

Sunday, June 12, 2016

Sunday June 12th, 2016; UK, POR- 14:00; GER, SUI, SWE- 15:00; RSA- 15:00; QAT- 16:00; USA NY, VA, MI- 09:00; USA CO, AZ- 07:00; USA CA, CAN BC- 06:00; JPN- 22:00; TPE- 21:00.

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Kate Bergeron, Thomas Griesbaum, Brian Gisel, Patrick van der Valk, Charlie Mead, Steve Taylor, Tomas Burvall, Fumio Morooka, Caroline “Caz” Malone, Ryan Purcell, Jamie Nuwer.

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

Board members absent/excused:

Kevin Givens, Michael Hu.

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.

Decisions between meetings

None.

Minutes of 22 May 2016 meeting

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

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

2015 audited financials

The audited financials need to be finalized and a draft will be presented for Congress approval shortly.

WFDF transgender policy

We resumed the discussion on the WFDF transgender policy that had been tabled at the last board meeting. Mead would like to see another level of discretion by members who are in transition while understanding the need for measurable data driven definable levels of accountability. He suggested to having discussions with the people involved. He also proposed to implement something reflective of spirit of our sport in this policy.

Rauch mentioned experience from conflicts in the past and asked how one does reconcile the rights of both sides of the equation when you have a subjective element rules. Mead added that the change from female to male is less an issue. Transition is quite an emotional thing and if such process is challenged by another team it could result in difficulties. He was looking for something softer as guidance and questioned whether WFDF

can support a person until the transition is finished.

Rauch commented that introducing a more subjective test invites an additional challenge and if one does not have clear rules one may get many different interpretations. Mead asked that the emotional impact be kept in mind.

Purcell asked whether there is any way WFDF can support the athletes, and if so measures should be announced at the same time when WFDF announces the transgender procedures.

Gisel agreed that the present proposal is in line with IOC policies and other sports but did not support that as it does not reflect the WFDF specific Spirit culture. He felt that the USAU policy was a “nicer” version and not as invasive. He agreed that if Flying Disc is accepted into the Olympics IOC policies would likely apply anyway; the same applies to the World Games where IWGA rules would apply.

Rauch suggested that WFDF needs a policy as it is clear that this may soon be an issue and it would be best to be in front of it instead of reactive. Gisel agreed but preferred the USAU approach. Rauch suggested to get Nuwer’s comments on why the USAU policy was not proposed and to add Meads comments and materials.

Medical chair Nuwer then joined the meeting and was given an update; she commented that she wrote the USAU policy five years ago and was in the process of working to update their policy; she felt that the WFDF draft reflected current best practice. Rauch mentioned that in the last board meeting several board members had questioned whether the draft of a WFDF transgender policy presented by the Medical chair was too intrusive and asked Nuwer (who was not present at that meeting) respond to any questions.

Bernardi mentioned that the IOC is again reviewing its policy frame and will come back with a new suggestion soon to be proposed by their expert group. He asked whether WFDF might want to wait for these proposals.

Nuwer confirmed that this policy only affects World Championships participation and she was open to making changes to the draft to make it sound less scientific, as that seemed to be the biggest concern. Also a second document defining the duties of the Medical and Anti-Doping Commission might be needed.

Rauch added that, as was with the WFDF Anti-Doping policy, there is no obligation for member associations to apply the same on a national level. It was just a template. Nonetheless, WFDF indeed would require that the rules would be applicable to everyone playing at World Championships.

Nuwer proposed to create a policy statement more for public releases and confirm that it will be needed only for WFDF sanctioned events. Rauch proposed that Nuwer create a “layman’s version” and Mead propose language for some guidelines for member associations.

Rauch put forward a motion that the policy be adopted as such but not be announced until the additional materials were finalized. Bergeron seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

WFDF sanctioning for US Overall Open events

Burvall reported that in odd years without Overall event WFDF does not have a World Championships and it might help to get more PR and to spread the sport if there were

WFDF sanctioned Championships in the years between. He proposed to have a sanctioning for specific disciplines. In the US Open there were four events which offered a WFDF title. The US Open Overall event was sanctioned in 2014 but without an official title.

Bernardi added that sanctioning is not automatically awarding a title and WFDF should be careful to give a title to an event where there is no control over the organization. Burvall mentioned that such control was given at the US Open and Swedish Open. There would be only one event sanctioned as championship per year and that would take place in the country from where the last year's winner comes from.

Rauch suggested that with these many discussions and concerns the Overall Committee should think it through and come up with a more formal proposal with sufficient advance notice instead of doing it with a month's notice, which means starting in 2018.

Broadcast/Video Production Plan

Rockwood reported that planning for WUGC is on target and he was optimistic that there would be good streaming video. He suggested issuing a press release this week that offered access to the satellite transponder on Saturday at 2300 hr UK time which would permit any broadcaster to link to it and air it at their convenience, as that would help spread the broadcast footprint. The Board agreed with this proposal. This could result in having coverage in Germany, France, Denmark, Switzerland and British London! Live as no other sport is putting up a free unencrypted signal.

Rockwood reported on the lack of success in obtaining sponsorship. He had approached 75 companies through a very seasoned sales person but received zero traction caused by a lack of awareness of Ultimate and a lack of time. He explained that such proposals are usually discussed 12-15 months in advance. The goal is to prepare for this to happen in the future and one should start talking about WCBU 2017 now.

On video streaming, he reported that 30+ live streams should be possible and there also would be a program about Guts. This will be advertised heavily through social media.

Americas Masters Games - Vancouver

Gisel reported about his meeting with the Organizing Committee for the Americas Masters Games 2016 in Vancouver. The vision for Ultimate would be to have at least 500 Ultimate athletes (20-25 teams) in multiple divisions (Men's Masters, Women Masters and Men's Grandmasters). The cost would be CAD 50/athlete amounting to some CAD 1,000 per team.

Gisel reached out to teams in Northwest to spread the word and ask for interest by 30 June. It is too early to tell what the status is but it seems to be clear that if there are not 25 solid contacts by 30 June it would not be possible to have an Ultimate event happen at the Americas Masters Games taking place from 26-28 August.

Gisel asked what is the WFDF budget for this, as the athlete fee is going to the OC for AMG and they would provide the space and the medals but no logistical support like a TTD running the event or any materials (printing, tents, player food etc.).

Rauch responded that if there is expression of interest WFDF would then answer the question what WFDF can subsidize. Gisel requested that no additional fees be added on players as it is expensive already compared to CAD 500/team for a local event. He will be in touch on the matter during his stay in London for WUGC.

WFDF 2015 Development Program Report

Gisel mentioned the development program report in the briefing book to which he had nothing to add.

WFDF 2016 Development Program Status

Gisel reported that, as of the deadline, WFDF had received 14 submissions as applications for a development grant in 2016 which will be reviewed by the Sport for All/Development Commission, and recommendations will be made at the next Board meeting.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athlete's Commission Report

Purcell referenced his report and reported about the upcoming elections to the Commission at WUGC in London.

Census process update/membership dues invoices

Bernardi reported that, while co-operation of WFDF member associations was solid in principle, there remain some continuing issues with Iceland, Dominican Republic and Panama not responsive with census data.

Disc Sport Reports

Guts

Taylor referenced his written report and expected a great event in London at WUGC 2016.

Freestyle

No report given.

Beach Ultimate

Van der Valk reported about the proposal to have a change of the women's Masters age in Beach Ultimate being discussed within the Beach Ultimate Committee.

Championship Events and others

WUGC 2016 - report

Gisel reiterated that the 2016 event preparations are going well and the schedule for WUGC was finalized with a little push back. He expected a great event at WUGC in London.

WJUC 2016 - report

Woldt mentioned that there will be a higher number of teams than had been anticipated with 50 teams signing up now. The TOC in Poland needs support from WFDF side.

TDGWC 2016 - report

Woldt reported about the registration and the status. It will be a small event but it is an important priority for WFDF.

Finance

Treasurer report

Bergeron reported about the financials as of 31 May 2016. Expenses are higher at the moment due to the unbudgeted Broadcast project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed for late July.

Closing: 16:35 h

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary