



MINUTES
of the WORLD CURLING Executive Board
Online Meeting #2026-07
on 10 August 2026

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
Hong Zhang (HZH)	Independent Director
Harri Lill (HAL)	Athlete Commission Chair
Colin Grahamslaw (CGR)	Secretary General
Saskia Müller-Gastell (SMG)	Projects Officer/Minute taker

The meeting started at 13:00.

President's Welcome

President BWE welcomed the Board members.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting missed the discussion on the letter from Serbia, and the decision that the Marketing Group suggestion would be passed to the new Board for consideration.

Also, MSO had felt the wording on potential IOC membership was not quite right. CGR said the opportunity for IOC representation is now stronger than ever, particularly because several other International Federations have recently had changes in leadership.

To approve the minutes of the Board meeting on 13 July 2026 including the two above amendments

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

Matters Arising Not Covered Elsewhere

None

Conflict of Interest

- BWE, RNI and HLI are all potential candidates for election (SMV not a candidate anymore)
- SMV playing in WMDQE 2026
- HAL: Still Board member of Estonian Curling, should be sorted shortly and potential player in World Curling competitions

Russia participation update

A summary of feedback from MAs (24 MAs had replied) had been uploaded to the shared drive along with correspondence received from Russia and Ukraine.

Member feedback had been gathered, and the Olympic team sports had also discussed the issue, with different sports taking different approaches. Volleyball is considering some form of reintegration, although participation in an event in Poland remains challenging, while ice hockey is continuing its suspension due to concerns about competitive integrity.

Three possible approaches were outlined:

- reinstate Russia in line with the IOC recommendation
- allow Russia to return gradually as a neutral team, or
- maintain the suspension until the current CAS case is resolved.

It was also noted that any suspension decision may be appealed by Russia, especially if World Curling were to win the current case at CAS.

The discussion focused on the possibility of taking a case-by-case, event-by-event approach to Russian participation, rather than applying a blanket decision.

It was suggested that the key considerations should remain athlete safety and the integrity of each competition but that for the events between now and the end of the year the concerns applied equally so it was felt there was no difference between an event by event or a decision covering all events. It was noted other federations are taking similar approaches, with

participation potentially depending on factors such as the host country, visa availability and whether the event can be held without disruption.

It was further noted an event-by-event approach could create significant uncertainty. In particular, athletes from certain countries could face a situation where Russian participation changes from one event to another, making it unclear whether they will be able to compete. It was viewed this inconsistency and uncertainty would be the worst-case scenario for athletes.

At the end of the discussion the following motion was tabled:

To continue exclude Russia from adult World Curling competitions that are taking place until the end of 2026 due to concerns about the impact on competitive integrity

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

Competition Updates

CGR explained that discussions with the United Arab Emirates are ongoing. They have confirmed with Mark Callan that the technical requirements are acceptable, with only a few minor questions remaining around what insurance cover is possible given the current situation. CGR was hopeful that a final response would be received from the UAE very shortly.

Copies of the bids from UAE for WW27/WM28, Norway for WM28, Japan for WW29 and a Scotland bid for several world events in 29 would be put into the shared folder for information shortly.

The World Mixed event could not proceed with the late hosting offer from Kelowna because the proposed earlier dates would not have given some member associations enough time to secure visas. After consulting the membership, alternative dates later in the season were proposed, but no clear preference emerged.

World Curling is therefore looking for a host in December, late January or early February. Potential hosts have been identified in Switzerland and Canada, but the event remains dependent on a suitable host being confirmed.

Looking further ahead, a hosting contract for the 2027 and 2029 World Mixed events has been sent out, and the prospective host had indicated that they are ready to sign. The aim is to have the contracts finalised before Congress.

Items for Discussion from Commission Meetings

Finance Commission

CGR reported that the independent review is progressing well, with no indications so far that the reviewers will recommend any changes. The review team has been working quickly, and a result may be available as early as this week.

On the financial outlook, CGR is working with Alan Chalmers on a four-year projection, and the initial figures suggest that a break-even position could be achievable across the full four-year period. This would involve surpluses in the first three years offsetting a deficit in the fourth year, in line with the commitment made to members. This would depend on a number of decisions to be taken on matters such as hosting, subscriptions and entry fees.

Regarding subscriptions, a counterproposal from Wales is expected that would combine votes and membership numbers to reduce the impact on smaller nations while increasing the contribution from larger ones. CGR expressed concern that national self-interest could make it difficult to secure agreement on any changes to the subscription model.

MSO highlighted that if the proposed subscription changes are not approved, the organisation could face a funding gap of around \$100,000 per annum. CGR explained that the four-year projection already assumes the subscription change from year two onwards, but does not build in additional entry fees beyond those currently charged for Mixed and Seniors events. If the subscription increase is rejected, entry fees could therefore become the main financial lever available.

The group agreed that they should be prepared with an alternative financial scenario for the AGM. CGR clarified that entry fees are a Board decision rather than something requiring AGM approval, so rejecting the subscription proposal would not remove the financial requirement; it would simply mean that the necessary income would have to be generated through other means. SMV suggested that this should be clearly presented as part of the finance presentation, showing the financial impact with and without the proposed subscription changes and any resulting entry fees. The key message should be that the required funding will still need to be generated, regardless of how it is collected.

Governance

HLI presented a package of seven updated policies for Board approval. The updates are generally minor and include refreshed branding, streamlined headers and improved version control. The Code of Conduct has also been updated to strengthen wording around external media and public communications.

More substantive changes were made to the Code on Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions, which has been brought from the 2015 version into line with the 2022 version following consultation with the IOC. The disciplinary and appeals policies have also been separated into two standalone policies. The appeals fee is being increased from US\$100 to US\$500.

HLI recommended that the policies be reviewed at least every two years going forward and asked the Board for approval or comments.

To approve the seven updated policies

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

MSO reported that Peru had submitted a fully compliant application to join World Curling. Following discussions between staff and the Peruvian federation, the application was reviewed by the Governance Commission, which recommends that Peru be approved as a member of World Curling.

To accept Peru Curling as conditional member of World Curling

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

DSI questioned whether World Curling should establish clearer minimum requirements and development expectations for new and smaller member associations, particularly those that remain in a conditional or provisional status for many years. He suggested setting longer-term targets, such as having access to ice, a minimum number of members and a demonstrable commitment to developing curling, while also recognising alternatives such as floor curling where ice access is difficult.

CGR and MSO explained that this issue is already being considered within the Development Working Group and Governance Commission. A tiered membership system could be developed to better differentiate between smaller and larger member associations, and minimum membership standards have also been discussed. MSO agreed that clearer criteria and progression steps between provisional, conditional and full membership would be useful and confirmed that the issue would be brought back onto the Governance agenda.

Competitions and Rules Commission

The Board had received a paper from Portugal and others relating to an alternative format for the Pre-Qualifier events. The Board needs to decide if this has any impact on their previous decision to move to a full event ladder away from the geographical events. RNI clarified that this had not been formally agreed and that a recommendation from the C&R, along with an alternative proposal, had been circulated for consultation.

RNI recommended continuing with the current zonal, geographic pre-qualification format for now, allowing the proposed changes to be discussed at Congress before making a final decision. He felt it was important not to disregard the consultation process, even though this would make finding hosts more difficult. CGR agreed that switching between the zonal and full ladder formats could still be managed by September but said the Portuguese proposal could not realistically be implemented this season due to logistical and hosting constraints, so if this was favoured it would need to be introduced for the following season. The alternative proposal would therefore be discussed at Congress, while the original ladder recommendation remains under consideration.

Congress Programme

A draft programme for Congress had been made available in the shared drive and Board members were asked to provide any feedback as necessary.

Congress planning is progressing, although some changes to the schedule are still needed. Irina's presentation on the Milan Cortina facts and figures will be moved to day three. The split sessions will include a discussion on pre-qualification for one group, while the larger group will focus on the event calendar and World Rankings Series, which is expected to be more relevant to the larger member associations.

Day two will be election day, with presentations from the two presidential candidates followed by the candidate "speed dating" sessions. With around 190 attendees expected, the main meeting room will use a classroom-style layout, while two additional rooms will be available for smaller breakout discussions.

The planned breakout topics include DAP, governance issues around removing countries from membership and competition, and the future of the member groups. These sessions will begin with short presentations before participants split into groups and return to the main room to share feedback.

Commission chairs had also been asked to prepare online presentations. The speed-dating sessions will be limited to delegates, with observers, Board members and staff not expected to participate.

SMV announced that he would not be attending Congress but would complete his responsibilities beforehand, including the budget. He will rely on KFO and MSO to support the work at Congress and remains available to assist remotely. CGR confirmed that arrangements are being explored to enable SMV to participate in the Board meetings remotely.

Commission Minutes for Information

The Finance Commission minutes had been circulated by SMV and were noted as part of the agenda. The financial matters covered in those minutes had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Project Information Updates

Calgary had confirmed its interest in hosting the World Team Championships and has proposed December 2027 as the preferred start date. World Curling is awaiting Calgary's financial offer and has asked for it to be submitted before Congress so the Board can review the proposed budget and make a final decision during its Congress meetings.

The meeting concluded with thanks from the President to everyone for their participation. Everyone was looking forward to reconvening in Bratislava in a few weeks.

The meeting finished at 14:10