



**MINUTES  
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board  
Montréal, Canada on  
8 September 2024 (post AGA)**

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**Attendees**

**Executive Board**

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Kim Forge (KFO)	Vice-President
Morten Søgaard (MSO)	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Jill Officer (JOF)	Director
David Sik (DSI)	Director
Tyler George (TGE)	Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	WCF Projects Officer/Minute taker

The meeting started at 14:00

**Housekeeping**

CGR advised the new Board members that they would need to provide a picture of their passport by the end of the meeting. Allan Chalmers would then be in contact with them for proof of other identification such as address etc. so that the new Board Members can be registered on the Swiss registry. Currently DSI is the only new Board Member with an affiliation to a Member Association so the process now starts for him to step back from his National MA (MSO and JOF are already out of their respective National MAs)

**President's Update**

The President welcomed the new Board Members and congratulated them on their election to the World Curling Board. He advised that CGR would put together a binder of information for the new Board Members to read in order to provide them with a basic orientation. He confirmed that both he himself as well as CGR would be available for one-on-one conversations in case of any questions.

## **Board Meeting discussing strategy**

BWE advised that he felt the Board should soon have in-person meetings and engage in strategy again (although such a meeting is not budgeted for yet). He felt that the next meeting should take place in Perth, SCO. There are two options:

- World curling office
- Perth ice-rink (the local authorities in Perth have announced that their future plans do not include an ice-rink. Scottish Curling and the local Curlers are now engaging with the Council to try and have the Council transfer the ice-rink to a Curler-owned entity and have asked if World Curling would be interested in being involved in that process.)

The Board discussed participation and process of such a meeting. The following comments were made:

- Can work start before the meeting? (e.g. SWOT analysis, etc)
- KFO would be able to recommend an external person to walk the Board through the process. This person has already worked with Australian Curling. The person had taken Australian Curling through a big deep dive that was done remotely followed by two days of in-person meetings during which a strategy was put together which set Australian Curling up for the next four years.
- Facts, data, etc should be provided prior to the meeting as a basis for the discussions
- An external person would take burden off the Board, it just depends how much that will cost.
- We must be cost-conscious.

CGR was instructed to get some quotes for external consultants to help World Curling develop a new strategy. Time-wise, the Board was asked to block the first two weeks of December 2024 for meetings.

## **Potential commission appointments**

Finance Commission:	SMV (Chair), MSO and KFO. Margaret Richardson is at the end of her term in 2025 – this is a Board appointment.
Technical Commission:	DSI (Chair), KFO (ToR needs to be revised)
Governance Commission:	MSO (Chair), JOF and HLI. Jennifer Stannard is at the end of her term, she is timed-out. Alison Arther is at the end of her term but not timed-out so she could re-apply. Tom Seger is standing down as he is leaving Swiss Curling this season.
DEI Working Group:	HLI (Chair), KFO
Sustainability Working Group:	KFO (Chair), DSI and TGE
Events Working Group:	Add MSO / DSI
Competitions & Rules Commission:	RNI (Chair), JOF and TGE
Athlete Commission:	TGE (Chair) – appointed by the athletes
Wheelchair Working Group:	No changes

Nominations Committee:	Graham Prouse (Chair) is appointed by Board. CGR suggested to keep him as Chair if he is willing to do so. Mike Ferguson and Alison Arthur are due for re-election.
Hall of Fame:	Speak to Keith Wendorf and Patrick Hürlimann to see if they are willing to in their respective office

**To nominate Graham Prouse to continue as the Board member on the Nominations Committee**

*moved by KFO  
seconded by SMV  
and approved unanimously*

The Board then discussed the appointment of independent Directors and whether the Chair of the Nominations Committee should sit on the Board to identify skill gaps. BWE said that he first had wanted to see the outcome of the 2024 elections gender-wise (which has now happened) and he also would like to wait for the report of the Nominations Committee and see what they recommend. Once this report has been received the appointment of independent Directors (possibly one of each gender) should be discussed again. Also, prior to any appointment the Board needs to be looked at in terms of skill assessment and a skill gap analysis needs to be made.

**Board representation at events**

The three World Curling events prior to Christmas where Board members should attend are WMxCC, PCCC and ECC. The following representation was agreed:

WMxCC:	RNI and SMV
PCCC:	BWE at the opening, with TGE, JOF at end
ECC:	ECC-A in FIN: MSO and DSI (50/50) – ECC-B in SWE: HLI

The post-Christmas events that require Board representation are: WWhCC, WJCC, WWCC, WMCC and WMDCC.

The Board and Open Meetings during WJCC are scheduled to be held as follows:

Board Meetings	14 and 15 April
Open Meetings	16 and 17 April

As Open Meetings are usually half-day meetings the following scenario could also possible and was eventually preferred by the Board but everyone was asked to check diaries and provide feedback:

14 April	full day of Board Meetings
15 April	half day of Open Meetings followed by half day of Board Meetings
16 April	half day of Open Meetings

The closest airport to Cortina is Venice (VCE)

KFO asked for a detailed plan for the whole season including Board Meetings, events etc.

BWE confirmed also for the new Board Members that Board meetings are held online on a monthly basis. The best meeting time and time-zones need to be investigated and two time-windows need to be identified. Meeting times can then switch between those two windows.

CGR and BWE will also look through member groups and allocate Board Members to them considering their time zone. An experienced Board Member should be paired with a less experienced Board Member. A proposal will then be presented to the Board members for their feedback.

### **Regalia for representatives**

Now that the MAs have rejected the proposal for delegates the Board discussed if the presentation of regalia should be re-installed. Various options were discussed, such as a delegate pin, ties, scarves or medals.

The Board members decided to think about this topic and discuss at a later stage again.

### **Swiss Power of Attorney**

As SMV is no longer living in Switzerland World Curling needs a duly authorized person to be able to sign documents on behalf of World Curling in Switzerland.

**To appoint the Swiss lawyer Matthias Schuhmacher as power of attorney for World Curling in Switzerland.**

*moved by KFO  
seconded by JOF  
and approved unanimously*

### **Events Working Group**

BWE advised that the group wants to meet pretty soon. CGR explained that if changes are made to the events for the 2026/27 season, decisions need to be made by the time of the Cortina meetings in 2025 because by this time we need to look for hosts and finalise partners contracts.

The following comments were made:

- It is important to be mindful. It looks like some major changes/restructuring is needed so it should not be rushed.
- The Board carefully discussed and understood all related issues rising out proposal for format change ECC/PCCC presented by EWG, broadcasting cost, lack of LOC, partners TV quality requirements, potential impact on MAs etc..

- It was agreed to distribute a questionnaire to get additional data and gain more understanding of MAs views
- The outcomes of this and discussions on potential qualification formats can then be discussed within the MA groups

### **Russia**

BWE explained that World Curling regular requests from Russia with the question: "When do we get back in? What has to change that we can get back in?"

Russia had been excluded from upcoming events using Rule C1(b), which states:

"The Board of the WCF may remove a team or Member Association from any WCF event if in the sole opinion of the Board their presence at the event would damage the event or put the safety of the participants or the good order of the event at risk."

In order to discuss the issue a meeting had taken place in Montreal with the Russians and the President had offered to ask the MAs if Russia should be allowed to play in World Curling events again. The response from the MAs, when the matter was raised in one of the Member Groups, was very emotional as it was back in Sandviken and there was no feeling that the current position should be reversed.

One matter for the Nominations Committee to consider was the challenge for sitting Board members during the Election meet and greet where matters of Board policy on this matter were raised and they felt they were constrained by their Board responsibilities in their responses.

### **Israel**

The President indicated that he had received a number of questions during the Congress about the status of Israel within World Curling. CGR explained that teams have been playing Israel in the last twelve months in World Curling competitions and there were no indications of any issues. Probably, the bigger danger to the good order of competitions would be public protest. Part of the reason this came up was that an MA had planned to bring forward a motion during the AGA to exclude Israel. As had been the case when discussing the RCF it would be about holding an MA responsible for the actions of a government. The World Curling rules do not cover that. Currently, the situation can only be monitored. At some point it might happen Rule C1(b) could come into play but that has not happened yet.

The meeting finished at 16:00