

## **2002 WFDF CONGRESS - Honolulu, Hawaii**

rev. 11-21-02 DE/DR

President Bill Wright opened the meeting for discussions and introductions of attendees at 1.15 PM. The planned agenda and background documents were provided to all present in the briefing booklet by the facilitator, The goals of the congress were explained.

### **Presentations of organizations present and recent developments.**

Germany (Oliver Ludwig) - World Games host in 2005

Australia (Jonathan Potts) - ultimate accepted into Australian university games

New Zealand (Rachel Grindlay and Richard Lewis-Shell)

The Netherlands (Michel Mulder) - present at Worlds in Hawaii

Latvia (Aiga Grasmane) - World Juniors host in 2002

Russia (Geuorgui Fedorov) - present at Worlds

Singapore (Lance Dubois and Steinar Cramer) - increasing ultimate activity, 4<sup>th</sup> annual mixed tourney with 16 teams from all Asia

Finland (Sami Holopainen) - most members now juniors, and bidding for Worlds 2004

Mexico (Fernando Najera) - 3<sup>rd</sup> international mixed hat tournament, and expanding into 8 of 32 states

Sweden (Paul Eriksson) - the use of Spirit as a method of furthering disc sports

Denmark (Erik Hammer) - national media coverage of Danish teams at Worlds

Freestyle Players Association (Lori Daniels) - freestyle at 27 tournaments this year, 17 of which freestyle exclusively, 150 active members, 700 members involved, 9 minutes on national radio in the US

Japan (Fumio Morooka) - Word Games 2001, government recognizes the Japanese Association, nationals broadcasted on national TV, 130 schools teach ultimate

The minutes of the 2001 congress were unanimously approved after a motion by Jonathan Potts, seconded by Lori Daniels.

### **Reports**

Treasurer: Matt Healey (treasurer candidate), representing Joey Gray who was unable to attend because of travel problems. The report showed a general decline of WFDF funds over the last three years with negative cash flow for during that period, eating into the fund, which had been created by a one-time sponsorship grant from WorldSport. Same service with same revenues not sustainable longer than 2005. No realistic prospects for corporate sponsorship.

World Games 2001: Fumio Morooka, technical delegate. Great success! Broadcasted in 133 countries, world sports society recognized us as sports. Videos and newsletter were handed out to all countries. See [www.wg2001.or.jp](http://www.wg2001.or.jp). See also , , and a link to GAISF at .

World Games 2005: Thomas Griesbaum, technical delegate for flying disc sports. Very likely no disc golf in Duisburg, because of organizing committee concern that there is no existing course being available. IWGA has provided no assistance in solving this situation. Despite a strong effort by us to overcome this resistance, the current outlook remains negative. Discussion of on-going strategy will be released shortly. Ultimate has been under undeserved scrutiny in terms of on-field officials. Discussion included Bill Rodriguez comment that we should think seriously about why the IWGA are skeptical (also, too few players in Akita for ultimate). Dan Roddick commented that we also need to think about how much we want to negotiate our unique position with conventionality in order for us to be allowed into World Games.

Team sports: Charlie Mead, chair. New members: Bill Rodriguez, USA (UPA rep) and Deidre Morris, USA. New volunteer needed for rules. Actions include Sanctions and official tournaments, Development programs (Baltic States, Russia, Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore), Review of age limits for juniors and masters, Restructuring of the WFDF, Budget issues, Rules and the UPA and finally revisions of the TD Manual. Conclusions:

- 1) level of communication with national associations increased considerably
- 2) ultimate has grown in organization and numbers
- 3) WFDF ultimate tournaments now enormous: WUCC 2002 has 120 teams, 32 fields, 2500 players. A format with such large physical requirements may not be sustainable.
- 4) need to generate more revenue to sustain growth.

Pan-Am Regionals - World Disc Games: Santa Cruz, July, 2003 for field events, disc golf and ultimate. Guts and canine will also be included. This event fits well into regional championships development (which was the reason for the four-year cycle). Discussion (Fernando Najera): on regional championship locations. Charlie Mead: 2003 a start for people to talk about regionals in South America 2005.

Finland bid for Worlds 2004 (national teams): Sami Holopainen presenting. Downtown Turku, southwest Finland, preliminary dates August 7<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> 2004. 15 fields, up to 90 teams. Excellent bid, full support from the Team Sports Committee. Originally three bids, two of which (USA, Ireland) stepped down earlier. Congress decided that the Team Sports Committee negotiates the event with the Finnish organizers. Finland 2004 will be sanctioned when the letter of agreement is signed. Also, that the Team Sports Committee should begin to set the standards and procedures for regionals and start to take bids for 2005.

Disc Golf: Dan Roddick. New DG committee has named Blair Paulson, San Diego as its chair. Worlds in disc golf in Houston, Texas, this week. WFDF adaptation of the PDGA rules (with one addition) has been approved by the DG committee and will be available after it has been approved and converted by the WFDF Rules Committee and Board.

Freestyle: Committee has named Paul Kenny as chair. Paul is also the chair of the Freestyle Players Association. A new set of freestyle rules has been approved by FPA and by our freestyle committee. Now in our rules committee process.

Field events: Dan Roddick. No other associations within field events, so all global action takes place under WFDF heading. The plan is to seek sites for free-standing championships in the

disciplines that do not have their own championships (distance, accuracy, discathon, SCF, DDC and so on) in the off years from the World Overall Championships (every other year).

Guts: Dan Roddick. There is now no WFDF Guts Committee. Struggling discipline. Included in World Disc Games but not a WFDF championship event at this point. New chance in Finland 2004.

### **Future options**

The consideration of the future of WFDF was launched with a listing and discussion of the WFDF mission and services that are needed by the flying disc community, whether provided by WFDF or others:

- Organize world championships
- Provide consistent international tournament schedule
- Establish uniform world rules
- Maintain lists of official world records
- Provide common voice for all disc sports at international level, e.g. IWGA and GAISF
- Provide common organizational structure & procedures for decision-making
- Decide membership & eligibility
- Encourage public awareness of disc sports
- Encourage and actively support growth of international participation among various disc sports
- Sanction events
- Solicit and obtain outside financial sponsorship
- Act as broker for sponsors
- Encourage and protect spirit of flying disc play
- Foster national organizations
- Appropriate governance
- Multiple language resources
- Maintain a historical archive

The three options for the future of WFDF have been circulated earlier were:

Option 1) No WFDF - individual disciplines develop their own sport alone at all levels. Why: WFDF is outdated. Earlier, everyone played all disciplines, not so anymore. Many players have little understanding and interest in other disciplines. In a competitive environment of many sports, it is easier to sell a single game.

Option 2) Upgrade WFDF - more / higher quality services to promote and serve all disc sports. Why: One common organization has administration for all flying disc sports. Even put together, we are a small sport with problems making an impact.

Downgrade WFDF - fewer services, chamber of commerce model. Why: a compromise, a practical option 1). No one is ready to step up to cover the global issues. WFDF should devolve over time as the event-specific global organizations evolve. If we decide go for option 1 today, there will be serious problems tomorrow. One or two persons aiming to foster and facilitate communications within flying disc sports. No external communication.

The options were presented individually. Dan Roddick presented Option 1 (a movement away from WFDF with global services being provided by event-specific organizations). Bill Wright presented Option 2 (support of a more robust model for WFDF). Dan Roddick returned to present Option 3 (a continuation of WFDF, but at a significantly reduced level of operation). An extended discussion then was opened on the merits of each option. Fernando Najera, speaking for Mexico,

told us that the developing countries need a global organization to get government recognition, and wanted a more stable situation (option 2). Lori Daniels, speaking for the FPA, told us that freestyle is a small sports that needs and wants resources, services and connections in order to be able to grow (option 2). Rue Veitl (Board member) noted that the cost is always going to be there for players and national associations. The question is only who to pay and how efficiently done it will be. Someone has to do the work. Matt Healey replied that the difference between the WFDF doing the work or an event-specific organization doing it, is that the WFDF will always support all disciplines, and the question is whether ultimately want their players' fees partially go to support fledgling sports. Sami Holopainen, speaking for Finland, said that the need is not so much for more services but for better quality services and that the dues must be increased (Option 2). Sami also noted that we need to keep a structure that helps people to work in the WFDF, the people in there are not in it for the money. We cannot go corporate (WFDF Inc. is not an option). Dan Roddick's addition this was that we need to step up to a level where we continuously can support our volunteers.

Midway in this discussion, Matt Healey presented a summary of a new Option 4, which has been recently provided by former WFDF president, Nob Rauch (a transition program of remodeling WFDF over the next year). Discussion then led toward the consensus that option 3 was really a practical application of option 1, and option 4 was also an implementation the goals of option 2. A straw poll was then done of the representatives with each placing a dot on the option of their choice. All the dots save one were placed on option 2. More discussion then formulated a motion that directed the Board to proceed in the direction of option 2, using elements of option 4. The Board was further directed to present the membership with ongoing details of these developments and voting opportunities on the various components as they come into place. The goal is to have the new model completely established by Congress 2003 in Santa Cruz. This congress will be particularly useful, as the World Disc Games will include both the Pan Am Regionals and the World Overall Championships, so both sides of the sport will be present. The discussion included several expressions of support for increased financial commitment to WFDF. The move to accept the motion was made by Matt Healey and supported by Lori Daniels. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

### **Other items:**

Formal membership approval was given to the pending new members of WFDF including:

Provisional- Russia, Iceland, Beach Lovers Ultimate Association and Goaltimate

Regular- Venezuela. Welcome to the WFDF to these countries and organizations.

Particular notice was given to the exciting development of the Russian Federation joining WFDF. This was cited as a particularly clear example of the WFDF original aims.

Nominations for Board positions are accepted until September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002. All members should find suitable candidates that are willing to step up to global involvement. These candidates typically have international experience and perhaps a willingness to step down in their national organizations. The membership votes on the second Tuesday in November, 2002. The positions up for election include president, treasurer and chair of the teams sports committee and three board member positions. Details can be found on the web site.

New divisions. There has been a proposal submitted from Japan (regular member) that there be new age limits for juniors: below 23, typical university, below 19, typically high school and below 16. Japan would be able to work with juniors in a much better way if juniors was structured like that. For 2003 and 2004, the age limit will be under 20, i.e. any junior turning 19 (or younger) in 2004 (born in 1985 or later) is eligible. There are not enough juniors to hold world championships

in these suggested age groups at the moment, but we would plan to host the divisions as the age groups develop. The members will vote in this in November 2002. In order to give national junior coaches adequate time to prepare, the changes will not be applicable to Finland 2004. The age structure decided on in November will be implemented after 2004.

The next congress will be held at the World Disc Games, in Santa Cruz, California, 6-13 July 2003. The aim is to present a new set of by-laws that the members has had opportunity to give input on during the remainder of 2002 and during 2003.

Jonathan Potts, speaking for Australia, urged the disc sport community to discuss the four-year cycle thoroughly.

The meeting was closed by Bill Wright at 5.00 PM.

(Note: the facilitation of Dr. Francis Pring-Mill was made possible through the generous funding of the Ultimate Players Association)

**Attending members:**

Board: Bill Wright, Dan Engström, Charlie Mead, Fumio Morooka, Erik Hammer, Rue Veitl, Thomas Griesbaum.

Staff: Dan Roddick, Francis Pring-Mill.

Regular: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden.

Provisional: Russia, Singapore, Latvia.

Organizational: Freestyle Players Association, Ultimate Payers Association.

Other: Matt Healey (treasurer candidate).

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**World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF)**

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