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## PRESS RELEASE

### WFDF 2017 Elections Results Announced

The World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) has announced the results of its 2017 elections. The WFDF Member Associations voted on open positions on the Board of Directors and on the Ultimate Committee to serve from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019.

“WFDF is fortunate to be able to rely on a Board comprised of individuals with significant experience and varied expertise in order to respond to the opportunities and challenges we face as a fast-growing international sports federation,” commented WFDF President Robert “Nob” Rauch. “We are pleased to have increased the number of women on the Board to five out of the fourteen members. I would like to thank outgoing Board member Michael Hu for his tremendous support during many years of service as a board member and in his ongoing work in Chinese Taipei and in the Asian region, and to also acknowledge outgoing Events Sub-Committee chair Elizabeth Houthrow for her contributions during her tenure. We also thank Rena Kawabata and Wolfgang Maehr for their interest in supporting WFDF at the top governance level.”

The following candidates were elected for the respective Board positions:



**Secretary/Executive Committee member: Thomas Griesbaum (GER)**

Thomas has been involved with disc sports since 1981, beginning with freestyle, disc golf and field events and later with Ultimate. He served as a WFDF board member from 2001-2006 and rejoined as Secretary in 2011. He has been President of the European Flying Disc Federation since 1990 and was a co-founder of Deutscher Frisbeesport-Verband for which he served as President from 1989-2000. He organized the first Ultimate exhibition in the World Games in 1989 and served as WFDF’s technical delegate at the 2005 World Games. Thomas is currently a staff member of the Faculty of Informatics at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.



**Treasurer/Executive Committee member: Kate Bergeron (USA)**

Kate rejoined the Board as WFDF Treasurer in 2014, having held this position previously from 2008 through the end of 2012. She served as a WFDF board member since 2007 and has held numerous functions at the Ultimate Players Association (now USA Ultimate) including serving as its President from 2002 to 2004. Kate has worked as a coach for several Women’s Ultimate teams and won the Silver medal at 2014 World Ultimate Club Championships in the Women’s Masters division with Godiva and the inaugural USAU 2017 Grand Master’s Women’s 2017 Championship with Boston Ultimate. Kate is the Vice President, Hardware Engineering at Apple, Inc. in Cupertino, CA and has experience as a Product Development Executive since 2000.



**Chair, Ultimate Committee/Executive Committee member: Brian Gisel (CAN)**

Brian has been a WFDF board member since 2009 and previously from 2002-2007, serving as the Ultimate Committee Chair from 2004-2007. He was tournament director of the 2008 World Ultimate and Guts Championships and the 1997 World Ultimate Club Championships and has run several Canadian National Championships. He was the Vancouver Ultimate League Board President from 2009-2012 and has also served on the Ultimate Canada board. Brian is currently the General Manager of BC Ultimate.



**Chair, Freestyle: Kevin "Skippy Jammer" Givens (USA)**

Skippy has over 35 years of experience in managing and playing Flying Disc Sports. He has been the tournament director of FPA Freestyle World and WFDF World Overall championships as well as numerous Ultimate and Disc Golf events. He has also won 14 major freestyle titles as a competitor. He was also the WFDF Executive Director from 2008-2010. Skippy recently retired from his position as the Intramural and Sports Club Supervisor (Competitive Sports Director) for the University of California, Santa Cruz.



**Director at large: Amandine Constant (FRA)**

Amandine is the Secretary General of the French Flying Disc Federation (FFDF) and holds the position of Secretary General of the European Flying Disc Federation (EFDF). She has played Ultimate in France since 2006, and her French Women Team received the Spirit of the Game award at WCBU 2011 in Italy. Amandine also has been active as manager of the France U17 Girls and U20 Men team, a Grenoble University Team coach, a Cofounder of Ultimate Federation of Mali and President of Grenoble Flying Disc Club for 4 years. She has organized numerous Mixed Ultimate tournaments, and was the Tournament Director for the WFDF 2017 World Championship of Beach Ultimate in Royan, France.



**Director at large: Caroline Malone (QAT)**

Caroline is currently the President of the Ultimate Players Association of Qatar (UPAQ), a position to which she was elected in 2015 after having served as an experienced UPAQ Director. As a Director of Development she is promoting disc sports in the region and with players across Asia and Africa. Caroline "Caz" Malone is an international Frisbee player for Open, Mixed and Women's teams across three continents. She works as a Producer and reporter for international news broadcasters with 12 years of global experience.



**Medical Director: Jamie Nuwer (USA)**

Jamie has served as the Medical Anti-Doping Committee Chairwoman of WFDF since 2011 and as the Medical Committee Chairwoman for USA Ultimate since 2010. She has been the coach for the UCLA and Stanford Women's Ultimate Frisbee teams since 2003 and was coach of the USA U20 and U23 junior national teams in 2012-2013. She has done research on college Ultimate injuries and developed the Sports Medicine Section of the USA Ultimate Coaching Manual for Coaching. She is currently a physician at the Menlo Medical Clinic in California.

**Returning Members of the Board**



**President: Robert "Nob" Rauch (USA), Executive Committee position**

Robert "Nob" Rauch was an active Ultimate player from 1976 to 1994 and has been involved in positions of leadership in disc sports since 1987. He was the National Director/Executive Director of the Ultimate Players Association (the UPA, now USA Ultimate or USAU) from 1988 to 1990, was chairman of the UPA's Executive Committee in 1991-1992, and is currently a member of the USAU Investment Committee and Hall of Fame Committee. He has also served as president of the World Flying Disc Federation from 1992 to 1994 and from 2011 to the present and as Chair of its Ultimate Committee from 1988 to 1992.

As an athlete playing on Ultimate teams in Chicago, Boston, and New York, Nob won six US National Championships and five World Championships, and he was elected to the Ultimate Hall of Fame in 2006. He also was a contributing writer for the book "Ultimate: The First Four Decades" published in December 2005. Rauch has a 37 year career in finance and is currently a partner and portfolio manager of Gramercy Financial Group, a US\$ 6 billion investment firm specializing in corporate and sovereign debt investments in global emerging markets. He received his bachelor's degree in political economy from Williams College and master's degree in finance and international business from the Kellogg School of Northwestern University. He is married to former Ultimate player Katie Shields Rauch and has three children.



**Disc Golf Chair: Charlie Mead (GBR)**

Charlie Mead has rich experience as a player, administrator, and tournament organizer of all disc sports since 1980. He has held World Overall titles, and European and British Titles in Disc Golf in Open, Master, Grand Master and Senior Grand Master Divisions, and he was awarded the Steady Ed Headrick Trophy for representing and developing Disc Golf in 2013. Still active, for 2016 he was elected Captain of the GB Team for the European Disc Golf Championships in Oulu, Finland. He was also a member of the Great Britain National Ultimate Team from 1982-1991 in the Open and Masters' Divisions. Charlie was the first UK Flying Disc President (1981), first European Flying Disc Federation President (1982), first WFDF President (1985- 1989), and Chair of the WFDF Ultimate Committee and Board member (1994-2002). He has previously served as the International Coordinator for the British Disc Golf Association (BDGA). Charlie was the Tournament Director (TD) for the WFDF Overall Championships in Colchester in 1989, the TD for WFDF World Ultimate Championships in 1986, 1994, 1995, and 1999, and Technical TD for WFDF's events in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, and 2002. In 2017 he oversaw the 2nd World Team Disc Golf Championships in Colchester, UK as WFDF Technical Director. Outside of his disc career, Charlie is currently an independent consultant providing localized community-based psychological support to children in need. He received a BA (Hons) from Keele University, and M.Ed. degrees in both Child Psychology and Educational Psychology from Birmingham University. Charlie lives with partner Maggi on their farm in Devon, UK.



**Beach Ultimate Committee Chair: Karen Cabrera (PHI)**

Karen has played Beach Ultimate since 2004 and has been a member of the Beach Ultimate Committee since 2007. She has organized local and international tournaments and run development clinics. Karen has managed and played for the Boracay Dragons Ultimate team since 2005, participating in three World Championships of Beach Ultimate. Since 2013, she has been a board member for the Philippine Flying Disc Association. Karen lives on the island of Boracay in the Philippines.



**Overall Committee Chair: Tomas Burvall (SWE)**

Tomas won the title as WFDF Overall World Champion in the 2013 WFDF World Overall Championships in Norrköping, Sweden, amassing five gold medals by also winning the title in the discipline of Discathon and in several masters' division events. As a multi-disciplinary athlete, he also won a silver medal in Guts in 1996 and junior division gold in 1990. He has won eight gold medals in the Masters division since 2009 and was decorated with his first gold medal in Overall in 2007 in Ithaca, NY (USA) and in Self Caught Flight 1997 in Helsinki. Tomas also was the winner of 35 Overall medals in Sweden, 15 of which have been golds. He is currently working as the head of the integration in Ovanåkers county and also as a psychosynthesis therapist.



**Guts Committee Chair: Steve Taylor (USA)**

Steve has been the President of USA Guts since 2007. As an athlete, he has played Guts since 1981 and his team won the 2010 US National Championship. He was a member of Team USA at WUGC 2004 and WUGC 2008 and participated in the All Japan Guts Tournament in Tokyo in 2007 and 2009. Steve is the owner and partner of LUX Interactive, which provides web based software solutions to a variety of clients, including concentrations in airlines, not-for-profit organizations and e-commerce clients.



**Director at large: Fumio "Moro" Morooka (JPN)**

Moro is a sports education professional who has been a Board Member of WFDF continuously since 1992. He has also currently served as President of Japan Flying Disc Association since 2009 and is on the Executive Committee of the International World Games Association. He was Tournament Director of the WFDF WUGC in 1992 and TOC President in 2012 of the World Ultimate and Guts Championships held in Japan. In addition to disc sports, Moro has been a Board Member of the Japan Olympic Academy (JOA) from 2007-Present and Executive Director of the Japan World Games Association (JWGA) from 2001 to the present. He previously served as Executive Director of the World Games 2001 Akita Organizing Committee and was a Council Member of SportAccord from 2009 -2011. Moro is Professor of Department of Health and Physical Education at Sophia University in Tokyo, where he has served as its chair, and has authored numerous books and papers in the field of sports and recreation.



**Athletes Commission Chair: Ryan Purcell (RSA)**

Ryan was elected as chair to the Athletes' Commission in 2012. As an athlete, he began his career at the University of Michigan and has competed in both the USA Ultimate College and Club Championships on multiple occasions as well as the 2010 WFDF World Club Championships in Prague and the 2012 WFDF World Ultimate and Guts Championships in Sakai, Japan. Ryan has coached club teams in Australia, South Africa and the United States, as well as led youth programs in each country. He currently is a Senior Manager for supply chain technology provider LLamasoft, Inc.

**Election Result Details**

The 2017 Election was conducted on-line via a voting form using the Single Transferable Vote methodology. There were 56 regular members in good standing with a total of 133 votes. To meet the requisite majorities, a total of 67 votes were required for election with no less than 29 member associations voting.

Over the course of the voting period which extended from November 15 to December 15, 2017, 36 members with a total of 99 votes cast their ballots. All candidates have received the quorum needed for passage.

The following votes were tallied per each candidate:

**WFDF Board of Directors Members:**

- Secretary: Thomas GRIESBAUM (92 yes, 7 abstentions)
- Treasurer: Kate BERGERON (92 yes, 7 abstentions)
- Ultimate chair: Brian GISEL (89 yes, 10 abstentions)
- Freestyle Chair: Kevin GIVENS (77 yes, 22 abstentions)
- Board at-large member: Amandine CONSTANT (winner - 42 STV Votes)
- Board at-large member: Caroline MALONE (winner - 26 STV Votes)



Board at-large member: Jamie NUWER (winner - 25 STV votes)

Board at-large member: Rena KAWABATA (18 STV votes)

Board at-large member: Michael HU (10 STV Votes)

**Ultimate Committee Members:**

SOTG chair: Travis SMITH (winner - 57 STV Votes)

SOTG chair: Wolfgang MAER (33 STV Votes)

Events Subcommittee chair: Shiellah QUINTOS (93 yes, 6 abstentions)

**About WFDF:**

The World Flying Disc Federation is the international sports federation responsible for world governance of flying disc (frisbee) sports, including Ultimate, Beach Ultimate, Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts and Overall Events. WFDF is a federation of 78 member associations that represent flying disc sports and their athletes in over 76 countries.

WFDF is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and it is a member of the Association of Recognised International Federations (ARISF). WFDF is a member of GAISF and the International World Games Association (IWGA) and IMGA. It is also a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency Code. WFDF is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of Colorado, USA.

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