

29 August 2025

Dear friends and colleagues:

The World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) is deeply saddened to announce the passing of its Secretary General, Volker Bernardi, at the age of 56 after a sudden, short illness. We thank all those who have previously offered their condolences.

Volker joined WFDF in 2011 as its first full-time operating executive and served in this role with dedication and integrity for more than 14 years. During this period, he was instrumental in guiding the federation through a period of significant growth and professionalization. His leadership helped shape WFDF's governance structures, anti-doping programs, and global development efforts, while strengthening WFDF's relationships with the broader international sports community. Under Volker's leadership, WFDF was recognized by the International Olympic Committee and increased its national membership from 52 to 118 countries.

Educated as a sports lawyer, Volker brought more than 25 years of experience as an international sports administrator to WFDF. He previously held senior roles with the International Canoe Federation and the German Squash Federation and served as a consultant across multiple Olympic Movement organizations. His expertise and steady hand ensured that WFDF established itself as a respected voice within international sport.

Beyond his role at WFDF, Volker was also elected to the Executive Committee of the International World Games Association (IWGA) in 2018, where he was serving his second term. His contributions to The World Games movement reflected his lifelong commitment to advancing sport and its values on the global stage.

Volker was not only a trusted colleague and a driving force in the professionalization of WFDF, but also a dear friend to so many of us, with a wry humor. His deep knowledge, wise counsel, and unwavering commitment to integrity in sport left a lasting mark on our federation and the global sports community. His absence will be felt profoundly, but his legacy will continue to guide our work.

The WFDF community, players, organizers, officials, partners, and friends across the Olympic Movement, join in mourning Volker's passing. His vision and contributions have left an indelible legacy, not only within WFDF but across the international sporting community.

WFDF extends its deepest sympathy to Volker's family and loved ones. Volker leaves behind his wife Silke and teenage daughters Lucy and Jessy, and, in response to many who have asked how to support them, a memorial fund has been set up to help his family during this difficult time: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-volker-bernardi-family-in-his-memory>. Any contribution, no matter the size, is a way to honor Volker's legacy and stand in solidarity with his family.

We at WFDF will honor his memory by continuing the work he championed: growing the sport of flying disc and upholding the values of fairness, inclusivity, and the Spirit of the Game.

With deepest appreciation,



Robert "Nob" Rauch
WFDF President