



**MINUTES
of the WCF Executive Board Teams Meeting #30
on 23 June 2023
continued 7 July 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 (23 rd June only)

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:

- WePlay meeting had taken place earlier in the day
- Two visits to Canada had been made since the last meeting. Meetings with Chad McMullan (Rock Solid) and Colin/Rob Corte (Sportsnet) and visit to 2024 Congress site in Montreal.
- IOC: Winter Sport IFs got an update from IOC on OWG 2030. The Coordination Commission met regarding YOG 2024 Gangwon.
- Russian participation continues to be talked about. The Russian Curling Federation want an update meeting – this will take place shortly.

Approval of previous minutes

The minutes had been distributed in advance.

To approve the minutes of the Board meeting on 12 May 2023 was

*moved by RNI
seconded by HMI
and unanimously approved*

Conflict of Interest

There were no additions/amendments.

Competition and Rules proposals

Proposed rule changes as presented in Sandviken

CGR presented the proposed rule changes. There were no objections from the Board.

Proposed rule changes new since in Sandviken

CGR went on and presented further proposed rule changes that were new since the Sandviken meetings.

RNI pointed out that these rule changes had not been consulted yet in Open Meetings and WCF should make sure that the Board is not seen as pushing those rule changes through. Therefore, also for those new rule changes a proper consultation process should be followed.

JOF said that it would be beneficial to have someone from C&R (e.g. Eeva or Hugh) in the AC meetings as the AC does not always understand the context and the reason why those rule changes are being proposed.

The following comments were made:

Evening Practice: After some discussion the Board agreed to retain evening practice but remove coaches' rights to throw rocks. The MAs will be signalled that it is the Board's intention to change this policy and MAs will be invited to submit comments and feedback.

There were no further comments. The rules will now be sent back to C&R so that they can finalize the actual wordings of the rules. The final drafts will then be sent out early July.

Qualification Process 2026 OWG

The IOC have confirmed the qualification process for the 2026 OWG, a copy had been distributed to the Board and would be circulated to the MAs during the following week. The qualification process for the Paralympics is subject to IPC approval which is expected around December 2023.

Junior Mixed Doubles Proposals

HMI provided the following background information:

- The Board had previously considered a paper from Eeva on JMD but had asked for a more holistic look to be taken with regards Junior competitions
- This had been drafted by Hans Frauenlob at the request of HMI
- Discussions with Kevin Martin who has been successfully running a very large Junior MD bonspiel and would love to tackle such an event took place in Ottawa he even had indicated that he had already found a venue, sponsors, vans - all at no cost to the WCF. There are two issues with this option:
 - o The event should take place in May 2024, so approval would be needed by 30 June 2023.
 - o No approval exists from the host MA, Curling Canada

The C&R was supportive of a junior MD event but was on the one hand not sure if May 2024 was the right date (too rushed) and on the other hand felt that more work should go into the system of play, the format (world event or festival) etc.

The Board were asked to consider the following four options:

- Pull it off the table and re-discuss within C&R to fully define the event
- Create a smaller working group to work out the event in time for the 2023 Congress
- Push ahead with the discussions with Kevin Martin and look for some kind of pilot event
- Drop the project

The Board discussed the way forward in detail. The Board felt that juniors should be given the opportunity to have a Mixed Doubles event. It was also felt that the event might have to be a world championship with a festival type of atmosphere and not just a festival to be fully supported by the MAs.

The Board agreed the following:

- WCF will not host, endorse or fund a World Junior Mixed Doubles Curling Championship (WJMDCC) in May 2024
- WCF will create a small working group to work out how a WJMDCC should look like.
- The topic will be put on the agenda for the WCF Congress 2023 for discussion with MAs

Final decision on 8v10 and Worlds format

GPR reminded the Board that at the Open Meetings in Sandviken the MAs had been invited to get back to the WCF with comments. Only one written response had been received since then. In summary WCF has, since Sandviken, not received any indication that a correction to the current WCF's course should be made. Therefore, currently WCF should maintain the current length of game.

GPR recommended that the ideas that had come out of the MTV project in terms of what the game might look like and what the potential is to maximize the value (including the element of commercialization and technology) must not be lost when wrapping up the MTV group.

The WCF Board agreed to

- **stay with 10 ends and with a 13 team WCC**
- **look at options to expanding the WCC field for 2026 and beyond**
- **be open for further discussion on the length of the game**

*moved by GPR
seconded by HMI
and unanimously approved*

CGR will run the draft of the communication by the WCF Board before it is sent out.

Budget 2023/2024 (CGR)

The proposed budget for 2023/2024 had been sent to the Board for consideration.

The budget format had been updated to reflect the pillars of the Forward Plan, work is still required to split the salaries into the four pillars but the total amount is reflected currently under Organisational Sustainability.

In terms of the format work would continue to develop the format to enable information to be presented to the Finance Commission showing an event-by-event breakdown where relevant.

The budget had been developed by the staff based on known plans for the coming season and the experience of past seasons. Unless otherwise stated it does not include the requirements for the Big Ideas which will be presented to the Board as separate investment decisions as the projects develop.

The Budget shows an overall projected deficit on the year of \$105,021, however this includes the projected costs of the BDM and the ASO, once they are stripped out there is a projected surplus of \$4,978.

All amounts are in USD unless otherwise stated.

Income

We have continued with the principle of using the original amount projected by the IOC from the Beijing Games which gave us an annual allocation of \$4.8m. The additional revenues received over and above the \$19.2m original amount from Beijing was allocated to an investment account for the Big Ideas. This initially amounted to around \$160,000, most of this has been spent already, being allocated to the rebranding and Sustainable Venues Projects. Discussions continue with the IOC regarding additional funding to be used for the Big Ideas and it is also expected that revenue will be received following the closure of the GAISF organisation. Following the previous discussions from the Board no allowance had been made

for these sums but when received they will be allocated to an investment account and treated separately outside the budget.

IOC-Other Grants and Awards is higher than normal as we receive a grant to cover most of the costs we have associated with the Youth Olympics Games.

Income from Technical Expertise is a new category in the budget and reflects the income generated by charging for WCF staff delivering non-core services. For example Mark Callan providing ice making services for non-WCF competitions such as the Youth Olympic Games.

We have become more active in our cash flow planning which has allowed us to make better use of improved interest rates investing spare cash for periods of 7 days, 1 month or 3 months. This means we expect to bring in around \$240,000 from interest payments. This allows us to take a longer-term view of decisions on investments.

The Broadcast income reflects what has been achieved this year and also under other broadcast income shows an expected continued increase in our revenues from the Recast platform. They will be launching a system of event passes in the next few weeks prior to their broadcast of the World Swimming Championships, we believe this event pass model will be very popular with our audience.

Expenditure

As explained above the budget layout will be updated to split the salary costs across the Forward Plans pillars. The salary costs include the costs for the Business Development Manager (BDM) and Athlete Support Officer (ASO).

The budget for the Board has been based on a similar programme of representation at events as this past season. It includes Congress in Korea and Board and Open Meetings at the WMCC in Switzerland. It does not include any allocation for a third face to face Board meeting, it does not allow for all Board members to attend YOG as we did in Lausanne and it currently does not include attendance at any non-WCF events. The Board is invited to consider what an appropriate programme is for them for the coming season.

Where possible, Staff Travel is allocated to the exact event or project they are working on, for Derek and Rhona we are still looking at how to do this as they are delivering services over different areas of the events.

Within the Marketing section, the actual account headings are being reviewed in conjunction with Chris so the \$678,350 will be shown in more detail. This \$678,350 also currently includes the Staff Travel costs for the media team. Similarly, the Staff Travel for the Broadcast staff is included in the event broadcast costs.

Moving forward with competitions where appropriate we will seek to control costs by using more local officials, particularly in some of the qualification events or B and C events.

The following comments were made:

- Board representation at events will be discussed later (maybe 2 at each event, maybe one male/one female)
- CGR confirmed that a BDM had already been hired. Also, an offer had been made to a potential ASO.

As the meeting had now gone beyond the 3 hour mark it was agreed to postpone the final decision on the budget until the meeting could be resumed.

The meeting closed at 1505 BST

The meeting was re-commenced at 1200 BST on 7th July 2023

It was noted that since the first part of the meeting Colin Grahamslaw, as part of his AIOWF Secretary General duties had been added to the IOC Future Hosts Commission and this should be added to the conflict of interest register.

Budget 2023/2024 (CGR) – continued

The new format for the budget was commended and it was confirmed that in future years this will allow better comparisons to previous year's budgets and actual figures.

RNI asked if the amounts paid by the WCF were in line with insurance industry expectations and this was confirmed.

SVI reported on the discussions at the Finance Commission around the investment in broadcasting and confirmed that in discussions with GPR work would be done on looking at metrics to measure the value for money for this work.

CGR confirmed that discussions are ongoing at looking at ways to reduce expenditure in all areas.

The WCF Board to accept the proposed budget for 2023/24

*moved by SVI
seconded by GPR
and unanimously approved*

Nominations Committee Update (GPR)

GPR presented the previously distributed paper.

The Board requested that GPR with support from the Nominations Committee produce a definitive Terms of Reference for the Nominations Committee that included clarification on the Committee's role in seeking new nominees.

It was agreed that the MAs need to be communicated to about their role in process and to ensure that they are not disenfranchised by the process.

It was agreed the Board should do a more holistic view of the Skills Matrix once individuals have done their self-assessment to ensure the Board is happy with what skills they feel are covered or not. It was suggested the new risk group might also have a role in this, although there needs to be clarity on the different roles to ensure no overlap or conflict.

HLI suggested that the Chair of the Committee could attend the Board in an observer role. The Board felt this would require a lot more discussion.

The Nominations Committee view that Independent Directors must be completely independent from the sport and should not just be used to fill skills gaps was noted, but ultimately the Board felt that it was more important suitable individuals brought benefit to the Board through their skills and experience and that involvement with the sport should not preclude them from being considered.

The Board noted the position on VPs and agreed GPR should bring back more detailed proposals on the VP role ahead of the opening of the election process next season.

Finally the Board also considered the feedback from the Nominations Committee expressing concern over the Board position that any member of Nominations Committee looking to stand for election should stand down prior to the Congress the year before the elections. The Nominations Committee felt this was unfair on them compared to members of other committees. The Board discussed the perceived conflict of interest which was unique to the Nominations Committee and the challenges of populating the Nominations Committee should a number choose to stand down to run for the Board.

It was agreed that the Board would consider the feedback and review it again once the Terms of Reference were complete but a decision must be taken at the next Board meeting ahead of the Congress this year.

The Board noted concerns about the attendance of the Athlete Commission rep on the Nominations Committee, JOF agreed to take this back to the AC to discuss.

Governance Commission Update (RNI)

RNI informed the Board of three proposed changes to the constitution which would go before this year's AGA:

1. An update on the proxy voting procedures to ensure all MA's could use their proxy votes if not all of their reps were attending the AGA
2. An update to the wording around VPs which still included a reference to Zones which was no longer relevant
3. An update to the clause clarifying that references in the constitution in the masculine also covered the feminine, a new wording has been suggested by the DEI group that is more inclusive.

Technical Commission (TOG)

The Board noted that 3 appointed members of the Technical Commission completed their terms of office. An advert would be put out looking for candidates to stand, of those who have completed their term it is thought one will look to re-stand.

The Board also discussed the position of a member of the Commission who had held an ex-officio position on the Commission. As he no longer holds that position he is due to come off the Commission. TOG asked if it would be appropriate to consider co-opting him for a further period. The Board felt he should, in the first instance, be encouraged to put his name forward for the vacant positions.

DEI Working Group (HLI)

The Board noted the information distributed. It was agreed that it would be good if an active athlete could be found to be added to the Trans-gender Policy Sub-Group.

Sustainability Working Group (KFO)

KFO updated the Board on the meeting held earlier in the week. The group felt it had a lot of skills and knowledge themselves and could at least make a start on the work needed to develop a WCF policy.

Finance Commission Update (SVI)

SVI reported that unfortunately one member of the Commission had failed to meet the minimum requirements for attendance and will therefore be removed from the Commission. CGR was asked to include an advert for a replacement in the same mailing as the one looking for Technical Commission members.

It was noted that more widely the minimum attendance requirements should be included as a matter of course on all Terms of Reference for WCF Commissions and Working Groups.

Big Ideas

CGR provided a written update on each of the Big Idea areas. In addition the following points were noted:

Commercial

Two people who had been identified as possible members of the Working Group are no longer available. The Board were asked for possible names to replace them, especially at least one female. HMI will provide a written update on the Commercial Working Group. It

was agreed HMI, GPR and RNI should meet to finalise the Terms of Reference as soon as possible.

Athlete and Events

CGR confirmed the appointment of Rob Gordon as Athlete Services Officer. His CV will be circulated with the minutes.

Junior Mixed Doubles (HMI) – continued

HMI indicated he had progressed the idea of a working group and the following was proposed:

Hans Frauenlob, Kim Forge, Harri Lill, James Dryburgh, Nolan Thiessen and Eeva Rothlisberger

The group will produce a report ahead of the Congress and time will be set aside at the congress to discuss it.

The Board approved the proposal.

BWE thanked everyone for their time and efforts over the last couple of meetings.

The meeting closed at 1355.