

CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Robert “Nob” RAUCH (USA)



WFDF Board Candidate

Applicant Name: Robert “Nob” Rauch

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Email Address: nobrauch at optonline dot net

Nominated by: USA Ultimate

Desired Position: President

Statement of Conflict of Interests

Occupation: Partner, Director of Research, Portfolio Manager, Gramercy Advisors LLC, a US\$2.2 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 Committee for USA Ultimate, but my main activities continue to be with WFDF.

Candidate Statement

I ask your support in order to serve as the next President of WFDF. WFDF faces a number of challenges in the next two years, such as the demands for anti-doping compliance relating to our Olympic movement involvement, and I believe that interesting ideas without follow-through and good intentions may not be enough to ensure success for the organization. Moreover, as dues and players’ events fees have increased, I fear that WFDF has not delivered a commensurate improvement in service or communication to its member associations, and that this needs to be a high priority.

My agenda is quite specific, with five main cornerstones:

Communication: First, WFDF needs to improve its outgoing communications. This includes a revamp of the web site and the publishing of a regular newsletter. Second, WFDF needs far more input from its Member Associations beyond the annual Congress. This involves simple, informal things such as occasional phone calls as well as more formal questionnaires.

Events: WFDF has limited resources but has managed to maintain its position as the international governing body for many flying disc sports due to the quality of its sanctioned World Championship events. This must be maintained if WFDF is to have relevancy. This last year, several issues arose as contracts were not executed prior to two events commencing, which put both the events and WFDF at risk. The level of involvement and professionalism must be increased to ensure standards are maintained.

Decisions on Olympic Movement Involvement: WFDF is a member of both SportAccord (formerly GAISF) and International World Games Association. Compliance with anti-doping requirements as established by WADA may become a requirement for continued participation in the Olympic movement bodies in which we are involved, with the next key report to be submitted next fall. Because there are very stringent and expensive requirements for WFDF, our Member Associations, and our athletes, we are going to have to get input and develop a strategy in the first half of 2011 if we intend to remain a part of IWGA for 2013. There are hard choices to be made.

Development: Development has two aspects I would focus on. First is assisting our currently members who are less organized in stabilizing their organizations and ensuring long term survival and gaining of standing in their countries. Second is outreach into new regions and countries. Each requires very different resources but both are important to global flying disc sports development.

Professional Management: I have been frustrated with the current WFDF management practice, where agendas are published only a day or two before board meetings and there are virtually no preparatory materials available in advance. Congress has also been far less constructive than it should be. I will develop a significantly more transparent decision making process, with far more communication, befitting a not-for-profit organization with an annual budget that is now nearing an annual average of US\$100,000 over our four year event cycle. I also am confident I have the management experience to bring a new full-time Executive Director up to speed quickly to leverage the otherwise limited resources of our organization.

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 played at the highest levels, winning numerous world Ultimate championships 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 35 years, I believe I have a perspective that WFDF needs in ensuring it makes the right decisions in the face of today's challenges of grappling with the Olympic movement involvement, anti-doping requirements, financial concerns, and the increasingly competitive nature of our incumbent disc sports.

WFDF Nomination

I, Dr. Tom Crawford, holding the position of Chief Executive Officer of USA Ultimate, and on behalf of the Board of Directors of USA Ultimate who voted unanimously to endorse, hereby endorse Rob 'Nob' Rauch for the positions of President and Director at-large in the WFDF Board of Directors election 2010.