



MINUTES  
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board  
Online Meeting #2025-5  
on 02 June 2025

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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
Andrew Ryan (ARY)	Independent Director
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Liz Munro (LMU)	Office Manager/Minute taker

The meeting started at 12:00 CET.

### Presidents Update

BWE formally welcomed Andrew Ryan as the first independent director of the World Curling Board. BWE was delighted about Andrew's appointment, highlighting the value of his experience and perspective.

BWE and CGR heading to Lausanne next week for WOF meetings and possibly meet with Thomas Bach.

BWE & KFO had met with the Russia Olympic Committee and Russian Curling Federation in Cortina. They wanted to know how they can get back to curling, particularly their junior curlers. It was noted that the IOC recommendation on Team Sports remains. Nothing further to discuss currently until congress. A response will go to them stating that the board will look at it over the summer as it relates to next season.

BWE also noted the excellent event in Fredericton and the great environment they had created for the event.

The Board is aware the Pakistan Curling have circulated a letter seeking action against the Israeli Federation. Only two MAs have signed so far. There had been no athlete level opposition at events to date. It was agreed to continue to monitor this situation.

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the April Board meeting had been distributed in advance.

#### **Motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on April 2025**

*moved by HLI  
seconded by SVI  
and approved unanimously*

### **Conflict of Interest**

ARY submitted his conflicts of interest, he is part of the compliance review committee for WADA and would have to step back from WADA should they be doing any compliance work with World Curling.

HLI is a member of the Danderyds Curlingklubb who are interested in potentially being involved with the certification programme and maybe looking for an improvement loan.

These will both be updated after this meeting.

DSI reminded everyone he will not get involved in brush pad conversations due to a minor sponsorship.

### **Commission and Committee Updates**

#### **Finance Commission**

Nothing further to add to the information which was circulated.

RNI asked about the Infront payments, there is nothing to worry about, just a timing issue with the Women's Worlds taking place close to the end of the financial quarter.

DSI asked for better alignment between the finance and technical commissions regarding facility funding discussions. SMV explained that while some informal discussions had occurred (e.g., a request from New Zealand), no official loan proposals had been submitted. The New Zealand case was used as an example: they were advised to prepare a 10-year financial forecast before formally submitting a loan request. SMV clarified that any official loan request would be reviewed by both the Finance and Technical Commissions before being brought to the board.

#### **Competition and Rules**

RNI reported that the Competition and Rules (C&R) Commission had met the previous week. The minutes were circulated late but had been approved by the group.

The commission reviewed feedback from Cortina and highlighted 7 new rules based on the

consultation process. These rules are really competition rules that could be included in a team meeting document if needed, but the preference is to present them during the June 11 webinar.

DSI raised concerns about the proposal to use three-digit precision for Draw Shot Challenge (DSC) scores. He stated that the laser measures accuracy makes such precision misleading. RNI clarified that the change is statistical, not physical - measuring remains the same, but averages are calculated to three decimal places to break ties. CGR agreed to consult with technical staff (Eeva) to confirm the device capabilities.

World Qualification Process – C&R prefer the new proposal to zonal, but most still prefer the pure ladder, but a hybrid of the 2 systems is better than previous option.

MAss seem to be more aligned to change now.

The new proposal will be the focus of the webinar.

Following the Webinar this could be further discussed at the Board meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June where the Board could make a recommendation and take this to the Group consultations at the end of June for a final validation.

CGR stated that the intention is to send out the original Portuguese proposal, and effectively any updates stating what the C&R have changed to make the new proposal, along with the rule changes as discussed earlier to the MAAs in the next days ahead of the Webinar.

Discussion took place on the World ladder B format on whether to use a 12- or 16-team format. The 16-team format is preferred for competitive balance and sustainability. A mock-up of potential teams will be prepared to illustrate the structure.

SMV asked if C&R discussed the World Mixed rule regarding the obligation for the full team to be there. This had not been discussed recently as last year there was no appetite for that change. RNI stated it could be brought up again at the next in person C&R Meeting for the 2026/27 season.

#### Athlete Commission

A report had been circulated from the meeting of 8 May 2025

RNI asked if the feedback from a team about the umpires and the foam testing was a common thread. TGE reported that one team had raised concerns about umpires being rough during foam inspections, potentially contributing to wear. However, this was not a widespread issue and was likely due to the age of the foam.

TGE also mentioned that the Athlete Commission had discussed in the group and unanimously supported allowing teams to concede after five ends in 10-end games (during round robin play), rather than the current six. This was seen as more logical and less awkward for both players and spectators. However, they acknowledged potential revenue

implications for broadcasters.

TGE also said that the commission supports the ladder-based qualification system but expressed concern that many athletes had not been consulted by their Member Associations (MAs). TGE noted that even top athletes had not been briefed by their MAs. The commission emphasised that while they can encourage communication, it is ultimately the responsibility of MAs to represent athlete interests.

There is an overall need to encourage MAs to talk to their athletes.

TGE expressed the commission values in-person meetings and prefers to hold them during Grand Slam events rather than European Championships for logistical and sustainability reasons. A budget request for this is expected.

RNI mentioned in the notes from the AC that there was concern that the group ranking list was not reaching athletes or performance directors, despite being sent to MA representatives. The commission stressed the importance of improving this communication.

#### Governance Commission

Minutes were uploaded yesterday.

MSO stated there was discussion about the feasibility of hybrid formats for open meetings. While Congress itself is unlikely to become hybrid soon, open meetings could be trialled in this format. The technical and costs issues would be investigated.

He also stated that a proposal was discussed to move the WCF Congress from an annual to a biennial schedule. This would align with practices in other international federations. If pursued, a consultation process would need to begin at the September Congress.

Updates are being prepared for the constitution and terms of reference for the Nominations Committee. A presentation will be made on the Webinar on 11 June.

JOF stated there would be a need to have hybrid open meetings/online meeting if congress was biennial.

#### Singapore Curling Association

The board approved the conditional membership of the Singapore Curling Association. Full membership will require recognition from the country's National Olympic Committee (NOC).

*proposed by MSO  
seconded by HLI  
and approved unanimously*

#### Technical Commission

Minutes were previously circulated

DSI discussed the budget request for an in-person meeting planned for August, this would be a hybrid meeting. The group would like to move these meetings to end of season in future, when it is quieter for the ice technicians. CGR will note this in the budget planning, and the meeting in August was approved.

The commission is involved in ongoing testing of brush pads and sweeping equipment. They are preparing for potential changes ahead of the new season.

Updates were provided on the development of new stone handles with embedded technology.

The project is progressing to phase three, which includes final design and production. There are concerns about patent conflicts, but the board agreed to proceed with caution. The goal is to have the handles ready for testing before the season and potentially use them at major events like the European Championships and Olympic Qualification Events.

2 sets of 5 sheets of handles – 1 set for Europe and 1 set for North America.

DSI asked for approval of a price increase of 7800 Euros so far on the project. Additional costs of ordering 16 handles for production for prototypes and preparation for testing and logistics ahead of major events.

There was a minor patent risk identified.

The Board agreed to move forward with the next phase of the operation and have the contract signed, and approved the additional cost

*Proposed SVI  
Seconded RNI  
and approved unanimously*

#### Brush Issues

The brush pad testing initiative was a response to ongoing concerns about fairness, consistency, and performance in sweeping equipment. The testing took place in Morris and involved long, intensive days of both on-ice and off-ice evaluations.

JOF reported that the testing went as well as could be hoped. The group evaluated various foam compressions and sweeping effects, with strong collaboration from manufacturers and athletes.

The group initially leaned toward Option 3, which would have avoided further testing. However, after receiving feedback from stakeholders, they shifted to Option 4, which opens the 75% compression range to all manufacturers who have previously supplied component brushes at the world championship level (only the compression can be changed

not the shape of the foam).

JOF and Graham Prouse were praised for their diplomatic handling of what is a contentious issue. The tone of communication improved significantly during the event.

There may be a further cost involved as it may require additional testing before the season starts, depending on how many manufacturers choose to reproduce foam.

The Board supported option 4 as agreed by the group.

#### Nominations Committee

No update

#### Ranking Points Group

Minutes shared previously. RNI will check with Rob Gordon one item in the minutes for clarification.

#### Hall of Fame Committee

A paper on the Virtual Curling Museum had previously been circulated

RNI discussed the Virtual Curling Museum in partnership with the Scottish Curling Trust. The museum will be hosted on the eHive platform under the name of World Curling Virtual Museum.

The museum will include:

- A central archive for World Curling.
- A dedicated Hall of Fame section.
- Individual “rooms” for each Member Association (MA) to showcase their history and artifacts.

The platform allows for different displays, such as Olympic-themed exhibits. It also supports pop-up physical exhibits at events by pulling items from the virtual archive.

The Scottish Curling Trust will manage data entry using university students paid hourly. World Curling will retain ownership and governance of the project, not the Trust.

An initial budget of £5,000 was proposed for the setup. An annual platform fee of £600–£800, depending on usage volume. The Scottish Curling Trust has already archived 4,500 items; the platform can scale to 100,000.

The museum will be free to users. A small participation fee (e.g., €100) may be charged to MAs to cover ongoing costs.

A working group will be established to oversee the project by World Curling. This ensures quality, consistency, and sustainability across all submissions. MAs will not upload content directly; instead, submissions will be curated centrally.

CGR will include the costs in the budget and asked RNI to come back with a proposal for a group to oversee the project.

#### DEI

A report was previously shared

HLI reported she was delighted that World Curling had updated its branding for Pride Month, an initiative driven by young curlers.

The DEI group has been working on in-depth audit reports to assess gender representation across: (1) Coaches & Technical Officials (ITOs) and (2) engagement in WCF Commissions, Committees, Expert groups and Working groups

#### Key Findings:

- Coaches: 74% male, 26% female. Most female coaches are involved in junior and wheelchair curling.
- ITOs: 63% male, 37% female. This is considered a relatively balanced ratio.
- Ice Technicians: Very few women apart from Ingvild.

#### Next Steps:

- The DEI group aims to set formal targets together with the MAs for gender representation, particularly in coaching, to align with Olympic gender balance goals.

A report on engagements and gender representation in WCF's Board, Commissions, Committees, Expert groups and Working groups will be presented at a future meeting.

#### Congress Engagement:

SMV suggested presenting these findings in a breakout session at Congress to raise awareness and encourage action among Member Associations (MAs).

RNI raised an observation about potential contradictions between DEI messaging (e.g., Pride branding) and WCF's stance on political neutrality in athlete messaging.

The board agreed that while the current use is appropriate, they should remain mindful of consistency in future branding decisions.

#### Sustainability

KFO stated that the Sustainability Working Group meets monthly and is actively progressing through its strategic action plan.

#### Key Focus Areas:

- Event planning, lighting and Logistics hub

Kim Forge will complete an 8-hour carbon literacy course provided by Sporting Giants. The course is tailored for sport organisations and will be evaluated for potential rollout to WCF staff and board members. If the training proves valuable, it may be integrated into the education initiatives for sustainability.

### Big Ideas Update

CGR stated that in addition to the updates presented for information the only point for discussion here was stakeholder engagement

### Stakeholder Engagement

There was an updated paper shared by HLI referring to the meeting at end of month and the discussion the board had about taking a more active role in the agenda setting etc. taking more action on setting agenda. Same key message across all groups. Suggested board information topics for end of June MA group meeting was agreed

All groups need to arrange their meetings soon for the end of June.

### AOB

CGR gave a staffing update - Jodi Cranston's contract has been continued and will continue in her role, there may be a change in job title, and a move to be part of the digital /media team. The 3 other Job adverts closed yesterday, and a shortlist will be made in the coming days, interviews will take place as soon as possible.

CGR gave an update regarding the Dutch Curling communication regarding the calendar. Dates had been out for some months, so it was surprising to get this pushback now. Eeva has spoken to Shari (the Dutch Coach), about their issues. Their issue is particularly that they have one player who wants to play in every event and the Olympic Qualifier being so close to the World Mixed Doubles Qualifier is causing some challenges. It was proposed that the WMDQE be moved to January. A communication went out to MAs about this and there had been no significant objections to that and hope to have this finalised by the end of the week.

DSI asked about a previous discussion regarding using Olympics for some sort of campaign to grow the sport. CGR stated that the Congress will be themed around the games to ask questions about what MAs are doing to promote the Games and sharing of ideas.

ARY agreed it is very worthwhile to use this big platform to work with and congress a good place to highlight it. Federations should not invest too much money on this. ARY believes curling is in a good position with DEI and Sustainability but agrees the need to be careful with brand. Now is the time to push curling.

HLI asked about the planning for the congress. CGR has some potential speakers lined up.

BWE thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Meeting ended at 13:56hrs