



**MINUTES**  
**of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board**  
**Online Meeting #2026-02**  
**on 18 February 2026**

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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
Andrew Ryan (ARY)	Independent Director
Tyler George (TGE)	Athlete Commission Chair (partly)

Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer/Minute taker

Apologies:

Hong Zhang (HZH)	Independent Director
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The meeting started at 13:00.

**Presidents Update**

President BWE said the Games have been a strong success overall, with excellent atmosphere, high attendance (tracking in the high 80% range despite shifting capacity metrics), and strong engagement. The venue has been lively, and the presence of key IOC members added visibility and importance.

He highlighted visits from Princess Anne and Prince Albert II, as well as extended discussions with IOC President Kirsty Coventry, who had attended for a full draw. Conversations focused on educating her about Curling and understanding her priorities for the Olympic Movement.

On competition matters, BWE acknowledged earlier controversies but said they were handled effectively through clear communication and firm adherence to existing competition rules, especially regarding umpire authority. The organization does not plan to further engage publicly beyond existing statements, though a final interview may be considered to close the issue.

Looking ahead to the Geneva meetings, he expects a full agenda, including DAP, forward plan update, potential subscription model discussions with Curling Canada, competition rules updates, and possible update on Russian participation.

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

***To approve the minutes of the Board meetings on 14 January 2026***

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

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

None

### **Conflict of Interest**

To be added:

KFO: Her daughter has applied to be the camp counselor at Lillehammer.

DSI: Owner of small, private business focused on developing support databases. Most of their contracts are based in the Czech Republic, though some are international, including a few within Curling.

### **Russia / Belarus**

BWE updated the Board as follows: World Curling had made its decision on January 18 to lift the suspension only for Russian junior athletes. Afterward, he and CGR had met with the Russian Curling Federation and the Russian Olympic Committee, who initially thanked them for the junior decision but pushed for reinstatement of wheelchair and adult teams. When told the adult position would not change, Russia threatened legal action and has since formally initiated proceedings at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

BWE also described a cordial meeting with Ukrainian representatives, including the head of Ukraine's NOC, where they reviewed Ukraine's concerns. He said the organization is trying to balance adherence to IOC guidance with postponing decisions on adult Russian participation. Ukraine appreciated the dialogue, and a formal acknowledgment letter will follow.

### **India Governance Issues**

CGR explained that the India matter should be deferred to the Geneva meetings. There is an internal legal dispute, with the federation president challenging a Board meeting she claims

did not take place, while the other side insists it took place. He suggested stepping back and allowing the Indian court process to unfold before taking action. He and BWE are also trying to arrange a meeting with the Indian Olympic Committee. Both sides may attend Geneva, where the Board can hear them separately. He noted the situation is complex and expressed reluctance to become further entangled in additional legal disputes.

### **MA Group Meetings**

HLI confirmed that all meeting dates are set and the latest agenda has been shared. The agenda remains largely the same, with added detail on budget vs. actuals and a finance update. Planned topics include strategic priorities, an EQ presentation, a Special Olympics update, the subscription model, a Russia update, and CNR consultation. Member groups will be informed of upcoming items and invited to suggest additions. She also noted that Ben Rowlings, the new Member Service Officer, would be introduced to members (though not attending in person).

### **Rock League**

The Board discussed questions from Member Associations about World Curling's strategy regarding the Rock League and its impact on existing competitions. MSO said MAs are asking for clear guidance, particularly about scheduling conflicts - such as national championships overlapping with Rock League events - and how that affects teams and qualification pathways. He suggested the organization needs to be more proactive and aligned in its messaging, especially ahead of MA meetings. BWE responded that they had clearly communicated their calendar dates, including moving mixed doubles to January to accommodate the Rock League's originally planned April window.

### **Forward Plan**

A longer more detailed version of the Forward Plan had been produced by CGR.

KFO said she preferred the revised version but did not think it was ready for publication. She suggested reordering it so the mission and vision come before challenges, and pairing challenges with strengths to avoid a negative tone. She believed a few adjustments would make it stronger overall.

DSI suggested restructuring and renaming sections for clarity. He believed the current "Action Plan" section actually outlines priorities or goals, and that a separate, detailed action plan should follow. He also recommended renaming the "Short Term Priorities" section to serve as the actual action plan. Overall, he said the document is well done but still needs refinement to align clearly with the forward plan, as it represents a new strategy.

CGR invited the Board to send in their comments and agreed he would prepare a new draft.

## **Future of DAP**

MSO explained that he only had published the presentation the day before but hoped people had reviewed the appendix and numbers. He had worked on structuring objectives and future directions while leaving room for staff to ask questions and challenge ideas. He outlined a model dividing members into four groups, recommending no funding for the most mature MAs (Group 1) and stronger oversight on how smaller to mid-size nations spend funds. The plan is to set these foundational principles now and refine the details before the open meetings in Geneva. MSO asked for feedback now on any fundamental disagreements with the principles or structure, so adjustments can be made before detailed staff discussions. He also highlighted the need to clearly define criteria for grouping MAs, noting there may be differing opinions on placements. He stressed that development funds should be used effectively, pointing out that despite increasing the number of MAs, the number of registered curlers has not grown, meaning the funding is not delivering the expected value.

RNI suggested leveraging the existing voting-based categorization of MAs to guide development funding - giving more money to MAs with less voting power and less to those with more. He also highlighted using a fixed percentage of revenue (or operating margin) to allocate funds, giving better control over budgets and reducing uncertainty.

SMV agreed with RNI's principle: a member association's governance and influence should determine funding, voting power, and membership fees. Stronger governance → more votes, higher fees, less development funding; weaker governance → fewer votes, lower fees, more development support. The three elements are interconnected and reinforce the governance model.

ARY praised MSO's paper and highlighted key takeaways:

- The DAP needs efficiency and better impact monitoring, as spending has not translated into growth in registered curlers despite more member associations.
- Revenue is flat while costs and membership are rising, meaning each member may receive less funding.
- Emphasized the need to help members access Olympic Solidarity funds in Lausanne, which are substantial (~\$600M) but complex to obtain.
- Urged proactive strategies to supplement limited internal funds and improve development outcomes. Overall, he found the paper very strong and insightful.

## **Medical Group Update**

Three papers developed by our Medical Officer and the Medical group had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting for consideration. Final decisions to be taken during the in-person meeting in Geneva.

Bob McCormack (BMC) joined the meeting.

KFO explained she had had a productive discussion with Dr. Bob during the Games and asked him to briefly explain why he submitted his proposal and what gaps or needs he believes the organization is not currently addressing.

BMC explained that while the Health and Wellness Working Group is highly qualified - featuring experts from the IOC, IPC, and WADA - its work has so far focused mainly on anti-doping. He believes the organization should now professionalize its medical structure. He noted that curling lacks a formal Medical Commission and does not have basic medical guidelines for events, which has been embarrassing when requested by the IOC. He proposed creating clear medical standards for championships, including required medical personnel and services, as well as policies on areas like concussion management, pregnancy, classification, and general athlete welfare. He emphasized that these steps would reduce liability, improve professionalism, and provide needed guidance to member associations. Most initiatives would not be costly and could gradually expand, potentially including research and broader health and wellness programs.

ARY supported establishing a Medical (or Medical and Science) Commission. He agreed it is important for professionalism and credibility, even in a low-risk sport like Curling. He suggested starting small and keeping costs minimal - perhaps with just a few qualified doctors meeting online - focused initially on developing basic medical guidelines. He recommended adapting existing models from other international federations rather than creating new systems from scratch. Overall, he saw it as a positive, low-cost step that would strengthen governance and provide necessary medical protocols.

BMC clarified that the current Health and Wellness group already operates at minimal cost, meeting digitally and including five experts to ensure sufficient coverage for TUE requirements and to manage conflicts of interest. The group maintains strong diversity in region, gender, and expertise, and includes an athlete representative. He suggested having a designated Board liaison to improve communication. He has also collaborated with external medical leaders on initiatives like injury-extraction guidance. Overall, he emphasized that formalizing the group as a commission would mostly be a matter of structure and alignment with international standards rather than increased cost or major change.

BMC also explained that the proposed medical guidelines would apply fully to top-level events like World Championships and the Olympics, with a simplified version for lower-tier events. Even at the basic level, requirements would be straightforward - identifying a pharmacy, local hospital, responsible doctor, and access to therapy services. He agreed to review the approach further to ensure it remains practical and appropriately scaled.

Bob McCormack left the meeting.

### **Naming Convention for World Championships**

It was suggested restructuring the event naming so that only the top tier remains the “World Championship,” while B divisions become “World Championship Qualifiers” and C divisions “World Championship Pre-Qualifiers,” similar to the Olympic model.

As part of implementing the new World Curling Competition Structure, it was noted we had asked our Member Associations regarding appropriate naming conventions for events that have historically been referred to as A, B, and C, during the C&R Webinar on 21 November 2025 and at the MA Group meetings held in late November and early December 2025

CGR acknowledged there may be resistance from members who want the “World Championship” label retained, but personally believed this is a reasonable and appropriate approach and was in line with the outcomes of the previous consultation.

CGR suggested presenting the proposal to member groups for approval, noting general Board support.

### **Finance Commission Update**

SMV said that World Curling is on track with re-projected budget, with only minor real-life variances like delayed IOC funds and ongoing championships. He recommended providing both a summary for numbers-focused stakeholders and an explanation letter for those wanting context.

CGR highlighted that the three pre-Christmas broadcast events came in under budget, with no contingency used - a big improvement from last year. The goal remains to finish the year without touching the contingency.

The summary is ready to be shared with members.

### **Governance Commission Update**

MSO explained that the Governance Commission is formalizing the election policy. The main question is whether to have separate nominations and election committees or a single group managing both. He recommended one group for simplicity and asked for Board support before the upcoming Governance Commission meeting. The Board supported having only one group.

### **C&R Commission**

RNI suggested that in messaging about CNR and umpiring, it is important to emphasize that consultation and a roadmap for change are already underway. The point is to show this is a proactive, long-term process, not a reactive or immediate rule change.

JOF raised that the existing wheelchair group’s role and decision-making structure need clarification. She emphasized that able-bodied members should not make decisions for wheelchair athletes and suggested involving the Athlete Commission’s wheelchair subgroup, possibly consulting further in Geneva. JOF added that there is a proposal for World Curling to restrict athletes from competing in both wheelchair and wheelchair mixed doubles events, similar to the IPC rule, and suggested this might be discussed with members in Geneva.

The meeting finished at 14:35.