



MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board Online Meeting #41
on 9 October 2024

Attendees

Executive Board

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Kim Forge (KFO)	Vice-President
Morten Sjøgaard (MSO)	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Jill Officer (JOF)	Director
David Sik (DSI)	Director
Tyler George (TGE)	Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	WCF Projects Officer/Minute taker

The meeting started at 13:00 CET.

Presidents Update

The President welcomed everyone and gave the following update on his recent activities. He had attended the following events:

- Sport Accord Board Meeting
- 2024 Everest Canadian Club Curling Championships
- Annual General Assembly of Curling Canada

A notice had been received from IPC to confirm that Wheelchair Curling would be part of the Paralympic Games 2030 in the French Alps.

Coming up is the Annual IF Forum in Lausanne with a WOF meeting taking place in Lausanne at the same time. In the WOF meeting there will be a presentation from Milan/Cortina OWG 2026 and from Saudia Arabia on the Asian Winter Games 2029. BWE will also be part of a panel presentation at the Forum.

A letter had been received from G. Nagy (HUN) regarding PCCC and ECC. The questionnaire on this issue is currently being worked on. He advised that the Events Group would be meeting

shortly and will now focus more on fan and spectator engagement. DSI mentioned that the financial impact of a replacement event for the ECC must be analysed in detail. CGR confirmed that once several options are presented by the C&R a price tag will be added to each of those options.

A letter had also been received from British Curling highlighting concerns re the number of events on the curling calendar for elite teams and the potential clash of dates around the ECC / Slams in November 2024. It was hoped that the work of the Events Group and CnR might solve this.

A letter had been received from UKR asking to extend the ban of RUS and BLR until the end of the 24/25 season. The President felt this would be premature and suggested that this be discussed during the Board Meetings in December.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The approval of the September Board Minutes (Montreal pre- and post-AGA) was postponed to the November Board meeting. However, the following two changes to the post-AGA minutes were requested:

- Final sentence: "The meeting ~~started~~ ended at 16:00"
- Events Working Group: "There are lost of opportunities right now. The big deal was that the B- and C-Division nations felt left out and that was the reason for the ~~"European-meeting"~~ meeting of the group of interested nations on the night before the AGA. There is a lot of development in the B- and C-Division as well which needs to be taken care of."

Conflict of Interest

An updated list had been circulated by CGR. DSI flagged up the following additional conflicts:

- Manager of two Curling halls in Czechia
- Potential competitor at World Curling events in season 2024/2025
- Representing Czech Curling Association on NOC (until next NOC election in June 2025)

TGE asked that the following be added as well:

- Broadcasting for the Grand Slam of Curling Group

Commission and Committee Updates

- a. Finance Commission
No meeting held since last Board meeting
- b. Competitions and Rules
No meeting held since last Board meeting, next meeting Stockholm 5-7th Nov

- c. Athlete Commission
No meeting held since last Board meeting
- d. Governance Commission
No meeting held since last Board meeting
- e. Technical Commission
Minutes of meeting held 3rd October had been distributed prior to the meeting

The Commission wanted Board feedback on the use of Jet ice Logos being made compulsory. The Board agreed that preferably Jet ice logos should be used and in cases where this is not possible prior approval of the in-ice logos by World Curling has to be obtained. Also, the Technical Commission (TC) was tasked to put a specification for in-ice logos together that would be suitable for use.

CGR confirmed that technical aspects of the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan/Cortina are not part of TC's remit. He also confirmed that the Board, the Technical Delegates and Tom Brewster (Curling & Wheelchair Curling Sport Manager) have the situation in Milan/Cortina under control.

The Board also agreed that the TC needs to urgently focus on electronic handles.

- f. Nominations Committee
A questionnaire is being distributed to the candidates to get feedback on the process. A report will then be produced for the Board for suggestions to improve the process for 2026.
- g. Hall of Fame Committee
Feedback is required on the presentation provided by the HoF Committee to the Board and Members in Montreal. Discussion tabled until November Board Call.
- h. DEI
No meeting since the last Board meeting
- i. Sustainability
KFO provided and update on the latest position with the Sustainability Strategy and the work with Deloitte on a carbon reduction plan:

KFO explained that it is really important for World Curling to have a sustainability strategy because it is required for the commitment that was signed for climate action reporting. One of the things that is required is that this month a base line reporting summary must be created .

Also, the Sustainability Group has been engaged with Deloitte. The IOC has accepted World Curling and a few other IFs into the Climate Accelerator Program and they are helping World Curling to make a carbon reduction plan which is due at the end of October 2024.

More details will be provided in November/December.

Future of DEI / Sustainability Working Groups

These Working Groups were set up following the Big ideas session in Jan 2023. Working Groups traditionally have a lifespan of 2 years, as we are approaching the end of that period it is suggested that the Board consider making these Working Groups permanent Commissions. Neither of these topics is going away and they will continue to be part of the work of World Curling for years to come therefore making them a permanent part of the World Curling Structure is something that should be considered.

To make the DEI Working Group and the Sustainability Working Group permanent World Curling commissions

***moved by KFO
seconded by HLI
and approved unanimously***

CGR advised that the Governance Commission has to arrange for these commissions to be added to the constitution and also their respective ToRs need to be redone. Also, the commissions need to be re-populated officially then.

RNI felt it was upside-down that the Stakeholder Engagement Group only has Board Members on it and no representatives. He said in fact it should have more MA reps than Board Members. JOF advised that she would like to be part of the Stakeholder Engagement Group replacing Graham Prouse.

December Meeting – Facilitation Project

Following an initial approach Andrew Ryan had indicated he was not able to be available for the December meeting, he provided contact details for another consultant who was approached and will submit a proposal. Nikki Burger also indicated whilst she was interested she was not available in the defined timespan, if the Board wished to reconsider then she would be happy to submit a proposal.

Copies of the proposals received had been circulated to the Board Members prior to the meeting. The Board discussed the various proposals.

To hire Altman Solon (Mr David Dellea) to facilitate the Board Meetings in December 2024 in Perth, SCO aiming to set a strong foundation for the upcoming strategic planning process

*moved by SMV
seconded by RNI
and approved unanimously*

Letter Regarding Membership Application from Iran

A letter from a Member Association relating to the membership of Iran had been circulated for the Board views. It was noted however the wording of the Constitution means that World Curling are not in a position to hold a Member Association responsible for the actions of their government. Only one objection had been received to the application from Iran which meant their membership was accepted.

IOC Letter on Neutral Athletes

A letter from the IOC regarding the implementation of the Neutral Athletes programme at the Olympics had been circulated for information.

Skills Matrix

The updated version of the Board Skills Matrix had been circulated for information. It is suggested that this is given further consideration at either the November Call or the December Meeting. The self-identified gaps are Marketing / Brand and to a lesser extent People.

Big Ideas Update

Commercial

Floor Curling Update:

An MoU is in development with the Indian Curling Federation and a meeting had been held with Türkiye regarding their involvement with the programme. The data from old events held by Chinese Taipei is also being translated to be uploaded to the system

Athlete and Events

Work continues with I2C to build out the Athlete Licensing Platform

Re-branding

The new clothing from Macron with the new brand had been well received. The order for the events this season had been submitted as has the request for the new Board members clothing.

Stakeholder Engagement

The suggested facilitators for the member groups were distributed prior to the meeting.

The Stakeholder Engagement Group will bring a suggested agenda and dates for the group back to the Board before the November meeting. An induction for the new Board members will be arranged.

Data and Digital

The migration from google to 365 has gone as smoothly if not more smoothly than expected. The next step is to now start setting up the individual teams and work areas. The one for the Board is one of the priorities.

Facilities

CGR, SMV and DSI had met with the World Academy of Sport and SVS to get an update on the progress there. They have now also reached out to KFO regarding the sustainability side of things. DSI felt that this project should be accelerated and progress must be shown to the MAs now step by step. CGR agreed that progress should be shown latest by December 2024.

Any other business

DSI raised a query on what the communication policy was for using an abbreviation for World Curling. CGR indicated that Chris Hamilton was working on this and as far as possible people should use World Curling but if an abbreviation was unavoidable then WCF could be used.

The meeting ended at 14:30 CET.