

Statement for Candidacy as President

I ask for your support for re-election as President of WFDF. When I ran in 2010, I felt that WFDF was at risk of failing to address the needs of its Members and outlined an agenda with five main cornerstones: communication, events, Olympic Movement involvement (and anti-doping), development, and professional management.

Over these last six years as President, I believe we have greatly improved communication, totally revamping our website at the end of 2011 and publishing regular press releases, and I set up and managed a Facebook page which now has over 35,000 likes. We focused upfront on our events to catch up on the bidding process which was woefully overdue, updated the tournament manual materials, and now send a formal WFDF technical delegate to each main event in order to assist the local organizers. We introduced Continental Ultimate Championships, World Beach Ultimate Championships, and the World Team Disc Golf Championships. We've also expanded our event coverage, streaming nearly 40 games at the 2016 WUGC and producing a two hour program that was broadcast on network television in the USA. We introduced an updated Anti-Doping Code for WFDF and a regular testing program that was deemed in compliance by WADA in their crucial November 2011 report, and then updated it for the new WADA Code in 2015. In May 2013 we received provisional IOC recognition and received permanent recognition in August 2015, and have subsequently received recognition by the ARISF, the International Paralympic Committee, and International Masters Games Association. We have also been named as one of 19 sports to participate in the inaugural ANOC World Beach Games in San Diego in 2019. We broadened our development program increased our budget to fund it. Finally, we have instituted better governance policies by having regular board meetings and by establishing an Athletes Commission. We now have two full-time paid staff and several other part-timers. By year end, we should have the number of member countries up to 68, with the goal of having over 75 member countries within the next year, up from 53 countries at the end of 2010.

In the coming two years, challenges and opportunities abound. WFDF needs to figure out how to better organize and support our increasingly complex sanctioned events, and continue to integrate all Flying Disc sports under the WFDF umbrella with full support at all of our NGBs. We need to continue to showcase disc sports in the World Games and introduce other disciplines into global multi-sports events where we can. WFDF needs to enhance its efforts in the commercial arena to increase resources and visibility, in areas of merchandising, media, and sponsorship. And we need to continue to manage the global dialogue on spirit of the game and self-officiation, to ensure that there is a rational perspective regarding pressures for any changes to this core value. We are seeking to be considered for the host city designation for inclusion in the Olympic Programme in 2024 when that decision is made over the next two years. With the changes in the leadership of the key Olympic Movement organizations in 2014, I believe that disc sports will be the beneficiary of a shift in perspective and a desire to showcase more exciting sports that appeal to youth. I want to make sure WFDF, our member associations, our volunteers, and our athletes, are ready.

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 competed at the highest level of disc sports, with a number of World and US Ultimate Championships with several different teams 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 40 years, I believe I have the global perspective that WFDF needs in ensuring it makes the right decisions in the face of today's challenges and opportunities in grappling with the Olympic Movement involvement, anti-doping requirements, financial concerns, and the increasingly competitive nature of our incumbent disc sports.

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert "Nob" Rauch