



## **DEAF INTERNATIONAL BASKETBALL FEDERATION (DIBF)**

### **CONSTITUTION**

#### **A. NAME**

The Deaf International Basketball Federation (DIBF) was provisionally established in Turku, Finland in May 1998 under the name of International Deaf Basketball Association as a world governing body for international deaf basketball in cooperation with the Comité International de Sports de Sourds (CISS) and its confederations. The DIBF shall be an independent Federation composed of the National Organisations governing Deaf Basketball

#### **B. OBJECTIVES OF THE FEDERATION**

1. To encourage the growth and development of deaf basketball in all nations of the world through an organised programme of education and instruction.
2. To constitute a forum for the discussion analysis and approval of proposals for the establishment of the rules for deaf basketball
3. To serve as the official governing body for the scheduling and conduct of all international contests and championships in deaf basketball in cooperation with the CISS and its Confederations.
4. To maintain a documented history of the sport by recording and reporting on all major international contests from the inception of international competitions to the present.
5. To represent the Federation on all bodies and organisations concerned with deaf basketball internationally; the CISS and its Confederations and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA)
6. To raise funds and invite contributions from any person or persons by way of donations, sponsorships and other activities provided that the Federation shall not undertake any permanent trading activities.
7. To do all such lawful things as shall further the objects of the Federation, including the delegation of such objects and responsibilities to any such subgroups it shall so designate.

#### **C. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to any National Basketball Organisation governing deaf basketball in a country under condition this organisation is a member of the National Deaf Sports Organisation governing deaf sports in the country in question. In case there is no National Organisation governing deaf basketball in the country the National Deaf Sports Organisation may be member of the DIBF provided it accepts the Constitution of the Federation. However, voting at DIBF-Congresses is only entitled to people working for Deaf Basketball in this country.

#### **D. DUTIES OF THE FEDERATION**

The Federation shall be responsible for:

1. The governing of the conduct of all international deaf basketball competitions through coordination with the Organising Committee at any given venue.
2. Ensuring that the policies and regulations which govern the sport, established by vote of the member nations, are carried out faithfully.
3. The convening of all meetings necessary for proper organisation and administration of the Federation.
4. The establishment of policies, procedures and regulations concerning the structure of international competitions, changes in playing rules and all other matters which impinge directly on the sport.
5. The establishment of any Commissions deemed necessary for the proper conduct of its duties and the appointments to such Commissions.
6. The appointment of a representative on behalf of the Federation on all international bodies to which it has membership on in which its interests are involved.

#### **E. OFFICERS OF THE FEDERATION**

1. The elected officers of the Federation shall be the Federation President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Federation Treasurer and three Members-at-Large
2. The Federation President shall be responsible for the convening and conduct of all meetings. That person shall prepare an agenda for all meetings of the Federation. That person shall have authority to appoint members, with the approval of the other officers, to possibly Commissions, established by the Federation. That person shall have ultimate responsibility for the upholding of the Constitution and its operation.
3. The Federation Vice-President shall be elected by and from within the Executive Committee at the first Executive meeting following the World Congress. He/she shall, in the President's absence, act as that person's deputy.
4. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the correspondence of the Federation He/she shall .....(to be outlined later)
5. The Federation Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds, the formation of budgets and the annual financial report, as directed by the officers of the Federation.
6. The President of the FIBA Council for Basketball for Athletes with a Disability shall hold ex-officio status within the Federation Executive Committee without voting rights

7. Any officer who fails to attend two successive Federation Executive Committee meetings without cause or three Federation Executive Committee meetings during a term regardless of cause shall be removed from office and shall be replaced by a representative appointed by the President, following consultation with the Federation Executive Committee. In the event that the President is removed from office under the terms of the previous sentence that person shall be replaced by the Federation Vice-President. The Executive Committee would, from within its own membership, then elect a new Federation Vice-President.
8. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), if there is such a position installed, shall be retained as an employee of the Federation, by the Executive Committee, on such terms as the Executive Committee deems appropriate. Such terms and conditions of employment of the Chief Executive Officer shall be set out in a written employment agreement entered into between the Chief Executive Officer and the Federation. The Chief Executive Officer shall be responsible to plan, direct and control all activities of the Federation on behalf of the member nations and in accordance with the objectives and policies of the Executive Committee; to provide leadership for the sport, the Executive Committee and staff, to represent the sport throughout the world and in such other responsibilities as described in the employment contract. The Chief Executive Officer shall be removable in accordance with the written employment agreement entered into between the Chief executive Officer and the Federation.
9. The elected Officers of the Federation shall serve without remuneration and no elected Officer shall directly or indirectly receive any profit from his position as such, provided that an elected Officer may be paid reasonable expenses incurred by him in the performance of his duties. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to preclude any elected Officer from serving the Federation as a salaried employee or in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore.
10. The elected Officers of the Federation, with the exception of the CEO, shall each be entitled to one vote on all matters at meeting of the Executive Committee.

**F. ELECTIONS**

1. The officers of the Federation shall be elected in the following manner:

Federation President	World Congress
Federation Vice-President	To be elected by and from within The Executive Committee
Secretary General	World Congress
Federation Treasurer	World Congress
3 Members-At-Large	World Congress
Future Zonal Presidents	At the discretion of the Zone, but at a minimum once every four year period

## **G. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected Officers of the Federation and a possible CEO. They shall collectively manage the affairs of the Federation. Five of the elected Officers, one of whom must be either the Federation President or the Federation Vice-President, are required to form a quorum.
2. The Committee shall have the power to fill unforeseen vacancies in the membership of the Committee to serve until the next World Congress.
3. The Executive Committee may appoint such agents and hire such employees as it shall deem necessary from time to time and such persons shall have such authority and shall perform such duties as determined by the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee, subject where necessary to the eventual ratification of the membership shall:
  - (a) Transact the business and administer the affairs of the Federation in accordance with the policies of the Federation.
  - (b) Require all income from whatever source to be deposited in the accounts of the Federation.
  - (c) Adopt a Tournament Regulations Manual concerning the conduct of events.
  - (d) Report its proceedings to the World Congress. In each of the three intervening years the Federation Executive Committee shall report its activities and plans to member nations by 1st November.
  - (e) Endorse the decision(s) of the President/Chief Executive Officer (or otherwise) which has (have) been made in the best interests of the Federation between Committee Meetings.
  - (f) Determine who shall serve as the representative(s) of the Federation and the sport of deaf basketball to any other organisation in the world.
  - (g) Fix a reasonable rate of expenses for all Officers, agents, employees and committee members.
  - (h) Have the power to establish, by resolution, committees on such terms and conditions as the Executive Committee deems appropriate, including duties of such committees and the timing and manner of holding meetings of such committees whose members will hold their offices at the discretion of the Executive Committee, or as otherwise determined by the Executive Committee.
  - (i) Have the power to elect a former Executive Committee Member to the position of "Executive Member Emeritus", following outstanding service to the DIBF. An "Executive Member Emeritus" shall hold ex-officio status within the Federation Executive Committee without voting rights.

- (j) Establish and modify by absolute majority the various DIBF regulations, subject to ratification by the next World Congress.
- 5. The Executive Committee may transact such part of its business by correspondence/ telephone as it might deem advisable.
- 6. The Executive Committee shall appoint committees for matters as it deems necessary. The committees shall consist of three to five members. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Chairman of the Committees who shall report to the Executive Committee on the decisions of the committee.

#### **H. ZONAL COMMITTEES (for future)**

- 1. The Federation Executive Committee shall determine the geographical location of nations to zones but as a general principle they will be similar to those of FIBA
- 2. The formation of any zone shall be based on the establishment of General Regulations consistent with the DIBF Constitution, to be approved by the Executive Committee. All other Zonal Regulations shall be consistent with the current regulations of the Federation.
- 3. The Nations in membership of the Federation and whose geographical location lies within the boundaries of a particular DIBF Zone, shall in each year preceding the World Congress elect the Zonal Committee for that zone for a period of four years.
- 4. The President elected on that occasion shall be a full member of the Federation Executive Committee. In the absence of the Zonal President at an Federation Executive Committee meeting the Zonal Vice-President may deputise for the Zonal President and retain voting rights.
- 5. The Zonal Committees are responsible for designing their own elected positions within their Committees to suit their particular purposes. However, they must elect officials to provide consistency and reference to the structure of the Federation.
- 6. The Zonal Committees are responsible for the sanctioning of all major competitions held within their Zone, e.g. in Europe, the European Championships for Nations for men and women.
- 7. Zonal Committees are ultimately responsible to the Federation and the Federation Executive Committee, and as such they shall produce such reports as are requested of them regarding their activities and financial transactions.
- 8. In the event of major decisions in the Zone which have implications for the Federation, the Zonal Committee shall make such decisions but only after seeking guidance from the Federation President.

## **I FINANCES**

1. The income of the DIBF shall consist of:
  - (a) fees from the affiliated federations, to be established at the World Congress on a progressive basis;
  - (b) fees from enrolment or participation in any event organised by the DIBF, to be set by the Executive Committee;
  - (c) fines in application of the respective regulations;
  - (d) income from television and marketing rights owned by the DIBF advertisements and sponsoring;
  - (e) donations, subsidies and miscellaneous receipts.
2. The Executive Committee shall, following discussion with each Zonal Executive Committee, forward an agreed proportion of the annual membership fees received from the countries within a respective Zone to that Zone. If a Zone is not formally constituted then all memberships monies shall remain within the Federation accounts.
3. The Executive Committee shall levy fees on any competitions requiring their sanction and support; such fees to be determined by the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee shall determine any uses for the funds it accumulates in keeping with the objects of the Federation.
5. The fiscal year of the Federation shall be the calendar year and shall run from January 1st to December 31st of each year. Membership fees due to the Federation must be paid on or before the first day of January in financial year to which the fees relate. If a nation does not pay its membership fees by the due date it loses its right to participate in DIBF World and Zonal Championships and loses its voting rights at the World Congress and Zonal Meetings.
6. The Federation shall retain all rights to granting licenses for the use of rights owned by the DIBF, marketing rights of the properties of the DIBF, and television and sponsorship rights for all world and zonal competitions for national teams and club teams organised by the DIBF.
7. Subject to 1.6 the Federation shall have the rights to negotiate the use of the properties outlined in 1.6 as it deems fit.

## **J. DISCIPLINE**

1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fine, suspend or recommend any other course of action against individuals, organisations or nations.
2. Member nations, organisations and individuals shall have the right to appeal to the next full meeting of the Zonal Nations or the World Congress or they may request a Special World Congress or Special Zonal Meeting as detailed in M 11 or M 12, if they consider they have just cause against the decision of the Executive Committee. The decision of the meeting will be final.

## **K. MEETINGS OF THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD**

1. The member nations of the Federation will meet once every four year at the World Congress which will take place immediately prior to, and in the same location as the Men's World Championships. The Congress will debate and vote on all matters of concern to the Federation including:
  - (a) adopt and modify this Constitution;
  - (b) elect the Officers of the Federation;
  - (c) examine and approve all reports and other items placed on the agenda;
  - (d) ratify decisions by the Executive Committee regarding the approval of the budget and financial reports;
  - (e) adopt in their entirety the modifications to the Official Deaf Basketball rules presented by the Executive Committee;
  - (f) ratify in their entirety the decisions of the Executive Committee concerning the establishment and modification of the Internal Regulations.
2. English will be the official language of the Federation and the Zones; in the Zones other languages may also be designated official.

## **L. MEETINGS OF THE NATIONS OF THE ZONE (future)**

1. The meetings of the members of the Zone shall be programmed for times and places in the calendar when the elected Executive Committee of the Zone anticipate the best attendance, e.g. Zonal Championships.
2. There should be at least two meetings between each World Congress and liaison should take place between the Federation President and the Zonal President to arrange the calendar in such a way as to contribute to the World Congress by knowledge of opinions and decisions of the Zonal Meeting.

## **M. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS OF NATIONS (WORLD AND ZONAL)**

1. The World Congress and the Zonal Meeting proceedings and following the World Congress shall be the main business meetings of the Federation and the constituent parts.
2. At least six months notice specifying the place, date together with the agenda and any proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be sent to the Secretaries of the member nations along with the notification of nominations from the Executive Committee for office bearers.
3. Nomination for all office bearers and proposals for consideration by the member nations must reach the Federation ]President four months before the meeting in order that they can be collated and forwarded to member nations at least two months prior to the meeting for discussion in the member nation's committees
4. The meetings are open to all those designated as members of the Federation, also such invited persons considered by the Federation President as being of service to the Federation.
5. Voting at any meeting of the Federation or its constituent bodies is limited to those nations in full membership of the DIBF. One nation - one vote.
6. The quorum for any meeting of the Federation or the Zone shall be at least one/fifth (20%) plus 1 of the total membership possible to be present. A postal or facsimile vote may only be taken in an extraordinary circumstance when it is not possible to convene a meeting of the members and a decision is urgent. Voting by proxy is not permitted.
7. All those eligible to vote must carry accreditation to the meeting as proof of their nation official representation. Failure to supply this information to the Federation President or Zonal Secretary could result in a nation being unable to vote during that series of meetings. All delegates to meetings shall be issued ballot cards.
8. Voting can be by a show of hands or by secret ballot at the discretion of the President or if it is requested by a member nation.
9. Alternations to the Constitution must receive two-thirds (66,66%) of those registering a vote at the meeting; those not voting or abstaining who are physically present at the meeting must be calculated in the percentages for the purpose of the vote.
10. All other votes shall be by simple majority including those concerned with elections.
11. A Special World Congress may be called by resolution of the Executive Committee, or within three months of receipt of a resolution from 25% of member nations to call the meeting together with the signed proposals to be discussed and voted on at that meeting.
12. Special Zonal Meeting may be called by resolution of the Federation Executive Committee, or within three months of receipt of a resolution from 25% of member nations to call the meeting together with the signed proposals to be discussed and voted on at that meeting.
13. The conduct of World Congresses shall be the same for Special Congresses and Meetings.

## **N. AUTHORITY**

1. In the event of any question or matter arising which is not provided for in the foregoing Constitution, such questions or matters shall be dealt with by the Executive Committee; their decision will be binding on all members until the next World Congress when the matter will be resolved.
2. Any dispute arising from this Constitution or the DIBF Regulation which cannot be reconciled shall be definitely settled by a tribunal constituted in accordance with the Statute and Regulation of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, Lausanne, Switzerland. The parties concerned shall undertake to comply with the Statute and Regulation of this Court of Arbitration for Sport and to accept and enforce its decision in good faith.

## **O. DISSOLUTION**

1. In the event of a Zonal organisation ceasing to exist, its responsibilities shall pass to the Executive Committee along with any Financial assets in order to assist in the Zone's re-establishment.
2. In the event of the Federation ceasing to exist the funds remaining shall be used in the promotion of deaf basketball.