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PRESS RELEASE

World Flying Disc Federation Establishes Advisory Council

The World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) announced today that it had established an Advisory Council to assist its board and officers with the development of strategic policy initiatives. The six person Advisory Council is comprised of Vincent Gaillard, who will serve as chair, Peter Bayer, Val Belmonte, Mary-Clare Brennan, Jay Stuart, and Christian Wassmer.

“The Advisory Council will have as its sitting members individuals with significant experience and expertise in the business of sport across many disciplines, providing a perspective for our organization as it continues to develop in the areas of commercial support, broadcast, and Olympic Games aspirations,” stated WFDF President Robert “Nob” Rauch. “We have pulled together an incredibly talented group of experienced individuals who will greatly assist us in refining our strategy and implementation plans at this critical juncture in our growth within the Olympic Movement, and we thank them for offering their support.”

All of the Advisory Council members, who are serving on a volunteer basis, have active roles in various aspects of the sports world. Summary biographies are as follows.

Vincent Gaillard, Chair



Vincent Gaillard is Director General and CEO of European Professional Club Rugby (EPCR) in Neuchatel and he has more than 20 years’ experience as a senior executive with various global brand leaders. Prior to joining EPCR, he founded Sportcom Ventures after serving a nearly three year term as Chief Executive Officer of SportAccord. He also served on the board of directors of the World Flying Disc Federation. He previously held senior posts at Coca-Cola - where he managed the multi-national company’s sponsorship of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games, and of Rugby World Cup and the FIFA World Cup - and at NBA (National Basketball Association) Europe where he was a Project Director. Vincent is a graduate of INSEEC (Institut National des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales) in Bordeaux, and also has postgraduate qualifications from Audencia (Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Nantes-Atlantique) and the University of Surrey. He is a dual French/Swiss citizen and is fluent in French, English and Italian.

Peter Bayer



Peter Bayer is currently CEO of Open Sports Management, which promotes ocean racing with the IMOCA Class and manages its commercial interests. He is also a Board member and Executive Director of Origin Sports Group, a portfolio sports company which delivers growth for its clients and customers through investment and development of sports properties. Peter is an expert in sports consulting with a focus on commercial and operational strategies, and has substantial experience as marketing and event director of large-scale events around the globe for over 15 years, holding various top management positions in different organizing committees and sports associations. He had served as Chief Executive Officer of the Innsbruck 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games, which received The Most Innovative Event Award at ISEM 2012, and for which Peter was awarded an Olympic Order – the highest award of the Olympic Movement. He is a frequent conference speaker and was a member of IOC Agenda 2020 workgroup. Born in Vorarlberg in Western Austria, Peter holds a Master’s Degree in Business Administration from Innsbruck University. He was named “Top 20 in the world of the Olympics” in 2012 by Around the Rings and “Top 20 in the world of Sailing” in 2015 by The Black Book of Sailing. Peter currently lives in Lausanne, is married, and has two sons.

Val Belmonte



Val Belmonte brings more than 20 years of experience as an innovated leader in non-profit and sports organizations in the private sector, intercollegiate athletics and with national governing bodies of the United States Olympic Committee, and he is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Winston-Knolls School in the Chicago area. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of USA Ultimate, an NGB under WFDF. Belmonte has served as the CEO at USA Fencing, a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Prior to that, Belmonte was a Vice President at Quinnipiac University; Executive Director of U.S. Figure Skating in Colorado Springs, also a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee; Director of Athletics at Union College; and Director of Coaching Education at USA Hockey in Colorado Springs. He has also served on several committees with NCAA

conferences, the U.S. Olympic Committee and USA Hockey. A distinguished college hockey coach, Belmonte is a member of the University of Illinois-Chicago Athletic Hall of Fame, Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame and a USA Hockey Walter Yaciuk Award Recipient. Belmonte is a 1973 graduate of the University of Illinois-Chicago with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. He also holds a Master of Education degree from the University of North Dakota. Belmonte and his wife reside in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and have two married sons and four grandchildren.

Mary-Clare Brennan



Mary-Clare Brennan is a career business and sports marketing professional with over twenty years of progressive responsibility and leadership in the academic and non-profit sports industries. She is currently Sponsorship Director of the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA) and a Principal of MC2 Sports Marketing in Colorado Springs. Prior to that she served as Director of Marketing and Communications of USA Fencing and previously was CEO of USA Climbing. She also served on the Board of Directors of USA Ultimate. Brennan was a 17-year veteran of the US Olympic Committee's Marketing Division, responsible for business development efforts, including securing new sponsorship revenue for US teams beginning with the 2002 Olympic Games. Prior to joining the USOC in 1995, Brennan was first a professional athletic trainer then worked in collegiate sports

marketing before moving into international sports. She earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her master's from the University of Texas at Austin. Mary-Clare resides with her husband and daughter in Manitou Springs, Colorado.

Jay Stuart



Jay Stuart is the Director of Northern Creative Studio and Editor at Large of iSportconnect.com where he is based in London. He is also the Media Specialist at PB Conference Solutions. He was Head of Media Relations for SportAccord Convention, the annual summit meeting of the international sports federations and the Olympic movement, for 12 years. He co-founded Perspective Media, publisher of Sports Media, Football Insider and Sport Insider (official magazine of the international sports federations), which became part of Sports Services Group (later acquired by the Press Association). He was co-creator and Associate Producer of Naked Sport, a six-hour documentary on the sports business for Channel 4, PBS and Showtime. He worked in Italy as staff correspondent of entertainment industry newspaper Variety and was Editor of Television Business International magazine.

Christian Wassmer



Christian Wassmer worked as the CEO of Badischer Tennisverband in Leimen Germany. Prior to that, he spent seven years with the International Olympic Committee in various roles including Head of IOC Recognised Stakeholders' Relations and Head of Winter Sports and IF Relations Manager. Christian had previously worked in a tennis academy in Lucerne as Head Coach and Deputy CEO where he coached a professional men's tennis team and was Tournament Director of the ITF Lucerne Open and the Swiss National Junior Tennis Championships. He lived in the US before that where he was a Division I College Head Coach in tennis while also teaching football at the University of Texas at Arlington. While coaching he also worked for German Sports Television as a foreign correspondent and wrote features for Die Welt covering the professional

sports in North America. Christian earned a Masters in Advanced Studies in Sport Administration and Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in the US with a bachelors degree in Mass Communications and received an additional diploma in International Relations in Fukuoka City, Japan. He was the Captain of the German National Tennis Team in 1996 and is fluent in German, English and French while being knowledgeable in Japanese and Czech. Christian currently lives in Radolfzell, Germany, is married, and has two daughters.

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