

**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**Word Game Players' Organization**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Eastern. Board members present:

Laurie Cohen, President  
Bennett Jacobstein, Vice President  
Jan Cardia, Treasurer  
Tina Yates, Secretary  
Josh Greenway  
Peter Schwartzman  
Shan Abbasi

Board members absent: (none). A quorum was present.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the April 2026 Board Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

**Tournament Scheduling and New Orleans Event**

The Board discussed the cancellation of the New Orleans tournament due to scheduling conflicts involving other events on the calendar. The Board also discussed an appropriate response to the tournament organizers and expressed support for future collaboration.

**Board Process and Tournament Funding Procedures**

The Board discussed broader decision-making processes relating to tournament support and scheduling matters. The Board also discussed the need to formalize tournament funding criteria and procedures. Further work on this issue will continue.

**Awards and Recognition**

The Board discussed the process for selecting the Steve Pellinen Award recipient for the Word Cup. It was agreed that Board members will bring nominations to the next meeting so that a recipient may be selected in time for the event. The Board also discussed the possible development of an annual awards process and a potential Hall of Fame initiative. Further exploration of those topics will continue.

**Conduct Matter**

The Board received an update regarding an ongoing conduct-related matter. The discussion included prior communications and the status of related concerns. No formal action was taken at this time.

**Donation Review**

The Board discussed a recent donation made through a foundation affiliated with an individual whose comments had raised concern. The discussion included whether acceptance of the

donation would be appropriate under the circumstances and the absence of a formal policy to guide such decisions. After discussion, the Board voted to accept the donation. Board members also expressed concern regarding the underlying comments and noted the importance of developing clearer guidance for similar issues in the future.

### **Tournament Fees**

The Board discussed tournament fee structures, including whether processing fees should apply to early bird pricing. Different approaches were considered, including simplicity for participants and the need to cover transaction-related costs. No final change was made at this time, and the matter will be reviewed further in light of fee revenue and cost information.

### **Referendum Procedures**

The Board discussed procedures for placing referendum questions on a future ballot. The discussion included the level of Board approval required before such a matter may proceed.

### **Future Tournament Proposal**

The Board discussed a proposal for a possible future WGPO tournament to be held on MLK Day weekend. The discussion included possible geographic and scheduling considerations, as well as the relationship of such an event to existing tournament plans. The matter will be discussed further at a future meeting.

### **2027 Word Cup Planning**

The Board discussed options for the 2027 Word Cup, including possible location, structure, entry-fee models, and prize considerations. A proposal was presented for further review, and the Board discussed possible messaging, affordability, and attendance implications. The Board agreed that additional discussion and refinement would be helpful before any final decision is made.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern (via Zoom).

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m. Eastern.