



**MINUTES
of the WCF Executive Board
Sandviken, Sweden
on 21 and 22 March 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 (remote)
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer/Minute taker

President's Welcome and Update

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

- Discussions with various stakeholders on participation of Russian athletes in future events
- Ongoing discussions with IOC about final payment from 2022 OWG and/or potential grants to finance some of the new WCF projects
- CGR might be appointed as Secretary General of AIOWF

Approval of previous minutes

The minutes had been distributed in advance. The adjustment had been made to the template that nations are deleted from Board members' names.

To approve the minutes of the Board meeting on 9 March 2023 was

*moved by GPR
seconded by TOG
and unanimously approved*

Conflict of Interest

CGR will add himself and will complete a form in case of appointment to AIOWF Secretary General.

For BWE it will be added: Member of Gangwon 2024 (YOG) Coordination Commission

For GPR it will be added: Honorary life member of Curling Canada

For TOG it will be added: contracting with IDTM as a Doping Control Officer

Risk and Compliance Group

RNI explained that it had turned out that WCF does not have a risk management program that the Board should have to check and review areas of risk that could affect the organisation that the Board is responsible for.

The following draft had been put together:

Risk, Audit & Compliance (draft)

Purpose:

- *To review and identify financial and ethical risks and performance internally within the organisation.*
- *To assess conformance with the Constitution, policies and Board performance.*
- *To assess legal and financial compliance.*

Composition:

- *Head of Governance Commission*
- *Head of Finance Commission*
- *Independent Appointment (skills in audit & risk) suggested Chair*

Areas of responsibility:

- *Establishment of Risk Register to identify, review and control financial, legal and ethical risks to WCF.*
- *Confirmation of Constitution and policies are reviewed and are fit for purpose.*
- *Compliance with IOC Code of Ethics*
- *Assess performance of Board and directors. Including evaluating skills matrix, Director training, and exit interviews.*
- *Assess financial budgetary controls, and financial performance. Including tendering processes and compliance.*
- *Responsibility for Safeguarding and Whistle Blowing policies.*

The Board was on-board with the concept but felt that the “reporting part” was still missing. Regarding the independent appointment position it was felt that this should be an external person from another organisation good at risk management. Also, this should be a paid position.

RNI was instructed to put together another draft with more details.

Adapted System for Voting for consultation

RNI explained that the current voting system is based on a self-reported number of registered curlers. Also, there is no consistent definition of who constitutes a “curler.” It was therefore felt that quantifiable criteria would be better to evaluate the voting structure and establish a fair voting system. Any new voting system must be transparent, verifiable and fair and should reflect the amount of activity, participation and investment and should reward engagement and also the willingness to host WCF events.

The new concept that had been put together by Scott Arnold is a tier system based on 6 sets of criteria:

- Demographics
- Facilities
- Governance & Administration
- Marketing & Communications
- Participation
- Performance

The benefits of this system would be:

- More accurate representation of age/stage of Member Associations
- Tailored development assistance
- Easier to customize reporting to MAs, Board, and Commissions/Committees
- Incentive for MAs to grow the sport

The Board discussed the pros and cons in detail. KFO stressed that the way this new system is presented will make a huge difference. CGR added that this new system would offer a far quicker progression and in an ideal world the system might even turn out to be the equivalent of one member having one vote – in the case all MAs max out on all categories.

The Board was not sure if the current weights were right and felt this needed more discussion. However, it was felt that the concept in general was a good incentive for MAs to do better and also to dilute the influence of the larger nations. RNI was instructed to take the draft back to the Governance Commission to come back with a concept to be voted on at the WCF Congress in 2023.

Management Accounts

SMV reported that the WCF was currently USD 700,000 under budget, however these numbers are misleading. By the end of the year WCF will be overspent (current estimate approx. USD 100,000) but still benefitting of increased interest rates.

The following variations were highlighted:

- The broadcasting costs are lower from PCCC/ECC, but WCF has also lower revenues
- The Congress 2022 was overspent
- Costs of January meeting in Toronto had not been budgeted but will be offset with some IOC grants from the previous year

CGR explained that a new structure of accounts was now being developed to give better more relevant information.

Big Ideas – Facilities – World Academy of Sport Proposal

CGR explained that the outcome of this project should be the development of a comprehensive facility strategy and process. Such a strategy would allow the WCF to go out to the MAs and other interested parties to look for people that would like to work with WCF to build facilities. This would include designing, building and operating facilities.

The Board discussed the proposal and the following comments were made:

- A strategy would help both the WCF and its MAs
- The group offering the services have both the expertise and the experience
- Their offer could be tailored to WCF's budget
- The project will help the WCF to decide whether the way forward is to build more facilities or if WCF should leverage existing facilities.
- WCF should walk away with tangible outcomes

To support investment into the SVS (Sustainable Venue Solutions) phase 1 project of up to 60,000 GBP (strategy and model business plan)

***moved by SMV
seconded by TOG
and unanimously approved***

The estimated length of phase 1 of this project is 4 months.

TOG recommended that since WCF is looking for sustainable facility solutions the information of the SVS presentation should also be shared with the Sustainability Group.

Big Ideas – Presentation to Members

CGR showed to the Board the power point slides that would be presented to the MAs during the forthcoming Open Meetings.

The Board was happy with the presentation and agreed that the President would introduce the MAs to the topic.

Approval of Host Spot in ECC A/B Championship

CGR explained that normally during WCF competitions the hosts have a guaranteed place. It is now suggested that if someone hosts the ECC they should be guaranteed a place in the B-Division at a minimum. If the Board approved that it would mean that in 2023 only one team would be promoted from the ECC-C to ECC-B (if an MA outside the A or B Division is the host of the ECC 2023).

For all WCF events a host nation is guaranteed a spot in that competition

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

It was also agreed that if anybody dropped out of ECC-C 2023 based on the fact that there might only be one team promoted from C-Division to the B-Division then as a one-off exception no fine would be charged.

Also, WCF had received a request from Ukraine to consider the possibility of Ukraine hosting an event outside the Ukrainian territory, e.g. in Scotland. The idea was born due to the fact that the European Song Contest, which should have been held by Ukraine, now also takes place outside Ukraine. The request was discussed and the following comments were made:

- AUS had hosted the Pacific Championships in Canada. Would that be a one-off Ukrainian event or can WCF in general separate host from location?
- The nation on whose territory the event takes place must approve
- WCF should be more open to joint-hosting
- The current situation should be used as a one-off test but might become a more common option in future. It must however be restricted to certain events only (e.g. not applicable to world championships)

To support the request from Ukraine in these exceptional circumstances to host the ECC 2023 outside the Ukrainian territory

***moved by HMI
seconded by HLI
and unanimously approved
on the proviso that the Scottish authorities approves this request***

Discussion Paper on Junior Events

A discussion paper called “Junior Curling Review” created by Hans Frauenlob had been distributed in advance. The document was around “What do we expect from Junior Curling?”

Hans Frauenlob’s recommendations to the WCF are:

- Introduce a World Junior Mixed Doubles Festival event
- Expand the field at the World Junior Men’s and Women’s
 - o For 5 sheet hosting, 14 team fields are recommended
 - o For 4 sheet hosting, 16 team fields are recommended
- Maintain existing World Junior B qualifying event
- Maintain eligibility age for WCF Junior events at U21
- Strengthen relationships with FISU as pinnacle WCF-sanctioned university age event
- Adjust competition formats to make them more sustainable for organizers and families
- Consider multi-year event awards

The following comments were made:

- Should the age limit be put to U23? Probably too much of an age gap to 15 year old teenagers
- Multi-year event awards are very sustainable and easy for the WCF but maybe juniors would like to see others places too as many come back multiple times
- The festival idea is a good idea and could also be used for testing new rules (such as length of the competition, etc)
- All junior events should be considered developmental events.
- Junior events must be fun as WCF wants juniors to love their events so that they keep playing when they get older
- Junior Curlers should be asked for their feedback

HMI suggested to the Board that he would condense the current presentation and present it to the C&R Commission for their feedback so that a fully worked-out proposal is ready for the WCF Congress 2023. The Board agreed.

CGR added that travel costs might be moved over to DAP – Scott Arnold was currently investigating this.

Russia / Ukraine

CGR explained that WCF had been asked by IOC to explore how Russians could come back. This issue brings up the following questions:

- If Russians come back as “neutral” athletes: Who selects and funds a neutral team?
- What if teams do not want to play against them?

The Board discussed the issue at length and did not see any measure to accept any neutral team. If “neutral” Russian athletes competed in WCF events any competitions would most probably fall apart if WCF asked players to play against Russian athletes. Also, the Board would not like to see the athletes being put in such a difficult position having to choose between themselves and what their governing bodies tell them to do – that would be unfair to the athletes.

The President said that he was looking forward to hearing the opinion of the MAs during the forthcoming Open Meetings.

Presentation Competition Format (HMI)

HMI gave a presentation on “Women’s and Men’s World Championship structure options”.

The recommendations from the C&R Commissions were:

1. Stay with existing 13 team format through the end of the Quad (2026)
2. The 10 + 10 format is preferred over the 16 team format as it will add more MAs to the WCC (7) and have less negative financial impact.
3. Complete additional investigation into eliminating or minimizing the negative impacts of the 10 + 10 format including:
 - Improve and refine the financial model with additional sponsorship and reduced costs
 - Ensure no new contracts are signed that would restrict format changes
 - Ensure agreement on pool seeding
 - Pace of play and fan engagement improvements
 - Overall improvement of Host experience to encourage additional larger venues

The Board made some minor changes to the presentation but agreed that it be presented to the MAs during the Open Meetings.

The target is to present a new WCC format with additional participating teams for the Congress in 2024. The new format would be planned to be implemented in the next quad.

Presentation MTV (GPR)

GPR gave a presentation on the 8 v 10 discussion.

The concluding recommendation of the MTV group was that there is no compelling reason to reduce to 8 ends, in fact it would seem to cause more harm than good at this time.

The Board recommended that the presentation should be shortened and could then be presented to the MAs during the Open Meetings.

The first part of the Board meetings closed and BWE thanked everyone for their input, he was looking forward to the engagement with the Members over the next couple of days and to the next part of the Board meeting which would see an interactive workshop session with the new Brand Agency – WePlay.