

Minutes of the PDGA Europe Teleconference Meeting

Sunday October 25th 2015

Present

PDGA:

Brian Hoeniger (PDGA International Director), Brian Graham (PDGA Executive Director), Hans Nagtegaal (PDGA Board & EuroTour Manager)

Country Coordinators:

Ingar Ballo Sandum, Bernd Wender, Tapani Aulu, Florence Dumont, Richard Kollar, Lukas Filandr, Frank Hellstern, Sinus Frank, Haukur Arnason, Aleksandr Makarov, Darius Gricius, Christer Kohler, Gergely Hrubo, Carlos Rio, Peter Buijsrogge

Regrets:

Neil Webber, Renita Cameron, Michal Paszkowski

Absent:

Dinko Simenc, Bostjan Babic, Bruce Weber, Fabienne Werner, Gunars Grundmanis, Rainer Lipland

Agenda

1. PDGA Headquarters Report (BG)
2. PDGA International Program Report (BH)
3. 2015 EuroTour review and 2016 ET planning (HN)
4. DGWT and ET (HN)
5. 2016 EDGC and EDGF (TA)
6. Proposal of European Competition Format 2017 (EDGS) (RK)
7. 2015 PDGA International Program Guide Review (BH)
8. Europe disciplinary sub-Committee update (FH)
9. Evolution of PDGA Europe, increasing forum participation (BH, HN)
10. Any other issues

Detailed Minutes

PDGA Headquarters Report (BG) 10 mins

- Unprecedented 25% growth in membership and 18% events growth, in significant part due to growth in Europe
- International development - Hans Nagtegaal as a member of PDGA board of directors, first European BOD member, brings a unique perspective
- In 2016 DGWT, DGPT - series of existing PDGA sanctioned events, private tours run by private companies, many conversations between DGWT and PDGA HQ
- Sustainability of disc golf - DG Manufacturers Consortium Signage Process - park users are in danger - the goal is to improve signage. The first step is to use standardized caution signs for DG courses that are in the process of preparation now and will be distributed by manufacturers. Call for improvement of the safety issues at local courses and tournaments as it can hurt the growth and sustainability of development of DG
- PDGA Europe was not asked to consult DGWT as it is a private tour and organizers have complete control of all the aspects of the tournaments.
- Lack of inclusion of FPO in DGWT is a problem for PDGA as pointed out during the consultations with DGWT organizers. DGWT is adamant regarding only offering MPO. If FPO is eliminated from Majors, PDGA indicated a possible withdrawal of Major event status, by Board. According to DGWT this does not concern them. All tournaments in 2016 in both DGWT and DGPT will be PDGA sanctioned. PDGA HQ is preparing a memorandum.
- BG is available at any time to consult by phone or by other means if PDGA Europe member has issues they wish to discuss.
- FH (Germany) is pointing out that TDs may be often responsible for safety issues. Each country needs to resolve who is responsible. DG is a high risk game.
- BG responds that PDGA has 3 pronged program - education, equipment, and something else (not mentioned).
- HA (Iceland) points out that everyday play may be a bigger problem than tournaments.
- RK (Slovakia) asked why PDGA HQ wants to outsource the National Tour. BG responded that it was not decided yet. But PDGA has many roles and responsibilities, running the PDGA National Tour is not necessarily a priority. They can focus and put more effort to other activities, including strengthening PDGA owned World Championships and make it a more elite event as in other sports.

PDGA International Program Report (BH) 10 mins

- Europe is setting the pace in the growth of members and events
- in 2015 big increase in media coverage in both USA and internationally
- 2015 a year when the sport really became a critical mass
- currently 30 PDGA affiliated countries
- visions: restructuring of PDGA and PDGA Europe
- signing of MoU, important for national associations, and for PDGA. 1 of several steps in strengthening and formalizing PDGA Europe and relations between and among PDGA and the countries

2015 EuroTour review and 2016 ET planning (HN) 30 mins

- HN outlines ET growth compared to previous years, almost all tournaments were full
- pre-summer - mostly PROs, post summer - only 40% PROs (indication of a problem)
- all events have paid all the fees
- money details - bonus payouts. All events paid their dues, 5585 EUR total in; 3000 EUR bonus payout
- some delay of trophies and payouts due to lack of time
- 2016 - 8 events submitted (3 A-tier, 5 B-tier)
- there was a website discussion about how many ET events should run in 2016 with 4-5 seems to be the choice and counting all but one
- there was a long discussion about the ET among teleconference participants
- Vote of CC to determine the number of ET events in 2016: 1st round: 3 votes for 8 events, 5 votes for 6 events, 5 votes for 4 events, 2nd round: 8 votes for 6 events and 5 votes for 4 event, 1 CC abstain. Result: 6 ET events in 2016
- Vote of CC to determine the number of events to be counted for players: 10 votes for 4, 1 vote for 3. Result: the best 4 ET events will count for each player to determine his/her ranking in ET 2016.
- Vote of CC to determine the type of divisions included in ET 2016: 2 votes for PRO/AM and the rest (more than 8) for PRO + MJ1. Result: ET 2016 will run only PRO divisions with the exception of MJ1.I
- Vote of CC to determine the particular divisions included in ET 2016: all votes for 5 divisions: MPO, MPM, FPO, MPG, MJ1. Result: These 5 divisions will run in ET 2016.
- There was a short discussion whether to impose a minimum number of participants in a division for the tournament to count into ET 2016 series with conclusion that no limit will be imposed as it is against the rules of ET. Modification of the rules should be discussed at other time.
- There was a discussion whether A-tier and B- tier should award more points in 2016 with no conclusion. This will be a survey question put to the CCs on line soon.
- ET Subcommittee will prepare the suggestion for the ET 2016 schedule by Oct 28, 2015 based on the submitted bids.
- Subcommittee members: Haukur Arnason (ISL), Tapani Aulu (FIN), Peter Buijsrogge (NL), Darius Gricius (LIT), Brian Hoeniger (PDGA), Martin Jenny (CH), Richard Kollar (SK), Hans Nagtegaal (PDGA), Bernd Wender (A).
- SC will also prepare the proposal for PDGA Europe committee members vote on the framework for ET or alternative competition format in 2017 and beyond.
- BH suggested that the SC should change its name after Jan 1, 2016 to European Competition SC due to its new role. This question will be put to the participants in a website vote.
- BH suggested SC to consider a possible sponsorship, will inform the SC soon
- BH suggested that EDGF should consider launching the European Amateur Championships (given ET and ES will only offer Pro divisions and MJ1) as a larger scale event aimed at promoting/supporting Europe's growing numbers of Am players

DGWT and ET (HN) 10 mins

- DGWT offered PDGA Europe that if ET 2016 will have 4 tournaments, the MPO winners would earn a direct spot in DGWT but since ET 2016 will not meet the required number of events, no agreement was made
- And as no agreement has been made between PDGA Europe and DGWT, there is no collaboration between those 2 parties for 2016, other than potentially MPO top finishers earning points for DGWT.

2016 EDGC and EDGF (TA) 20 mins

- all preparation go ahead, the tournament will be organized by Spin18 and local clubs
- PDGA Europe part should be to determine the spot allocations for participating nations
- the roles of EDGF and PDGA Europe are unclear - many misunderstanding and miscommunications, Paul Francz drafted some event rules, overall the role of PDGA Europe was/is very unclear so far.
- there will be a joint proposal of EDGF and PDGA Europe EDGF SC that will be sent out soon to PDGA Europe members. It establishes existence of the EDGC Advisory Committee that will then draft and approve Rules and Regulations.
- FH points out that the EDGC SC was not involved at all so far. Particular issues are: divisions at EDGC (an inclusion of FJ1 and FPM) and spot allocations.
- TA informed that nothing was decided yet but it needs to be done soon.
- BW suggested that the EDGC SC should have a teleconference meeting
- There may be a problem with spot allocations (Russia's number increased very recently, etc.). FH explained the idea behind fixing the date (at which the number of active PDGA members was evaluated) for deciding spot allocations. No previous advice was given to the countries, so no statistical tricks could be used to increase the number of spots. On the other hand some NA could miss some membership.
- FH suggested that the role of EDGF in the whole process of organizing EDGC will be discussed in more detail over the next year, in the meantime EDGC 2016 needs to be prepared.

2016 PDGA International Program Guide Review (BH) 20 mins

- the membership and events registration processes will remain the same for 2016 as in 2015, batching process (as Finland) will continue to be available

European PDGA Disc Golf Series (RK)

- RK commented on the EDGS proposal shared with PDGA Europe members before the teleconference and responded to comments of PDGA Europe members.
- RK agreed with BH that some changes in organization of regions would be plausible, given the PDGA membership data (Sweden should have its own region, specific others could be adjusted to DEN+NOR+ISL and GER+ BEL+ NL).
- RK emphasized the role of women in competition. He provided the data that show that multiple regions have more than 16 competitive FPOs, but agreed that some regions will have trouble to fill in 8 competitive FPOs. He pointed out that the regional rules used in pilot Central European DG Championships 2016 allow to reallocate spots from one division to another one if the particular division cannot fill in all its spots. That way regional rounds could have a variable number of participating FPOs but the long-term goal should be the strong development of FPOs in all regions as it may be very useful to include females to achieve a bigger overall growth.
- RK also pointed out that the proposed series are not a competition for 2nd or 3rd tier players but for the best players from all the regions of Europe. For a steady overall regional development across whole Europe such events are very important.
- The best players MPO players from FIN/SWE/GER will be attracted as well, for the following reasons: selective events, fits into the schedule, very little time commitment for the best players, best FPOs and MJ1 participate at the final event, bigger payout, possible extra motivation by national governing associations, and finally possible media coverage.
- FH expressed an objection that new events create more financial and time constraints for the players. RK opposed that it is not true as for the best national/regional players the only tournament added is the regional championships that for the most regions requires only a short travel within a region and also provides the highlight of the season for these players. For the best European MPOs it is only one added tournament that is competitive and prestigious and can replace, say one of the planned ET events in post-season.
- BH expressed strong support for the idea of EDGS.
- The time plan suggested by RK in the proposal was modified as the agenda of the European competitions in 2017 will be discussed within the ET committee. This modification only imposes a small delay of the original time plan.

Europe disciplinary sub-Committee update (FH) 5 mins

- FH reported that there are three active cases and it is very difficult to get all 6 members of SC to vote and discuss them.
- It is unclear how to proceed if only 3 out of 6 members participating.
- BG suggested to change procedural rules of the SC to proceed, FH agrees that it is probably the only way
- BH points out a procedural rule recently introduced by PDGA for removal of SC members

Evolution of PDGA Europe, increasing forum participation (BH, HN) 10 mins

- At the Teleconference a year ago the role of PDGA Europe was discussed
- PDGA Europe has no legal status, it is also unclear what is its mandate, although some clarification will be introduced through MoUs.
- PDGA (Global) is examining the creation of continental arms in the future as a part of restructuring. These "branches" would run PDGA business in Europe, although the details are not clear. It would be very financially viable for PDGA at least to some extent to move its European business to Europe.
- HN informed that PDGA Europe can easily be registered as a not for profit in Netherland.
- LF (Czech Republic) suggested that PDGA Europe should be a player members organization rather than one not based on National Associations. RK added that PDGA Europe as a player's association would potentially be a very powerful body.
- After a lengthy discussion it was decided that BG, BH and HN will prepare one page summary describing the potential roles of PDGA Europe in the future and then CC will vote on whether they are interested to move on or not. Based on their response PDGA HQ will decide whether or not to proceed with the restructure plan now or will wait with it for the future.

Other Topics

- HN - mentioned the problem with grouping at ET events. FH remarked that DG is a sport not a social event. BDH and HN will draft a survey question for the CCs to vote on regarding how grouping at ET events is determined
- BH pointed out that the MoU refers to grouping being 1 of the sections of the Competition Manual where the CM applies to all countries. Any event can apply for a waiver of this standard to the tour manager. Furthermore, countries determine how their national/local events are run. Maybe it would be best to survey the countries on this so that we have a definitive consensus. If the countries say "no regulation" at national/local events then we have the answer.
- Volunteer of the year, profiles of candidates will be prepared by BH soon, CC will vote. Multiple CC pointed out that it is very valuable to award volunteers, also important for PR.

Minutes recorded by: Richard Kollar (SK)

Official review: Brian Hoeniger (PDGA), Hans Nagtegaal (PDGA).