



FIL General Assembly July 2016

FIL Quorum at General Assemblies / Postal Voting

When the Federation was set up in 2008 the Quorum for General Assemblies, documented in the Constitution, was set at 50% plus 1 of the eligible voting members.

Those entitled to vote are:

- Full Members (one vote per Full Member) in good standing.
- Board Members (except the Chair [most likely the President] who will have a casting vote in the event of a tie).

At the time of agreeing this, in 2008, the number of members was:

Full Members	25
Associate Members	8
Total	33

The number of members now is:

Full Members	30
Associate Members	24
Total	54

With the increase in numbers of members coupled with the desire to hold the General Assemblies (GA's) in different parts of the world, in member locations usually in association with a major event, the logistics of all members being able to attend becomes more problematic. This is due mainly to a combination of time and financial constraints.

The proposal to hold GAs on an annual basis might allow more people to attend however the Board is of the view that the quorum needs to be reduced.

The Board proposal is that the quorum should be “one third of the Full Members plus 1”

So with currently 30 Full Members this would need an attendance of 11 to constitute a quorum, rather than the current requirement for 16.



Postal Voting

If the proposal to move to having GA's annually is accepted the need for postal voting should diminish however the matter of the required number of postal votes received for a result to be valid still needs to be addressed.

If the Board proposal for a revision to the quorum is accepted then the Board would propose a change to the numbers of responses required for a postal vote to be valid.

Currently 50% plus 1 of Full Member responses (16) is required for a vote to be valid. It is always a struggle to achieve this number with multiple requests being made for responses.

The proposed response level needed for a postal vote to be valid is “one third of the Full Members plus 1”

For clarity this means that, with the current number of Full Members, a motion requiring a simple majority could be passed with 11 votes returned and 6 in favor. For a motion requiring a 2/3 majority with 11 votes returned it would require 8 votes in favor.

For clarity it should be noted that while Board Members are entitled to vote they do not count in determining a quorum at either a GA or in respect of a postal vote.

Ron Balls
FIL Board
3rd May 2016