



**MINUTES  
of the WCF Executive Board Teams Meeting #31  
on 4 August 2023**

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**Attendees**

**Executive Board**

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beau Welling (BWE)         | President                |
| Graham Prouse (GPR)        | Vice-President           |
| Hugh Millikin (HMI)        | Vice-President           |
| Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV) | Director                 |
| Toyo Ogawa (TOG)           | Director                 |
| Helena Lingham (HLI)       | Director                 |
| Rob Niven (RNI)            | Director                 |
| Kim Forge (KFO)            | Director                 |
| Jill Officer (JOF)         | Athlete Commission Chair |

|                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)      | Secretary General                 |
| Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG) | WCF Projects Officer/Minute taker |

The meeting started at 13:00 CET.

**President's Welcome**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and quickly summarized his recent activities as follows:

- Recent visit to Scotland, meetings with Colin and Chris, talked about Congress, rebranding etc
- Dinner with Mark Duffy of Everest who is interested in extending his involvement with Curling

**Approval of previous minutes**

The minutes had been distributed in advance.

**To approve the minutes of the Board meeting on 23 June 2023 was**

*moved by HMI  
seconded by HLI  
and unanimously approved*

CGR explained that in future a summary of the Board minutes would be produced by the media team which would then be published on the WCF website. A first draft of such a summary would be sent to the Board prior to its first publication to see whether it meets the Board's requirements for openness and transparency.

HMI informed the Board that the Junior MD group (comprised of himself, Martin Rios, Harri Lill, Kim Forge, Eeva Röthlisberger, Hans Frauenlob and James Dryburgh) had met on the previous Wednesday and would meet again on the following Wednesday. A list of 10 questions had been compiled. Currently it looks like that this event might be an under 18 event. The reasons for considering an under 18 event are:

- The event should be a development exercise
- Teams should rotate through this experience and should not be the same teams every year
- World University Games are an under 23 event – so there is another avenue for juniors

### **Conflict of Interest**

There was one addition:

RNI's company (Loch Leven's Larder) is now sponsoring a facility (Kinross CC) that is in receipt of a WCF loan.

### **Nominations Committee - Clear Water Period (GPR)**

A short report had been sent out in advance and this was now discussed.

The Board agreed that Nomination Committee (NC) members must resign by 31 December if they are seeking to be elected as WCF Board Members at the following Congress.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the NC are still being compiled. Currently the NC is not involved in the call for candidates of WCF commissions but this issue will be dealt with in the ToR.

CGR advised that nominations for the Technical and the Finance Commission would close on 7 August 2023. Currently, a number of applications had been received for the Technical Commission but none for the Finance Commission.

### **Extension of the exclusion of Russian and Belarussian athletes**

BWE and CGR had had a call with the Russian Curling Federation (RCF) the previous week. RCF had asked whether they would be allowed to play in the coming season. It was indicated to them that with the IOC Guidance still that there are no neutral teams this was unlikely. RCF further asked whether consideration would be given to treating Mixed Doubles separately. The current exclusion ended on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

The Board discussed the issue in detail including the impact on Olympic Winter Games 2026.

The Board felt there was no rationale to treat the Mixed Doubles separately.

The Board considered the following motion:

**To exclude Russian and Belarussian Member Associations from competitions until end of year 2023 was**

*moved by HLI  
seconded by KFO  
and unanimously approved*

### **Governance Update**

The latest minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting as well as a video presentation that will be circulated ahead of Congress:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1BQcO6EzopJFP7-3bbOc2HBPABMsl9yZ-&usp=drive\\_fs](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1BQcO6EzopJFP7-3bbOc2HBPABMsl9yZ-&usp=drive_fs)

RNI advised that at the Congress there would be an interactive session on the membership tiering concept.

Israel – WCF had been informed by the NOC of Israel that WCF's member association there has been dissolved by the Courts. A motion will be put to the AGA to remove Israel from membership. A new group is looking to establish a replacement Association but it is unclear if they will be in place by the AGA.

### **Congress 2023 Draft Programme**

The AGA Papers had been circulated previously. No motions had been received from the membership. The only actual motions come from WCF itself. Therefore, the AGA should be quite short without too many votes taking place.

The Board then went through the draft Congress programme in detail. BWE explained that there is a big desire for more engagement. CGR added that therefore, there will be no top tables (not even at the AGA) – there will just be a microphone and a podium. During the Open Meetings the Board and the staff are to spread out among the room.

Also, there will be no Zonal Meetings.

CGR advised that a lot of MAs are sending replacement representatives. Part of the discussions on day 2 will therefore be about stakeholder engagement. BWE asked: Is the rep really the rep of the MA? WCF must make sure that it communicates to the right people.

HLI advised that Eoin McCrossan would take the members on a DEI awareness journey.

KFO advised that the Sustainability session would be an outside walk and talk exercise inviting people to get engaged.

HMI advised that the Commercial Working Group is still looking for female participants and asked the Board to put forward names of appropriate candidates.

CGR clarified that further rule changes (evening practice, 8 ends for juniors) would be dealt with over the next season. However, it was agreed that at the end of the Junior MD session a list would be shown with potential future rule changes that will be dealt with by the C&R during the coming season.

#### **DEI WG Update (HLI)**

An update had been previously circulated – there were no questions.

#### **Sustainability WG Update (KFO)**

Regarding the vacancy on the working group due to Kathy Henderson's departure KFO suggested to replace her with Zsolt Kiss (HUN). The Board agreed.

The group will now receive assistance from the authors that wrote the sustainability strategy for World Sailing.

#### **Accounts 2022/23**

The papers had been previously circulated and were now discussed. The numbers are obviously very disappointing and come as a surprise to everyone. During the previous week a lot of time had been spent with the staff reviewing the various areas line by line trying to look at two things mainly:

- A better explanation of why WCF got into this position / What were the overspends?
- How do we make sure this does not happen again

CGR informed the Board that another USD 170,000 worth of provisions would be added. The biggest overspends are in the competition and broadcasting area. The following steps are now taken to avoid future overspends with regard to travel costs:

- More locals have to be used for appointments where possible
- Flights will be booked as early as possible
- A decision on the future method of support for Junior flights needs to be considered before the 2024/25 season

The Board discussed the situation in detail and the following comments were made:

- WCF must make a whole review about competitions and broadcasting. Earlier decision on sites will allow the location to be taken into account during budgeting

- WCF wanted more coverage but due consideration was not given to how much this additional coverage would cost. Can good coverage be made for less money?
- The Board will set aside more time to review the finances on a regular basis
- The finances must be better controlled so that there are no last-minute surprises
- Management Accounts will include an indication of committed but not spent funds in the significant budget areas
- A webinar should be offered to the MAs to be able to talk about the finances

### **Future Structure of Finance Commission**

SMV had suggested some adjustments to the Finance Commission (FC) (e.g. a better definition of its deliverables) and these were now discussed. The following comments were made:

- The FC was not clear as to its role and remit, it needs reviewed to ensure there is clarity and that the Board has a closer involvement
- The FC should be a commission of the board rather than the membership.
- The FC must become a governance tool – it should not be a management tool
- This links to the discussions on stakeholder engagement?

The Board agreed on the following actions to be taken:

- SMV and RNI work on a new structure and remit of the FC (and any changes that might also suggest for the Governance Commission)
- GPR, HLI and KFO take in the piece of stakeholder engagement and idea of an advisory council

BWE added that WCF is currently blending member engagement with governance functions. WCF has to figure out how to separate those two and do both better because WCF is not doing either as best as it could.

### **Big Ideas Update**

CGR gave the following update:

#### Commercial

Weekly meetings are now being held with Rock Solid as the project continues there and a project agreement is being finalised.

During the staff meetings week Infront joined for an afternoon to look at digital engagement and monetisation indicating possible ways to increase our revenues from online activities. This will form part of a larger report from James in the coming weeks.

Names, particularly female ones for the Commercial Working Group are still required.

#### Athlete and Events

Rob Gordon has now started and is reviewing different approaches to athlete and event licensing and he will be working with the athlete commission on the development of an education programme and the plans to expand the remit of the AC.

#### Re-branding

The feedback received from the Board has been passed back to WePlay and they are working on a final version of the logo and various treatments as well as beginning to work up a brand book.

#### Stakeholder Engagement

This group has met and will lead a session at Congress looking in particular at the effectiveness of Zones and whether there is a better way for the WCF to interact with the MAs and the role of WCF reps.

#### Data and Digital

During staff week WCF conducted an exercise to assess the current data collected and where it is stored. This will be assessed with the aim of simplifying this process both for us and for those we are collecting the data from.

Work continues with Christian Saagar to finalise an agreement to bring the Curlit scoring system within the WCF Digital Eco-system.

#### Facilities

World Academy of Sport are finalising their report and slide deck for WCF to consider ahead of Congress. They are incorporating a new level of facility which is being provisionally called 'Get into Curling' and would bring the pilot project proposed by David Sik to use temporary facilities as a proof of demand in areas within the whole facility plan.

The meeting ended at 15:25 CET.