



Constitution

Federation of International Lacrosse

July 2014



FEDERATION of INTERNATIONAL LACROSSE (FIL)

CONSTITUTION

DEFINITIONS:

The following definitions are used in this Constitution:

- **Board:** reference to Board in this document is to the Federation of International Lacrosse Board of Directors unless otherwise stated.
- **Lacrosse:** Lacrosse shall include all versions, forms and formats of the sport approved by the General Assembly (GA) of the Federation.
- **Member:** The generic term “member” is used to denote the collective of Full Member, Associate Member, Allied Organization and Inactive Member.
- **National Governing Body (NGB):** The organization controlling lacrosse within the member nation
- **Sector voting (sector functioning program):** An established structure (Either Club, University, College and/or School teams playing in a competitive format acceptable to the Board)
- **World Events:** Generic term used to cover the FIL World Championships, some of which being generally known as “World Cup”.
- **Rule clarification:** minor changes to wording to improve understanding of intent of rule
- **Equipment Modification:** changes to equipment specifications which are measurable.

1. NAME.

- 1.1 **The name of the Federation** shall be the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) and is referred to in this Constitution and associated Bylaws as "the Federation". For trading, promotional and other purposes the term International Lacrosse may be used.
- 1.2 **The official abbreviation** of the Federation is FIL.

2. LANGUAGE, GOVERNING LAW AND INTERPRETATION.

- 2.1 **Where appropriate** the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and the singular shall include the plural.
- 2.2 **Language.** The official language of the Federation shall be English. In documentation US English will be used.



- 2.3** **Governing Law.** This Constitution shall be governed by and construed in accordance with New York State, United States Law.
- 2.4** **All meetings** of the Federation and its committees shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (1990) 9th Edition, unless specifically defined in this Constitution or Bylaws.
- 2.5** **Lacrosse shall include** all versions, forms and formats of the sport approved by the General Assembly (GA) of the Federation.
- 2.6** **Full Members** must be present at a meeting of the GA to exercise their privilege of voting, except as outlined in 2.7 for postal votes. Proxy votes are not permitted.
- 2.7** **Any vote** or ballot may be conducted at a meeting of the Federation or by postal / electronic ballot as outlined in the Bylaws associated with this Constitution. This applies to both the General Assembly and the Board.

3. OBJECTIVES.

- 3.1** **The objectives** of the Federation shall be to:
 - 3.1.1** coordinate the development of lacrosse throughout the world
 - 3.1.2** promote lacrosse (as defined in 2.5) through specific initiatives
 - 3.1.3** establish and maintain rules and regulations governing international competition
 - 3.1.4** establish and maintain playing rules for lacrosse
 - 3.1.5** establish policies for the operation of international competition and sanction events
 - 3.1.6** represent Lacrosse on / to other international sports bodies (e.g. Sport Accord, World Games Organization)
 - 3.1.7** maintain alliances with lacrosse organizations (e.g. ELF, APLU, FIIC), and organizations representing particular forms of lacrosse (FIIC, box lacrosse, etc)
 - 3.1.8** preserve the integrity of Men's and Women's lacrosse
 - 3.1.9** deter alcohol, drug and tobacco abuse in lacrosse
 - 3.1.10** acquire such property, assets and rights as the Federation believes fit and conducive to the attainment of its objects in such manner and upon such terms as it thinks appropriate
 - 3.1.11** dispose of the Federation's property, assets and rights in such manner and upon such terms as the Federation may believe conducive to the attainment of its objects



- 3.1.12 undertake such obligations and incur such liabilities as the Federation may believe conducive to the attainment of its objects
- 3.1.13 do all such things as in the opinion of the Federation are or may be conducive or incidental to the attainment of the above objects
- 3.1.14 apply the income and property of the Federation in furtherance of its objects and ensure it shall not be paid or transferred in any manner to any Member of the Federation save pursuant to related to dissolution.

4 MEMBERSHIP.

- 4.1 **The National Governing Body** for lacrosse in any country or nation shall be eligible for membership of the Federation. Only one Association from each country or nation may be a member, and such member shall be recognized by the Federation as the only national governing body for all lacrosse in such country or nation.
- 4.2 **Membership may be conferred** by the membership following the policy and criteria set by the General Assembly.
- 4.3 **Membership categories** shall be:
 - 4.3.1 Full Member
 - 4.3.2 Associate Member
 - 4.3.3 Allied Organization
 - 4.3.4 Inactive Members
- 4.4 **Any member may resign** from membership of the Federation by giving notice in writing to the Vice President (VP) but such member shall remain liable for all monies due by the member to the Federation at the time of ceasing to be a member.
- 4.5 **The Federation may place any condition to or refuse** to continue the membership of a member by a resolution passed by a majority of at least two thirds of votes cast. Such motion shall only be considered provided that a minimum of two (2) months' notice of motion has been provided to all members, and the Board, and that the member has the opportunity to make written representation to all members, and the Board, and personal representation at a meeting of the GA to consider the motion.
- 4.6 **Failure of a Full Member** to provide any delegates without reasonable cause at two (2) consecutive meetings of the General Assembly or to participate without reasonable cause in two (2) consecutive senior field World Events shall cause the GA to consider a resolution to refuse to continue the membership of that Full Member, to place any condition deemed necessary or to place that member in the Inactive Member category.



- 4.7** There is no requirement for an Associate Member or Allied Organization to provide a delegate to a GA however they are encouraged to attend. Likely new Associate Members or new Allied Organizations will be invited as guests in the year of considering joining. Associate Members who do not meet their obligations may also be considered for and be placed in the Inactive Member category.

5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5.1 Structure

- 5.1.1** The General Assembly (GA) consists of the membership and the elected Board. The President shall act as the chair of the GA.

5.2 Role

- 5.2.1** Elect the Board
- 5.2.2** Vote on Constitution and By Law changes (including Rule changes which will be subject to Sector voting)
- 5.2.3** Approve the Strategic Plan
- 5.2.4** Approve a 2-5 year budget and authorize the Board to manage the budget
- 5.2.5** Delegate day-to-day running to the Board
- 5.2.6** Oversee Board activity and performance
- 5.2.7** Receive and review reports from the Board
- 5.2.8** Set policies for structure of Committees
- 5.2.9** Approve Board recommendations regarding risk management
- 5.2.10** Set policies and criteria for acceptance of new members
- 5.2.11** Agree acceptance of new members
- 5.2.12** Agree the conditions and responsibilities of membership
- 5.2.13** Approve audited financial statements
- 5.2.14** Approve Auditors

5.3 Meetings

- 5.3.1** The General Assembly (GA) shall meet every two years and the meetings should, preferably be aligned to a joint international event in the June – August time frame.

5.4 Attendance

- 5.4.1** All full members are entitled to appoint one delegate and may have one observer in attendance at a GA.



following criteria:

Administration – a dedicated person (e.g. committee chair / director) or sector / division / chapter for women’s / men’s / indoor lacrosse, formally identified to receive correspondence via the nominated contact point.

Playing - A minimum of 18 players

Coaching - A minimum of 2 coaches

A pathway for coaches from junior to national coaching

Officiating - A minimum of 2 officials

A pathway for officials from junior to national representation.

Competition - A structured domestic competition e.g. school, youth, university or club teams

At least 2 of the following 3 met:

1. Competed in 1 FIL or FIL recognized event
2. Competed against a FIL member in at least 2 organized matches
3. Hosted a FIL or FIL recognized event

5.9 Voting Majority

5.9.1 On all matters related to the Constitution, the Bylaws, Membership and the Rules the majority must be at least 2/3 of those present at a quorate meeting, who are eligible to and cast a vote, recording a vote in favor.

5.9.2 For clarity it should be noted that an abstention is not considered as a cast vote.

5.9.3 For all other matters, at a quorate meeting, a simple majority (of the eligible voters who cast a vote) is sufficient.

5.9.4 In the event of a tie or deadlock the chair shall have a casting vote.

6 BOARD

The management and control of the business and affairs of the Federation shall be vested in the Board of the Federation.

6.1 Structure

6.1.1 The Board of the Federation shall be comprised of the following six voting positions:

- a) President



- b) Vice President
- c) Director of Development
- d) Director of Finance
- e) Director of Men's Lacrosse
- f) Director of Women's Lacrosse

6.1.2 Members of staff may also participate in Board meetings with voice but no voting privileges.

6.2 Role

6.2.1 The role of the Board is to:

- a) provide an annual report and be accountable to the GA
- b) prepare, develop, seek approval, implement, and evaluate the Strategic and Operational plans
- c) prepare, develop, seek approval, implement and manage the forward four (4) year financial plan
- d) develop policies for approval by the GA and implement such polices approved by the GA
- e) manage communications with internal and external stakeholders
- f) appoint Chairs of the Committees and review the Committees work
- g) determine the Hosting for International Events
- h) determine whether an applicant country meets the criteria and policies set by the GA and then propose acceptance to the membership
- i) prepare audited accounts for approval by the GA annually through postal / electronic vote
- j) exercise due diligence-Risk management, including ensuring compliance with statutory and legal obligations (e.g. employment and tax law and general and Directors and Officers Liability)
- k) recommend auditor appointments
- l) approve contractual agreements
- m) implement and monitor the agreed anti-doping policies

6.3 Meetings

6.3.1 Board Meetings will normally be held twice a year.

6.3.2 The Board will be chaired by the President or in his / her absence by the Vice President. If neither is present then the Board will decide.



6.4 Quorum

6.4.1 The Quorum shall be 50% plus one (1) of the Board Members.

6.5 Voting

6.5.1 Each Board Member may vote.

6.5.2 Resolutions will be decided by simple majority.

6.5.3 In the event of a tie or deadlock the Chair shall have an additional (casting) vote.

7 FINANCIAL

7.1 **The financial year** of the Federation shall commence on January 1 and end on December 31, in each year.

7.2 The Director of Finance:

7.2.1 shall be responsible for the keeping of accounting records sufficient to show and explain the Federation's transactions and to disclose at any time the financial position of the Federation.

7.2.2 shall prepare and present for consideration at every meeting of the Federation (GA and Board) an income and expenditure statement and a balance sheet for each financial year and for the current year to date.

7.3 **All sums payable** to the Federation shall be received by the Director of Finance and deposited in a bank account approved by the Federation.

7.4 **All members shall pay** such subscription and other fees as may from time to time be prescribed by the Federation. Such subscriptions and fees shall be listed as an Appendix to the Bylaws of the Federation. Any Member who has not paid in full all subscriptions and fees within ninety (90) days from notification of the subscription or fee shall not be entitled to participate in any of the Federation events or vote at the Federation meetings. This may result in loss of membership.

7.5 **The travel and accommodation costs for delegates** to the GA shall be the responsibility of the member.

7.6 **Costs associated with meetings of Committees** of the Federation shall be the responsibility of participating Committee members or his / her NGB.

7.7 **Once at least in every year**, an examination of the accounts of the Federation shall be undertaken by one (1) or more qualified and independent auditors who shall report their findings to the members annually. The auditors will be recommended by the Board to the membership for approval.



8 CONSTITUTION, RULES AND BYLAWS.

8.1 Amendments.

Proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws and Playing Rules must be advised in writing to the Vice President at least ninety (90) days prior to any meeting of the GA. Those proposed amendments shall be circulated to Board and members at least sixty (60) days before the date of the meeting.

8.2 Amendments require a majority vote of at least two thirds of votes cast at a quorate meeting. Proposed amendments for which proper notice has not been given, but which have been discussed and agreed at a meeting of the GA, may be determined by postal/electronic ballot as outlined in this Constitution and Bylaws.

8.3 Playing Rules.

The Rules of the Games of Lacrosse as amended from time to time by the GA shall be an Appendix to the Federation Bylaws. See Policies regarding the types of rule changes and the timing of rule changes.

8.4 Bylaws.

The GA may make, repeal and amend Bylaws for the furtherance of the objects of the Federation and for the conduct of its business providing such Bylaws are not inconsistent with this Constitution.

8.5 The GA shall establish and maintain Bylaws that govern the conduct of all World Events.

9 ANTI DOPING

9.1 The General Assembly may, by Resolution passed at a meeting of the General Assembly or by Regulation specify, amend, add to or revoke such procedures and policies as it thinks fit from time to time regarding to the prevention of and discipline in relation to drug abuse within lacrosse.

9.2 The Federation adopts the protocols prescribed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

10 DISPUTES

10.1 Any dispute between members or between a member and FIL, excluding disputes regarding anti-doping matters may be referred to FIL through the VP



for resolution. If the VP is from one of the countries involved then the President shall take on this responsibility. To assist in this an independent panel may be formed of people who have an involvement (in lacrosse) but with no direct contact over the past two years.

- 10.2** Upon receiving written notification of a dispute, signed by all parties, if the VP cannot resolve the position then the VP shall refer the matter within four (4) weeks to an arbitration panel of three (3) Board members who do not originate from the Member countries involved in the dispute. The arbitration panel shall be endorsed by the full Board and may include the VP.
- 10.3** The arbitration panel shall consider the matter and provide, within a period of four (4) weeks, to the Board a decision that is consistent with the FIL Constitution, Bylaws and Rules of the respective Games of Lacrosse.
- 10.4** The VP as appropriate shall advise all parties of the decision which shall be binding on all parties.
- 10.5** A Member in dispute with the Board may refer the matter to the GA or if timing is a determinant to the membership for consideration by postal vote.
Any such appeal must be accompanied by a fee of \$100(US) which is returnable if the appeal is successful.
- 10.-6** Costs of dispute resolution, within the FIL environment, shall borne by the member filing the dispute.

11 DISPUTE RESOLUTION - CAS

- 11.1** **This process would apply** to appeal against a Board decision which cannot be resolved by the Member ship at or outside of a General Assembly.
- 11.2** **Dispute or disagreement** relating to this Constitution or any matter referred to herein may be referred to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in - Lausanne, Switzerland, which has exclusive jurisdiction to hear disputes that cannot be resolved internally within FIL (further information may be found at the website www.tas-cas.org). The cost of such referral will be covered by the organization taking such action.
- 11.3** The board of the FIL can determine that in the event that a member organization is caused to suffer the loss of financial support due to a FIL decision that inadvertently results in such loss, the FIL can submit to the membership for vote the waiver of participation fee for a member country for up to two full cycles of championship events.
(full cycle is defined as men's, women's, seniors & U19 and indoor)



12 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Suspension in Exceptional Circumstances

In addition to the rights of suspension and expulsion under the Constitution, the Board may in its discretion suspend a Member from FIL in exceptional circumstances pending determination of a resolution under this clause. For the purposes of this clause "exceptional circumstances" means circumstances in which, after reasonable inquiry, it is considered that FIL or any of the Members may suffer damage or detriment as a result of the actions or inactions by the Member who is being considered for suspension under this clause. See Appendix A

13 DISSOLUTION AND/OR MERGER.

- 13.1** **The Federation shall not be merged**, amalgamated or dissolved except by at least a two-thirds majority resolution of all Full Members voting in person on a resolution at a meeting of the General Assembly of the Federation.
- 13.2** **Any merger**, amalgamation, dissolution, re-organization or reconstitution shall take effect from the conclusion of the meeting of the General Assembly at which the relevant Resolution is passed or such later date as is specified in the Resolution.
- 13.3** **Any property**, assets and rights of the Federation remaining after discharge of its liabilities shall be applied in such manner as the GA (acting by Resolution) shall think fit for the promotion or development or protection of the interests of the lacrosse or any other sport.



DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS

1 Suspension in Exceptional Circumstances

In addition to the rights of suspension and expulsion under the Constitution, the Board may in its discretion suspend a Member from FIL in exceptional circumstances pending determination of a resolution under this clause. For the purposes of this clause "exceptional circumstances" means circumstances in which, after reasonably inquiry, it is considered that FIL or any of the Members may suffer damage or detriment as a result of the actions or inactions by the Member who is being considered for suspension under this clause.

If any action is imposed under this clause, the FIL Designated Board Member shall notify the Member concerned of the action in writing and copy this notification to the Board.

2 Board Resolution

Subject to the Constitution, the Board may by resolution:

- (1) as a last step, and with membership approval, expel a Member from FIL; or
- (2) suspend a Member from membership of FIL for a specified period; or
- (3) impose a fine on a Member;
- (4) impose such other penalty, action or educative process as it sees fit,

if the Board considers that the Member has:

- (a) breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with a provision of the FIL Constitution, the FIL Bylaws or any FIL Policy, resolution or determination of the Board;
- (b) acted in a manner unbecoming of a Member or prejudicial to the objects and interests of FIL, or another Member; or the sport of lacrosse; or
- (c) brought FIL, or another Member, or the sport of lacrosse into disrepute.

3 Notice of Alleged Breach

Where the Board considers that a Member may have satisfied one or more of the grounds in clause 2(a), (b) or (c), the Designated Board Member, shall, as soon as practicable, serve on the Member a notice in writing:

- (1) setting out the alleged breach of the Member and the grounds on which it is based;
- (2) stating that the Member (personally or by its representative) may address the Board at a meeting to be held not earlier than 7 days and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
- (3) stating the date, place and time of that meeting;
- (4) informing the Member that they may do one or more of the following: -



- (a) attend that meeting;
- (b) provide FIL, before the date of that meeting a written statement regarding the alleged breach.

4 Determination of Board

At a meeting of the Board held in accordance with clause 3, the Board shall:

- (1) give to the Member every opportunity to be heard;
- (2) give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the Member; and
- (3) by resolution determine whether the alleged breach occurred.

5 Appeal to the Appeals Tribunal

- (1) If the Board passes a resolution at the meeting held in accordance with this clause, the Member has a right to appeal the decision to the Appeals Tribunal.
- (2) The Member must lodge the appeal with the Designated Board Member within 14 days of the date the resolution is passed. The appeal must specify the grounds of the appeal and be accompanied by an Appeal Fee of \$100.
- (3) Where the Designated Board Member receives an appeal under clause 5(2), the Board shall convene a meeting of the Appeals Tribunal to be held within 30 days of the date on which the Designated Board Member received the appeal.
- (4) Where the Member lodges an appeal to the Appeals Tribunal under this clause, the resolution of the Board does not take effect unless the Appeals Tribunal confirms the resolution in accordance with the clause below.

APPEALS TRIBUNAL

1 Composition of Appeals Tribunal

- (1) An Appeals Tribunal of 5 persons shall be appointed by the Board for the purpose of adjudication of appeals from Members under the clause above.
- (2) No member of the Appeals Tribunal shall be permitted to hold any office on the Board or its appointed sub-committees.
- (3) A minimum of 3 Members of the Appeals Tribunal shall constitute a quorum.
- (4) A casual vacancy on the Appeals Tribunal shall be filled by the Board appointing a replacement as it sees fit.
- (5) A legal counsel may act as a consultant to the Appeals Tribunal

2 Proceedings before Appeals Tribunal

Proceedings before the Appeals Tribunal shall be conducted as follows:



- (a) The Chairperson of the Appeals Tribunal shall announce the opening of the proceedings, stating the Tribunal's authority, jurisdiction, composition and the nature and purpose(s) of the proceedings.
- (b) The procedure to be followed at proceedings shall be clearly explained by the Appeals Tribunal Chairperson. The Appeal Tribunal Chairperson shall state who is entitled to be present throughout proceedings during evidence and submissions.
- (c) The matter(s) which is/are the subject of proceedings shall then be read to the person(s) concerned. The body or person reporting the matter(s) and the subjects of the proceeding shall be given the opportunity to report the circumstances of those matter(s). The person(s) concerned will be given the opportunity to respond to this report and present evidence/submissions as to their view of the circumstances of those matter(s). Any witnesses called by either the reporting body or the person(s) concerned will be given the opportunity to give evidence or make submissions. Witnesses may be questioned on their evidence. Evidence and/or submissions may be tendered in writing.
- (d) The Appeal Tribunal will consider the evidence presented. It may adjourn the hearing if considered necessary. No other person shall be present or partake in any discussion with the Appeals Tribunal at this time. If the Appeals Tribunal finds the decision of the Board is not proved it will uphold the appeal accordingly. The Appeal fee of \$100 will be refunded.
- (e) If the Appeal Tribunal finds the decision of the Board to be proved, it may impose, in its discretion, an appropriate penalty or penalties (which may confirm, increase or decrease the original penalty), or it may report its findings to the Board with such recommendations as it considers appropriate. The Appeals Tribunal Chairperson will declare the proceedings closed.
- (f) If a decision cannot be given immediately after proceedings, the relevant party or parties must be advised of the time and place at which the decision will be given. The decision, any penalty and the reasons for the decision shall be given in writing and signed by the Appeals Tribunal Chairperson. Every decision of the Appeals Tribunal shall be conveyed in writing to the parties concerned.

3 Decisions Binding

Decisions of the Appeals Tribunal will be binding and final upon the Board and the Member.

Note: In all instances above the meetings may be held using Skype (or similar) or by audio conference.