

# **World Deaf Rugby 2023 General Meeting**

10am – 4pm, Saturday, 8 April 2023 at Stadium “Mario Alberto Kempes” Cordoba, Argentina

Please note that the official language of the Meeting is English – a Spanish-English spoken language interpreter will be available. Members will need to have their own sign language interpreters and, if required, spoken language interpreters.

## **MEETING AGENDA**

1. **WDR Chair & URSA President Welcome**
2. **Confirmation of Attendees** (*two delegates per WDR Member country*)
  - a. *In Person*
  - b. *Via Zoom*
  - c. *By Proxy*
3. **Confirmation of Voting Delegates** (*one voting delegate per WDR Member country*)
  - a. *In Person*
  - b. *Via Zoom*
  - c. *By Proxy*
4. **Approval of Minutes of Previous WDR General Meeting** (*25 April 2018*)
5. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
6. **WDR Chair Report** (*including explanation of WDR incorporation as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation – see below*)
7. **Election of World Deaf Rugby Trustees**
8. **Election of World Deaf Rugby Office Holders**
9. **Schedule of future World Deaf Rugby Events**
  - a. *Sevens Championships*
  - b. *Fifteens Championships & Tests*
  - c. *Regional Tournaments*
10. **Processes/Documentation for World Deaf Rugby Events**
  - a. *Bid process*
  - b. *Host Manuals*
  - c. *Tournament Manuals (15s & 7s) including participation and fees*
11. **World Deaf Rugby Logos**
12. **WDR Member Country Discussion**
  - a. *Member Updates*
  - b. *“Expressions of Interest/Proposals for hosting next WDR Championships*
  - c. *Update of Member Secretary contact information*

### 13. World Deaf Rugby Audiometry Records

### 14. Deaf Rugby Sevens Inclusion in the *Deaflympics*

### 15. Other Business

## WDR INCORPORATION AS A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

Whilst *World Deaf Rugby* was set up as an association in 2016 to replace the previous *International Deaf Rugby Organisation*, it has never been incorporated as a formal organisation. Incorporation is important to enable *WDR* to have a bank account, raise money from sponsorship and donations, and get grant funding.

An organisation can only be registered in one country, and this meant we had to make a decision as to in which country we applied for incorporation. The incorporation process is quite complicated, and obtaining charity status in some countries is particularly difficult.

Therefore, because Gwynne Griffiths via *Wales Deaf Rugby Union* was able to obtain pro-bono legal support from *DJM Solicitors* based in Wales to help us with the incorporation process, we chose to incorporate *WDR* in Wales/the UK. The *Application* and associated *Constitution* have been submitted to the UK Charities Commission, and *WDR* will soon be a registered *Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)*.

This was previously advised to all *WDR Members* by email in October 2022, and views sought, including on the new *Constitution*.

The new *WDR Constitution* is very much based on our current *Constitution*, but there are differences in the governance arrangements of the organisation. Previously we had an *Executive Committee* elected by the *Members* comprising the *WDR Chair*, *WDR Vice-Chair*, *WDR Treasurer*, *WDR Secretary* and up to three *Project Officers* each having responsibility for working on – and reporting to the *Executive Committee* on – specific areas of activity.

Under the new *CIO Constitution/structure*, *WDR* is governed by a Board of *Trustees* elected by the *WDR Members*. Two of these *Trustees* are then elected by the *WDR Members* as the *WDR Chair & Deputy Chair*, and others elected by the *WDR Members* as *Officeholders* – i.e. the *Treasurer*, *Secretary*, etc. It should be noted, however, that these *Officeholders* do not have to be *Trustees*.

To submit our *CIO Application* to the UK Charities Commission we were required to include a list of **Initial Trustees** – these are the current *Executive Committee (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary & Project Officer)*, *Ant Crook (to be the initial Treasurer)* and *Tony Kuklinski*.

Under the *Constitution*, at the first Annual General Meeting after incorporation, these **Initial Trustees** must all stand down and elections held for *Trustees* going forward. And although our incorporation is not yet fully completed, we have been assured it will happen very soon and so we have decided that the most sensible thing to do is to **seek nominations and hold elections for all *WDR Trustees, Chair, Deputy-Chair, Treasurer & Secretary* at this General Meeting** in accordance with the new ***WDR CIO Constitution***.