



**MINUTES  
of the WCF Executive Board Teams Meeting #34  
on 22 November 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 22:00 CET.

#### **President's Welcome**

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

- Attendance at IF Forum in Lausanne in previous week
- Meeting of new Sport Accord Board (BWE is now a member). The next Sport Accord Meeting will take place in Birmingham in April 2024
- WOF (Winter Olympic Federations - formerly AIOWF) meeting in Lausanne on 15 November. There was a lot of discussion about OWG 2026 in Milan/Cortina whose fundamental problem is lack of money which results in a lot of facility issues. A special meeting was also held with the IOC to voice the concerns of WOF – the overall situation is quite tense and serious. No deadline has ever been met by Milan/Cortina. The next meeting of the Coordination Commission is set for Feb. 2024.
- Retirement dinner took place for Fredi Schmid – outgoing ISU Secretary General
- A meeting took place with Lausanne CC who have some issues with their building

### Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed in advance.

### **To approve the minutes of the Board meetings held online on 19 October 2023**

*moved by HLI  
seconded by HMI  
and unanimously approved*

### Conflict of Interest

To be added as of 15 Nov:

Beau Welling                   Executive Board Member of Sport Accord Board

### Commission and Committee Updates

#### a. Finance Commission

SMV reported that the recent meeting was the first meeting in the new format with the Board Members attending and according to his view this made the meeting easier. The concept of the new reporting template had been circulated to the Board Members previously. SMV reported that an audit is not needed as WCF is far away from the regulatory requirements to have it. Instead, the commission agreed that the concept of an independent reviewer is what WCF needs at this stage. Alan Chalmers and Margaret Richardson are now responsible for collecting offers of independent reviewers for the next season onwards.

SMV was seeking Board approval of the ToR of the commission. RNI questioned the meaning of "management" in the ToR. It was agreed that this should be replaced by "senior operational staff."

CGR added that when WCF goes out for requests for proposals for the independent reviewer there is a chance that some of these companies might say they want to do a fuller review more towards an audit on the first year so that they are more comfortable taking over the books.

### **To approve the Terms of Reference of the Finance Commission with above amendments**

*moved by SMV  
seconded by KFO  
and unanimously approved*

#### b. Governance Commission

RNI explained that the meeting notes of the Governance Commission meeting on 7 November had been distributed to the Board previously. There is nothing that the Board needs to approve now but more documents will be provided for the next two meetings. The ToR are currently being tidied up. Amy Nixon and Alison Arthur had been tasked to look at the amendment on the gender balance change in the constitution and the Board will be asked to

have a look at the review on the Safeguarding Policy. These documents will be brought back to the Board soon for approval.

The Board then discussed the status of the Korean Wheelchair Curling Association (KWCA). KWCA is hosting events and developing Curling but they have no voice as they cannot be affiliated to Korean Curling Federation – these two organisations must be separate according to Korean law. There are some other countries with the same challenge.

BWE said that WCF cannot impose its structure onto Korea or other MAs affected as these MAs have different laws they must follow. GPR mentioned that Curling Canada for example have a membership category called “affiliated membership” which serves, the blind, deaf, etc. If WCF had the same it would need to define what rights such a category would receive.

The Board agreed that WCF must find a practical resolution to this. The issue was referred back to the Governance Commission for further discussion and input.

c. European Legacy Fund Committee (ELF)

RNI updated the Board that agreement had been reached within ELF to temporarily freeze the fund and put the remaining funds behind a Starter Curling Facility Project that had been presented at the 2023 WCF Congress by David Sik. The ELF members think that this stand-alone project is a more effective use of the funds rather than slicing the fund up into small pieces. More detailed information will be provided to the Board in due course.

d. Nominations Committee (NC)

i. Terms of Reference

The following items (printed in bold) within the ToR draft were discussed by the Board:

- Objectives of the Committee: “**identify and maintain a pipeline of potential candidates for all positions elected by Member Associations**”. CGR advised that this is already covered in Bye-Law 3 under 2.1. which reads as follows: “A Nominations Committee shall be set up for the purpose of encouraging and reviewing nominations for vacancies on the Board.”
- Objectives of the Committee: “**provide information to the Member Associations on candidates standing for election to the Board, Commissions, Committees and Working Groups**, thereby enabling the Members to make better informed, skills-based decisions when electing candidates.” The Board had no objections.
- SMV said he was not happy with the following paragraph in the “Objectives” part: “**regularly review the WCF Constitution and recommend enhancements and updates to election processes**.” According to SMV the Nominations Committee should not be doing this as they should deal with rules that are already set up and they should not update rules that would apply to themselves. The Nominations Committee should “recommend enhancements and updates to election processes” but they should not review the constitution. This should be done by the Governance Commission. The Board agreed.

- Authority/Limits of the Committee: **In accordance with the WCF Constitution, the WCF Nominations Committee is responsible to the WCF General Assembly.** GPR added that the Board on the other hand would be responsible for the ToR of the NC. The Board agreed.
- Composition of the Committee: **One (1) member Appointed by the WCF Board – Chair.** CGR pointed out that this is already covered in Bye-Law 3 under 2.3.
- Terms of the Committee: The current term of office on the NC is one four-year term but the NC members are questioning whether this is enough (should there be more continuity? More familiarity with the election process?) The Board felt that there is value in adding an extra term.

The Board also agreed that Bye-Law 3 needs to be looked at in its entirety by the Governance Commission.

HLI said that she would like to add the following to the ToR: "The NC forms a recommendation to the MAs as to who they think fits best to be elected to the different positions." HMI on the other hand felt that the two following principles should be followed:

- All candidates should be treated fairly and equally in the process.
- It is not the role of the NC to determine or suggest in any way how the MAs vote or whom they should vote for.

With regard to a voting recommendation by the NC CGR felt that this is a debate that the MAs should be having. GPR suggested that this be discussed at the next Congress.

### Sustainability

CGR explained that WCF would have an additional income this year because it will receive a share of the GAISF dissolution and an additional grant from WOF. With this additional income WCF could consider funding the Sustainability Strategy which will cost GBP 11,500.

**To approve an expenditure of GBP 11,500 for Sport Giants' Support for a Sustainability Strategy**

*moved by KFO  
seconded by HLI  
and unanimously approved*

### Congress 2024

At the after AGA meeting in Seoul the Board had asked for an investigation into the extension of the 2024 Congress by one day. Having checked with the hotel it would be possible to add an additional day at the end of the Congress, the approximate costs would be an additional CDN\$17,500 plus taxes. This does not include the cost of any evening catering or activity.

This would mean WCF would need to change the previously announced date of the AGA but at this notice this should not present an issue.

The Board unanimously agreed to extend the Congress 2024 by one day.

### **Discussion on PCCC Issues**

CGR confirmed there were a number of issues from the PCCC:

- TSN took the decision after two days of broadcast that they were not happy with the quality and they decided to move all their broadcasting off the TV and onto their streaming service. (There had been no complaints from Japanese or Korean TV – they were perfectly happy with the quality that was delivered).
- Mr Brad Gushue (CAN) aired his views of the challenges of the event through the press. His complaints were not entirely fair but however some of the points raised will be reviewed in the future particularly when events are not in standard venues.

The Board discussed the issues. It was agreed to increase the level of communication between the TD and the AC when event deviate from the expected norms.

GPR emphasized that WCF must learn from issues like this e.g. have better communication with everybody involved in an event / improve on venue dressing in non-standard venues.

### **Sweeping Research**

The latest update had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. As the research develops further updates will be shared.

RNI asked whether part of this research would be used to benchmark all of the WCF's transgender documents. CGR indicated no, as the academics did not want this research to be confused with research for the purposes of assessing the differences between the genders in sweeping. However, part of the review of current research papers had found there is research that already exists that indicates that male born athletes have a 20% advantage over female born athletes in terms of sweeping power. This information will be shared with the group looking at the WCF transgender policies

### **Big Ideas Update**

#### Commercial

- Two sponsorship agreements have been concluded with ISS and Central FX, these are official partner deals and offer a low level of branding and promotion with the opportunity to upsell other sponsorship packages that may become available. The deals are worth:

Central FX	2023-2029	US\$112,500
ISS	2023-2032 (break clause 2029)	US\$178,500

- Floor Curling: A business case for the adoption of a comprehensive Customer Relationship Management (CRM) had been sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

This is the system that will underpin the Floor Curling Project with Rock Solid and will be funded 50/50 with them. It will also provide the data framework for future WCF projects including Athlete and Event licensing and World Curling Family among others.

**To invest USD 69,890 for the adaption of the Salesforce platform**

*moved by HMI  
seconded by HLI  
and unanimously approved*

- OTT Platform: Work continues with the two identified partners and with Recast to finalise their proposals for an OTT solution for the WCF. Recast has been used successfully for the first two events and the PCCC saw the launch of an event pass which proved popular with a section of our users who liked the ability to switch between games at no additional costs.

Athlete and Events

JOF and Rob Gordon had attended the IOC Athlete Forum in Lausanne the report from that meeting had been sent to the Board.

Following repeated representations to the President and other Board members, a proposed 'Events Review Working Group' is suggested, with the details outlined in the previously circulated paper. The Board approved the concept for the group and BWE and CGR were asked to make arrangements for the group to be set up.

Re-branding

The design book had been revised and updated, work is now moving forward with designing the website page frames to allow a launch of the new brand prior to the Youth Olympic Games.

Stakeholder Engagement

Offers of individual meetings with MAs attending the PCCC and ECC have been made. Due to the weight of other work a date for the webinar has not yet been finalised. The group will meet in the coming weeks and assess the appropriate timing.

Data and Digital

As indicated in the Commercial section after assessment, the view is that the WCF move forward using Salesforce as the basis for our membership data management. The system is flexible enough to allow us to build many of the projects we have discussed over the last few months. Salesforce is a partner of the IOC, Milan Cortina and F1 to name a few sports organizations

## Facilities

WAS have provided a basic outline of their Go To Market plans, however these were uncosted. They have been requested to come back with more detailed information.

David Sik has run into some challenges with the timing of his funding for the project in Ostrava. We are discussing options with him to see how the European Legacy Fund could be used to help support the project which will then provide a Case Study on which we can build the Get in Curling Facility project.

The meeting finished at 00.20.