



MINUTES  
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board  
Gold Coast, Australia  
on 8 September 2025

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**Attendees**

**Executive Board**

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

The President welcomed the Board to the post-AGA meeting.

**Election results**

ARY and HZH were congratulated on their successful election, both receiving over 80% of the votes.

**Matters arising from AGA**

During today's AGA the Vice-Presidents had been removed from the Board and the Board was now entitled to appoint the Vice-Presidents. BWE suggested that both KFO and MSO should continue in their roles as Vice-Presidents and both agreed to remain in office until their next scheduled election.

**To appoint Kim Forge and Morten Søgård as World Curling Vice-Presidents**

*moved by JOF  
seconded by SMV  
and approved unanimously*

## Commission chairs and co-chairs

Existing chairs and co-chairs for the Finance, Competition and Rules, Governance, and Technical Commissions will continue.

DEI and Sustainability – the Board was happy with HLI (DEI) and KFO (Sustainability) to continue as respective chairs of DEI and Sustainability under the new Commission arrangements.

### **To appoint HLI as chair of the DEI Commission and KFO as chair of the Sustainability Commission**

*moved by JOF  
seconded by RNI  
and approved unanimously*

AC Chair TGE is coming to the end of his term at the end of this season. Keith Wendorf (Chair of HOF Induction Committee) is also beginning to question whether it is time for him to move on, but it is assumed he will stay until the end of this Olympic cycle.

The Events Working Group is considered complete but should have one final wrap-up meeting.

### **To confirm the leadership of the other Working Groups as follows:**

- **Medical Health and Wellness (Dr. Bob McCormack)**
- **World Ranking Group (RNI, with JOF to be added to the group to increase continuity)**
- **Wheelchair (Jiri Snitil)**
- **Equipment Advisory Group (JOF)**

*moved by HLI  
seconded by KFO  
and approved unanimously*

Regarding the Board elected roles:

### **To re-elect Graham Prouse as a Member of the Nominations Committee**

*moved by MSO  
seconded by RNI  
and approved unanimously*

## Commission vacancies

Vacancies will be advertised for the Finance, Governance, and Technical Commissions. Teri Palynchuk's (CAN) role on the Governance Commission for the 2025-2029 period was confirmed.

The current DEI and Sustainability working groups are tasked with proposing a structure, Terms of Reference, and makeup for the new commissions. The ideal size was suggested to be five to seven members. The working groups will continue their work until the new commissions are established.

### **Russia**

The Board will await a decision from the IOC before taking further action. However, the Board committed to proactive scenario planning. This includes preparing for the logistical and rule-based implications of reintegrating athletes and budgeting for potential legal challenges. The C&R was tasked with reviewing how to handle politically motivated forfeits.

### **Audit**

The Board addressed pressure from some members to upgrade from the current financial review to a 'full audit'. They weighed the pros, such as silencing accusations of hiding information, against the cons, including a significant cost increase (estimated around \$60,000) and the risk of not having audited accounts ready for the AGM, which is an election year.

No decision was made. The Board will gather more information by requesting a formal quote from the appointed auditors, EQ, for a full audit with a guaranteed delivery date. They will also prepare a document comparing the current review process to a full audit to clarify the differences. Finance Commission to review and report back.

### **Congress**

Following the presentation, there are significant concerns from MAs, particularly smaller ones. They perceive the cutting of the Development Assistance Programme (DAP) and making Congress biennial as favouring larger, television-focused nations. The sentiment is that services are being taken away from them. BWE proposed to not rush into a decision about holding Congress every other year. Instead, the suggestion is to first market the event to gauge interest, bids, and pricing.

### **Subscriptions**

The new subscription (per head) model is seen as a potential game-changer for finances. However, it requires a proper consultation process with members, which was promised. Gaining the support of the bigger nations especially Canada is considered the critical first step, as the entire plan does not work without their agreement.

The MA group meetings in November are identified as the forum to discuss the subscription model, the future of Congress, DAP and entry fees. The Board needs to prepare in advance to present a unified message. The goal is to use these smaller group meetings to encourage more open feedback than was received publicly.

## **DAP**

The Board had already decided to suspend DAP for Olympic-qualified countries. The upcoming discussion with members will focus on the future structure of the DAP program post-Olympics, including ideas like pooling funds or using vouchers, rather than debating the current suspension.

Also, the Governance Commission was tasked with having a holistic look at membership structures.

## **World Team Championship Las Vegas**

The Board discussed a survey Jon Killoran had been asked to conduct. There was a call for more detailed information regarding the financial risk assessment, specifically questioning the revenue figures to assess its realism.

## **Board Performance Assessment**

A discussion was held about conducting a Board assessment. The consensus was to focus on the collective performance of the Board as a team, rather than assessing individuals. The process would involve preparation followed by a group discussion. MSO was tasked to present a suitable process to the Board.

## **Strategic Action Plan**

The Board identified a need to consolidate the existing Forward Plan and nine key initiatives into a new, actionable strategic plan, tentatively named 'Forward Plan 2.0 or 2026'. The focus will be on defining action items for two or three high-level priorities. CGR and BWE were tasked with that.

## **Appointment of signatories**

MSO and KFO were appointed as additional World Curling signatories alongside the President for Host Agreements and contracts with Member Associations.

## **Board representation at competitions**

ECC	DSI (beginning / handles) and HLI (end for medals)
PCCC	TGE
OQE	JOF
WJCC	KFO
WWCC	JFO (TGE poss also there in commentator role)
WMCC	JOF and TGE (again both may be involved in commentary)
WMDCC	All (Board Meetings) – meetings to take place towards the end of the event (Event = 25 April until 2 May) - Sergio to present medals
WJMDCC	Event from 5-10 May - JOF or KFO TBC

### **Meetings frequency**

It was agreed that the meeting frequency should be approx. every 6 weeks. The Board felt that currently too much time is spent on reporting – that should in future be focussed more on asking questions from minutes rather than reporting the content of the meetings.

### **Member Group Meeting Schedule and Facilitators**

The schedule for member group meetings was reviewed. The previous year's schedule was late November/early December, late February/early March, and late June. A proposal was made to move the second meeting to early March due to an open meeting in May.

The need for a structured agenda and pre-work for member group meetings was discussed. HLI was tasked to prepare the agenda for the upcoming meetings.