



## **INTERNATIONAL LIFE SAVING Federation of Europe**

Im Niedernfeld 1-3, 31542 Bad Nenndorf, Germany  
Phone (+49 5723) 955 500 - Fax: (+49 5723) 955 509  
E-mail: [president@ilseurope.org](mailto:president@ilseurope.org)

## **CONSTITUTION**

## **Article 1. ILS of Europe**

- 1.1. According to the Constitution of the International Life Saving Federation (ILS), the European Full Members of ILS have founded a Regional Branch of ILS with the purpose of achieving closer relationship and collaboration in aquatic life saving activities in the region of Europe.
- 1.2. The Regional Branch bears the name of „International Life Saving Federation of Europe e. V.“, abbreviated „ILSE“. ILSE is a European politically neutral, non-discriminating, humanitarian non-profit association. At present the association's registered seat is located in Bad Nenndorf in Germany, and it is registered in the Register of Associations at the Local Court (Amtsgericht) of Stadthagen under No. VR 200275.

## **Article 2. Missions and Objectives**

The aim of ILSE is to promote the provision of lifesaving education, lifesaving techniques and services and to promote lifesaving sport.

Its objectives are in particular realised by the following activities:

- 2.1 Lead the European efforts to develop and recommend best practice in drowning prevention, aquatic lifesaving, resuscitation and emergency care.
- 2.2 Teach lifesaving and establish educational exchanges of aquatic lifesaving techniques and operations.
- 2.3 Exchange medical and scientific experiences in the field of aquatic lifesaving and drowning prevention.
- 2.4 Encourage the conduct of training and develop standards and make them available to the whole of the aquatic lifesaving world for drowning prevention, lifesaving and lifesaving sport.
- 2.5 Extend the teachings and activities of ILS in Europe, and act in co-operation with other international and European humanitarian bodies.
- 2.6 Promote uniformity concerning equipment, information, symbols and guidelines for control and regulation of activities within the aquatic environment.
- 2.7 Promote and organise lifesaving sports in Europe.
- 2.8 Conduct within Europe international congresses that promote lifesaving and similar humanitarian aims.
- 2.9 Encourage measures to prevent all types of hazards for users of the aquatic environment.
- 2.10 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.
- 2.11 Take such other actions as ILSE considers will advance these Missions and Objectives.

ILSE also adopts the aims of ILS according to the ILS Constitution, with special focus on the European perspective provided always that these shall remain charitable and humanitarian in nature.

## **Article 3. Legislation**

The legislation of ILSE consists of this Constitution, describing all principles and fundamental aspects, and the ILSE Bye-Laws, giving explanations and procedures with

regard to the articles of the ILSE Constitution. The ILSE shall at all times adopt the Constitution and Bye-Laws of ILS.

Requirements and procedures for organising lifesaving sports events and competitions are regulated in the ILS Rules of Life Saving Sport.

ILSE shall solely and directly pursue charitable purposes in the sense of the German Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung). It must act in a selfless manner and not pursue goals primarily serving its own economic interests.

The association's funds must not be used for purposes other than those stipulated in the Constitution.

Members of the Board of Directors, Members of Commissions, any agents acting on behalf of ILSE and other members shall not receive any financial benefit or remuneration from the association's funds.

No person or body may benefit from payments for services or activities which are not connected to ILSE's objectives, nor shall any person or body benefit from disproportionately high remuneration. Reimbursements of reasonable expenses actually incurred are permitted.

#### **Article 4. Membership and Affiliation**

4.1 For every nation Full Membership of ILSE is available to a European national non-profit organisation that is a leader or provider of drowning prevention, lifesaving or lifesaving sport activities in its nation provided that they shall be a Full Member of ILS. Other categories of membership and the rights and obligations connected to them are set out in the ILS Constitution and its Bye-Laws and shall be relevant for ILSE too.

#### 4.2 Membership Application

The following documents and fulfilled requirements shall be submitted to the ILS Headquarters:

- a) Membership application form duly completed.
- b) A copy of the legislation (Constitution/Statutes, Bye-Laws, statutory and/or charity recognition by the national authorities).
- c) The payment of the appropriate membership fee.
- d) Any applicant for membership who shall have applied to join ILS shall also provide such other information that ILSE may reasonably require.
- e) A Member may resign by sending written notice. Upon ceasing to be a member of ILS for whatever reason that Members Membership of ILSE shall automatically terminate immediately. Any outstanding debts shall remain enforceable.
- f) ILSE may affiliate with any European institution corporation or organisation which shares any of the Missions and Objectives of ILSE on such terms as the Board of Directors shall from time to time determine.

#### **Article 5. General Assembly of ILSE**

5.1 The General Assembly of ILSE is the supreme governing body of ILSE. It is composed of representatives of the ILSE Full Members.

- 5.2 The General Assembly of ILSE normally meets at least once every four calendar years, not more than 12 months before the General Assembly of ILS.
- 5.3 If requested by the Board of Directors or if a written request is submitted to the Board by at least 20% of the Full Members, an Extraordinary General Assembly must be convened within three months.
- 5.4.
- a) The estimated date and venue of a General Assembly shall in principle be fixed by the previous General Assembly. The calling of a General Assembly is made by the summons and the invitations. The summons (convocation), together with the draft agenda are dispatched to all Members by the Secretary General at least six (6) months before the estimated start of the General Assembly.
  - b) The summons and invitation to an Extraordinary General Assembly together with all matters to be placed on the agenda of the Extraordinary General Assembly must be dispatched to all Members by the Secretary General within fifteen (15) days of a valid request for an Extraordinary General Assembly and not later than two (2) months (one (1) month if the Extraordinary General Assembly is to be held electronically) before the estimated start of the Extraordinary General Assembly.
  - c) All matters to be placed on the agenda of the General Assembly must be submitted to the Secretary General at least four (4) months (two (2) months if the General Assembly is to be held electronically) before the date fixed for the session. If it is supported by seventy-five percent (75%) of the Full Members present at the meeting of the General Assembly, new matters may be added to the agenda. The agenda of the General Assembly and the preparatory documents must reach each Member at least two (2) months before the date fixed for the opening session of the General Assembly (one (1) month if the General Assembly is to be held electronically).
  - d) Preparatory documents for an Extraordinary General Assembly must reach each Member at least one (1) month before the date fixed for the opening session of the Extraordinary General Assembly (fourteen (14) days if the Extraordinary General Assembly is to be held electronically).
- 5.5. The General Assembly of ILSE is empowered to:
- a) Approve and modify the Constitution of ILSE and the Bye-Laws of ILSE provided that its objects must always be humanitarian and charitable in nature.
  - b) Conduct statutory elections of ILSE.
  - c) Elect European Regional Directors of the Board of ILS according to the Bye-Laws of ILS.
  - d) Determine Membership Fees.
  - e) Approve the accounts and adopt the budgets.
  - f) Exonerate or discharge from responsibility the Board of Directors and the Financial Auditors.
  - g) Submit proposals for new Full Members to the ILS.
  - h) Adopt programmes of activities.
  - i) Decide upon proposals submitted by the Board of Directors of ILSE and the Full Members.
  - j) Voluntarily dissolve ILSE.
  - k) Approve legally binding transactions and agreements.
  - l) Introduce and determine any specific donation payment for all of its members for a pre-determined purpose as it considers appropriate.
- 5.6 The quorum of Full Members required to be present at a General Assembly for resolutions on dissolution of ILSE, on distribution of its assets and on amendments

to the ILSE Constitution, shall be more than 50%. For other matters the minimum quorum shall be 30% of Full Members with voting rights.

The respective quorum of Full Members present shall be reached at the opening session of the General Assembly and is then valid for the whole General Assembly meeting.

5.7.

- a) Any vote on the dissolution and distribution of the assets of ILSE shall be passed by the agreement of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Full Members with voting rights that are present at the meeting.
- b) Any vote on an amendment to the ILSE Constitution or Bye-Laws shall be passed by the agreement of  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Full Members with voting rights that are present at the meeting.
- c) Any vote on other matters shall be passed by a simple majority of the Full Members with voting rights that are present at the meeting.
- d) In case of a secret ballot at a General Assembly, abstentions shall not be counted.

5.8 General Assemblies may be held face to face, through electronic meeting systems through procedures described in the Bye-Laws or by a mix of these methods.

The agenda of the General Assembly and the Extraordinary General Assembly are determined by procedures set out in the ILSE Bye-Laws.

5.9 The Minutes of General Assemblies shall be issued to all Members within two (2) months of the conclusion of the General Assembly.

## **Article 6. Board of Directors of ILSE**

6.1. The Board of Directors of ILSE shall be constituted as follows:

- a) President
- b) Secretary General
- c) Four Vice Presidents who shall come preferably from different regions (North, East, Central, South, West), but not from the same region as the President.
- d) Other Directors up to a number decided by the General Assembly of ILSE
- e) An Honorary Life-President
- f) Up to four Honorary Life-Members of the Board
- g) The President and Secretary General of ILSE are empowered to jointly represent the ILSE 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 ILSE provided that such transactions and agreements do not conflict with this Constitution and the Bye-Laws and that they were approved by the Board of Directors or a General Assembly or Extraordinary General Assembly of ILSE convened in accordance with this Constitution save that where a budget for expenditure on a project has been approved by the ILSE. General Assembly or Board of Directors and identification of such project is required as a matter of urgency and convening a further ILSE General Assembly or Board of Directors meeting is impractical then such expenditure may be approved by a decision of the Chancellery.
- h) The President, Secretary General and four Vice-Presidents of the ILSE shall form the Chancellery of ILSE.
- i) ILSE shall not reimburse expenses for any of its members except that in the case of the President, Secretary General (or those acting specifically at their request) or the Honorary Life President reasonable expenses properly incurred and evidenced may be reimbursed.

- 6.2. The President of ILSE shall be, by virtue of his or her office,
- a) Entitled to exercise any of the powers or activities of a Vice-President of ILS.
  - b) Represent Europe as a Vice President of ILS.
  - c) Act as the representative of ILSE according to § 26 BGB (German Civil Code).
  - d) Be authorized to sign any legal or other document on behalf of the ILSE provided always that if he or she is unavailable to do so within a reasonable timescale then any such document may be signed on behalf of ILSE by the Secretary General.
- 6.3 Each Member of the Board of Directors of ILSE shall be nominated by a Full Member and hold membership in that Full Member's Association. Each Member of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a period of normally four years that is between General Assemblies and is eligible for re-election. If a person elected to be a member has ceased to be supported by his or her nominating Association this member shall be treated as having automatically resigned from the Board. For this purpose a formal letter signed by the Chair or CEO / Secretary General of the nominating Association that a person is no longer supported by that Association in the role of Director shall be conclusive evidence of that resignation when received by the Secretary General of ILSE.
- 6.4. The Board of Directors of ILSE meets at least once a year and meetings can be held face to face, though electronic meeting systems through procedures described in the Bye-laws or by a mix of these methods.
- 6.5. The Board of Directors is empowered to:
- a) Implement the decisions of the General Assembly of ILSE.
  - b) Create and dissolve Commissions and approve their terms of reference and procedures.
  - c) Appoint and dismiss members of Commissions by procedures set out in the ILSE Bye-Laws.
  - d) Decide on the place and date and other arrangements for the European Aquatic Life Saving Championships.
  - e) Adopt the annual financial report and forecast budgets.
  - f) Adopt the activity reports and approve future projects.
  - g) Submit to ILS proposals already approved by the General Assembly of ILSE.
  - h) The Board of Directors of ILSE shall be authorised to decide and register changes of this constitution caused by the national Tax Authorities or the responsible Court,
  - i) Appoint the ILSE President or Secretary-General or a Director or Directors to represent the ILSE in any legal matter.
  - j) Approve legally binding transactions and agreements.
  - k) Create Advisor posts and Working Groups in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
  - l) Enter into strategic alliances and other collaborative arrangements with national or European organisations,
  - m) Determine the process for hosting and voting at electronic meetings of General Assemblies Board of Directors and Commission meetings.
  - n) To carry out such other acts to implement the Missions and Objectives of ILSE.
- 6.6. The members of the Board at 6.1. e) and f) have no right to vote.
- 6.7 The quorum of the Board is attained, if 50% of the current Directors are present. Resolutions of the Board shall be decided by a simple majority of the Directors present.

- 6.8. The Chairs of the Commissions may, if invited, participate in the meetings of the Board as and when considered necessary, but have no right to vote by virtue of that office.
- 6.9. The Chair of a Commission may be a Member of the Board of Directors of ILSE at the same time.

## **Article 7. Commissions**

- 7.1. The Board of Directors may decide upon the creation of Commissions and their composition, frequency of meetings and procedures. The nomination of Commission members, their duties, obligations, responsibilities and voting rights shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.
- 7.2. Each Commission shall be composed as a minimum of a Commission Chair, Commission Vice Chair, Secretary and two to a maximum of 17 other members. The term of office shall be approximately four years in line with the cycle of General Assemblies. Each Member shall nominate its Commission member. If the Commission member has ceased to be supported by his or her national association, this person shall be treated as having automatically resigned from the Commission and the same provisions as those set out in Article 6.3 shall apply. The Chair and Vice Chair shall be nominated by a Full Member and at least 50% of the Commission shall come from Full Members.
- 7.3 The President and Secretary General of ILSE may participate in Commission meetings, but have no voting right.

## **Article 8. Budget and Accounts**

- 8.1. The financial year of ILSE begins on 1<sup>st</sup> January and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December of the same year.
- 8.2. The Board of Directors presents the financial report and proposed budgets to the General Assembly of ILSE according to procedures set out in the ILSE Bye-Laws. The account auditing procedures are also set out in the ILSE Bye-Laws.

## **Article 9. Language**

The official language of ILSE is English, but every delegate unable to speak English shall have the right to speak in his/her own language provided that he or she arranges to be assisted by an interpreter for whose expenses he or she shall be responsible.

## **Article 10. Political, religious and racial**

Given the nature and the aims of ILSE, Members are to be discouraged from raising political, religious and racial matters.

## **Article 11. Dissolution**

In the case of ILSE being dissolved, losing its legal capacity or in case of a discontinuation of the tax-privileged purposes, the whole of its assets shall be distributed to the Deutsche Lebens-Rettungs-Gesellschaft e.V. (DLRG), having its registered seat of its headquarters in Bad Nenndorf. DLRG shall use these assets directly and exclusively for charitable purposes, similar to those set out in Article 2 of this constitution.

Renewed at the virtual General Assembly 13.03.2021.