



World Water Safety

INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING FEDERATION

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CONSTITUTION

(Articles of Association - Statutes)

Article 1. Name and Formation

- 1.1. The Association bears the name "International Life Saving Federation", abbreviated "ILS". The ILS is an international non-profit association.
- 1.2. The ILS was established on 24 February 1993 in Leuven (Belgium) and constituted on 3 September 1994 in Cardiff (United Kingdom) by an integration of the Fédération Internationale de Sauvetage Aquatique (FIS) founded in 1910 and the World Life Saving (WLS) founded in 1956.
- 1.3. The ILS was incorporated by Royal Decree signed by H.M. the King of Belgium on 3 April 1997 as an international non-profit association in accordance with, and is currently governed by, the provisions of Section III of the Act of 27 June 1921 on international non-profit associations established in Belgium, as amended from time to time.
- 1.4. The ILS is established for an indefinite duration.

Article 2. Registered Office - Seat

The registered office is located in the juridical district of Leuven, Gemeenteplein 26 - 3010 Leuven, Belgium. The location of the registered office may be changed within Belgium from time to time by the ILS Board of Directors.

Article 3. Objectives

The ILS leads, collaborates and partners with national and international organisations to prevent drowning, to promote the provision of lifesaving services and to oversee lifesaving sport throughout the world with the following specific objectives:

- 3.1. Lead the global effort to develop and recommend best practice in drowning prevention, aquatic lifesaving, resuscitation and emergency care.
- 3.2. Teach lifesaving and establish educational exchanges of aquatic lifesaving techniques and operations.
- 3.3. Exchange medical and scientific knowledge in the field of aquatic lifesaving and drowning prevention.
- 3.4. Encourage the conduct of training and development of standards worldwide to advance drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport.
- 3.5. Extend the teachings and activities of the ILS to all places throughout the world and communicate and act in co-operation with other international humanitarian bodies.
- 3.6. Promote uniformity concerning lifesaving equipment, public information, symbols and laws for control and regulation within the aquatic environment.
- 3.7. Promote lifesaving sport and regularly organise international aquatic lifesaving competitions in order to stimulate the interest of competitors to improve their skills and preparedness to save people who are in danger in the aquatic environment.
- 3.8. Encourage and oversee the convening of international conferences for the purpose of exchanging information, creating links of friendship, and encouraging collaboration among Members and other international bodies which pursue the same humanitarian goals.

- 3.9. To respond to and assist in co-ordinating the urgent response to flooding, landslide, earthquake and all similar disasters and events where lifesaving, rescue, resuscitation, first aid and similar skills are likely to be required.
- 3.10. Encourage measures to prevent the pollution of the aquatic environment.
- 3.11. Take such other actions as the ILS considers will advance these Objectives.

The ILS is allowed to undertake all actions, engage in all activities and execute all legal instruments, which are useful, necessary or which directly or indirectly contribute to the achievement of the above-mentioned objectives.

Article 4. Members

The ILS is composed of two categories of Members, namely:

- 4.1. Voting Members: Full Members.
- 4.2. Non-Voting Members: Associate, Corresponding and other categories of Members described in the Bye-Laws.

Article 5. Membership

- 5.1. Voting Members are admitted by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Board of Directors. Non-Voting Members are admitted by the Board of Directors.
- 5.2. Conditions, applications, review and admission processes, rights and obligations for membership, suspension and expulsion and the rules about discipline and appeal procedures are set out in this ILS Constitution and the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 5.3. A Member may resign by sending written notice. Any Member resigning may claim no part of the ILS assets.

Article 6. Regional Branches

- 6.1. At the Inaugural General Assembly of the ILS in 1994, the Member Organisations in the regions of Africa, Americas, Asia-Pacific and Europe have formed Regional Branches to promote closer relationships and activities within the Region. The Regional Branches of the ILS are separate legal entities with their own legislation (Constitution, Bye-Laws, Rules, etc). They are preferably incorporated.
- 6.2. A lifesaving organisation cannot be a member of a Regional Branch without being a Member of the ILS.
- 6.3. A Regional Branch shall at all times remain subject to the ILS Constitution and the ILS Bye-Laws.

Article 7. General Assembly

- 7.1. The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ILS and is composed of representatives from Voting Members that are present. Non-Voting Members may attend the General Assembly but have no voting rights.
- 7.2. The General Assembly is empowered to:
 - a) Approve and modify the ILS Constitution and ILS Bye-Laws.
 - b) Elect and dismiss the ILS President, the ILS Secretary General, the ILS Financial Auditors and ratify the election of and dismiss the other ILS Directors.
 - c) Approve the accounts and accept budgets.
 - d) Exonerate or discharge from responsibility the ILS Board of Directors and the ILS Financial Auditors.
 - e) Determine the annual membership fees.
 - f) Approve Full Members.
 - g) Expel Full Members for reasons other than non-payment of fees.
 - h) Voluntarily dissolve the ILS.
 - i) Adopt programmes of activities.
 - j) Decide upon proposals submitted by the ILS Board of Directors, the ILS Regional Branches and Full Member Organisations.
 - k) Decide on all other cases foreseen in the ILS Constitution and ILS Bye-Laws.

- 7.3. Meeting frequency
- a) An Annual General Assembly is called at least once a year, except in the year where the Elective General Assembly is held.
 - b) An Elective General Assembly is organised every four calendar years.
 - c) An Extraordinary General Assembly will be convened upon the request of the Elective General Assembly not less than 15 days after such request.
 - d) An Extraordinary General Assembly will be convened upon the request of the Board of Directors or upon a written request by at least 20% of all Full Members representing no less than two Regions and must be convened within 90 days after such request.
 - e) General Assemblies can be held through electronic meeting systems through procedures described in the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 7.4. Convening Notice
- a) The convening notice and the agenda for a General Assembly shall be promulgated by the ILS Headquarters within the timelines and by the means described in the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 7.5. Agenda Items
- a) The agenda for an Annual General Assembly shall only include matters under point 7.2. c, d and f.
 - b) The agenda for an Elective General Assembly and an Extraordinary General Assembly shall be composed by the Board of Directors. An agenda item shall be added if requested in writing by at least 1/20 of the Full Member Organisations and received at least 14 days before the Extraordinary General Assembly and 75 days before the Elective General Assembly.
- 7.6. Representation to Vote
- a) In an Annual General Assembly, the authorised representative of each of the Regional Branches, is empowered to vote on behalf of the Region's respective Full Members. Each Regional Branch has one vote.
 - b) In an Elective General Assembly and an Extraordinary General Assembly, the delegates of the Full Member Organisations are empowered to vote on behalf of their respective Full Members. Each Full Member has one vote.
- 7.7. A General Assembly is only validly constituted if the convening thereof has occurred in accordance with this Constitution. A General Assembly can only decide on items on the agenda, except in urgent circumstances as given in the ILS Bye-Laws.
The following quorum and majorities are required:
- a) Annual General Assembly: Quorum of 75% - Majority of 50%+1.
 - b) Elective General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly convened upon request by the Board of Directors or upon a written request by at least 20% of the Full Members.
 - Normal decisions: Quorum of 30% - Majority of 50%+1.
 - Expulsion of Members: Quorum of 2/3 - Majority of 2/3.
 - Amendments to the Constitution: Quorum of 2/3 – Majority of 2/3.
 - Amendments to the objectives of the ILS, dissolution and liquidation of the ILS, distribution of assets: Quorum of 2/3 – Majority of 4/5.
 - c) Extraordinary General Assembly convened upon the request of the Elective General Assembly: Quorum of 30%.
 - Normal decisions: Majority of 50%+1.
 - Expulsion of Members. Majority of 2/3.
 - Amendments to the Constitution: Majority of 2/3.
 - Amendments to the objectives of the ILS, dissolution and liquidation of the ILS, distribution of assets: Majority of 4/5.
- 7.8. Decisions of any General Assembly take immediate effect unless otherwise stated. The minutes of the meeting shall be distributed to all Members within 60 days after the closing of the General Assembly as described in the Bye-Laws.
- 7.9. A decision can be made by way of a written-decision making procedure that is detailed in the Bye-Laws. The following majorities are required:
- a) Dissolution and liquidation of the ILS: Majority of 4/5.
 - b) All other motions: Majority of 2/3.

Article 8. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of one President, one Secretary General, four Vice Presidents, Regional Directors, one Director representing athletes and one Director representing the ILS Academy. Vice-Presidents and Regional Directors must belong to different Full Members.

- 8.1. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected normally for a term of four years, commencing at the conclusion of the Elective or any associated Extraordinary General Assembly. They must be nominated from Full Members within their Region, approved by the Full Member of which they are a member, and be elected by the Full Members of the Region.
- 8.2. The President and Secretary General shall be elected by the Full Members during the Elective General Assembly according to the procedures set out in the Bye-Laws.
- 8.3. The four Vice Presidents, one from each of the Regions of Africa, Americas, Asia/Pacific and Europe, shall be nominated and elected by the Full Members of their respective Regional Branch. The Vice President is preferably the Regional President.
- 8.4. The Regional Directors shall be elected on the basis of one Director per eight (8) Full Members of each Region (1:1-8, 2:9-16, 3:17-24 etc.) and should preferably be gender balanced.
- 8.5. The Director representing the athletes shall be the Chair of the Athletes Committee. The Director representing the Academy shall be the Chair (Dean) of the Academy.
- 8.6. The qualifications and tasks of Directors shall be as set out in the ILS Bye-Laws. The nomination, removal and retirement of Directors shall also be as set out in the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 8.7. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a year and the place and date shall be promulgated by procedures set out in the ILS Bye-Laws. ILS Board of Directors meetings can be held through electronic meeting systems through procedures described in the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 8.4. The ILS Board of Directors shall be empowered to:
 - a) Implement the decisions of the General Assembly.
 - b) Create and dissolve commissions and committees including their composition, membership, tasks and working procedures.
 - c) Approve the organisation and rules for all competitions conducted under the authority of the ILS.
 - d) Approve the conditions and criteria concerning merits awards.
 - e) Establish, maintain, publish and distribute the calendar of ILS activities.
 - f) Adopt the activity reports and the future projects.
 - g) Submit to the General Assembly all proposals which it has agreed upon.
 - h) Accept Non-Voting Member Organisations and temporarily accept Voting Member Organisations until the next General Assembly.
 - i) Determine fees for publications, awards, competitions and other matters as necessary.
 - j) Appoint Honorary and Honoured Members.
 - k) Approve proposals related to disciplinary matters submitted by the Chancellery, including temporary suspensions and temporary expulsions of Voting Member Organisations until the next General Assembly.
 - l) Appoint and dismiss Advisors.
 - m) Appoint and dismiss such officers and employees of the ILS as the Board considers necessary to carry out the day-to-day business of the ILS.
 - n) Adopt regulations (policies and procedures) to guide the management of the ILS.
 - o) Enter into strategic alliances and other collaborative arrangements with national, international and other external organisations.
- 8.5. The quorum of the Board of Directors is reached when more than 50% of the Directors are present or represented. The resolutions of the Board of Directors shall be approved by a majority of 50%+1 of Directors present or represented. A decision can be made by way of an electronic decision-making procedure that is detailed in the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 8.6. The ILS President and the ILS Secretary General are empowered to jointly represent the ILS vis-à-vis third parties and as such to enter into legally binding transactions and sign any agreement or other document on behalf of the ILS provided that such transactions and agreements do not conflict with the ILS Constitution and the ILS Bye-Laws and that they were approved by the Board of Directors or the Elective or Extraordinary General Assembly. The ILS Board of Directors may appoint the ILS President, the ILS Secretary General, or a Director or Directors to represent the ILS in any legal matter.

Article 9. Commissions and Committees

The ILS Board of Directors may decide upon the creation and dissolution of ILS Commissions and Committees. Their duties, obligations, timelines, responsibilities, composition, frequency of meetings, tasks, working procedures and voting rights shall be set out in the ILS Bye-Laws. ILS Commissions/ Committees meetings can be held through electronic meeting systems through procedures described in the ILS Bye-Laws

Article 10. Budgets and Accounts

- 10.1. The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of the same year.
- 10.2. The ILS Board of Directors shall present the audited financial statements and proposed budgets to the General Assembly by the procedures as set out in the ILS Bye-Laws. The account auditing procedures are also set out in the ILS Bye-Laws.
- 10.3. The Board of Directors is allowed to enter into financial transactions for the purchase and/or retail of fixed or movable assets, or for other purposes which the ILS Board of Directors consider appropriate for its operation.

Article 11. Arbitration – Rules of Conduct

Any decision made by the ILS Disciplinary Committee may be submitted exclusively by way of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sports in Lausanne, Switzerland, which will resolve, within the set timelines, the disputes in a final manner in accordance with the Code of Sports-Related arbitration. The current Constitution is in full compliance with the Olympic Charter. The ILS shall conduct its sport competitions in full compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency requirements for lifesaving sports.

Article 12. Dissolution – Liquidation

In the case of the ILS being dissolved, its assets shall be distributed to a non-profit organisation similar to that of the ILS, in accordance with the decisions taken at such Elective or Extraordinary General Assembly in which it was decided to dissolve and liquidate the ILS.

END OF DOCUMENT

The above Constitution (Statutes) was approved by the 2024 Elective General Assembly on 28/08/2024.