



MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board
Online Meeting #2026-05
on 03 June 2026

Attendees

Executive Board

Beau Welling (BWE)	President (part)
Kim Forge (KFO)	Vice-President
Morten Soegaard (MSO)	Vice-President
Helena Lingham (HLI)	Director (part)
Sergio Mitsuo Vilela (SMV)	Director (part)
Rob Niven (RNI)	Director (part)
Jill Officer (JOF)	Director
David Sik (DSI)	Director
Andrew Ryan (ARY)	Independent Director
Tyler George (TGE)	Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Liz Munro (LMU)	Office Manager/Minute taker

The meeting started at 12:00.

President's Update

BWE reported that since the Geneva meeting, attended the World pre-qualifier (Europe) in Ljubljana which was a good event. There was some feedback from teams questioning the competition structure and suggesting the pre-qualifying events should be unified. BWE also had a meeting with the Slovenian NOC regarding a dedicated facility, with some progress made.

Following that, participation in an IOC debrief in Lausanne (May 13) involved all winter sports. Colin operated as moderator of the session. The session was productive, with strong engagement from the IOC and constructive feedback on Milan-Cortina. A key outcome is the potential formation of a working group to explore greater involvement of International Federations in delivering the Games.

In another call with the IOC on “fit for the future” reforms were encouraging, with particular success in shifting focus away from the idea of including summer sports in the Winter Games for 2030.

There will be a new metric/evaluation system put together to measure disciplines with view to removing some disciplines from the Olympics (possibly more summer sport related). BWE believes the next step may be some sort of metric about funding.

2030 Olympics – Nice has been removed from holding the Ice Sports, 3 ice sports pushed to be together and now looking at Lyon. Eeva and Mark will have a site visit to Lyon next week.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Approval of minutes

RNI Hall of Fame – Induction of Past Presidents – to be added

To approve the minutes of the Board meetings on 29/30 April 2026

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

Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere

CGR stated that MSO had queried whether EQ would recommend increasing outsourced services. The verbal feedback was that they would not recommend outsourcing for an organisation of this size but we are still waiting for the written report. The report will be circulated to the Board as soon as it is received.

Conflict of Interest

CGR noted that the closing date for nominations is 8 June 2026. For the relevant agenda item later in the meeting, the 4 potential candidates will be asked to leave the meeting (as per previous process).

Russia / Belarus

CGR reported that the submission to CAS is currently being finalized with hearing dates to follow once submitted. RCF has appointed a new President who has requested a meeting with CGR and BWE.

It was agreed that any response will be considered carefully, with legal advice to be sought first.

The related case before the Swiss courts (Canton of Uri) has been adjourned, pending the outcome of the CAS process.

The Swiss courts will only proceed if CAS determines it does not have jurisdiction.

The FISU decision regarding Russian and Belarusian participation in University Games has been circulated. The first potential impact for the organisation is expected at the January 2027 University Games in China.

Finance

A paper on budget options had previously been shared in the folder.

Entry forms are due to be issued shortly for events in the upcoming season

A decision on introducing entry fees is required urgently so that appropriate communication (or at least a “health warning” that these may be introduced) can be included before entries open.

Authority for setting entry fees sits with the Board, not the AGA.

Feedback from the open meeting, webinar, and follow-up emails indicates that introducing entry fees is not popular.

More broadly, members have expressed resistance to multiple cost-saving or revenue-generating measures (e.g. entry fees, subscription increases, reductions in DAP, events, Congress, or flights).

This highlights an ongoing challenge in improving the organisation’s financial position.

One option is to fully implement entry fees across all events from next season.

An alternative proposal is to introduce entry fees only for non-pathway events (e.g. mixed and seniors) as a starting point. This could be combined with added value for participants, such as free event photography; and/or basic streaming coverage at events. This approach would reduce net income due to associated costs but may help introduce the concept of entry fees gradually.

General agreement that an entry fee model is reasonable, with a need to define appropriate fee levels.

Indicative fee levels discussed (e.g. €200–€500 per person, with potential tiering depending on event level and broadcast coverage).

Proposal put forward to introduce entry fees initially for seniors and mixed events only for the 2026–27 season. With a possible rollout to all events in the following season. So that there is a phased introduction rather than a full rollout.

Proposal to introduce entry fees for seniors and mixed fours events this season

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

A detailed entry fee model will be developed, using Open Meeting proposal as a baseline.

First implementation expected at the World Mixed event.

Importance of clear communication to MAs, including early notice of entry fee introduction for all competitions.

Expectation that initial feedback and pushback will come through member group update meetings.

Consideration given to linking future profits to increased development funding (DAP), to demonstrate direct benefit to members.

Consideration given to not holding Congress in 2027 or securing a host willing to cover a greater share (or all) of the costs.

This would deliver cost savings, though these would impact the 2027 budget rather than the immediate financial year.

There had previously been expressions of interest received from Jamaica and Brazil.

These parties will be re-engaged with updated terms to assess their willingness to increase financial contribution.

Additional potential hosts being explored, including China (and possibly India, although concerns were raised about the viability of India as a host at present given the internal challenges).

Proposal to downgrade mixed doubles broadcast coverage to a level similar to junior events was also considered: Approximately one game per draw with commentary, delivered via Curling Channel production, rather than full broadcast-level coverage

Whilst the measures discussed would not removal all losses in the first year if coupled with a longer term commitment to entry fees across all events it would create an opportunity to recover losses in future years, particularly if additional measures are implemented later.

Current mixed doubles event costs are approximately \$330,000, with income around \$40,000, highlighting a significant deficit.

Concern raised that reducing broadcast coverage may be premature, given expectations that recent scheduling changes (moving the event to January) could improve broadcast interest and revenues.

Counterpoint noted that downgrading coverage is one of the few immediate options available to significantly reduce costs next season.

It was acknowledged that maintaining current levels of investment may require accepting another financial loss in the short term, with a review in the following season if improvements do not materialise.

It was recognised that there is ongoing pressure from members to have greater input into financial decisions, including scrutiny of broadcast expenditure.

No decision on this had to be made immediately, will come back to it when the budget is presented.

Competition Update

The Host document had previously been shared.

Signed WJCC and World B Men's had been received from Aberdeen and from Ostersund for the World B Women's event.

There has been no interest in Wheelchair events so far (WWhCC and WhMDCC) and that is the biggest concern at the moment.

WMDQE in October is also a possible challenge, but hopeful of finding a host. There has been some interest in the WSCC and the WMxCC.

Priority is to get all competitive bids checked and awarded for the next cycle by the end of the summer.

The UAE venue (possible venue for WWCC2027) has recently been awarded a major ice hockey event, suggesting it is viable and competitive.

There is significant uncertainty about what happens if there is a need to withdraw, with no quick alternative venue available.

Key concern is defining "trigger points" for deciding whether to proceed or pull out. Travel is technically possible, but there are still some risks, and participants would do so at their own responsibility. HLI stresses the sensitivity of the situation and suggests consulting member associations and the athlete commission to gauge their willingness to take the risk.

KFO raised financial considerations, suggesting negotiating a deposit that could be retained if the event is cancelled due to force majeure.

There are also concerns about travel logistics for alternative locations if a backup plan is needed.

No firm decision deadline exists yet; discussions are being kept open while gathering more information.

Next step suggested: Ask MAs involved to "test the water" before making a decision.

Development

MSO stated that a follow-up meeting is scheduled shortly to go deeper into discussions, building on an earlier session and a shared proposal for DAP modifications.

The process is being aligned with the budget cycle, linking development plans to the broader strategic plan.

There is a need to evolve the current group into a more permanent working group focused on long-term development planning.

A two-stage process is highlighted:

- Short-term actions for the next 12 months
- Longer-term strategy that remains flexible

The notes from the meeting will be circulated to the Board.

SVI left meeting

Electronic Handles

DSI presented an updated paper.

There has been a delay in the production of the initial order caused by supply issues from Canada Curling Stone. A new timeline is being approved.

Instead of waiting, the team will use the time productively by:

- Advancing firmware and sensor development
- Delivering features like hog-to-hog timing
- Preparing data collection and analysis capabilities (including 3D magnetometer support)
- Actual data interpretation and application development will happen later (likely next quarter).

Scope & cost adjustments:

- The burned stone analysis feature is dropped for now (too costly).
- New proposed work will cost €24k.
- Earlier project investment was about €62k–€65k, with an expected €68k profit from initial sales.

External funding options are uncertain and delayed.

Future sales (second round of orders) could help cover further investment.

Approval of the additional cost on the handle development

***Proposed by DSI
seconded by KFO
and approved unanimously***

SVI returned to meeting

Items for Decision from Commission meetings

Governance

MSO stated that an NDA document had been created by the Governance Commission to be signed by Board members at their first board meeting they participate in. It covers confidentiality, policies and code of ethics etc.

HLI suggested it should be sent out to candidates in advance so that they have a chance to read it and are ready to sign it.

MSO spoke about the Suspension & Exclusion paper that the Governance Commission has been tasked with. It is more complex than first thought and they do not feel ready to make an AGA proposal but work on it towards congress and have a consulting session with MAs at the congress to prepare a paper for approval the following year.

There is a Governance meeting early July – any comments to MSO ahead of this meeting.

Member Working Groups

HLI discussed the proposed agenda

All dates/times for Group calls should be provided to HLI

Other Information

The minutes of the Technical and Governance commissions are available for the Board for information.

Documents for information in folder:

- Media report from Milan Cortina
- Betting unit report from Milan Cortina
- NZL Curling Thank you letter

KFO mentioned she was going to Auckland to see the facility as Australian Nationals will be held there.

MSO had recently presented the Hall of Fame Award to Thomas Ulsrud's family in Norway.

The 4 Board members eligible to stand for re-election left the meeting (BWE/HLI/RNI/SVI)

MSO reported that there had been an approach by a Vetting Services Company and shared a paper he had created about the level of their services

A paper with the two levels of service the company provide was discussed by the Board.

MSO explained these checks are now common across sports organisations and are a precaution to avoid issues emerging after nominations are public.

If anything concerning is found, it must be shared with the candidate, giving them a chance to respond before any decision is made.

The Governance Commission had discussed the options and are leaning towards Option A.

After discussion Option A was proposed at between £3-6,000.00

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

The next Board meeting is planned for just after 8 July to review motions ahead of the AGM.

The meeting finished at 14:00hrs