## Proposal 2010.05: To recognize Beach Ultimate as a disc sport and to co-host the World Championships Beach Ultimate with BULA for the next 5 years submitted by Patrick VanderValk

**Background:** Beach Ultimate is growing in popularity with 100+ tournaments and leagues in 25+ countries. It is starting to attract a different group of players than grass Ultimate. Beach Ultimate is played in locations where beach life is more common and where grass is hard to find or too expensive, attracting a different crowd of younger players. Older players gravitate towards Beach Ultimate as "hard ground" injuries do not occur and players can continue to play for many more years.

The game is also strategically becoming different from grass Ultimate. The use of a smaller field, less players, softer surface, and location make cutting, catching, and throwing similar in concept but not in execution.

The Beach Ultimate Lovers Association (BULA) has been organizing World and Continental Championships of Beach Ultimate since 2004. In 2009 BULA sent out a detailed Request for Bids to host the 2011 World Championships of Beach Ultimate. Eight bids were received and Lignano Sabbiadoro (Italy) was awarded the bid. The World Championships will be held 22-28 August 2011 at a sports center that can host 2,500 players, has all necessary amenities, and has a private beach. This shows the advances Beach Ultimate has made over the years and its divergence from grass Ultimate. Having the WFDF involved would be good for the sport.

**Proposal wording:** To accept Beach Ultimate as an independent Disc Sport and co-host World and Continental Championships with BULA for the next 5 years.

The World Championships (for national teams) will be held in 2011 and every 4 years thereafter. The Asia-Pacific, European, African, and Pan-American Championships (for national teams) are scheduled for 2013 and every 4 years thereafter.

Patrick van der Valk (BULA President) will be the interim Chair of the WFDF Beach Ultimate Committee, with term ending 31 December 2010, and an election to be held during the 2010 WFDF elections. The Beach Ultimate Committee chair will also be a member of the WFDF Board of Directors.

**Pros:** Beach Ultimate has the potential to be the disc sport most accessible to the public. The smaller field, fewer players, and public location can make the game easier to follow and showcase. Furthermore it will increase the WFDF's reach into new countries and will help raise public awareness of flying disc sports worldwide and enhance the WFDF brand.

**Cons:** For 5 years the WFDF will not have sole control over a World Beach or Continental Beach Championship. (it should be mentioned here that this is the current status quo and that without cooperation with BULA, WFDF would like not gain any control over these events in the next 5 years.)

**Financial implications:** As of 2004 BULA has been charging the local World Championships organizing committee a fee per player to help cover basic BULA costs and further develop Beach Ultimate. For the 2011 WCBU this fee was set to be \$15. If this motion is accepted BULA is will divide the fee as follows: \$5 for BULA, \$5 for the WFDF Beach Ultimate Development Committee, \$5 for the WFDF general administrative costs. For subsequent World and Continental Championships a similar fee structure will be created.

**Conclusion:** Like Beach Volley and Beach Soccer, Beach Ultimate should have its own development path and event management to accommodate the needs of players. Having an independent Beach Ultimate committee in the WFDF will help the sport reach its potential. Beach Ultimate has unique qualities that will help raise public awareness of flying disc sports worldwide and enhance the WFDF. Beach Ultimate can adhere to all the requirements set forth in the WFDF bylaws and we hope that you will vote in favor of designating Beach Ultimate as an official Disc Sport, and allow the WFDF and BULA to co-host the World and Continental Championships of Beach Ultimate.

**More details:** A 36 page document "*Motion to recognize Beach Ultimate as a WFDF Disc Sport*" (April 19, 2010) is available upon request and will probably answer any further questions you might have.