF member associations properly. Additionally some of the requests are quite political and WFDF needs to be consistent in its decisions. A final consideration is that WFDF will want to show high participation figures with the background of the IMGA application.

A motion was made to reject the request made by NZU by Gisel, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Official charity partnerships proposal

Bernardi reported that WFDF was approached by several charities in the past creating some unpleasant surprises by conducting uncoordinated activities during events and just showing up at World Championships using these as their own platform without pre-approvals. On the other hand WFDF, has a history of working with charities (see Ultimate Peace example) and there are chances of creating synergies when working together. WFDF should establish a procedure for working with charities. Rauch added that the proposal to the Board is just formalizing a process and is nothing unusual with longer discussions needed. WFDF's Board needs to understand who WFDF is partnering with. Rauch confirmed that the policy will be made public.

A motion was made to approve of the proposal by van der Valk, seconded by Downes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Proposal - 2016 E.R.I.C / WFDF SOTG partnership

Van der Valk presented the proposal to establish a co-operation agreement with the charity organization E.R.I.C. for SOTG, explaining that E.R.I.C. wants to get connected to SOTG and was a partner of the International SOTG Day in November 2015. The charity works on early recognition of cancer diseases with youth and wants to obtain international representation. E.R.I.C. is willing to pay for the travel of SOTG directors and provide for a SOTG conference at WJUC. In return they want to be acknowledged as official SOTG partner and set up banners on fields of WUGC and WJUC for around 10 fields. According to van der Valk there is a good balance between give and take. A possible con is a slight commercialization of SOTG. Moreover, E.R.I.C. is the official charity partner of AUDL and WFDF might have to address this publicly. Will Deaver has questioned E.R.I.C.'s intentions because Jim Gerencser is also the owner of an AUDL team. Van der Valk confirmed that there was no vote on the matter within the SOTG Sub-Committee. E.R.I.C. is not doing much for the AUDL but does many clinics with kids about self-refereeing and he wants to use the connection to open the door to a broader discussion of self-refereeing within AUDL. Purcell was worried about a pressure on players to donate at WFDF events if contributions were being solicited. Rauch commented that the biggest benefit he sees is a commitment from Jim Gerencser to work within AUDL to reconsider the use of referees

which would be one of the best outcomes WFDF could get out of this deal.

Rauch proposed to table the proposal and get back to Jim Gerencser explaining the concerns. With a solid feedback from the SOTG Sub-Committee and after a discussion with USAU there might be a better way to mitigate the potential issues. Van der Valk was asked to disclose potential conflicts of interest when making the proposal as he is listed on the E.R.I.C. website as their Board member. Even if this position is not official everyone needs to be aware of this.

Rauch concluded that he would have a call with Jim and USAU and then have the proposal sent out for an electronic vote.

Beach Ultimate grant assessment approval

Rauch outlined that WFDF had agreed to set aside a certain amount of the Beach sanctioning fees for Beach Ultimate development grants. Van der Valk reported that the Beach Ultimate Committee has looked at the bids, scored them, had a conference call and went back to applicants with questions.

Out of 11 proposals the Committee suggests to fund 6 of them to various degrees, e.g. India was best proposal and will get the highest amount; Portugal was not asking for much money. Colombia proposed to bring Ultimate to fishing villages, which in the past has worked out well in India. Ocean Beach in the US is a hotbed of Beach Ultimate and they wanted some help with getting sidelines and some misprinted discs for their youth league. The Women`s league in Portugal and Spain asked for funding for normalizing gas costs so every player pays the same amount. The Committee proposes grants totaling to US\$ 5,000.-. Rauch commented that the Iberia/Lisbon project is a little inconsistent with WFDF`s typical grant making process and questioned the sustainability of the project proposal. Van der Valk commented that also for the Philippines the costs for gas would be covered. Rauch mentioned that if someone is running an event paying their gas is different than helping players attend an event. Purcell congratulated the Beach Ultimate Committee for the job done.

A motion was made to approve of the proposal by Purcell, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

USAU approach toward Beach Ultimate

Van der Valk confirmed that he was a strong proponent of pure self-refereeing. Last year the first US Beach Ultimate Championships were played with observers but he believes that Beach Ultimate is a totally different sport than Ultimate. Van der Valk did a survey on all 44 Beach event organizers asking what they felt about observers in the sport. 12 out of 14 who answered said they would not recommend the USAU Beach Ultimate event and as a conclusion he had proposed help to USAU in this matter. He put up the question if USAU officially represents Beach Ultimate in the US and whether they are really representing the US Beach Ultimate community. In his opinion, since USAU is playing Beach Ultimate with observers it is not playing by the WFDF Beach Ultimate rules. Van der Valk asked whether WFDF should ask USAU to stop playing with observers. Rauch stated that as a Board member van der Valk has the responsibility to work within the structures of WFDF and he cannot tell USAU that they do not represent Beach Ultimate in the USA or that USAU does not have the ability to run Beach Ultimate events. The MOU between BULA and WFDF explicitly recognizes that the NGB with responsibility in each country for Ultimate also has responsibility for Beach Ultimate. When they come to WFDF events they play by WFDF rules and also do well in the SOTG. It is a mistake not having a USAU member on the Beach

Ultimate Committee as USAU is single largest national member association of WFDF with over 55,000 members. It is clear that they make decisions according to their own strategic goals. There is no way in demanding that they do it in van der Valk's way in particular without asking the Board. Gisel confirmed that looking at other organizations and countries WFDF is well advised not to overstep bounds. If WFDF would realize that a national member association is not representing the best interest of its members one might step in. But USAU is a democratic sport organization and he would expect if people don't think USAU is running it well, they should be able to change from the inside. Rauch added that there is no basis for WFDF interference in USAU matters.

Van der Valk agreed as a conclusion to accept two USAU people in the Beach Ultimate Committee, one voting and one non-voting.

Broadcasting and Sponsoring report and addendum

Rockwood reported about the latest developments with regard to sponsorship for WUGC 2016 and about time-buy arrangements for TV broadcast time in the US. Rauch commented that WFDF is targeting the 2024 Olympics to be designated by the host city wherever that may be, and hopes to be accepted for the ANOC World Beach Games. So far WFDF cannot demonstrate commercial and TV suitability and therefore needs to work on demonstrating we can be successful in this area. Crowdfunding has gained some money in the past and could work to get a fair amount. Rauch proposed a WFDF fund of US\$25,000 for such a project. Rockwood confirmed that if WFDF can tell potential sponsors that WFDF has secured TV airtime it would change a lot.

Rauch proposed to pursue putting together an overall program to consider time buys and self-funding (crowd) and as part of that WFDF will continue with Rockwood working under the arrangement, seconded by Bergeron. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athlete`s Commission Report

Purcell referenced his report and gave further explanations on the elections and plans for replacing members of the Commission.

Potential new member countries - status

Bernardi reported that the Federation in Uruguay has postponed its application for a month or two. He is working with Sani and Loreto on other candidates.

Census and Dues

Bernardi reported that the 2016 member census is under preparation to be sent out to members associations by end of February.

Multisport Events Involvement – WBG, FISU WUC

Bernardi reported that the ANOC Sports Director has confirmed that WFDF Beach Ultimate is on the list proposed to the ANOC Council for approval.

The FISU presentation was delayed to 4/5 March in Brussels and Rauch will be able to

attend. WFDF has received information about plans to establish a University League in Europe by EUF. He will discuss the matter with Sani as this must not compromise WFDF's and EFDF's affiliation with FISU and EUSA respectively.

WFDF Advisory council and WFDF 2024 Olympic Task Force

The topic was tabled for the next meeting.

Other Disciplines

Disc Golf incl. TDGWC update

Downes reported that the contract for TDGWC was signed. The current points of progress are listed in his report. More countries have expressed interest, at least 12-16 nations. The event website will be up in the next weeks.

Freestyle

There was no new report on Freestyle.

Guts

Taylor reported that some international teams are coming in for WUGC 2016, e.g. Belgium, UAE, Ireland and asked about exemptions. Rauch suggested that Taylor calls Gisel about eligibility exemptions in Ultimate and build sustainable exemptions for Guts as well.

Overall

Burvall reported that the Tournament Manual has been sent out now.

Ultimate Events and others

Continental 2017 (PAUC, AOUC, AOGCC)

Woldt reported that she is still trying to get full event information from bidders. There are some gaps in budgets which must be clarified.

WUGC 2016 - report

Woldt reported that with 47 different countries in London the event is oversubscribed and the host is looking for extra venues. If Board members hear of teams that are having problems in getting Visa or there is a chance of teams pulling out it would be good to know.

Bernardi reported that KFDA and FDFI have registered for Guts and want to try to get into the event, but WFDF would not accept these registrations.

WJUC 2016

There is no addition to the written report.

World Games 2017

Bernardi reported that the IF passport has been signed and last questions are clarified.

Finance

Treasurer report and update on audit

Bergeron reported about the financials and gave explanations on the audit.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed for February 27 or 28.

Closing: 17:50 h

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary.