



**Minutes of the FIL General Assembly
July 4th and 5th, 2016
Grand Villa Hotel
4331 Dominion Street, Burnaby, BC, V5G 1C7 Canada**

Attendees and apologies are listed in the Appendix to these Minutes

DAY 1, July 4th, 2016

1. President's Opening Remarks, Stan Cockerton – Opening remarks: declared that the meeting was quorate, and thanked members in attendance, board members for dedication and continued efforts and to celebrate the success of the growth of the FIL to 54 members. Haiti will shortly become the 55th member. Over the next couple of years the FIL will work with the Bahamas, Georgia, Greece, Puerto Rico, India, Qatar and others to develop and to help them become members. SC each of the member countries and other attendees to introduce themselves: Australia, Canada, China, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Iroquois/Haudenosaunee, Israel, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Scotland, Taiwan, USA, European Lacrosse Federation, FIL rules committee members, FIL development committee members.

Motion to accept the two day agenda as presented and recognizing the meeting as being quorate – **PASSED with no dissenting votes.**

2. Minutes of the last General Assembly

Motion to accept minutes of GA, July 2014 – **PASSED unanimously.**

3. U19 Coquitlam, Tournament Director Cliff Pascas – At present everything was going as planned. The game fields are in good condition, credentials have been issued with VIP access/parking/seating. There will be a VIP hospitality tent for the continuation of the tournament with beverages and food throughout the day. He explained a brief overview of what was going to occur during the opening ceremonies.

4. Finance Director, Ron Balls

RB presented the 2014-2015 Finance Report for approval covering:

Audit Report 2014 and 2015
Income and Expenditure for 2014 and 2014
Significant Debtors
Finland – payment plan in place

Turkey – ongoing discussions

Thailand – WC2014 Participation Fee and 2016 Subscription outstanding, and noting the non-payment that Thailand Lacrosse had unfortunately had to be placed in the “not in good standing category” and consequently not entitled to attend the GA.

Actuals v Budget

EC16 Pass Through payments (taking advantage of the not for profit status of FIL)

Motion to accept the Finance Report – **PASSED unanimously**

Motion to accept CPA *Joe Sciacca* to continue as the FIL auditor – **PASSED unanimously.**

5. Olympic Recognition

Ron Balls - Presented an overview and update on the vision of Olympic recognition covering:

- Background on the process with insight on the IOC, and our affiliation as a member of Sport Accord and the restructuring of that organization. Our affiliations and involvement with AIMS and IWGA.
- FIL is presently in the process of completing the lengthy application (due at the end of August, 2016) for acceptance as “Recognition” by the IOC.
- Insight on the sports that we are in competition with in respect of recognition by the IOC.

Olympic Vision Committee (OVC)

Development Director, Tom Hayes - Presented an overview of the Olympic Vision Committee.

- Members selected to help facilitate vision in different areas of expertise. Example; media, communication, development, marketing and fundraising, etc.
- A budget report was comprised to help determine an estimated startup budget for the OVC, going forward to making our vision of becoming an Olympic sport a reality, with a target date of 2024.

6. Development Report

Development Chair, Bob DeMarco – Presented the Development report.

Special thanks to *Kevin Dugan, Rick Mercurio, Joanna Liganelli, and Joe Gold* for their efforts and commitment to the development committee.

- Developmental Clinics: 2012-Russia, 2013-China, 2014-No clinics/Denver, World Championship, 2015-Copa de America, Mexico City (Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Costa Rica), 2015-Taiwan, 2016- Croatia.
- Continued development by Kevin Dugan in Kenya, Uganda, Jamaica and Haiti.
- Special note that Mexico, China, and Taiwan, had U19 teams competing in the U19 World Championship this year in Coquitlam.
- Several countries are in the process of developing lacrosse and are in communication with Bob DeMarco, including; Greece, Georgia, India, Qatar, Malaysia, Singapore, Haiti, Kenya, Bahamas.
- The FIL has recently set aside a budget to include a provision for educational support to members (August 2015). The FIL funded two delegates from Taiwan to attend then US National Lacrosse convention in Baltimore, Md, USA in January 2016 to attend educational sessions presented by professional coaches.

Development Officer, Joe Gold – Presented the equipment grant report.

- 2014 – Kenya; outreach grant. Jamaica; full men’s and women’s
- 2015 – Taiwan, Malaysia; full men’s and women’s. Haiti; 15 men’s sticks.

- 2016 – Bahamas, Philippines; full men’s and women’s. Croatia; men’s full grant. Kenya, 30 helmets. Russia; women’s 30 helmets. China; 46 helmets.

*A men’s full grant – 20 sticks, 10 helmets, protective gear and 24 balls.

*A women’s full grant – 20 sticks, 1 helmet, 24 balls.

* Joe’s and the FIL’s relationship with STX has been ongoing. Through the generosity of STX, the equipment has been purchased at a greatly reduced price. Then STX boxes shipment and Joe uses “Main Freight Delivery”, which greatly expedites the shipping and customs process.

FIL Development, Rick Mercurio – Presented a brief explanation of the process of coordinating and presenting a developmental clinic.

- Weeks of communications with the country’s coordinators in an effort to plan and facilitate the needs and desired outcomes of the clinic.
- In general the staff includes an indoor presentation and a minimum of two full on the field day clinics.
- Included in the clinics are skills (individual, positional and team). Team offense and defense. Understanding of game situations including transitional and positional specific situations.
- A strong emphasis is on how to teach the players themselves to be able coach others.
- A strong emphasis is to motivate the players to recruit and teach younger players. It is not about developing a National team to compete at the international level. It is about developing a strong program and continuing the growth of the sport in their country.

The need for the Regional Federations to be kept advised of activities in their respective regions was noted

7. Haiti Membership

Stan Cockerton –

Motion to waive the 30 day notice to vote on approval of Haiti on becoming a member – **PASSED unanimously.**

Motion to approve Haiti as the 55th member of the FIL – **PASSED unanimously.**

8. Men’s Sector

Men’s Sector, Terry Harding- Presentation of report sent out prior. No questions as presented.

9. Women’s Sector

Shelly Maher presented the distributed report

10. Board Structure

Ron Balls – Presented Board structure proposals.

The following were **PASSED** with 15 votes in favour and one against:

- The Board would be increased from 6 member to 8
- Additional positions of OVC Chair and Legal Counsel would be Board appointed (rather than elected).
- OVC would be a separate committee of FIL rather than being part of the Development Committee remit.
- Secretary General role to be established (in line with other International Federations) and also cover the Finance Director role
- The Board would move to functional rather than gender based with the Men’s and Women’s Director roles being replaced by a Competition Director and a Technical Director.

- Medical Officer to be appointed and attend the Board meetings as needed.

The Board was authorized to move forward with the changes, undertaking those possible in the short term, and preparing job descriptions for the new position with the intent of holding elections for relevant positions at the GA in 2017.

Engagement of staff

The **motion** was put that: Subject to funding being available an Executive Director would be appointed from early 2017 (Board attendee but no vote). This was **passed** with 16 votes in favour and 1 against.

11 General Assembly Frequency

Proposal to hold GA meetings from every two years to annually. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED** with one **dissenting vote**.

GA meeting in Guilford, England either July 10th-11th 2017 or at the end of the event, Board to consider and advise.

12. Proposed Changes - Principles

Proposal for **GA quorum** from “50% plus 1” eligible voting member (eligible voting members are full members and 5 board members) to “1/3 plus 1” full members. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED unanimously**.

Proposal for **Postal Vote** to be valid, a response of “1/3 plus 1” of the full members. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED unanimously**.

Membership Appeals and FIL Dispute procedures:

Proposal to modify Section 10 of the Constitution to provide clarity between; a) disputes between members (revised Section 10) b) disputes between a member and the FIL Board. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED unanimously**

Proposal to increase the fee for an appeal from \$100 to \$250. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED unanimously**.

Proposal that decisions by the Board that follow or enforce the FIL Constitution, By Laws, Policies and Rules of the respective games of lacrosse currently in place shall not be eligible for appeal either to the Board or the membership. **Motion** to accept **passed** with one dissenting vote.

Membership rights and Obligations:

The Board proposal that an additional Appendix is added to the FIL Bylaws covering member rights and obligations be accepted as amended, (to reword to Member Rights, Obligations and Expectations). **Motion** to accept – **PASSED unanimously**.

FIL Bylaws:

Proposal to accept all other changes to the By Laws as presented. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED** without dissent

FIL Constitution:

Proposal to accept changes to the Constitution as presented. **Motion** accepted – **PASSED** without dissent.

Athletes Commission:

Proposal to accept as presented. **Motion** accepted – **PASSED unanimously**.

Code of Ethics:

Proposal to accept as presented. **Motion** accepted – **PASSED unanimously**.

13. Policies

Withdrawal Policy:

Motion to vote on Withdrawal Policy by a closed ballot. **PASSED**.

Proposal to accept as presented. **Motion** accepted – **PASSED** (14 For – 5 Against).

Forfeiture Policy:

Motion to vote on Forfeiture Policy by a closed ballot. **PASSED**.

Proposal to accept as presented. **Motion** accepted – **PASSED** (15 For – 4 Against).

The Board was asked to consider the “resetting of the counter (number of forfeits)” at the end of each four year cycles of events”

Motion to destroy closed ballots. **PASSED** without dissent.

14 Rule change proposals

Terry Harding, Director of Men’s Lacrosse – Presentation of 2016 Men’s Rule Change proposals.

As the meeting did not have a quorum for Men’s Rule change proposals, a discussion took place and all changes would be subject to a postal vote.

Key points:

- Israel raised two points (reduction in quarter times and if score differential 10 goals or more then no face off giving possession to the team conceding the goal). This had been raised previously and had not been supported by the Rules Committee. It did not gain support from the meeting.
- IN queried wooden sticks not being permitted in the Indoor Rules. Rules Committee to consider
- AR17 to be deleted. Agreed
- 38.1 superfluous wording, “counts as one point”. A goal is a goal. Agreed
- Discussion on officials socks descriptions. Rules Committee to determine appropriate wording

Wheelchair Rules –

- Played in USA and some areas in Canada. *Eric Randolph* helped to write the FIL Wheelchair rules. Similar to the USA rules.

The President advised that the rules proposals would be sent out for approval by postal vote.

Men’s Indoor Rules:

Proposal to accept as presented. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED within the Sector vote** with the Rules Committee to review the position regarding wooden sticks. .

DAY 2, July 4th, 2016

Stan Cockerton – Welcomed all to the resumed meeting

1. Rules

Terry Harding - *Men's Indoor Rules*:

Further to the consideration of the Rules on 3rd July THa proposed to table clarifications on rules 8D, 7.1, 7.1.2. These will be considered and the rewrite sent out for 30 day review and postal vote.

Shelly Maher – *Director of Women's Lacrosse*.

Women's Rules: Online rule book is available to reflect any changes to print.

Emphasis on clarification of Rule Guidance 25.D, 25.D.c; legality of sticks in response to manufacturer's specification.

2. World Games Wroclaw Poland July 2017

Shelley Maher / Beth Stone advised:

Schedule submitted to IWGA for approval.

Squad sizes 15 players and originally one coach. Requested additions to staff, approved by the IWGA with the additional cost to be paid for by the team's NGBs.

Games will be 10 a side and modified rules prepared

Japan advised that they may not be able to send their best team due to conflicts with employment, scheduling of exams and proximity of the Women's World Cup.

Tom Hayes – provided some *background of Women's Lacrosse being included into the World Games*:

- The FIL submitted for both men's and women's teams to be included in the World Games. IWGA accepted the women.
- It is the first multi-sport event that lacrosse has participated in.
- It plays a major importance in our progression towards becoming an Olympic sport.
- Our inclusion in the IWGA games hopefully will be short term. When recognised by the IOC and included in the Olympic Games lacrosse would not participate in the World Games.
- After 2017 the next World Games are in 2021 in Birmingham, Alabama, USA. Need to continue to move forward in preparation for that event.
- As a first time sport, we have to show some flexibility, while at the same time we must advocate inclusion of the men's game in the 2021 World games.

3. Review of World Events

SM - *Women's U19 World Championship*

Special thanks to *Lorna Powell* - Event Coordinator, Scotland.

- Outstanding and competitive event.
- Closest games since U19 World Championship inception.

Note: FIL board assessed some actions/sanctions on Israel for forfeiture of a game.

RB – World Championship 2014 (Senior Men):

Special thanks to US Lacrosse and their entire staff for coordinating this outstanding event. Especially dealing with several weather and time related issues.

- 38 teams, 9 first time in the event, 10 associate members, 859 athletes, approximately 400 staff.
- 142 games, 141 completed
- Issues – accreditation of bench staff, shooter warm up, national flag only allowance, medal allocation.
- Eligibility infraction issues with France and Thailand
 - France – ineligible player, the Board action has been to relegate France to 37th position (second last) in the WC2014 rankings
 - Thailand – concerns over the eligibility (national passport holding) of up to 8 players, documentation not able to be provided. Board action has been to relegate Thailand to 38th position (last) in the WC2014 rankings

Men’s World Indoor Championship 2015:

Special thanks to Event Director, *Scott Neiss*.

- Outstanding hospitality from the Onondaga Nation.
- Introduction of the “Blue Division” for top ranked teams.
- Increased from 8 (7 competitive plus 1 exhibition) teams in 2011 to 13 teams.
- Finland, Germany, Israel, Serbia, Switzerland, and Turkey – first time in Indoor World Championship.

4. Future ChampionshipsMark Coups – ELA Chief ExecutiveWomen’s World Cup, Guildford England July 2017

Presentation of overview of status of Women’s World Cup:

- Very pleased with preparation to date.
- MLS Management Company planning all aspects of tournament.
- Up to 30 teams may compete. 27/28 committed.
- Up to 70 festival teams
- 2000 seat stadium/Surrey sports Park.
- 3 artificial pitches, 7 grass.
- Looking to open the event with a member of the Royal Family.
- Working through transportation issues with Sweet Chariot as the Official Tour Operator.
- Contracted several event partners and suppliers.

Men’s World Championship, Manchester, England, July 2018

Presentation and Event update.

- Up to 50 National teams, 70 Festival teams.
- 2 artificial pitches, 18 grass, 1 grass lighted stadium, 1 artificial lighted field.
- Changes and development in the progress to the existing venue at Hough End and Broughton Park. (Presents a slight risk factor with local regulations and politics, but not anticipating a big problem).
- Contracted several event partners and suppliers.

U19 Women’s Championship 2019

SM presented

- Trent University and Fleming University - Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.
- Canada has been awarded the bid to host the event
- Further details will be released as they become available.

Future Event dates and bid schedule:

RB advised

- 2019 World Indoor – Langley, BC, Canada 19th – 28th September 2019.
- 2020 Men’s World U19 – Limerick, Ireland. 9th – 18th July 2020
 - First FIL event hosted by Ireland.

RB presented the Bid Schedule for future events

Noted that showing dates of current planned events on the document was of value

The need to consider the size of events going forward was highlighted and previous advice to members had been that WC2018 would be the last all-inclusive event

A Motion to schedule discussions/workshop on this issue at GA 2017. ½ day agenda. **PASSED.**

5. Strategic Plan

Steve Stenersen – Vice President. - *Presented an overview of the FIL Strategic Plan:*

- 5 key strategic goals. Refer to www.filacrosse.com , Meeting and Reports.
- All documents for GA related info can be found on the FIL web site.
- Always looking for recommendations on how to better communicate with our membership. There remain concerns with limitation of funds, resources, etc.

6. Women’s Officiating

S M – Women’s officiating:

- Proposal to accept Women’s Sector Off field Officials Policy subject to the clarifications noted below. **Motion to accept – PASSED unanimously**
- Proposal to accept motion to approve Women’s Sector International Officials’ Accreditation Policy with removal of any reference to men’s assessment. **Motion to accept – PASSED unanimously.**

S M and Steve Taylor (Women’s Officiating Committee Chair) – Will make clarifications of wording on policies on assessments, rules and responsibilities including guidelines on alcohol and tobacco consumption as well as the use of social media.

7. Competition

Event Hosting / Officiating costs

RB - *Presentation of Host and Officiating costs:*

Discussion on the proposals centered on:

- The need to reduce the Officials cost burden on event hosts
- The need for the Officials to contribute
- Concerns over added costs on participant teams
- The need for a small added contribution (to the team shared costs for Officials) from those members not providing Officials for an event

- Member NGBs in some instances may pay the Officials contribution rather than the Officials themselves (member decision)
- The Board proposal to harmonize the costing arrangements for Men's /Women's Officials was not moving fast enough.
- It was proposed that the cost of women's and men's officials should be the same and that the costs should be incurred by the Officials and / or their NGB and not by placing additional costs on teams (other than the premium for those not providing Officials) by 2021. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED** without dissent

Women's Player Eligibility Criteria

S M – **Motion** to approve the Women's Player Eligibility Criteria. – **PASSED unanimously.**

Women's Event Bylaws

Proposal to accept the women's sector bylaws as amended below. **Motion** to accept – **PASSED** without dissent.

- 2.14.5 – no change
- 2.14.6 – no change
- 2.4.5 – removed noncompliance clause
- 2.7.10 – The final schedule will be ratified by the Women's Sector Chairs and Women's Director and circulated as follows: First/top pool – 1 July in the year prior the event, Remainder of the pools - 1 January in the year of the event.

8. Anti-Doping / WADA Updates

T Ha - Presentation.

- FIL anti-doping rules in compliance with WADA rules.
- 2017 team whereabouts information to be submitted as per guidelines to be issued.
- Test specific results and standards.
- Education – FIL web site (WADA page), WADA web site, National Anti-Doping web site.

9. Web site / Social Media

SM:

- Suggestions to improve the FIL web site will be carefully reviewed.
- Members are encouraged to check out the web site and inform of any updates or correction of information, especially the NGB contact information.
- Tim Morgan is very responsive to corrections on the FIL web site.

10. Board Member Elections

RB Proposed that, noting the Restructuring of the Board, the Board members stay as is until next year (2017).

The Board positions due for election this year being:

President

Women's Director

Development Director

Given that the membership agreed to hold a General Assembly in 2017 the Board recommended that elections for the above be deferred for one year and the existing post holders continue until July 2017.

The reasons for asking the membership to agree this are that there are a number of significant actions over the immediate future including:

- IOC Recognition application

- OVC to be fully functional with a business plan in place

- World Games 2017

- Committee restructure

- Executive Director employment

Motion to accept – **PASSED unanimously.**

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chair

RM/RB September 2016

FIL General Assembly July 4th and 5th 2016

Attendance

FIL Board

Stan Cockerton (SC)	President
Steve Stenersen (SS)	Vice President
Ron Balls (RB)	Finance / Men's Competition
Shelley Maher (SM)	Women's Director
Terry Harding (THa)	Men's Director

Members

Australia	Mike Slattery, Paul Mollison, Dennis Mulroney
Canada	Stu Aird
China	Raymond Pan
England	Mark Coups
Germany	Andreas Rosstrand
Haudenosaunee	Denise Waterman, Ansley Jemison, Gewas Schindler
Hong Kong	Albert Lai
Ireland	John Cavanaugh, James Hoban
Israel	Bill Beroza, Scott Neiss
Japan	Tak Takasaka, Naoko Takeba
Korea	Patrick Lee
New Zealand	Roger Snow
Scotland	Lorna Powell, Rob Powell
Taiwan	Chris Wei, Tim Chewa Kwan, Travis Gillespie
USA	Ann Carpeneti

Allied Member

ELF	Steph Migchelsen
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FIL Committee members

Development	Bob DeMarco
	Rick Mercurio
	Joe Gold
Women's Competition	Beth Stone
" Rules	Jan Jackson
" Officiating	Stephen Taylor
Men's	Don Blacklock
" Rules	Robin Howie

Observer

Mara Wager

Apologies for absence from:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Netherlands, Norway Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales