



For immediate release – 22 November 2017

PRESS RELEASE

WFDF announces new Chair and membership of its Women in Sport Commission

As part of its continuing efforts to promote gender equality in disc sports, the World Flying Disc Federation announces that it has added new members to its Women in Sport Commission and appointed Caz Malone of Hong Kong as chair. Ms. Malone replaces outgoing chair Kate Bergeron, currently WFDF Treasurer, who had served as chair since 2011. The Commission is now comprised of 14 women from all over the world, who are already stakeholders in their communities and are committed to engaging athletes, coaches, managers and organizers involved in the sport.

The Commission will focus on ways to further improve our gender equality efforts in disc sports, and achieve a better balance in the number of male and female players. Upon the recommendations of the Commission, WFDF will have an equal number of men's and women's teams at the upcoming WFDF 2018 World Ultimate Club Championships (WUCC). The Commission hopes that this example will be a template for our national federations to promote equal opportunities for male and female players at major events.

"We are working with the Ultimate Committee to create more opportunities for female players at WFDF events," said Caz Malone, the new chair of the Women in Sport Commission. "We are very pleased to announce there will be true progress towards gender equality with an even number of men's and women's teams and a strong Mixed Division at the World Ultimate Club Championships to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA in July 2018. We have always featured the mixed division of play at the World Games and have moved to full 50:50 representation on team rosters, so we will look to continue to build on our successes."

"We are set with 40 Women's and 40 Men's teams, along with 48 Mixed teams, for a total of 128 teams at WUCC. Overall, we should be very close to achieving gender equity in terms of athletes at this championship event," said Brian Gisel, chair of the Ultimate Committee.

Women in Sport Commission member Yoonee Jeong, a technology policy professional working with the World Bank, analyzed recent WFDF annual census data and found that:

- 2 out of 3 Flying Disc players in the world are male, and these numbers have been consistent over the last decade.
- Women's Ultimate teams make up around 20% of those participating at national championships.
- Men's Ultimate teams make up nearly double that number at nearly 40% at national championships, although mixed gender play does make up for another 40%.

"In sport, it is all too easy to accept the status quo," stated Robert "Nob" Rauch, WFDF President. "We believe that flying disc sports are easily accessible to both men and women, and we are committed to proactively encouraging more women and girls to participate by ensuring that the opportunities for participation are there at all competitive levels. We also want to encourage women to get involved at the local, national, and international level of administration and governance of the sport. The 14 members of our Women in Sport Commission, from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America, have an incredible array of experience and enthusiasm and we look forward to supporting them in their efforts."

The mandate of WFDF's Women in Sport Commission is in line with the International Olympic Committee aims: "Fostering gender equality and strengthening women's participation in and through sport ... to increase the

possibilities for girls and women in sport and to achieve the goal of female athletes representing 50 per cent of the athletes taking part in the Olympic Games.”

The commission is looking to have its agenda and priorities shaped by WFDF members of all genders. To help the commission set its goals, please participate in a short, anonymous survey:

<https://goo.gl/forms/nuQ6Ctz08iaOWaw03>

The Women in Sport Commission members are:



CAROLINE 'CAZ' MALONE

Caz is the new Chair of the Women in Sport Commission, Deputy Chair of the Sport for All and Development Commission & a WFDF Board member. She has been playing disc sports since 2008 when she happened upon Ultimate in Indonesia as one of the only team sports accessible to female athletes. She's since played local, regional and international Ultimate tournaments across the Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle East and Africa. Caz co-founded the Ultimate Players Association of Qatar, served as UPAQ Development Director and then President and played in the UAE's first Worlds team in 2011, and Qatar's first Worlds team in 2015. She is also an international journalist who has covered global news for 14 years. She's passionate about using her professional and athletic experiences to give everyone an equal opportunity to play disc sports, allowing them to love it as much as she does.



FLORENCIA ALDATZ

Florencia is a biologist who discovered Ultimate and disc sports in 2011 in Argentina. Since then, she has been collaborating in the areas of tournament organization and promotion of disc sports in the country. She was part of the first women's Ultimate team and has organized several tournaments to promote the development of women's Ultimate in the country and in the region. In 2016, she was elected as the first female president of Argentina's National Association and in 2017, became a board member of Argentina Confederation of Sports. Florencia seeks to contribute ideas and experiences from the perspective of the Latin American community.



KATE BERGERON

Kate has served on WFDF board since 2007, served as Chair of the Women in Sport Commission from 2011 to 2017, and has been the WFDF Treasurer since 2008. She has also held numerous functions at USA Ultimate including serving as its President from 2002 to 2004. Kate has worked as a coach for several Women's Ultimate teams and won the Silver medal at the 2014 World Ultimate Club Championships in the Women's Masters division with Godiva. Kate is Vice President, Hardware Engineering of Apple Inc. An avid trail runner, skier, and mountain biker, Kate was the NCAA Division II winner in cross country skiing (1992 and 1993) while at MIT.



APPLE CHAPMAN

A former women's body builder, Apple has been self-employed as personal fitness trainer since 1997. She started playing Ultimate in 2002 and in 2007 was a member of the Hong Kong national team. Since 2008, Apple has served as president of Hong Kong Ultimate Players Association and, despite early struggles to develop the sport, successfully cultivated a relationship with the government's Leisure and Sports Services Department to initiate outreach programs beginning in 2010. In addition, the HK Ultimate National Team received its first ever Sports Aid Grant from the HK Sports Institute in 2011. Over the last 7 years, Apple has organized hundreds of events and activities aimed at developing disc sports among youth, providing more chances for women of all ages to get involved.



AMANDINE CONSTANT

Amandine has been playing Ultimate in France since 2006 and is proud of winning the Spirit of the Game award at WCBU 2011 in Italy with the French Women's team. Elected to the French Flying Disc Federation in 2012 and the European Flying Disc Federation in 2014 as General Secretary, Amandine is active not only in the local disc sports community but she's also been part of different national and international projects. Amandine was also the Event Director for WCBU 2017 in Royan. She works for a Microelectronics international company as Production Operations Manager in the "real life."



YOONEE JEONG

Yoonee has been involved in the Asian Ultimate scene since 2004 when she started playing for Korea's first travelling team. She went on to become the first female president of Korea's Ultimate Players Association. She has lived and worked in more than 20 countries in the APAC region as a tech policy professional and currently works for the World Bank. Yoonee is keen to support other women to continue playing Ultimate through marriage, work and children.



ELENA LAMBY

Elena began playing Ultimate in 2008 and currently coaches the Club Women's team in Germany. She also works as a project manager for the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse in sports for the German Olympic Sports Confederation. With a background in gender studies and five years' experience with projects around gender-based violence in sports, Elena hopes to bring valuable insight to the Commission, with a focus on perceptions of women in disc sports at a grassroots level.



MARIEM MEBSOUT

Mariem started disc sports at a young age and starting playing Ultimate four years ago with the Casablanca club. Travelling all over Morocco to play in tournaments, she initially faced challenges playing a mixed-gender sport but took on leadership roles, including the head of communication for her club. In this position, she works to reach out and recruit more women to Ultimate.



HEIDI PEKKOLA

Heidi is a Finnish Ultimate player, who has played on the Finnish national teams, most recently in the masters divisions. Currently living in Brussels, Heidi works for a European sports umbrella organization, ENGSO, as a policy director. As part of her work, she follows European sport policy developments and she is based at the EU Office of European Olympic Committees. Heidi has a strong interest in promoting gender equality not only at the player level but also at the coaching level.



MARLISE RICHTER

After leaving the sport of field hockey, Marlise took up Ultimate in 2006 and played her first National Championships in 2007 in Cape Town. She is based at the club Ultitude in Johannesburg, South Africa where she has served on its managing committee for several years and as Chair in 2012. She organized the first ladies tournament in South Africa in 2009, represented South Africa in the mixed division in WUGC2012 in Japan, and has played numerous tournaments throughout Europe and Africa. Marlise currently serves as secretary to the South African Flying Disc Association (SAFDA). A PhD candidate at

International Centre for Reproductive Health, Ghent University, Marlise also serves as visiting researcher at the African Centre for Migration and Society, Wits University, South Africa.



ALISA TIZIK

Alisa is an Ultimate player from Russia, who currently plays with the women's club team LemonGrass in Moscow and the Russian National Women's team. Alisa works in marketing at Unilever and loves reading business books and watching good movies. This year, she was part of the EuroStars tour, which aimed to promote gender equity and inspire women and girls worldwide to play Ultimate or participate in sports in general. That experience inspired her to make an impact and she's passionate about finding ways to encourage more women in Russia, especially in schools and universities, to get out and play.



JOHANNA VON TOGGENBURG

Johanna is the WFDF Sustainability Officer and President of the Lebanon Flying Disc Federation. She has been playing Ultimate in the UK, France, Belgium, Italy, the US, Palestine and Lebanon since 2003. In early 2015, Johanna started and coached the first Ultimate teams in Lebanon. Johanna is an environmental and sustainability expert, and currently works with the United Nations providing policy advisory on sustainable water and land management to governments in the Arab Region. She is passionate about advocating for gender issues and developing and sharing ideas on how to involve more girls in flying disc sports and ensuring

more women are represented in leadership positions.



KARINA WOLDT

Karina has been involved with professional sporting teams and major events management globally over the past 16 years. Appointed as WFDF's first Event Manager in 2014, she shares her significant experience in event organization to bring world-class events to all participants. Living in Hannover, Germany with her family, Karina accepts the challenges that full-time work presents while juggling motherhood with 3 small children. Karina is committed to assisting women and girls view the sports industry as a future career opportunity or hobby. "We have not yet reached gender equity in sport and moving women

from support roles to (event) management through our flying disc events is a huge opportunity for women's growth and development changes."



ADRIANA WITHERS

As a founding partner of VC Ultimate Inc., Adriana has worked tirelessly with players, teams, leagues and governing bodies from around the world to grow and create partnerships in Ultimate since 1998. Through her work on nonprofit boards, as an advisor to women-in-ultimate focused organizations and as the leader of three international businesses, Adriana strives to be a strong advocate for the development of ultimate and for the promotion of equity in sport.

About WFDF:

The World Flying Disc Federation is the international sports federation responsible for world governance of flying disc (frisbee) sports, including Ultimate, Beach Ultimate, Disc Golf, Freestyle, Guts and Overall Events. WFDF is a federation of 77 member associations that represent flying disc sports and their athletes in over 75 countries. WFDF is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and it is a member of the Association of Recognised International Federations (ARISF). WFDF is a member of GAISF and the International World Games Association (IWGA) and IMGA. It is also a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Agency Code. WFDF is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation in the state of Colorado, USA.

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