

## CONSTITUTION OF THE V.A.I.

### Chapter 1: Definitions, Aspirations and Principles

#### 1.1 Definitions

“*Board*” means the Board of Administration of the V.A.I.

“*Commission*” means a working group appointed by the Board with the responsibility of carrying out duties, as designated by the Board.

“*V.A.I.*” means the Volleyball Association of Ireland.

“*Volleyball*” The term “volleyball” is meant to include all forms of the practice of the said sport, played at all levels of competition for male and female players, whether played indoor or outdoor, on a hard or soft surface.

“*F.I.V.B.*” means the Federation Internationale de Volleyball.

“*Group*” means a Fully Affiliated Group or an Associated Affiliated Group

“*Fully Affiliated Groups*” means clubs affiliated to the V.A.I.

“*Associate Affiliated Groups*” means groups other than clubs affiliated to the V.A.I.

“*Club*” means any organisation registered as a club with the V.A.I

#### 1.2 Name

The Association shall be known as “The Volleyball Association of Ireland” or in the Irish language “Comhaltas Peil Eitleoige na hEireann”.

#### 1.3 Objectives

The V.A.I. shall act as the governing body of the sport in the Republic of Ireland.

The V.A.I. shall encourage the expansion of the game of Volleyball in all its forms throughout the Republic of Ireland.

The V.A.I. shall:

- (a) Administer and govern Volleyball in all its forms, professional and amateur, within the Republic of Ireland including the control of all Volleyball competitors under the auspices of the V.A.I.
- (b) Regulate and interpret the rules of Volleyball as established by the F.I.V.B.
- (c) Control the qualification of coaches and tutors.
- (d) Control the qualifications of referees and tutors.

#### 1.4 Fundamental Principles

1.4.1 The V.A.I. is the sole entity competent to administer and govern Volleyball in the republic of Ireland for male and female players.

1.4.2 The V.A.I. has received recognition from the F.I.V.B, the Olympic Council of Ireland and the Irish Sports Council.

1.4.3 The V.A.I. is a non – sectarian, non – political organisation.

1.4.4 The V.A.I. is fully committed to safeguarding the well being of its members. Every individual in the V.A.I. should at all times, show respect and understanding for members rights, safety and welfare and conduct themselves in a way that reflects the principles of the organisation and the guidelines contained in the *Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children’s Sport*

## **CHAPTER 11: Composition of the V.A.I.**

### **2.1 Groups**

- 2.1.1 The V.A.I shall be composed of the groups affiliated to it. The groups are the basic components of the V.A.I. and as such are linked the V.A.I. directly and not through any other institutions.
- 2.1.2 The members must respect and implement the Constitution and bye-laws of the V.A.I. Group constitutions must reflect the provisions of the V.A.I. Constitution. In the case of contradiction, the V.A.I. constitution shall prevail.

### **2.2 Affiliation**

- 2.2.1 The affiliation of a group to the V.A.I. is granted at their own request upon the payment of the appropriate fee. These fees shall be agreed by the Board and ratified by the General Meeting at appropriate intervals.
- 2.2.2 Affiliation shall comprise of two varieties: full and associate.
- 2.2.3 The Board defines the conditions and procedures to be fulfilled for affiliation. Should any of the conditions for affiliation fail to be fulfilled the group concerned shall lose all of its rights until such time as the Board establishes that the conditions are met.

## **CHAPTER 111: Institutions of the V.A.I.**

### **3.1 General Provisions**

- 3.1.1. The V.A.I. is governed by institutions which are assisted by supporting institutions.
- 3.1.2. The governing institutions are the General Meeting and the Board of Administration.

### **3.2 General Meeting**

- 3.2.1 The General Meeting is the supreme authority of the V.A.I. and shall meet at least once every two years. Elections to the Board shall be held once every two years.
- 3.2.2 The General Meeting is composed of the affiliated groups who are up to date with their obligations and financial commitments to the V.A.I.
- 3.2.3 The fully affiliated groups entitled to vote shall be counted to determine the quorum.
- 3.2.4 Any group under suspension for any reason may attend the General Meeting as an observer, with no voting rights. Each fully affiliated group shall have two votes. Each elected Board member shall have two votes. Each associate affiliate group shall have one vote.
- 3.2.5 The General Meeting may only begin when at least one quarter (1/4) of the fully affiliated groups are represented.
- 3.2.7 Ten weeks notice of the General Meeting shall be given in writing to all affiliated groups and any motions to the General Meeting must be sent to the Honorary Secretary at least six weeks before the General Meeting. All motions must be sent to affiliated groups at least three weeks before the General Meeting. Extraordinary motions may be accepted on the day provided that at least two thirds (2/3) of the voting delegates present approve.
- 3.2.8 With the exception of changes in the Constitution, resolutions shall be decided by a simple majority.

### **3.3 Special General Meeting**

3.3.1 A Special General Meeting of the Association shall be convened on a resolution of the Board or within six weeks of the receipt of a resolution from at least twenty five percent (25%) of the groups fully affiliated to the V.A.I.

### **3.4 Board of Administration**

- 3.4.1 Composition and Quorum: The Board shall have a minimum of five and a maximum of seven members. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer.
- 3.4.2 Only one person per group may be a member of the Board at any given time.
- 3.4.3 Election of the Board: The Executive Committee and one other member shall be elected every two years by the General Meeting. Nominations for the Board shall be submitted at least six weeks before the General Meeting.
- 3.4.4 (a) The Board shall have the power to co-opt not more than two additional persons whose duties shall be defined by the Board.  
(b) These persons shall have full voting rights at Board level but not at the General Meeting.
- 3.4.5 Any member of the Board who is absent from three consecutive meetings shall have their membership of the Board reviewed by the remaining members of the Board.
- 3.4.6 A member of the Board shall not be eligible for re-appointment if he or she has served three (3) consecutive terms as a member of the Board. A previous Board member may be eligible for re-election after one (1) term.
- 3.4.7 A member of the Board may resign his or her membership by letter addressed to the President or, in case of the President, by letter to the Honorary Secretary and the resignation shall take effect from the date of acceptance by the Board.
- 3.4.8 A member of the Board may only be removed from office by a decision of the Board, for cause. A member may at any time be removed from membership of the Board by a simple majority in a vote by the other members of the Board if, in the Board's opinion, the member has become incapable through ill-health of performing his or her functions, or has committed stated misbehaviour. In the event of a tied vote, the President has the casting vote. If the member whose membership is being terminated is the President, the Vice-President shall have the casting vote. Where such removal takes place the Board shall be entitled to replace the member until the next general meeting.
- 3.4.9 The Board shall meet at least six times per year. The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be three persons where the composition of the Board is five members and shall be four persons where the composition of the Board is in excess of five members.
- 3.4.10 No person currently employed full-time by the V.A.I. may be eligible for election to the Board

### **3.5 Competence**

- 3.5.1 The Board shall be responsible for the overall administration and management of the V.A.I.
- 3.5.2 The Board has the right to establish Commissions and to appoint or discharge officials to the Commissions for stated reasons.

### **3.6 The Presidency**

- 3.6.1 Jointly with the Board the President shall be responsible for executing the decisions of the General Meeting and the Board.
- 3.6.2 Between meetings of the Board, the President in conjunction with a majority of the Executive Committee may take all urgent measures. Notice of such must be given to the Board within one month and ratified at its next meeting.
- 3.6.3 The President shall represent the V.A.I. with all legal powers. The President shall chair the General Meeting, meetings of the Board and has the prerogative of chairing other meetings of V.A.I. institutions. In the absence of the President the meeting shall be chaired by the Vice-President.
- 3.6.4 The President or Vice –President when acting as chairperson shall have the casting vote.
- 3.6.5 The President shall be the sole person with the power to sign contracts and documents of commitment on behalf of the V.A.I.
- 3.6.6 In the event of the President resigning, the Vice-President shall replace the President. If the Vice-President declines the Presidential position a Special General Meeting of the Association shall be called to elect a new President.
- 3.6.7 The new President elected by the Special General Meeting shall only retain office until the election of a new Board.

### **3.7 The Commissions**

- 3.7.1 The role of the Commissions is to manage the different aspects of the game of Volleyball.

## **CHAPTER IV: Finance**

- 4.1 The financial year of the Association shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January and end on 31<sup>st</sup> December
- 4.2 The funds of the Association shall be kept with a financial institution(s) and all sums withdrawn must be signed by two of the Executive Committee, one of whom must be the Honorary Treasurer or the President.
- 4.3 Members of the Board and the Commissions shall be reimbursed for approved out-of-pocket expenses, as laid down by the fee structure of the Association, incurred when acting in an official capacity on behalf of the Association.
- 4.4 The accounts shall be audited annually and approved by the Board and presented to the General Meeting for approval.
- 4.5 An independent auditor shall be approved by the General Meeting in election year for the subsequent two years.

## **CHAPTER V: General Provisions**

- 5.1 Doping: The VAI condemns the use of performance enhancing substances and methods. The anti-doping rules of the VAI are the Irish Anti-Doping Rules as amended from time to time.