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**COMM 203: Press Conference Report**

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The diversity of the Olympic Games continues to grow as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) accepts the World Flying Disc Federation’s (WFDF) request to include Ultimate Frisbee in the 2028 tournament. WFDF President John L. Curry announced the news during a press conference held on Thursday, February 24th at EagleBank Arena.

Due to the objective of the game, Ultimate doesn’t have to undergo much altering to fit the Olympics’ standards. Ultimate shares a similar goal with other Olympic field sports like field hockey, soccer, water polo, and handball: two teams compete to score in the opposing team’s end zone. However, Curry mentioned that there may need to be some “impartial oversight” added to align with Olympic expectations.

This adjustment comes in light of Ultimate’s core values, often referred to as the “Spirit of the Game.” According to the WFDF website, Ultimate prioritizes fair play and sportsmanship. There is no intentional fouling, no dissing competitors, and no reckless play. What really sets Ultimate apart is that teams self-regulate — there are no referees or umpires on the field.

Another reporter brought up the street sport aspect of Ultimate, referencing the success of sports like skateboarding in the 2021 Olympics. Curry responded with hope that Ultimate would follow in those footsteps, especially with breakdancing being added to the Paris 2024 Games.

There was a lot of excitement around the idea that Ultimate could break new ground. Curry shared WFDF’s belief that Ultimate is also built for visual competition. “We want this to be a

televised event... the games that aren't easy to cover visually don't get that much coverage," he said. The sport already has a strong global presence — next year, major tournaments will be hosted in Ireland, Croatia, and the Dominican Republic. Curry noted that the sport is popular not just in the United States, but in nearly 100 countries worldwide.

Throughout the conference, Curry emphasized Ultimate's potential to become the first "truly" coed sport in the Olympics. Current rules state that Ultimate is a seven-person game where only five players can be of the same gender. When reporters challenged this by pointing out that the Winter Olympics already includes coed sports, Curry stood firm — clarifying that Ultimate would be the first coed sport for the Summer Olympics.

Curry also spoke to the accessibility of Ultimate and the value of including more street sports in the Games. "But what I think Ultimate's greatest strength is that it is what I like to call a 'street sport.' This is a sport that everyday people actually play." He pointed out how affordable it is to buy a disc or train for Ultimate compared to more resource-heavy sports like water polo. He believes this kind of inclusion can help change the culture of both the Olympics and WFDF.

"Ultimate has the opportunity to change the WFDF and the Olympics."