



FIL General Assembly July 2016

FIL General Assemblies

The Unification Committee which was charged with presenting proposals for the merger of the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) and the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF) with three representatives from each body and subsequently the Transition Board (Unification Committee plus a further nominee from each of IFWLA and the ILF) recommended that the FIL General Assembly (replacing the previous Annual General Meetings of both bodies) would be held every two years.

The prime motivation for this recommendation, which was accepted by the membership at the time (August 2008), was to reduce the costs for the members. Two meetings per year, (IFWLA and ILF) often with different people replaced by one meeting every two years and an expectation of the member Delegate and Observer covering both the men's and the women's games. Additionally officers of FIL would be elected for four year periods and so the need for a meeting on an annual basis for elections was removed.

The initial thinking was that the General Assembly (GA) would be held in the year of a men's Senior World Championship in that this attracted the greatest number of participants (of any of our five championships) and consequently the highest expected attendance at a GA at a lowest cost (NGB attendees expected to be at the World Championship supporting their teams) for members.

The reality is that this arrangement has suffered from some drawbacks including:

- a) With Sector meetings being held at Women's events the cost saving is reduced from that intended.
- b) Sector meetings do not necessarily have a good representation or necessarily the correct representation
- c) The timing of GA's (in even years) presents difficulties in moving forward effectively with changes to Women's Rules
- d) The timing of GA's (in even years) presents difficulties with in moving forward effectively with changes to Men's Competition Bylaws
- e) A suggested solution to c) and d) of moving these responsibilities to Sector meetings introduces division and goes against the original concept of the unified organization.



- f) Having the GA's in even years (co-incident with men's events) has attracted some criticism primarily from those predominantly involved in the Women's game.

A possible solution to the above would be to holding a General Assembly every year.

This would give greater flexibility in terms of the timing of matters to be discussed / agreed at GA's and obviate some of the drawbacks outlined above.

If restructure proposals are agreed at the GA this year then this would have the advantage of being able to seek nominations for any new / revised positions and elections to take place in 2017.

The Board proposes this to the 2016 GA to consider.

If this proposal is accepted then the next GA would be held in Guildford, England in association with the 2017 Women's World Cup.

The location would be Surrey Sports Park / Surrey University on Monday 10th July and Tuesday 11th July 2017.

Ron Balls
FIL Board
30th April 2016