IRL MEMBERSHIP POLICY

PREAMBLE

According to the Constitution of International Rugby League there are three categories of Membership: Full, Affiliate and Observer. A Member is the organisation recognised by International Rugby League (IRL) as the body responsible for the regulation and control of the game of rugby league in that jurisdiction. There may only be one National Federation (NF) per jurisdiction, with that NF exercising autonomy over rugby league in its jurisdiction.

An applicant for membership will need to comply with the following criteria:

- The jurisdiction, a country or territory, will be able to demonstrate that it has its own flag and government and that it has complete autonomy over sport within its defined area
- It is recognised by the United Nations (UN) or is recognized as a country within a country which is a member of the UN, or has a National Olympic Committee recognised by the International Olympic Committee

The category of membership reflects the development pathway a NF will travel. Observer Membership status is awarded to organisations which have a legal entity and basic governance structures however are not yet delivering activities which warrant further membership status. Affiliate Members have a higher standard of governance, deliver a 13-a-side domestic competition and play international games. Full Members are deemed to be the most robust and sustainable members delivering good levels of activity including domestic competitions for adults and children, and international matches in at least two separate categories.

1. OBSERVER MEMBER

1. GOVERNANCE	
1.1 Legal Entity	Not for profit legal entity based in the country of the applicant.
1.2 Constitution	Constitution must include basic good governance norms, notably democracy (clarity around decision-making organs), Board practices (including elections), membership (including minimum requirements for membership, rights & duties); & preferably compliant with local NSA rules.

1.3 Annual General Meeting	Founding minutes including constitutive members & initial board elections. Retention: provision of AGM minutes.
1.4 Strategy	Strategy: minimum 3-year plan clearly illustrating (a) objectives and how to achieve them, (b) criteria of National Sports Authority recognition (if not already obtained). Retention: renew strategy upon expiry.
1.5 Ethics	Biographies of founding office holders (board and management) using template IRL form (including stock commitment to ethics).
2. FINANCE	
2.1 Budget	Budget provided for year of application + subsequent year.
2.2 Accounts	Year after affiliation: annual accounts including income/expenditure + balance sheet. Retention: provision of annual accounts.
2.3 Financial controls	Bank account in the name of & in the same country as the entity with minimum 2 signatories drawn from the board / senior management.
3. TECHNICAL	
3.1 Accreditation	Nominate minimum 2 educator candidates for each of Coach and Match Official strands.
4. COMMUNCIATION	
4.1 Website	One or both of a website or FB page showing the entity's logo.

Annual Membership Audit:	Compliance with sections 1.3; 2.2 + AMA self-evaluation.

2. AFFILIATE MEMBER

1. GOVERNANCE	
1.1 Legal Entity	Not for profit legal entity based in the country of the applicant.
1.2 Constitution	Constitution (published) must include basic good governance norms, notably democracy (clarity around decision-making organs), Board practices (incl. elections), membership (incl. minimum requirements for membership, rights & duties); & preferably compliant with local NSA rules.

1.3 Annual General Meeting	AGM minutes showing (a) accurately recorded membership; (b) clearly recorded decisions. Retention: provision of AGM minutes.
1.4 Strategy	Strategy (published): must (a) show evidence of progress against the Observer strategy; (b) have minimum 2 years term upon application; (c) include plan to reach Full Membership. Retention: renew strategy upon expiry.
1.5 Ethics	Ethics statement / policy: binding all stakeholders, staff, volunteers & promoting equity, integrity, transparency, the fight against doping and managing conflicts.
1.6 Judiciary	Judiciary system (a) proportionate to the size of the organisation; (b) rules setting out process & sanctions; (c) commitment to impartiality.
2. FINANCE	
2.1 Budget	Budget provided for year of application + subsequent year.
2.2 Accounts	Annual accounts including income/expenditure + balance sheet (incl. accumulated funds*) + report against budget. Retention: provision of annual accounts.
2.3 Financial controls	Clear rules on financial authorisation limits & transaction mechanisms applied to management & board. Explanation how financial integrity (anti-corruption, bribery, fraud, money laundering, disproportionate financial control) will be governed.
2.4 Financial stability	On application: Positive accumulated funds* since inception. Retention: Positive accumulated funds per RLWC cycle.
3. PARTICIPATION	
3.1 Facilities	Access to at least one pitch that can be adapted to meet the international Laws with evidence it has been used for RL.
3.2 Player registration	Evidence of a registration system.
3.3 Senior competition	Population > 500k: 4-team competition, minimum 1 round. Population < 500k: 3-team competition, minimum 2 rounds.
3.4 Junior development	Evidence of junior development.

4. TECHNICAL	
4.1 Accreditation (Equivalent NQF accred. accepted)	Minimum 4 certified (working towards accreditation) OR accredited IRL L1 coaches & 4 MOs (cannot be the same people); nominated educators must be accredited coaches/MOs upon application.
5. INTERNATIONAL	
5.1 National teams	Played senior international match (men or women) qualifying for world rankings points.
6. COMMUNCIATION	
6.1 Website	Website showing results & preferably match reports of 3.3.

***** Accumulated income means surplus of income over expenditure

Annual Membership Audit:	Compliance with sections 1.3; 2.2; 3.3; 4.1 (in 2 years of ever RLWC cycle)

3. FULL MEMBER

KEY: Mandatory | Recommended

1. GOVERNANCE	
1.1 Legal Entity	Not for profit legal entity based in the country of the applicant.
1.2 Constitution	Full Member's own membership must include minimum 4 legal entities (clubs etc.) in the parent country; evidence those members comply with the NF affiliation rules (accounts, competition entry etc.).
1.3 Annual General Meeting	AGM minutes (published) showing (a) accurately recorded membership; (b) clearly recorded decisions. Retention: provision of AGM minutes.
1.4 Strategy	Strategy: must (a) show evidence of progress based on the Affiliate Member strategy; (b) have min. 3-year term upon application; (c) include women/girls strand; (d) plan to recruit at least 1 independent director at term.

	Retention: renew strategy upon expiry.
1.5 Ethics	Ethics statement / policy: binding all stakeholders, staff, volunteers & promoting equity, integrity, transparency, the fight against doping and managing conflicts.
1.6 Judiciary	Judiciary (published) system (a) proportionate to the size of the organisation; (b) rules setting out process & sanctions; (c) commitment to impartiality.
1.7 Policies	Must have (a) diversity policy: clear commitment to diversity throughout the organisation, including benchmarks; (b) children & vulnerable people protection policy (as junior development is mandatory).
2. FINANCE	
2.1 Budget	Minimum 3-year business plan, including (a) clearly defined mission & how it will be achieved; (b) forecasts & projections; (c) financial KPIs & identified risks. Retention: renew business plan in line with 1.4.
2.2 Accounts	Minimum 3 years of accounts each showing previous year's figures; accounts published. Retention: provision of annual accounts.
2.3 Financial controls	Clear rules on financial authorisation limits & transaction mechanisms applied to management & board. Explanation how financial integrity (anti-corruption, bribery, fraud, money laundering, disproportionate financial control) will be governed.
2.4 Financial stability	(a) On application: solvent where (i) total assets are greater than liabilities and (ii) the ability to pay debts as they fall due; (b) positive working capital (current assets minus current liabilities); (c) minimum 50% of revenue not from IRL or confederation (IRL discretion to account for local economic factors); (d) quarterly management accounts. Retention: discretion of IRL.
3. PARTICIPATION	
3.1 Facilities	Access to at least two pitches adapted to meet the international Laws and evidence they are in regular use for RL.
3.2 Player registration	Population > 500k: minimum 250 registered players with annual records maintained. Population < 500k: minimum 150 registered players with annual records maintained.

3.3 Clubs	Minimum 4 clubs (as per 1.2) each with minimum 1 senior + 1 junior (U15-U19) team involved in annual 13-a-side competition.
3.4 Senior competition	Population > 500k: 6-team comp min. 1 round (5 games per team). Population < 500k: 4-team comp min. 2 rounds (6 games per team).
3.5 Junior competition	U15-U19 comp: Population > 500k: 4-team comp minimum 2 round (6 games per team). Population < 500k: 4-team comp minimum 1 round (3 games per team)
3.6 Women & girls	Women & girls' development in line with 1.4. Minimum requirement of active women/girls teams by Full Member admission + 4 years.
3.7 Derivative forms	Development of RL derivatives (wheelchair, physical disability, learning disability, 9s, touch, tag, flag, beach etc.)
4. TECHNICAL	
4.1 Accreditation (Equivalent NQF accred. accepted)	Minimum 2 L1 coach educators, and 6 L1 coaches (4 accredited); minimum 2 MO educator & 8 L1 MOs (5 accredited). (Educators cannot double up in both strands).
5. INTERNATIONAL	
5.1 National teams	To achieve: minimum 2 national teams (one of which must be open age men or women) each of which must have played minimum 3 games including 1 home & 1 away game. Retention: both teams have played at least once in last 24 months.
5.2 Global events	Commitment to at least one RLWC, each cycle.
6. COMMUNCIATION	
6.1 Website	Website showing results & match reports of 3.4-3.5; policies and governance documents published on website.
6.2 Social media	Regular activity in min. two of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
6.3 Media officer	Designated media officer & evidence of key local media distribution list.

Annual Membership Audit:	Compliance with sections 1.3; 2.2; 3.3-5; 4.1 (in 2 years of ever RLWC cycle)

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4. RIGHTS & DUTIES

	OBSERVER	AFFILIATE	FULL
RIGHTS	1. Attend general meetings but not vote. 2. To receive IRL technical education within 12-months of admission. 3. Play international matches. 4. Eligible for Congress support (if AMA compliant).	1. Attend general meetings but not vote. 2. Global Event eligibility. 3. Access competition-specific funding. 4. Propose resolutions. 5. Eligible for Congress support (if AMA compliant).	1. Vote at general meetings. 2. Global Event eligibility. 3. Access competition-specific funding 4. Access performance-related grants (see below). 5. Propose resolutions. 6. Eligible for Congress support (if AMA compliant).
DUTIES	1. Compliance with IRL constitution and rules.	1. Compliance with IRL constitution and rules.	1. Compliance with IRL constitution and rules. 2. Physical attendance at minimum 1 IRL AGM of each RLWC cycle. 3. Commitment to at least 1 RLWC each cycle.

5. PERFORMANCE RELATED GRANTS: FUNDING MECHANISM (FULL MEMBERS ONLY)

	CRITERIA	FUNDING (AUD)
FULL MEMBER GRANT	1. Upon completion of Annual Membership Audit	1. 50%
GOVERNANCE	2. Failure to meet AMA deadline.	2. $(500)
PARTICIPATION **A. Compliance**	1. Compliance with 3.3 (4 legal clubs with min. 1 Sr + 1 Jr active teams) 2. Compliance with 3.4 (6-team comp, min. 1 round/5 games each team, not incl. finals) *	1. 10% 2. (a) 20% (min. 5 games each by min. 6 teams) (b) 10% (total 10-14 games played)

B. Incentivised	3. Compliance with 3.5 (4-team comp, 2 rounds, not incl. finals) * Discretionary grants for participation and technical development above the minimum standards may be awarded.	3. (a) 12% (min. 6 games each by min. 4 teams) (b) 8% (total 7-11 games played)
TECHNICAL	Compliance with section 4.	8%

***** Verifiable through signed PDF match protocol and/or match report on the official website and/or broadcast footage.

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