



**MINUTES
of the WCF Executive Board Zoom Meeting #29
on 12 May 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)	Director / Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Liz Munro (LMU)	WCF Office Manager/Minute taker

Approval of previous minutes

The minutes had been distributed in advance.

To approve the minutes of the Board meeting on 21 and 22 March 2023 in Sandviken was

*moved by GPR
seconded by RNI
and unanimously approved*

The Board also confirmed the policy formulated on the Board call of 13 April 2023.

For a current or past member of the Board to be considered for a salaried position or any contractual arrangement that is financially beneficial to the individual within the World Curling Federation a

period of six (6) clear months must have passed from their resignation from, or from their completion of term of office on, the WCF Board, prior to their application for the position or contract.

Any deviation from this policy must have the approval of the Board and would only be in exceptional circumstances.

Conflict of Interest

Updated paper sent in advance of the meeting and CGR asked if there were any updates.

KFO – Delegate to the Australian Olympic Committee can be removed.

GPR asked about CGRs role on the 2026 OG Co-ordination Commission as he understood it as a President's role. CGR stated that his role on the commission stems from his position on AIOWF not WCF.

President Update - BWE

Colin's role is going well with AIOWF. There had been a series of meetings at times that BWE could not attend and welcomed CGR taking this role. Recent Meetings had been held with Kathy Henderson and Slam people. PCCC – CGR has a call with Jock Tyre, Kelowna to discuss final points, he hopes the contract can be signed next week and an announcement made. Charlotte, North Carolina had shown interest but at this time Kelowna would be better host, but they could still possibly step in if Kelowna did not work out.

BWE had had several calls with Irish Curling about a dedicated facility, the situation is ongoing.

Invictus Games -GPR

A report had been circulated to the Board in advance of this call. GPR stated It was looked upon as a development project. Scott Arnold was brought into discussions and already two volunteers have been drafted in. The next Invictus Games are in Dusseldorf in September this year, where Whistler 2025 will be promoted and would like to introduce street curling come and try at this event, as well as having some other street curling come and try promotional events.

The WCF contribution would be the supply of the street curling equipment to be sent ahead of Dusseldorf for promotional purposes. Support from the WCF Development and Marketing teams. Potentially a number of co-branded joint initiatives or strategic partnership opportunities. The Board agreed to moving forward with this.

New Employment Update - CGR

As it stands today, over 20 applications have been received for the Athlete Support Officer position and 19 for the Business Development Officer. Good quality applications for both. The closing date is 19th May and already there are good quality applications. Invitations for interview would go out soon after the closing date and it is anticipated that the roles could be offered by early June.

Rebranding Update - CGR

We-play are finalising the discovery phase following online workshops with staff. A questionnaire has been sent out to Mas.

CGR will share the first feedback report once received to get an idea on the next phase.

Sustainability Update- KFO

The Racing to Zero Workshop had been held on 02 May. It was a 4.5 hour zoom call. Thirty people had taken part in the Workshop to help identify the WCF's priorities and strategies. The group mapped a strategic plan.

A survey was sent out following the workshop to help with future planning.

Report came back this week with summary of outcomes.

Another meeting of the group will be held by the end of May to figure out next steps.

Congress 2024 - CGR

A paper had been circulated ahead of the call.

2023 Congress – CGR visited venue. The hotel enough space to support the same layout as Sandviken with round tables. Interesting social programme lined up. They are keen to host.

2024 Congress – 3 bids have been received:

1. Montreal, Canada
2. Saimma, Finland
3. Hangzhou, China

CGR recommended that operationally, Montreal be awarded the 2023 congress for the reasons outlined in his paper. He is in Montreal next week and will visit the venue. The China bid was lower cost than the others as they will cover costs normally covered by WCF but the congress is already in Asia this year.

It was thought that maybe consideration could be given to awarding the two other bids received for 2025/2026, but already a note of interest has been received from another MA.

The bid documents for 2025/2026 should be sent out at the same time to make it easier going forward.

The Board are happy to proceed with CGR's proposals.

SVS Kick off Meeting -SVI

Documents were previously circulated.

SVI – the SVS Kick off meeting took place on 3 May. It was agreed to move forward in workshops. They will develop Strategic planning/business plan. The first workshop will be in May/early June. It is not expected that the final report will be available in time for the Congress but an update will be available. Draft by August for strategic thinking moving forward.

CGR -The Technical Commission are meeting in June and they have already on their agenda to discuss Centres of Excellence (SVS).

Potential Medical Commission

BWE discussed the necessity for the WCF to have a Medical Commission put in place. The new KCF President is a doctor who is already doing a study on health benefits of curling. The Board asked what expertise would be forming this commission and what aspects would be covered. It was discussed that the expertise should be more wide ranging and cover athlete wellbeing along with many other aspects. Perhaps should be a Health Commission rather than a Medical Commission. A terms of reference would have to be drawn up.

The constitution would have to be changed if this was to be a Commission.

The Board agreed that a Terms of Reference should be drawn up. The current Chief Medical Officer would be asked to develop this and submit to the Board for consideration.

TUE Committee

In accordance with the [WCF Anti-Doping Rules](#), the WCF is required to establish a Therapeutic Use Exemption Committee (TUEC) to consider applications for the grant or recognition of Therapeutic Use Exceptions (TUEs).

In accordance with Article 4.4.4.3 (a), the WCF TUEC shall consist of a minimum of five (5) members with experience in the care and treatment of Athletes and sound knowledge of clinical, sports and exercise medicine.

The following physicians are therefore recommended to be appointed as TUEC members until 30 June 2026:

- Dr Janice Harvey (CAN) (Chair)
- Dr Young Hee-Lee (KOR)
- Dr Bob McCormack (CAN)
- Dr Niall Elliott (SCO)
- Dr Maarit Valtonen (FIN)

No objections. This was supported by the Board.

PARA Advice Group

Paper Circulated in advance of the call.

It was felt there was a requirement for a sub-group to the Competition and Rules Commission for Wheelchair Curling and classification.

It was asked if a board member should be on the group, but this was not required. The gender balance may need to be addressed going forward. JOF – perhaps the female athlete who didn't get onto Athlete commission could join this group.

The question arose if creating this group could be seen as discrimination. The members who have been asked to join the group did not raise any issue, but they will be asked for their feedback. The group name would have to be confirmed – whether PARA or Wheelchair etc.

The Board supports this group, and this should move forward, with the addition of the female representative. The role would be initially advising C&R but it could be expanded into other areas.

Nominations Committee Update - GPR

Report sent in advance.

A meeting of the Committee was held on 8 May which GPR joined as incoming Chair. It was agreed that Hew Chalmers would continue to be involved for the time being and possibly up to the AGA.

Some questions arose from the meeting:

Board Skills Matrix – CGR will update the Skills Matrix with Kim's details and send to the nominations committee to adapt/adjust if necessary.

HLI - Can board discuss openly skills matrix moving forward.

For the members of the Nominations Committee who are thinking about standing for the Board:

Planned election resign before the preceding congress.

Unplanned election then resign before the next commission meeting

Admin Role - CGR should still be the admin contact with the group.

The confidentiality issue should be addressed when the WCF moves from Google to Microsoft and platforms such as sharepoint can be used.

The next Nominations Commission meeting is early June where Independent Director role will be discussed further. BWE stated that the concept of this role is not to fill a skills gap but to get an outside independent view.

SVI Shadow process for those leaving key Commission roles needs to be put in place by Congress 2023. HMI process started with RNI going onto C&R now.

Other Matters

RNI indicated work continues on the possible new voting structure. A workshop is to be held at the congress. The process could then be voted on later at a virtual meeting.

RNI - World Team Rankings – teams from RUS are taking part in a WCT event. It had been discussed that they could take part but would not gain any points.

This was discussed and felt that WCT events were not WCF event where it is the Member Association who entered the teams and therefore the WCF should not remove the points, just leave it as it is. This type of situation would be easier once athlete licensing is in place.

The next MA Webinar is on 23 May. Let CGR know if anyone has not received the invitation.