

## **Statement for WFDF President Position Candidacy**

Applicant Name: Robert "Nob" Rauch  
Address: 15 Kerry Lane, Chappaqua, NY 10514-1606 USA  
Email Address: nobrauch at optonline dot net  
Nominated by: USA Ultimate  
Desired Position: President  
Endorsement: USA Ultimate

### **Statement of Conflict of Interests**

Occupation: Partner, Portfolio Manager, Gramercy Advisors LLC, a US\$4.8 billion investment fund specializing in emerging markets debt (this includes a variety of board seats with affiliated companies in the US, Cayman Islands and Latin America).

Disc sports affiliations: As of today, I serve on the Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Committee and Investment Committee for USA Ultimate, but my primary disc sport activities continue to be with WFDF.

I have no criminal record, and I agree to participate in board/committee business and keep contact info up-to-date.

## **Statement for President Position Candidacy**

I ask for your support for re-election as President of WFDF. When I ran four years ago, I felt that WFDF was at risk of failing to address the needs of its Members and outlined an agenda with five main cornerstones: communication, events, Olympic Movement involvement (and anti-doping), development, and professional management.

Over these last four years as President, I believe we have greatly improved communication, totally revamping our website at the end of 2011, publishing regular updates, and developing and personally managing a Facebook page. We focused upfront on our events to catch up on the bidding process which was woefully overdue, updated the tournament manual materials, and now send a formal WFDF technical delegate to each main event in order to assist the local organizers. We introduced an updated Anti-Doping Code for WFDF and a regular testing program that was deemed in compliance by WADA in their crucial November 2011 report, and which will be ready for the new WADA Code in 2015. In May 2013 we received provisional IOC recognition, and have subsequently received recognition by the ARISF and the International Paralympic Committee. We broadened our development program increased our budget to fund it. Finally, we have instituted better governance policies by having regular board meetings -- culminating in the first face-to-face board meeting in November 2012 -- and by establishing an Athletes Commission.

In the coming two years, challenges and opportunities abound. WFDF needs to figure out how to better organize and support our increasingly complex sanctioned events. The board is currently updating strategic plan and we will need to put the core elements into action. WFDF needs to enhance its efforts in the commercial arena to increase resources and visibility, in areas of merchandising, media, and sponsorship. And we need to continue to manage the global dialogue on spirit of the game and self-officiation, to ensure that there is a rational perspective regarding pressures for any changes to this core value. With the changes in the leadership of the key Olympic Movement organizations over the last year, I believe that disc sports will be the beneficiary -- if we are prepared to surmount certain obstacles -- of a shift in perspective and a desire to showcase more exciting sports that appeal to youth. I want to make sure WFDF, our member associations, and our athletes, are ready.

I ask you to review my CV, where I outline my involvement with disc sports as a player and administrator since the mid-1970s. I have competed at the highest level of disc sports, with a number of World and US Ultimate Championships with several different teams from the 1980s and 1990s, and have held leadership positions in disc sports organizations since 1987. I also provide a bit of information on my professional career, which gives me confidence I can achieve what I set out to do. I believe my track record shows that I don't just have ideas, but I achieve tangible results, and have tackled some difficult situations in my time. Finally, as someone intimately involved in disc sports for nearly 40 years, I believe I have a perspective that WFDF needs in ensuring it makes the right decisions in the face of today's challenges and opportunities in grappling with the Olympic Movement involvement, anti-doping requirements, financial concerns, and the increasingly competitive nature of our incumbent disc sports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert "Nob" Rauch

## Robert L. “Nob” Rauch

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### UPA US National Ultimate Championship Titles

| Year | Site                | Team       | Division |
|------|---------------------|------------|----------|
| 1983 | New Orleans, LA     | Windy City | Open     |
| 1987 | Washington DC       | New York   | Open     |
| 1989 | Miami, FL           | New York   | Open     |
| 1990 | West Palm Beach, FL | New York   | Open     |
| 1991 | Sanford, FL         | Red Menace | Masters  |
| 1992 | San Diego, CA       | Rude Boys  | Masters  |

### World Ultimate Championship Titles

|      |                      |             |         |
|------|----------------------|-------------|---------|
| 1983 | Göteborg, Sweden     | Rude Boys   | Open    |
| 1984 | Lucerne, Switzerland | Windy City  | Open    |
| 1988 | Leuven, Belgium      | New York    | Open    |
| 1990 | Oslo, Norway         | New York    | Open    |
| 1994 | Colchester England   | USA Masters | Masters |

### Disc Sports Administration Roles

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1976 – 1980                 | Founding member, captain, and president of Williams (College) Ultimate Frisbee Organization |
| 1987 – 1990                 | National Director/Executive Director, Ultimate Players Association (UPA)                    |
| 1988 – 1992                 | Chairman, Ultimate Committee, World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)                           |
| 1991 – 1992                 | Chairman, Executive Committee of the Board, Ultimate Players Association                    |
| 1995 – 2005                 | President Emeritus, World Flying Disc Federation  |
| 2006 – 2007                 | Treasurer, member of Executive Committee of Board, World Flying Disc Federation             |
| 2004 – 2005, 2007 – Present | Ultimate Hall of Fame Selection Committee   |
| 1995 – 1997, 2007 – 2010    | Board Member at large, World Flying Disc Federation   |
| 2011 – Present              | Member of Investment Committee, USA Ultimate  |
| 1992 – 1994, 2011 – Present | President and Board Member, World Flying Disc Federation                                    |

### Honors

2006 Elected to Ultimate Hall of Fame

### Disc Sports Administration Accomplishments

While I was head of the UPA, we drafted new bylaws, reinstated our corporate and obtained not-for-profit status, set up an office with an 800 number, and got a field liability insurance policy in place for tournament directors. We changed the corporate organization chart, setting up corporate officers and a separate board of Directors. On the play side, we drafted the Ninth Edition of the rules, improved the National Championship Tournament Series, set up the first discipline policy and the Certified Observers Pool, developed the approved disc program, and supported the development of the Juniors programs and local leagues. After resigning as Executive Director at the end of 1990, I was on the UPA board as Chair of the Executive Committee for two years and helped the new officers get the first headquarters established. Internationally, I was chair of the World Flying Disc Federation Ultimate Committee from 1988-1992 and introduced the World Ultimate Club Championship. I was President of WFDF from 1992 to 1994, focusing on many of the same organizational and financial issues including corporate status and revision of the bylaws, in addition to preparing the successful applications for GAISF and the World Games, and remained involved as a WFDF consultant in the subsequent decade. I co-chaired the alumni reunion committee for the UPA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and organized the Ultimate Hall of Fame in 2004. I also was a contributing writer for the “*Ultimate: The First Four Decades*” history book published December 2005. I rejoined WFDF in an official role as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at the end of 2005. In that role, I instituted a new chart of accounts and set up a new accounting system to replace the previously unorganized excel spreadsheet basis of accounting. In 2009-10 as an at-large director, I chaired the Bylaws Revision and Conduct Committees and drafted new Bylaws and the first conduct and risk management policies. In my last four years as President, I have instituted better governance policies by having regular monthly board meetings -- culminating in the first face-to-face meeting in November 2012 -- and by establishing an Athletes Commission. We introduced an updated Anti-Doping Code for WFDF and a regular testing program that was deemed in compliance by WADA in their crucial November 2011 report and is updated for 2015. In May 2013 WFDF received provisional recognition by the International Olympic Committee. We also improved communication, totally revamping our website, and I set up and personally manage a Facebook page with over 21,000 likes. We got the number of member countries up to 58, and consolidated the global disc sports family by encouraging the Freestyle Players Association and Professional Disc Golf Association to rejoin WFDF.

### Financial Career

I have a 34 year career in finance and am currently a Partner and Portfolio Manager of Gramercy Financial Group, an investment firm with US\$ 4.8 billion of funds under management specializing in corporate and sovereign debt investments in global emerging markets. I serve as portfolio manager for several Gramercy funds, oversee the corporate restructuring activities within our distressed funds, and also oversee the firm’s investments in and proprietary servicing platform for non-performing residential mortgage loan portfolios, managing over 450 personnel in 17 offices throughout México. I am a noted speaker at financial conferences on international distressed debt issues. I currently serve on several boards including Birchwood Swim and Tennis Club and captain a USTA 4.0 Tennis team.

### Personal

Education: MM degree in Finance and International Business from Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern Univ. (1984) and a BA degree in Political Economy from Williams College (1980)

Personal: Born 1958; married a former Ultimate player - Katie Shields Rauch - and have three children - Kristen, Gwen, Erik; enjoy tennis, skiing, waterskiing, hiking, and disc sports.

November 2, 2014

## **Volker Bernardi**

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**Von:** Tom Crawford <tom@hq.usultimate.org>  
**Gesendet:** Montag, 3. November 2014 18:11  
**An:** Volker Bernardi  
**Betreff:** USA Ultimate endorsement

Dear Volker,

USA Ultimate hereby enthusiastically endorses Rob Rauch for President of WFDF and Will Deaver for sub-chair of the Competition Committee. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thank you, Tom

Dr. Tom Crawford  
Chief Executive Officer  
USA Ultimate