

Proposal WFDF 2010.11: Women's Masters Division at WUC2012 submitted by Jonathan Potts

A. Background:

WFDF introduced an Open Masters division at the World Ultimate Championship before there was a national championship for Open Masters anywhere but in the USA. To this day, only the USA and Canada indicate on their annual census that they conduct a National Open Masters Championship. The lack of national masters competitions hasn't prevented old friends from former elite teams getting together to put a serious team together for Open Masters at World Championships.

A women's masters division should preferably be trialed at EUC2011 in order to prove the viability of a women's masters division, possibly with the option to join the division with the women's division in the case insufficient numbers (<6) to provide a meaningful competition. The WFDF Ultimate Committee will make a final decision on interest levels after EUC is completed.

The following countries have been consistently strong in women's Ultimate over the past 20 years and might be expected to be able to field a women's masters team in 2012:

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. Finland
4. Germany
5. Great Britain
6. Japan
7. Netherlands
8. Sweden
9. USA

6 teams at WUC should be enough to ensure a viable competition.

A women's masters division is proposed instead of a mixed masters division, because it is the best route to introducing real equality between the sexes, and Women's Masters should be allowed to flourish before a mixed masters division is introduced.

It is proposed that the age requirement should be somewhere between 30 and 33 initially, but should move towards the 33 year limit by 2020.

B. Proposal Wording:

That WFDF will include a women's masters division in the bidding and planning for WUC2012, with WFDF Ultimate Committee making the final decision on its inclusion based on feedback from WFDF members in the leadup to the event.

C. Pros/Cons:

Pros	Cons
Providing opportunities for masters age women to compete at an elite level.	Current size limitations of WUC.
Gender equality.	
Keeping some of our best players and administrators involved in our sport. Worlds holds great memories for many older players. It could translate to higher participation of Women in WFDF administration.	

D. Financial Implications:

Probably revenue neutral. If the women's masters division does not go ahead, then it is likely that the space will be filled by other teams.

E. Conclusion:

Only by sending this early signal to our members and elite players can we give the Women's Masters division the best chance of success. National associations and their former elite players will seriously evaluate the possibility of putting a team together.

“If you build it, they will come.”

Submitted on May 22 2010 by Jonathan Potts, WFDF President