



World Deaf Rugby Constitution

Introduction

1.1 The name of the organisation shall be World Deaf Rugby and it shall be known by the acronym WDR.

Status: Non-profit making Organisation

2.1 WDR shall be a non-profit making organisation.

2.2 All officers, officials, members and other persons providing services or support shall do so as volunteers. No officer, official, member or other person shall seek to make or actually make any profit, benefit or other advantage, financial or otherwise, derived from or by reason of membership of or association with WDR.

Main Objective

3.1 WDR's main object is the promotion, development and support of all levels of rugby for Deaf, Hard of Hearing persons.

Ancillary Objectives

4.1 To obtain recognition from World Rugby as the organisation representing the interests of rugby for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons.

4.2 To promote, develop and support the creation of Deaf Rugby Unions in all countries who have Rugby Unions recognised by and who are members of World Rugby.

4.3 Acting as the co-ordinating body for Deaf and Hard of Hearing rugby union.

4.4 Coordinating recommendations for changes or amendments of the Laws of Rugby Union to adapt the game for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons and submitting the same to World Rugby for consideration and adoption.

4.5 Supporting national and international competitions and matches and providing guidance on the procedures and protocols to be adopted in such competitions and matches.

4.6 Act as liaison with World Rugby on behalf of all members and, if requested by any member, with that member's home union.

4.7 Save to the extent that they are incompatible with these objectives, WDR will follow and support the objectives and regulations of World Rugby.

Membership

7.1.1 Membership shall be granted upon written application by the organisation acting as the national governing body (NGB) for rugby union for Deaf and Hard of Hearing persons in any country.

7.1.2 In the event that more than one such organisation claims to be the NGB for any country the general committee of WDR shall receive written representations from each organisation setting out their basis for asserting that they are the NGB for that country. The general committee of WDR shall then determine which organisation will be recognised. The decision of the WDR general committee shall be final.

7.1.3 In making its determination the general committee shall give preference to any organisation that is the home rugby union or has been recognised by its home rugby union as the NGB for rugby union for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

7.1.4 Members may resign from WDR by written notice to the Secretary WDR.

7.1.5 It shall be a precondition of membership that all members will comply and be bound by the regulatory requirements of its home rugby union in relation to the playing and administration of rugby union. This shall include but shall not be limited to the use of suitably qualified coaches, physiotherapists and other support staff and observing all regulations for the protection of players.

7.2 There shall be no annual subscription for membership.

7.3. Each member shall be entitled to participate and vote in the General Committee.

Finance

8.1 As a non profit making organisation utilising volunteer services there shall be no requirement to make provision for finances. Each member shall be responsible for its own cost incurred or arising in relation to WDR. WDR reserves unto itself the right to make provision for finances by way of amendment of the Constitution by resolution to the General Committee.

Governance

9.1 The business of WDR, including the General Committee, shall be conducted to the extent possible electronically via e-mail. Each member shall designate an individual to act as the point of contact for the receipt of all communications from WDR. It shall be the responsibility of each member to ensure that the e-mail address for that point of contact remains valid and operational.

9.2 Any member shall be entitled to make proposals for consideration by the General Committee. All such proposals shall be submitted to the Secretary who shall coordinate with the proposing member on the preparation of a formal draft resolution.

9.2 Draft resolutions shall be submitted to all members via e-mail. All members shall be entitled to respond to resolutions, propose amendments or present submissions either in support or against any resolution. All such proposals or submissions shall be made within 14 days of being notified of a draft resolution.

9.3 Thereafter within 28 days the Secretary shall prepare the final resolution together with any proposed amendments and send them to the members via their designated point of contact. Members shall vote on them within 14 days. Members not casting their vote within 14 days shall be considered to have abstained. All decisions shall be by a simple majority of votes cast. In the event of no majority the Chairman shall have a final casting vote.

9.4 The General Committee shall comprise all members of WDR who shall be entitled to a single vote on all resolutions.

9.5 The General Committee shall be responsible for:

- a) the adoption and amendment of this constitution;
- b) the approval of a strategic plan;
- c) the election of a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary;
- d) the resolution of all proposals made by members save to the extent that the general committee has delegated authority to a sub-committee;
- e) create sub-committees with designated powers in relation to specified subjects;
- f) the creation of standardised protocols for playing Deaf Rugby to include but not limited to qualifying levels of hearing loss;
- g) to approve requests to play international tournaments and to provide guidance on the protocols applicable to such tournaments.
- h) such other matters as shall be approved by the General Committee.

9.6 There shall be created an Executive Committee comprising the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary who shall be responsible for scrutinising proposals from members prior to submission to the General Committee. The purpose of the process shall be to ensure that proposals are submitted with clarity and supporting documentation and statements as required. Members of the executive Committee shall be entitled to no greater voting rights than any other WDR member.

9.7 All communications with WDR shall in the first instance be transmitted to the Secretary who shall have responsibility to forwarding such communications to other officers or members of WDR as required.

Officers

10.1 The principal officers of WDR shall be the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

10.2 The initial officers shall be those appointed by those attending the inaugural meeting in Auckland. Those officers shall remain in office for 12 months. Thereafter the officers shall be appointed by the general committee.

10.3 Officers may offer themselves for re-election on two occasions. Thereafter an officer may only offer him or herself for re-election by a resolution of the General Committee.

10.4 Whenever possible the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be filled by one person representing a deaf rugby union in the northern hemisphere and one person representing a deaf rugby union in the southern hemisphere.

General Meetings

11.1 Not less than once every two years there shall be a General Meeting convened by the Chairman to which all members will be invited.

11.2 The business of a general meeting shall include all business that might be conducted by the General Committee. Members may send up to two representatives to any General Meeting but shall only be entitled to a single vote in relation to any business conducted.

11.3 Members shall be entitled to vote by proxy or via e-mail which must be received by the Secretary not later than 24 hours before the commencement of any general meeting.

Miscellaneous

12.1 The official language for WDR documentation shall be English.

Adopted on: September 2016

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