



**MINUTES**  
**of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board**  
**Online Meeting #2025-10**  
**on 26 November 2025**

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**Attendees**

**Executive Board**

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Kim Forge (KFO)	Vice-President
Morten Soegaard (MSO)	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director
Jill Officer (JOF)	Director
David Sik (DSI)	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
Apologies:	
Andrew Ryan (ARY)	Independent Director

The meeting started at 13:00.

The President welcomed the Board.

### **Presidents Update**

BWE said he had sent a WhatsApp message summarizing ideas and discussions from recent meetings in Switzerland, particularly efforts to get a WOF representative elected to the IOC Executive Board. This process has been more challenging and slower than expected, with scheduling still unresolved despite earlier hopes it would be completed within a few weeks.

MSO reported that discussions with the Norwegian NOC had covered the winter versus summer season issue, with particular concern from Norway, as a strong winter-sport country, about how changes could affect the sport's brand.

BWE emphasized the importance of consistent messaging across NOCs, particularly on the summer vs. winter issue, despite challenges in some countries. He sees a positive opportunity to rethink how games are delivered to reduce costs and potentially increase revenue. The snow and ice discussion remains active, and he hoped the WOF election issue would be resolved by year's end.

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

***To approve the minutes of the Board meetings on 15 and 20 October 2025***

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

### **Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere**

#### **Russia / Ukraine**

CGR noted that the situation involving Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus remains fluid. FIL had lost its CAS case regarding their ongoing ban and FIS is expected to lose a similar case. While some international bodies are moving toward allowing neutral participation by teams - such as World Aquatics - the IOC still excludes team sports. On the other hand, IPC has removed all its restrictions. He concluded that there is no immediate action required by World Curling but this needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis as further advice is provided. BWE noted that, based on discussions in Switzerland, the IOC has explicitly told federations to begin planning for the eventual return of affected countries. While it is not an immediate issue, he believed it would need to be addressed soon.

#### **DAP**

Several MAs had raised concerns about the timing of the complete DAP removal for Olympic-qualified federations. BWE noted that pushback in member group meetings had been less than expected, with constructive focus on improving return on investment, but Olympic federations remain dissatisfied, feeling the cuts conflict with messaging on leveraging the Olympics. He stressed that the financial savings are small compared to the ill will created and expects this issue to dominate upcoming discussions.

SMV added that some members had questioned why DAP was cut by \$200,000 when potential membership fee changes could generate \$1–2 million.

MSO acknowledged that communication had been unclear and late relative to budgeting but believed complaints would subside. He emphasized the cuts send an important signal about financial discipline and suggested staying firm, focusing further cuts on competition-related costs if needed.

RNI agreed the implementation had been fast but communication weak yet supported the strategic rationale for the decision. CGR clarified that communication had been actually timely - within a matter of days - but not all people within MAs had received or absorbed the message.

BWE concluded that while the DAP decision should remain firm, caution is needed with other spending (e.g., travel or new staff) to avoid mixed signals, especially given the timing during Olympic leverage discussions.

### **Conflict of Interest**

No updates

### **Priorities and Actions**

The conversation focused on simplifying and aligning the organization's priorities with the existing forward plan. CGR had presented a framework with primary and secondary actions under each pillar and asked for feedback. KFO supported it as a good starting point but requested more details on responsibilities, timing, and objectives.

HLI emphasized the need for clear ownership ("board champions") for each priority to track progress and guide discussions with MAs. CGR agreed and suggested using willing volunteers to lead each action, linking it to reporting and tracking updates. Specific assignments were made (e.g., MSO for DAP, JOF for competitions, BWE for the World Team Championship).

Everyone agreed the priorities were reasonable, and MSO highlighted the next step should be defining a high-level scope of work for each action.

CGR said he would provide a more detailed plan including timelines, board champions, and staff leaders. Once that is done, the process will move into a reporting phase to track actions and progress under each priority.

### **Commission Appointments**

CGR explained that, barring objections, the Nominations Committee's candidates would be submitted for a two-week membership vote, with the winner elected automatically - no Board decision needed.

He then proposed reviewing each individual commission one by one as follows:

#### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission**

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion working group had been given full Commission status at the recent World Curling Congress in September. Seven appointments for the newly formed commission were confirmed. They are:

- Simon Barrick (Canada)
- Elton Oliveira Silva (Brazil)
- Wang Yiwa (China)
- P.N. Raju (India)
- Eoin McCrossan (Ireland)
- Heather Mair (Canada)
- Harold Woods III (Nigeria)

#### **Sustainability Commission**

The Sustainability Working group had also been given full Commission status at the World Curling Congress in September. The newly appointed members of this commission are:

- Lauri Ikavalko (Finland)
- Vera Kalocsai-van Dorp (Hungary)
- Hoon Kim (Korea)
- Heather Mair (Canada)
- Suwanna Silpa-archa (Thailand)

#### **Governance and Finance Commissions**

Ray Baker (Canada) was appointed to join the Governance Commission, while Gyorgy Nagy (Hungary) and Gary Coombs (Wales) were appointed to the Finance Commission.

### Technical Commission

The Technical Commission has had three members confirmed: Lajos Belleli (Qatar) will return to the Commission and will be joined by new members, Remy St Pierre (Canada) and Wang Bingyu (China).

### **Items for Decision from Commission meetings**

#### Finance Matters

##### Q1 Management Accounts

SMV explained that the lower income is mainly due to reduced interest in PCCC. Operations were impacted by slightly higher expenses, but this was partially offset by realized investment gains. Overall, the situation is stable, with the key concern being lower interest in the current PCCC.

##### Proposal from the Auditors on the need for a Full Audit

SMV reported that the external auditors EQ have stated a full UK audit is not feasible within the required timeline or budget - it would cost a minimum of £45,000 (\$60,000) and would not be completed before an Annual General Assembly. Instead, the auditors proposed in addition to the independent review at the level of a UK Charity as had been delivered last year in line with the request from the Finance Commission a process review would be conducted focused on budgeting, expenditures and financial controls. This can be delivered by Spring in order for World Curling to implement the recommendations for the next financial year. SMV noted this alternative could improve predictability and address concerns about financial controls.

CGR added that the auditors had offered to attend Congress and present the audit report themselves, instead of it being delivered by SMV or CGR, which could help alleviate concerns by ensuring the information is presented by an independent party.

RNI said the main issue is a lack of understanding among MAs about what a full audit actually delivers and its benefits. He questioned the value of spending \$60,000 on a full audit, arguing it does not provide additional insight beyond existing accounts. He supported doing the lower-cost review and having the auditors independently present the findings but stressed the need for clearer communication and education to MAs explaining why this approach is being taken and what value it provides.

BWE suggested having EQ join the Open Meetings in Geneva to explain and reiterate their letter directly, helping clarify the situation. Having the auditors present and supported by financially

knowledgeable attendees could help build credibility and reduce confusion or concern among MAs following previous tensions.

***To appoint EQ to do a process review and that the status of that be shared at the Open Meetings in Geneva and then at the Annual General Assembly***

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

#### Future of the Brushing Working Group

A discussion took place on DSI's paper proposing transitioning the Equipment Advisory Group into a more formal, more powerful and more visible structure, potentially as a Certification Commission, with plans to add three members from the Technical Commission.

JOF agreed with making the Brush Working Group a more formal part of the organization but did not support creating a broad "certification working group," as different certifications require different expertise. She was concerned that adding three members from the Technical Commission would make the group less focused and potentially dominated by one part of the business. JOF believed having one ice technician (possibly two) is valuable for technical input, but strongly opposed adding three, as it would lead to excessive complexity and inefficiency.

RNI supported both JOF's and DSI's views, noting that the Brush Working Group was originally a rapid-response, bespoke group created during a crisis, which succeeded by bringing manufacturers, athletes, and staff together quickly. He agreed that the group now needs to be formalized with clear terms of reference, as brushing issues remain important going into the next quad. RNI emphasized the need for broad representation - including the Technical Commission, Athlete Commission, CNR, and staff - but cautioned against adding too many Technical Commission members, as that could turn it into a shadow technical group. He argued the focus should not be on certification, but on keeping the group agile while addressing ongoing challenges around equipment, techniques, ice conditions, and enforcement.

JOF acknowledged RNI's point that the Brush Working Group was initially in "firefighting" mode and admitted it was an oversight not to involve the Technical Commission earlier. She clarified that the group already includes strong representation: Rob Gordon as staff with close athlete connections, Graham Prouse for his historical expertise, Scott Arnold for his prior data collection and analysis work, along with RNI, herself, and occasional input from CGR. She emphasized that the group already has a broad mix of experience and perspectives.

CGR suggested the Brush Working Group should currently function as a subcommittee under Competition and Rules, focusing on regulations around brushes rather than brush certification, which should be addressed by a separate group.

MSO advised against rushing the decision. He emphasized the need to clarify roles and responsibilities across groups, noting that some aspects touch on Competition & Rules, Technical Commission, and operational staff. He suggested developing clear terms of reference to define responsibilities and organization before moving forward.

JOF was concerned about delays and emphasized the need to add a technical person to the group immediately. This is important to keep progress on specifications for the new year, meet manufacturer timelines, and avoid waiting months for finalized terms of reference and group structure before having technical input.

DSI explained that ice technicians are very busy and cannot attend every monthly meeting. He emphasized that if the Technical Commission wants representation, it should be two or three people rather than just one, to ensure coverage. He mentioned coordinating with Mark Callan to ensure Technical Commission members are involved and stressed the need for at least two technical ice technicians to avoid missing meetings.

JOF was fine with having two or three ice technicians listed, but she does not want all of them to attend every meeting. She was concerned that having all ice techs present each time could dominate discussions and unbalance representation from other perspectives. She supported rotating attendance to maintain balance.

DSI agreed to name one ice technician plus one deputy.

The Terms of Reference will be revisited at a later meeting.

### **Commission Minutes for information**

CGR advised that the minutes of the following commission meetings had been circulated for information:

- Finance Commission
- Governance Commission
- Technical Commission
- Competition and Rules Commission
- DEI Commission

### **Project Update for Information**

#### **World Team Championships**

Following further discussions Las Vegas have withdrawn from consideration as hosts for the 2027 World Team Championship, this is due to the impact of the drop in foreign tourism numbers on the city. They remain interested in curling events in future years.

A positive site visit was conducted to Montreal including visiting potential venues, meetings with the tourism authorities and provincial curling association. The budget is now being updated to reflect the income changes and the impact of a move to Canada.

CGR reported that Everest had confirmed approval to proceed with Montreal as the location. Discussions will now move forward with Curling Canada and the province to finalize budgets. CGR also noted some concerns about potential attendance, as past events in Montreal did not attract large crowds.

### Electronic Handles

Testing that has taken place at the Europeans has gone quite well with no major issues that would prevent the testing continuing. However, DSI reported one concern with three battery packs where cables disconnected due to a likely design flaw in the plastic housing, it happened after 300 hits with a total of 500 expected hits at ECC. A solution has been implemented and the handles to be used at the OQE will be adjusted.

CGR added that there would be fewer stone hits at the OQE due to fewer teams, and that five sets of handles have been sent to Canada while only four sheets are in use, providing additional spare handles as backup.

It was planned that the set used at the ECC would be the ones that are sent to the Olympics to be used there, assuming no additional issues are found during the further testing. A second set of handles will be used at the OQE, and a practice opportunity had been offered to all teams who are not playing at the OQE or who were not involved at the ECC-A.

### Floor Curling

The first large scale project is underway with Türkiye, more than 300 paying participants have been added to the platform. Additionally, a commercial bar chain in the UK has launched a formal floor curling championship that will be run through the platform. As these projects are completed they will be written up into a case study and sent to all MAs. CGR added that finally there are some paying customers, so things are moving forward with that.

### Global Facilities Certification Programme

Four applications for the registered facility level have been received and processed. Discussions are ongoing with two facilities considering an application for the Regional Training Facility level.

The meeting ended at 14:55.