



MINUTES
of the WCF Executive Board Online Meeting #35
on 21 December 2023

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.

Presidents Update

Milan/Cortina 2026 still is a challenge and lots of emails are going back and forth. There will be a meeting of the IOC Coordination Commission in February and there is debate about the level of attendance at this meeting by the IFs. Huge concerns are still raised by the sliding sport IFs.

The President had also been to the WCF offices in Perth where he had attended a Christmas lunch with the WCF staff.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed in advance. HLI had requested the following addition to those minutes:

“There was agreement to get more information on the Brighton declaration with the view to signing it at Sport Accord. A full copy of the declaration would be made available to the Board in January so that a final decision on that can be made then.”

To approve the minutes of the Board meetings held online on 22 November 2023 including HLI's addition

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

Conflict of Interest

Change for SMV:

Brazilian ice rink was taken over by Brazilian Olympic Committee and SMV ceased being a shareholder

Commission and Committee Updates

Finance Commission (SMV)

SMV had received a feedback e-mail from John Anderson (AUS) with feedback on the financial procedures within WCF.

SMV said that most of his comments were related to the principle on the regularity of reports. He also advised that if WCF feel that quarterly discussion is not enough, the Board have to take this decision bearing in mind that WCF may need an extra staff resource, to fulfil that reporting to the Board. He added that WCF currently does fulfil its constitutional duties.

The Board discussed the issue and agreed on the following:

- The Management Accounts will be presented to both the Finance Commission (FC) and the WCF Board if at all possible 15 days after the end of each quarter. The Board will bear in mind that the comments of the FC will come in later.
- If there is a deviation to the budget the Board will be informed immediately at any time (i.e. even before the end of the quarter)
- Additional budget approvals will be included in the report including anything related to the rebranding.

SMV advised that he would draft a response to John Anderson and would share that with the Board prior to sending it.

Governance Commission (RNI)

The minutes of the recent Governance Commission meeting had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. RNI advised the Board that the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission had now been updated (terms of office were corrected and reference is now made to Board Members on the commission) and he was seeking Board approval of those.

The Board discussed the draft and the following motion was proposed:

To approve the updated Terms of Reference of the Governance Commissions with the two following amendments:

- **Addition of an onboarding process for new Board members in the section “Objectives: - plan Board education to improve Board knowledge of Governance....”**
- **Section “Objectives” – the wording “update the WCF website” should be replaced by “insure a regular update of the WCF website”**

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

Regarding the gender balance on the Board RNI explained that the Commission members are unanimous in that the athlete’s representative should not be included in the count for the genders. There is a mixture of feelings as to whether the President should be included or not and they are against including the independent Directors in the count.

The pros and cons of each option were discussed. The Board felt in general that whatever the rule might be it should not narrow down the choice of the MAs which means there must be a concerted balance between gender balance versus membership choice. CGR stated that none of the other winter IFs had a perfect solution either. Eventually it was agreed that two constitutional drafts should be made up (including a pro- and con list for both) to be presented to the next Board Meeting for a final decision. The two drafts should be as follows:

- Athlete Commission is removed from gender balance count
- The WCF President and all non-elected Board members are removed from gender balance count

Regarding the issue of the Korean Wheelchair Curling Association RNI requested a meeting with BWE and CGR to discuss this issue further. CGR said he would try to find out how other IFs deal with this scenario.

Nominations Committee (GPR)

The draft of the ToR of the Nominations Committee (NC) had been distributed to the Board earlier. The Governance Commission had seen the draft and had no issues with it. HMI advised the Board that he was not happy with the wording of the following three items:

- Under “Objectives”: “provide advice and assistance to potential candidates for Board.....”

- Under “Objectives”: “provide information to the Member Associations as to the suitability of candidates standing for election to the Board”
- Under “Principles”: “be accountable for recommendations and information presented to Member Associations and the General Assembly”

KFO agreed with HMI and said that the wording of those sentences can be misinterpreted and should be written more clearly by e.g. adding the process and being really specific about what the Nominations Committee are accountable for and what not.

The Board was instructed to give more wording feedback to GPR, if any, so that the final draft of the NC ToR could be presented to the Board a.s.a.p.

CGR also confirmed that Alison Arthur had been elected in the second round of voting as new NC member.

The draft of the ToR for WCF Vice-Presidents had been distributed to the Board earlier.

To approve the Terms of Reference for WCF Vice-President

***moved by GPR
seconded by HMI
and approved unanimously***

DEI Report (HLI)

The report from the latest meeting had been circulated. HLI informed the Board that the DEI group is currently navigating and discussing what the tasks of the DEI group should be but more information on that would be available in January after its strategy workshop. The workshop is being headed up by Roselle Gonsalves.

HLI added that the group is searching for a wheelchair representative and wanted to know if the WCF wheelchair group had started its work yet. CGR promised to check.

Sustainability Committee (KFO)

KFO informed the Board that Zsolt Kiss had resigned from the Committee as he could not make it to the meetings. KFO was not looking to fill his position. The Committee will announce early in the new year that it is working together with the Sporting Giants and that a strategic plan would be coming soon.

Event Working Group (TOG)

Naoki Iwanaga will be a member of this working group and he is very happy and honoured to be involved. Terri Johnston had expressed her concerns that there was no female member in the working group.

TOG also informed that 16 electronic handles would now be shipped to Greenacres for a final check.

BWE replied that it is the intention to have the first meeting of this group take place in the first week of January 2024.

Review of the current exclusion of Russian and Belarussian teams

Letters from Ukrainian Curling on this subject had been forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting. They were asking the WCF Board to extend the exclusion of Russian and Belarussian teams. CGR confirmed that if this is done both nations would be out of the Winter Olympics in 2026.

To exclude Russian and Belarussian Member Association teams from competitions until 30 June 2024 was

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

CGR confirmed that he would inform the IOC on the Board's decision before making it public in early January 2024.

Junior Mixed Doubles

HMI explained that a full report of the latest C&R meeting would be made available for the January Board meeting.

However, the C&R had not been able to come to a consensus on the age group for the JMD and so the Board was required to make a decision on age group and timing of the event to allow WCF to move forward with finding a venue.

When discussing the age group KFO withdrew from discussions due to a conflict of interest with her athlete daughter being in the age-group that was being discussed about.

To have under 21-year-olds being eligible to play in the WJMDCC

***moved by HLI
seconded by RNI
and approved by majority***

To have the future WJMDCC in late April/May

***moved by HMI
seconded by RNI
and approved unanimously***

Big Ideas Update

Commercial

CGR reported that work continues on the Floor Curling project, the Salesforce system is under construction and an agreement had been signed with Nigerian Curling to be part of the project.

OTT Platform – A proposal had been distributed to the Board for the engagement of Stream AMG as the replacement for Recast running from the Juniors in Feb 2024. The new system will be a WCF OTT Platform as opposed to the Recast Channel. Stream AMG are the same suppliers that provide the Curling Canada Streaming Platform.

The base cost for the platform is higher than Recast and is a guaranteed amount rather than a percentage of income, however this does give WCF its own platform, complete ownership of the subscriber data and a more flexible approach to pricing that will allow WCF to charge by game, by day, by event or even by season. For the remainder of this season the additional costs vs Recast are estimated to be USD7k.

To move forward subject to contract and engage the services of Stream AMG

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

JOF queried if there was a way that the athletes participating in an event could have free access to watch games as part of their preparation. CGR indicated this could be examined to see if there was a practical way of doing this.

Athlete and Events

An updated Terms of reference for the Athlete Commission had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. JOF highlighted the following:

- It was proposed to expand the Athlete Commission (to have more than one rep for MD and wheelchair)
- Budget-wise there will be an additional four people who would attend the in-person meetings at ECC

To approve the updated ToR for the Athlete Commission

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

Re-branding

Website - Plans are still on course for the delivery of the updated website and rebrand ahead of the Youth Olympic Games. The initial stage one redevelopment of the website will cost around £15,000GBP but this is expected to be offset by savings in the remainder of this season through the switch away from our current supplier to a wordpress hosting system. There will

be a stage 2 development for the website that will take place in the summer that will need further investment that will involve a complete redesign of the Historic Results and the Live Scoring system, this will be the subject of an RFP in the coming months.

JOF expressed her concerns about what she perceived to be the basic level of the proposed website at launch. She felt it was understandable that a new website is basic to some extent but she was concerned that THE launch would not be impressive enough and would not give the impression that WCF had advanced. In January the new website would not even have an athlete section. CGR replied that he would speak to Chris Hamilton and get some more information to JOF on the details of the launch and if an athlete section could be implemented for the launch, too. However, WCF is pretty much committed to launch the new website prior to YOG 2024.

Event Banners – a list of items for rebranding has been identified and is being costed to see what is required outside of the normal day to day expenditure. One item is the WCF Event Banner that are sent to each competition. It is proposed to stop doing these banners and just send World Curling Flags to be hung alongside the national flags at events. The reason being these banners can change year with the title of the event if a sponsor changes, they are bulky to ship to events where we are not sending full lorry and quite difficult to find locations for in some venues. The proposal from Management is to stop supplying these and replace with World Curling Flags, the Board indicated this is an operational decision and they had no objections to it, although it may be something that the Event Group would include in their discussions.

Stakeholder Engagement

Work in this area is slow due to the volume of work in other areas.

Data and Digital

Work continues with exploring the options the new Salesforce platform brings, this includes initial discussions with a couple of member associations about their membership databases/platforms and whether there are any advantages to bringing them within the WCF Platform. This could be a good starting point for the World Curling Family project as well as providing a benefit for other MAs who may wish to use the system for their own membership databases.

Facilities

A call has been held with WAS and they are due to supply proposed costs for the next stage of the project. The anticipated timeline would be to deliver prior to the open meetings in Switzerland the first working draft of the facility accreditation system.

The facility calculator is nearly complete and is just undergoing further testing with information from a number of facilities to check it is robust.

David Sik continues to have some issues with the timelines for his Ostrava project. We have agreed to move forward with the development of the Get into Curling Facility programme in the New Year independent of his Ostrava project.

The meeting finished at 15:00 CET.