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WFDF 2014 Elections Results Announced

The World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) today has announced the results of its 2014 elections. The WFDF Member Associations voted on open positions on the Board of Directors and on the Ultimate Committee to serve from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2016.

WFDF President Robert “Nob” Rauch commented: “We are particularly pleased about the interest and high participation of our member associations in this year’s election. The WFDF Board composition was confirmed as an extremely qualified and experienced slate of candidates for the upcoming period of two years.”

Rauch added “At a stage where the IOC has fully supported the Olympic Agenda 2020 proposals we feel prepared for the tasks and challenges derived from these decisions. As does every International Sports Federation, we depend on the support of volunteers taking on roles and functions within our organization on various levels. I would like to use this opportunity to express full confidence and gratitude for our team of volunteers to be able to manage the work to come.”

The following candidates were elected for the respective positions after running unopposed.

Board of Directors



President: Robert “Nob” Rauch (USA), Executive Committee position

Robert “Nob” Rauch was an active Ultimate player from 1976 to 1994 and has been involved in positions of leadership in disc sports since 1987. He was the National Director/Executive Director of the Ultimate Players Association (the UPA, now USA Ultimate or USAU) from 1988 to 1990, was chairman of the UPA’s Executive Committee in 1991-1992, and is currently a member of the USAU Investment Committee and Hall of Fame Committee. He has also served as president of the World Flying Disc Federation from 1992 to 1994 and from 2011 to the present and as Chair of its Ultimate Committee from 1988 to 1992. As an athlete playing on Ultimate teams in Chicago, Boston, and New York, he won six US National Championships and five World Championships, and he was elected to the Ultimate Hall of Fame in 2006. He also was a contributing writer for the book “Ultimate: The First Four Decades” published in December 2005. Rauch has a 34 year career in finance and is currently a partner and portfolio manager of Gramercy Financial Group, a US\$ 5.0 billion investment firm specializing in corporate and sovereign debt investments in global emerging markets. He received his bachelor’s degree in political economy from Williams College and master’s degree in finance and international business from the Kellogg School of Northwestern University.



Disc Golf Chair: Michael Downes (USA)

Downes was first appointed as WFDF Board member in early 2014 when the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) was re-instated as WFDF Disc sport organizational member. Downes has represented Disc Golf as their chair since. Downes has been a PDGA member since 1998 and works as their event manager since January 2013. He was the Director and Co-Director of various PDGA sanctioned events before being hired by PDGA.



Overall Committee Chair: Tomas Burvall (SWE)

Burvall won the title as WFDF Overall World Champion in the 2013 WFDF World Overall Championships in Norrköping, Sweden, amassing five gold medals by also winning the title in the discipline of Discathon and in several masters division events. He has won eight gold medals in the Masters division since 2009 and was decorated with his first gold medal in Overall in 2007 in Ithaca, NY (USA) and in Self Caught Flight 1997 in Helsinki. Burvall also was the winner of 35 Overall medals in Sweden, 15 of which have been golds.



Guts Committee Chair: Steve Taylor (USA)

Steve has been the President of USA Guts since 2007. As an athlete, he has played Guts since 1981 and his team won the 2010 US Nationals Championship. He was a member of Team USA at WUGC 2004 and WUGC 2008 and participated in the All Japan Guts Tournament in Tokyo in 2007 and 2009. Steve is the owner and partner of LUX Interactive, which provides web based software solutions to a variety of clients, including concentrations in airlines, not-for-profit organizations and e-commerce clients.



Beach Committee Chair: Patrick van der Valk (POR)

Patrick has been the Spirit of the Game Subcommittee Chair since 2007 where he has spearheaded great improvements in the awareness and education of spirit of the game. He is also the WFDF Beach Ultimate Committee Chair and a WFDF Board Member since 2011. He is President of the Portuguese Flying Disc Federation and is founder and President of the Beach Ultimate Lovers Association.



Director at large: Fumio "Moro" Morooka (JPN)

Moro is a sports education professional who has been a Board Member of WFDF continuously since 1992. He has also currently serving as President of Japan Flying Disc Federation since 2009. He was Tournament Director in 1992 and TOC President in 2012 of the World Ultimate and Guts Championships held in Japan. In addition to disc sports, Moro has been a Board Member of the Japan Olympic Academy (JOA) from 2007-Present and Executive Director of the Japan World Games Association (JWGA) from 2001-Present. He previously served as Executive Director of the World Games 2001 Akita Organizing Committee and was a Council Member of SportAccord from 2009 -2011. Moro is Professor of

Department of Health and Physical Education at Sophia University in Tokyo, where he has served as its chair, and has authored numerous books and papers in the field of sports and recreation.

Election Result Details

The 2014 Election was conducted on-line via a voting form using the Single Transferable Vote methodology. There were 52 regular members in good standing with a total of 132 votes.

To meet the requisite majorities, a total of 67 votes were required for election with no less than 26 member associations voting.

Over the course of the voting period which extended from November 12 to December 12, 2014, 51 members with a total of 128 votes cast their ballots. Although candidates for each office were uncontested, all candidates have received the quorum needed for passage.

The following votes were tallied per each candidate:

WFDF Board of Directors Members:

Robert “Nob” Rauch (USA), President (127 yes, 1 abstain)

Steve Taylor (USA), Guts Committee chair (113 yes, 15 abstain)

Tomas Burvall (SWE), Overall Committee chair (109 yes, 19 abstain)

Michael Downes (USA) Disc Golf Committee chair (106 yes, 22 abstain)

Patrick van der Valk (POR), Beach Ultimate Committee chair (124 yes, 4 abstain)

Prof. Fumio Morooka (JPN), At-Large member (127 yes, 1 abstain)

Ultimate Committee Members:

Will Deaver (USA), Ultimate Committee Deputy chair (123 yes, 5 abstain)

Florian Pfender (GER), Ultimate Rules Subcommittee chair (115 yes, 13 abstain)

Simon Hill (GBR), Ultimate Championships Subcommittee chair (127 yes, 1 abstain)

Returning Members of the Board



Secretary: Thomas Griesbaum (GER), Executive Committee position

Thomas has been involved with disc sports since 1981, beginning with freestyle, disc golf and field events and later with Ultimate. He served as a WFDF board member from 2001-2006 and rejoined as Secretary in 2011. He has been President of the European Flying Disc Federation since 1990 and was the founder of Deutscher Frisbeesport-Verband for which he served as President from 1989-2000. He organized the first Ultimate exhibition in the World Games in 1989 and served as WFDF’s technical delegate at the 2005 World Games. Thomas is currently a staff member of the Faculty of Informatics at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology



Treasurer: Kate Bergeron (USA), Executive Committee position

Kate has re-joined the Board as WFDF Treasurer in 2014, having held this position previously from 2008 through the end of 2012. She served as a WFDF board member since 2007 and has held numerous functions at the Ultimate Player’s Association (UPA). Kate has worked as a coach for several Women’s Ultimate teams and recently won the Silver medal at 2014 World Ultimate Club Championships in the Women’s Masters division with Godiva. Kate is a Senior Director, Macintosh Product Design, Apple Inc. at Cupertino, CA and has experience as a Product Development Executive since many years.



Chair, Ultimate Committee: Brian Gisel (CAN)

Brian has been a WFDF board member since 2009 and previously from 2002-2007, serving as the Ultimate Committee Chair from 2004-2007. He was tournament director of the 2008 World Ultimate and Guts Championships and the 1997 World Ultimate Club Championships and has run several Canadian National Championships. He was the Vancouver Ultimate League Board President from 2009-2012 and has also served on the Ultimate Canada board. Brian is the Operations Manager for the British Columbia Medical Association.



Chair, Freestyle: Kevin “Skippy Jammer” Givens (USA)

Skippy has over 30 years of experience in managing and playing freestyle. He has been the Tournament Director for the Freestyle Players Association World Championship four times, the Tournament Director of the WFDF Overall World Championships twice, and has won 14 major freestyle titles as a competitor. He was also the WFDF Executive Director from 2008-2010. Skippy is the Intramural and Sports Club Supervisor (Competitive Sports Director) for the University of California, Santa Cruz.



Director at large: Vincent Gaillard (FRA/SUI)

Vincent is a sports management and sustainability professional, with 20 years of wide-ranging experience achieved in various organizations throughout the world. He is the former Director General of SportAccord - the umbrella organization for Olympic and non-Olympic sports - and now operates independently through a new initiative called Sport & Community Ventures. After business studies and a Masters’ degree in sports management, and initial work with Adidas, BBDO Sports and the National Basketball Association, Vincent joined The Coca-Cola Company in 1998 where he held several roles in the management of FIFA and Olympic partnerships around the world until he joined SportAccord. He is currently a member of the IOC Sport & Environment Commission.



Director at large: Michael Hu (TPE)

Michael is the General Secretary of the Chinese Taipei Flying Disc Association and Secretary General of the Asia Flying Disc Federation. He has been a WFDF board member since 2009. Michael is an active player and coach of all of the major disc disciplines including Ultimate, disc golf, and overall events.



Director at large: Jamie Nuwer (USA)

Jamie has served as the Medical Anti-Doping Committee Chairwoman of WFDF since 2011 and as the Medical Committee Chairwoman for USA Ultimate since 2010. She has been the coach for the UCLA and Stanford Women’s Ultimate Frisbee teams since 2003 and was coach of the USA U20 and U23 junior national teams in 2012-2013. She has done research on college Ultimate injuries and developed the Sports Medicine Section of the USA Ultimate Coaching Manual for Coaching. She is currently a physician at the Menlo Medical Clinic in California.



Athletes Commission Member: Ryan Purcell (RSA), Non-Voting Observer

Ryan was elected to the Athletes’ Commission in 2012 and re-elected in 2014 and is its current chair. As an athlete, he began his career at the University of Michigan and has competed in both the USA Ultimate College and Club Championships on three occasions as well as the 2010 WFDF World Club Championships in Prague. He has coached University teams in Australia (New South Wales) and the United States (Michigan), as well as led youth programs in both places. Recently he relocated to South Africa, where he has been involved in starting a new Mixed Club team (2012 RSA National Champions), as well as joining the Open team as a player and coach at the 2012 World Ultimate Championships in Japan. He currently is a managing director for Llamasoft

where he advises aid organizations and Ministries of Health throughout Africa on supply chain design and network operations.

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About WFDF:

The World Flying Disc Federation (“WFDF”) serves as the international governing body of all flying disc sports. WFDF is made up of the National Associations (“Members”) that govern their respective disc sports. There are currently Members representing athletes in 58 countries. WFDF is an International Federation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), an ARISF member and a member of SportAccord and the International World Games Association. WFDF is recognized as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) registered corporation in the State of Colorado, USA, and it is a signatory of the World Anti-Doping Agency code.

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