



MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board
Online Meeting #2025-7
on 06 Aug 2025

Attendees

Executive Board

Beau Welling (BWE)	President
Kim Forge (KFO)	Vice-President
Morten Sjøgaard (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	Office Manager/Minute taker

The meeting started at 13:00 CET.

Presidents Update

BWE reported that Kevin Martin has approached World Curling with a proposal to establish a connection between Inside Curling and World Curling. While not necessarily a formal or official partnership, the idea is to create a relationship that allows for mutual benefit—particularly in helping the podcast evolve into a more global, gender-balanced platform, moving away from its current Canada-centric focus.

Kevin sees this as an opportunity for World Curling to share information and promote discussion on topics of interest through the podcast. Importantly, there is no financial component involved at this stage.

Chris Hamilton has since followed up with Kevin and had a productive call to explore the idea further. Discussions are ongoing to clarify what this relationship might look like in practice.

There is potential for this collaboration to support the promotion of the Curling Channel in a significant way, should we decide to move forward.

BWE will keep the Board updated of progress.

BWE reported that he and CGR are trying to arrange a meeting with IOC President Kirsty Coventry in New York, coinciding with her visit for the United Nations.

A Coordination Commission meeting is scheduled in Milan immediately following Congress and a heavy travel schedule upcoming with trips to Australia, Italy, New York, and Korea.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

To approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on 18 June 2025

***Proposed by HLI
seconded by JOF
and approved unanimously***

Conflict of Interest

Kinross Ice Rink – RNI and CGR

KFO reported her daughter would be at the 2026 Junior Mixed Doubles Championships.

Commission and Committee Updates

Finance Commission

SVI reported that the Finance Commission held a meeting on Monday. BWE was invited as a guest to the meeting. The feeling of the commission was the same as board.

Papers had been circulated and MSO had already sent his comments on the situation which were very valid.

SVI stated that the finance group had to be more proactive with the whole procurement process in future not only with broadcast but as a whole.

Where exact figures are not known a reasonable estimate and proposed mitigation should be provided and in terms of projections.

The broadcasting and the level of broadcast offered will have to be addressed.

MSO stated that a closer financial control was needed going forward to find out what is actually happening versus what was projected.

Once deviations are seen, immediate action is required, either mitigating, cutting costs etc.

MSO also stated that there should be discussions early on in the Board meetings in Australia

SVI agreed and stated it was planned have a finance session with the Members about the changing environment etc.

The Finance Commission recommended that the board accept the Q4 number subject to the auditors review currently ongoing. This was agreed.

Facility Loans

SVI reported there had been two requests put forward for facility loans.

Auckland, NZL – From New Zealand Curling Association

This would be a loan of US\$50,000 per sheet for 4 sheets.

The Auckland curling facility proposal was initially presented by Lorne De Pape, and it's likely that most board members have already been informally approached about it.

The original business plan was overly optimistic, lacking sufficient long-term financial planning. SVI and Alan Chalmers provided constructive feedback, specifically urging them to extend the financial projections to cover the full 10-year loan term.

During the revision process, the group lost access to the original venue they had intended to use. The updated plan now proposes converting an existing warehouse into a curling facility, a model like the one used successfully in Brazil.

The Finance Commission reviewed the revised proposal and found it generally sound. However, one concern was flagged regarding one of the initial seed funding sources listed in the plan and requested a follow up on that.

Subject to that clarification and Technical Commission approval, the Finance Commission is prepared to recommend Board approval of the loan.

A formal vote on the loan cannot yet be held, as the Technical Commission's report is still pending. It was suggested that the Board may need to act quickly on this, once the technical review is complete. Email-based coordination and decision-making may be necessary to avoid delays.

CGR will check with NZL if there are any time pressures in terms of decision making.

Kinross Curling Club

The owner of the building that houses the club has asked member to purchase the facility, otherwise it may be sold to a third party. A loan has been requested to enable the members to secure long term control of the facility.

The non-conflicted members of finance commission reviewed the proposal against the loan policy and it was found it did not meet the criteria and did not recommend approval.

Discussion took place around the loan policy and the need to look at updating this as it was first put in place 10 years ago.

The item will be added to budget discussions.

Insurance for Olympic Games

Up until 2018 an insurance policy was provided that covered a proportion of the income received from games – if they did not go ahead we would have received a \$5m payout

For Beijing 2022, the IOC secured cancellation insurance but did not extend coverage to IFs, retaining all protection for itself.

For Milan Cortina 2026, the IOC has confirmed it will again retain all insurance coverage, offering no shared protection to IFs.

CGR, in his WOF role, has been working with brokers to explore market options for independent insurance. A quote was received for a premium of \$120,000. With only a few months until the Games only one other winter sport federation has expressed interest. Most IFs believe the risk is minimal and the Games will proceed as planned. Legal considerations (e.g., force majeure) suggest that if the Games were cancelled, it would likely be due to a global crisis, making payout unlikely.

CGR asked was it worth proceeding with purchasing independent cancellation insurance for Milan Cortina 2026.

The insurance premium offered for Milan Cortina 2026 is \$120,000. If the Olympic Games are cancelled, the payout would be \$5 million, representing 25% of the expected \$20 million Olympic revenue over the quadrennial.

Discussion followed and the clear wording of the insurance was required before any decision could be made.

CGR will go back for further detail and a copy of the policy.

Competitions and Rules

- a) Rule book has been distributed to the Membership
- b) Competition Format decision will be sent out this week. Without dates

Work is ongoing with the slams (particularly in Canada) to lock in dates for the next four-year cycle.

Pinning down firm dates for the slams has proven difficult. Nic Sulsky intends to run his Pro League in spring, overlapping with the Scotties, The Brier and the Men's and Women's World Championships. This clash is impractical and has not been resolved through direct discussion therefore a need to get athletes involved to help with the pushback.

Athlete Commission

No further meetings

Governance Commission

Minutes of last meeting uploaded.

The Swedish motions were discussed by the commission, but in their current form did not meet the criteria.

Discussion followed and CGR explained that the Swedish motions will be treated as motions of principle or mandate. If a motion is approved, it mandates the Board and Governance Commission to draft and finalize full wording by next year. If rejected, no further action on that motion is required.

Singapore have been confirmed as a member following the vetting period.

Congress

Members have received the AGA papers.

Under Elections – Andrew Ryan will be officially appointed as an Independent Director.

It was suggested that should Zhang Hong accept the role she should be invited to the Congress if available and would need to be added to the election process.

There is a recommendation to suspend two Member Associations (Kosovo and Dominican Republic). They are now 2 years behind with subscriptions. Should they not pay in the next 12 months they will be expelled at the 2026 AGA.

The online recorded reports from the various commissions will be required in the run up to the congress.

CGR is finalising the programme for the congress. Discussion took place on the content for the open meetings and If anyone had any further input or ideas to let him know.

Brush Issues

Following the announcement of the takeover of Hardline by Goldline, work is ongoing to resolve the outstanding issues with the new owners to ensure a smooth transition for the coming season.

Big Ideas Update

a. Commercial

- i. A number of webinars have been held for Member Associations to introduce the floor curling platform built on Salesforce, there has been positive feedback from them and now it is a case of looking to bring a couple on to start using it.
- ii. The Athlete Licensing Platform is ready to use for the coming season. To ensure it is smoothly introduced it is suggested that this be brought in at a low (or no) cost for the first season to act as a full beta test ahead of the new Olympic cycle.
- iii. Work is progressing with Vegas and Everest on the plans for the new World Team Championship. A proposal will come to the Board in September for discussion and decision.

JOF suggested that the Athlete Commission should be involved with event logistics and formats moving forward.

CGR stated that once it is at the point of the event is financially viable, the mechanics around format etc would come and relevant groups would be asked for input at that stage.

Any other business

BWE mentioned that the suspension of Russian athletes ended in June, requiring the board to determine the next steps.

No Members had indicated a change in stance regarding the situation.

It was proposed to engage the Members on the issue at the congress, gathering their input before a decision is made.

Meeting ended at 15:00CET