

Saturday March 18, 2017; UK, POR- 21:00; GER, SUI, SWE- 22:00; RSA- 23:00; QAT- 00:00 (SUN March 19); USA NY, VA, MI 17:00; USA CO, AZ 15:00; USA CA, CAN BC 14:00; SUN March 19: Japan 06:00; Taiwan 05:00; Philippines 05:00

Board members present:

Robert “Nob” Rauch, Thomas Griesbaum, Kate Bergeron, Brian Gisel, Charlie Mead, Fumio Morooka, Caroline Malone, Ryan Purcell, Karen Cabrera, Kevin Givens.

Also attending: Volker Bernardi, (Executive Director, non-voting), Karina Woldt (Event Manager, non-voting), Tim Rockwood (non-voting), Rob McLeod (non voting),

Board members absent/excused:

Tomas Burvall, Jamie Nuwer, Michael Hu, Steve Taylor.

Call to order (time: 22:07 CET)

The quorum was reached with 10 votes of 8/14 needed.

Report by the President

Rauch welcomed the Board members and thanked all for participating.

Decisions between meetings

Approval of minutes of 11 December 2016 and 22 January 2017 meetings. Both were approved by 9 votes and 1 abstention.

Minutes of last meetings

(already approved; see above)

Decisions requiring votes or input from the Board

Approval of 4 new memberships proposals

Bernardi reported that all four candidates had been in contact with WFDF for at least the last 12 months. They all showed consistent work and submitted all documents WFDF requested. Official registration in many countries is difficult but WFDF has evidence that there are flying disc activities in these countries.

Congress had agreed on application of Armenia as 70th member. These new applications would bring members 71 through 74 to WFDF.

The Board voted on the proposals one by one in the order as 71st through 74th member.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve the Lebanon (LFDA) membership proposal, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Malone to approve the Thailand (TFDT) membership proposal, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Givens to approve the Republic of Moldova (MFDF) membership proposal, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Griesbaum to approve the Romania (RFDA) membership proposal, seconded by Gisel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commercial and Broadcast plans for 2016-2017

Rockwood reported that he has finalized streaming media plans for the World Championships Beach Ultimate in Royan, France. The showcase field will be covered by the French company VISIOPROD

augmented by many members of the staff from London 2016. The live stream will be free, worldwide and archived. The Finish company Fanseat will cover fields 2 and 3 behind a paywall.

Rockwood mentioned a discussion with Facebook's head of sports partnerships to better understand how WFDF could better use the platform around WFDF's large events. Rockwood then presented UNILAD, an emerging Facebook platform out of London and Birmingham. They are experimenting with different revenue models to cover production costs for sports events and share a small part of their income with the respective event producers. Rockwood proposed the WFDF Board to approve him setting up an agreement with UNILAD for WCBU 2017 in an attempt to gain more revenues for WFDF. Gisel asked if UNILAD was also interested in the WUCC 2018 in Cincinnati, but as of now there is interest by another company.

A motion was made by Malone to approve discussions with UNILAD and to try to reach a deal, seconded by Purcell. The motion was approved unanimously.

Other topics discussed were:

- Usage of the Olympic Channel
- Live stream at the World Games 2017
- A preference for not offering streams behind a paywall
- Drone policies at WCBU: WFDF has plans to use a drone and needs accreditation to do so
- WFDF and USAU should share more of their marketing activities

Approved disc policy

Rauch reported that Discraft feels concern about other Ultimate disc manufacturers (whose discs are approved by WFDF) advertising with "WFDF approved" would diminish its status as WFDF disc sponsor. He stated that WFDF does not have a policy on what producers of approved discs may do. Initial feedback to the draft presented made clear that more discussion was needed.

Gisel stated that it seemed odd to disallow a producer to say its disc is WFDF approved after a successful approval. Rauch suggested to ask for an annual fee for a producer to have the right to use the term "WFDF approved."

Without a formal vote, it was agreed that WFDF needs an approved disc policy and that Rauch would approach our current Ultimate disc partner to get their input on charging other disc provider a fee for the right to use the WFDF approval for marketing purposes.

IT project and website revamp

Rauch reported that Taylor had received the go ahead to proceed on the new web site and would start within a few days. Taylor expected to be able to have many parts of the new web site presentable by the next board meeting.

Malone reminded that having content up to date is very important. She asked all board members who have a special interest in certain areas of the web site to contribute to the relevant content.

Modification of Masters age – Ultimate

Gisel presented the proposal to lower the eligibility age for female players participating in the Mixed Masters division of grass Ultimate from 33 years to 30 years, effective immediately. This change would bring the eligibility age for females participating in the Women's Masters and Mixed Masters divisions to the same level, avoiding unnecessary confusion in this area. The WFDF Ultimate Committee had voted unanimously in favour of presenting this proposal to the Board.

A discussion arose about whether master ages should actually be raised rather than lowered. Gisel said teams were getting younger on average, Malone mentioned that in other sports master ages were being raised. Bergeron also stated that women were still playing highly competitively up into their 30s.

Gisel confirmed that this change was only to achieve the same rule for different divisions and at such short notice it was easier to lower the age than to raise it. He agreed that there should be a discussion about rethinking the master ages.

Woldt added that master ages should be the same in grass and in beach Ultimate.

A motion was made by Gisel to lower the eligibility age for female players participating in the Mixed Masters division of grass Ultimate from 33 years to 30 years, effective immediately, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

Requirement of 100% advanced rules accreditation

Rauch stated that the full proposal hadn't been received yet. Therefore the proposal would be tabled.

Approval of new Beach Ultimate rules and Appendix

Cabrera presented the WFDF Rules of 5-on-5 Beach Ultimate 2017 and the Championship Appendix. Some board members had found inconsistencies and sections needed to be updated (e.g. mention of "studs", different division names from grass Ultimate, different age limit in Great Grandmaster division).

Woldt noted that the name of the world championship event has changed from World Championships of Beach Ultimate (WCBU) to World Beach Ultimate Championships (WBUC).

Gisel mentioned that there currently is no need for World Beach Ultimate Rankings as the qualification for the World Beach Games would be the last WBUC event.

A motion was made by Malone to approve of the new WFDF Beach Ultimate rules after applying the mentioned modifications, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of TTD for AOUGC 2017, Manila

Gisel reported that Patrick Fourcampre-Maye had agreed to serve as Tournament Technical Delegate for AOUGC. Rueben Berg would be the head Game Advisor there.

Woldt added that Fourcampre-Maye would also be in Royan at the WCBU.

A motion was made by Purcell to approve Mr. Patrick Fourcampre-Maye (UAE) as Tournament Technical Delegate for AOUGC 2017 in Manila, Philippines, 17-20 August 2017, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Sport for All / Development Commission composition

Bernardi informed that the WFDF sustainable officer Johanna von Toggenburg needed to be added to the Sport for All / Development Commission. He also proposed to add Thierry Fulconis from Luxembourg as representative from a smaller WFDF member.

A motion was made by Malone to approve of the addition of these two new members to the Sport for All / Development Commission, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

WFDF Entourage Commission composition

Bernardi proposed to add Peter Kramer from Hungary to the WFDF Entourage Commission. This commission would become more involved in the future and Kramer had been very active in recent WFDF communications.

A motion was made by Givens to approve of the addition of Peter Kramer to the WFDF Entourage Commission, seconded by Mead. The motion was approved unanimously.

Disc Golf Committee membership

Mead outlined his long search for committee members. In the recent months interest to become part of the committee had risen and presented 7 proposed members:

Adriano Medola – Brazil
Bernd Wender – Austria
Carlos Rio – Spain
Florence Dumont – France
Hiroshi Yokota – Japan
Leonard Muise – USA
Rein Rottmeister - Estonia

A motion was made by Purcell to accept the aforementioned candidates as members of the WFDF Disc Golf Committee, seconded by Morooka. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bylaws Revision Project

Rauch presented an overview of the proposed bylaw revisions as initially discussed at the face to face board meeting in New York in 2016. Proposed changes are:

Definition of Members:

- One member per nation
- Transition period of 3-5 years in case of multiple members per nation
- Organizational membership transitions to some form of Associate membership

Governance Structure:

- Expand board membership (from 14 to 19)
- Executive Officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer)
- Disc Sport Chairs (Ultimate, Beach Ultimate, Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts, Overall)
- Continental representation (Africa, Asia-Oceania, Europe, Panamerica)
- Medical Officer
- Athletes Commission Chair
- Spirit of the Game Committee Chair
- At-large Members (2)
- Establish a formal Vice President (to be chosen from the board membership)

Rauch asked those interested in working on the revision to approach him. He outlined the schedule for implementation of these changes. Malone mentioned her interest in helping out.

International Test Matches - WFDF recognition

Rauch presented this proposal by WFDF member Australian Flying Disc Association. WFDF sanctioned test matches could help get publicity and sponsorship. There would be little extra burden on WFDF.

Gisel mentioned that WFDF should not be held liable for any test match. Mead mentioned that test matches might also work very well for Disc Golf teams.

Bernardi asked if the decision to implement International Test Matches needed Congress approval. Rauch replied that since these matches had no impact on world rankings or on qualifications for world championships or The World Games he saw no need for Congress approval.

A motion was made by Morooka to approve of the sanctioning of International Test Matches by WFDF according to the AFDA proposal, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports and Updates

WFDF Governance

Athlete's Commission Report

Purcell reported about the latest Athletes' Commission meeting. The commission was looking at using a private Facebook group with a few extra members from outside the commission to get more feedback.

2016 Disc Community Survey

Rauch presented a summary report on the results from 2016 Disc Community Survey. So far they have not been filtered or analysed and anyone interested in doing that is invited.

Rauch asked the results to be posted on the WFDF web site as well as to have a press release prepared.

2017 Membership survey and dues invoices

Bernardi reported that so far 51 replies had been received. While 20 were still missing this was better than in recent years.

Disc Sport Reports

Disc Golf

Mead reported that he had set up a list of priorities for the new Disc Golf Committee for the next few years, including:

- To build Disc Golf into the WFDF Development and Missionary Programme.
- To actively promote and practice equality and diversity principles within the committee and in its work.
- To develop the WFDF Disc Golf Ambassador programme.
- To develop and initiate a Parasports programme for Disc Golf throughout the WFDF membership.
- To enable member countries and each nation's Disc Golf Association to compete in team disc golf competitions on a Continental, Regional and National basis.

Guts

Rauch was advised by Taylor that, for AOUGCC, three Guts teams had registered with additional interest by teams from Japan, Australia, Taiwan and Philippines. South Korea has also shown interest.

Freestyle

Givens mentioned the Frizzbeer event in Prague with 59 participants from 12 countries. He was working on the 2017 Hall of Fame inductions as well as on the upcoming FPA world championships in Udine, Italy, August 3rd to 6th. The WFDF World Freestyle Championships (together with WOC) in Basingstoke was also developing very well. He was also working with historians who were updating the history of Freestyle document housed on the WFDF web site.

Overall

No report was given.

Beach Ultimate

Cabrera reported that at games being live streamed yellow discs would be used to increase the visibility of the disc on sand. For other games teams may chose.

Championship Events and others

2017 events - report

Woldt reported that all 3 regional events (Asia/Oceanic, Africa and PanAm) regional events this year have all been oversubscribed. There is only field space for 15 teams in Africa, 68 in Asia/Oceanic and 86 in PanAm. We have only 14 countries so far for the U24 in Australia. We will seek to interest European countries to participate.

Woldt reminded the board about the idea to have Continental Championships in Beach Ultimate in 2019. However the WFDF Beach Ultimate Committee did not see it feasible to run these regional events in 2019, although BULA still is pushing for this.

Van der Valk had also asked for WFDF to consider the African regional event to be alternating between grass and sand. Gisel raised concerns that after this event on grass was starting to gain traction it might lose momentum if there were a change. But perhaps we could look at sanctioning once of the current Beach Events in the region.

There had also been questions about changing the frequency of those events but Woldt wanted to move the discussion about it to one of the next board meetings.

Woldt then presented the proposal for WFDF Policy for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's/Drones) which would require any drone usage at WFDF events subject to written approval by WFDF.

A motion was made by Gisel to approve of the WFDF Policy for use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's /Drones) with one revision as suggested by Rockwood, seconded by Givens. The motion was approved unanimously.

2017 TDGWC

Mead reported that for the WTDGC 2017 participation was still lower than expected with many European countries missing. He asked board members to approach their national federations to find out what would be needed to make them send a team.

Rauch asked if it would help if he sent a note to WFDF members. Mead agreed and added that also individual players might ask their national federations to play.

Finance

Treasurer's report

Rauch reported that in 2017 there hadn't been much income yet as dues invoices had just been sent out.

He stated that the briefing book for Congress must be sent by April 24, and therefore the next board meeting would be on April 22 or 23, 2017.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was proposed for April 22/23, 2017

Closing: 00:09 CET

submitted by Thomas Griesbaum, WFDF Secretary