



## **FIL General Assembly 2018**

### **FIL Application for International Olympic Committee (IOC) Recognition**

This page provides a summary of the actions in respect of the FIL application for IOC Recognition.

The remainder is the full set of mailings to FIL Members on this matter recognizing that changes have occurred in representation and it may be useful to have the full record in one document.

22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2016	Background / History over the 2014 -2016 period
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2016	Application submitted, 52 pages long with 120 attachments
28 <sup>th</sup> November 2016	Timing of application, number of applicant
9 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	IOC overwhelmed by the number of applicants, only 4 (not including FIL) considered, meeting to be arranged for early 2017. Cheer and Muaythai given provisional recognition.
30 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Association of Recognised Sports Federations (ARISF) vetting all applications
14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Meeting held with IOC staff, positive identified and areas to work on. No clarity on timescales.
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Further meeting with IOC staff, additional documentation provided. No timescales for IOC / ARISF / SportAccord review.
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2017	4 applicants, including FIL, to be reviewed in detail, expectation of completion this year.
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2017	IOC advised of delays in the process until next year.
28 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	IOC advised that documentation review would commence shortly with completion due by April

19<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Points raised by IOC clarified and expectation is that the review would be completed in May 2018 with internal IOC recommendations to the Director of the Sports Department to consider for submission to the IOC Executive Board

It is my intent to keep members advised as the application progresses with the IOC

Ron Balls  
Secretary General  
5<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## Mailings to FIL Members

To: All FIL Members

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

Dear Members

### **FIL Application for IOC Recognition**

You should all have received the recent press release regarding the FIL Olympic Vision Committee.

I would like to provide you with an update on the application for lacrosse to be recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Those present at the 2014 General Assembly in Denver will recall that we agreed a whole raft of policy documents (Anti-Corruption, Athletes Commission, Betting Integrity etc.) in preparation for the application and many of you assisted in drafting the documents.

Our application was submitted to SportAccord (the organization representing all international sports federations) in October 2014. At that time SportAccord were acting as the vetting agency, on behalf of the IOC, for all application as much of the information overlapped with the application for SportAccord membership.

Following the submission two events occurred:

- a) The IOC, under the general Olympic 2020 Agenda with much wider considerations, suspended all applications advising that they were going to review the criteria and procedures for application. This was advised by SportAccord in November 2014 and at that time no revised timetable had been agreed.
- b) At the SportAccord convention in April 2015 there was a difference of views between the SportAccord President and the IOC. In the aftermath of this SportAccord has undergone some reconstruction and still represents international sports federations but consideration of all applications for IOC recognition will now be considered by the IOC Sports Department.

The IOC initially advised that the revised criteria would be available in the period April – June 2015 with applications being submitted by September of 2015.

This was then modified to:

- 1) Letter of intent to be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016
- 2) Revised criteria to be published in Quarter 1 2016 (January – March)
- 3) Submission deadline to be advised after letter of intent sent in

The current position is that the revised criteria has now been received, the letter of intent (under President Stan Cockerton's signature), has been sent to the IOC and we are now awaiting confirmation of timescales.

These are likely to be submission of the application by the middle of this year followed by a review with the IOC Sports Department (SD) and an IOC SD recommendation to the IOC Executive Board for consideration at its meeting in December 2016.

Where a sport is granted Provisional Recognition this is generally for a two year period and then the IOC Executive Board makes a recommendation to the IOC (currently 95 members) whether Full Recognition should be granted.

The revised criteria has many similarities to that previously advised but calls for more information regarding our membership (numbers of players, national championships etc.), world events, continental events and multi-sport events. With regard to the latter it is quite clear that significance is placed on participation in the multi-sport events.

With regard to the membership information I need your help in providing details and for the initial set of information a spreadsheet is attached. It would assist if this could be completed and be provided by 25<sup>th</sup> March, preferably earlier. There are some other items of information required from the membership but these will be called for in a later mailing after a few points have been clarified with the IOC Sports Department.

I, or possibly Shelley Maher for the Women's events, will be in contact with Event Hosts for details of spectator numbers, media accreditations etc.

The disagreements between SportAccord and the IOC have had some positive benefits for the non-recognized sports. There are four main groups within SportAccord these being:

- ASOIF      Association of Summer Olympic International Federations
- AIOWF      Association of International Olympic Winter Sports Federations
- ARISF      Association of Recognised International Sports Federations
- **AIMS      Alliance of Independent Members of Sport**

FIL is in the AIMS group along with 22 other sports but not all of these are seeking Olympic Recognition. All those seeking recognition want to get out of AIMS as quickly as possible, including us, and move into ARISF, these are the sports recognised by the IOC but are not currently in the Olympic Games. Those in ARISF want to progress to inclusion and then be part of either the summer or winter games group. The positive is that the AIMS group is now on the IOC radar. At the Sport Accord meeting last November as group we were invited to the IOC offices to a meeting with the Director General, and fleetingly Thomas Bach, to discuss the application process. Subject to some changes to the Constitution, which are quite minor, and signing a Memorandum of Understanding, which is scheduled for April of this year, AIMS will be recommended for formal IOC Recognition. While this does not mean recognition for the individual sports it is a progressive step leading to greater IOC support for AIMS members, the detail of which has still to be confirmed.

Sorry this is a lengthy letter but the intent is to update you on where we are and to seek your help in providing information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

28<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Members

### **FIL Application for IOC Recognition**

Further to my letter of 21<sup>st</sup> February (copy attached for those who do not recall this) I would like to provide an update of the current position. Those of you present at the FIL General Assembly held in July of this year will be aware of the timescales outlined below.

The IOC Sports Department (SD) advised all applicants on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016 the following timescales for application submission:

	Submit	Shortlist by IOC SD	IOC Executive Board (EB) consideration
Phase 1	15 <sup>th</sup> May	7 <sup>th</sup> July	31 <sup>st</sup> July
Phase 2	31 <sup>st</sup> August	30 <sup>th</sup> October	8 <sup>th</sup> December

Noting that the submission had to include "Membership Confirmation" from all of our members and also detail of the numbers of players of each member the Board concluded that the require information would not be available for Phase 1 submission and opted to target Phase. It is expected that there will be later phases in 2017.

The application for IOC recognition was submitted on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2016 with the application itself being to 52 pages long and was accompanied by approximately 120 attached documents sent in phased mailings (as agreed with IOC SD staff.

We are currently awaiting feedback from the IOC on the shortlisting and their recommendations to the IOC EB, at present they are being cautious about conveying any information.

We believe that 4 sports applied in Phase 1 and 16, including ourselves, in Phase 2, again it is difficult to confirm that actual position as not all sports are prepared to divulge their position.

As and when we receive information this will be advised to you all.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

To: All FIL Members  
cc: FIL Board

9<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Members

### **FIL Application for IOC Recognition**

This is an update from my letter of 28<sup>th</sup> November.

A number of you will have heard that the IOC Executive Board has granted “provisional recognition” to 2 sports these being:

International Cheer Union  
and  
Muaythai

We received a letter from the IOC Sports Department on Tuesday of the week (6<sup>th</sup> December) and an extract from this follows

*“A large number of applications were received prior to the Phase 2 deadline of 31st August 2016. All applications, together with others received in Phase 1, were shortlisted for full assessment based on evidence provided against the major criteria.*

*All applications will be fully assessed, but due to the high number of applications and the capacity of the ARISF and IOC assessment teams it has not been possible to assess all as part of the September to December 2016 Procedure.*

*Whilst the application of FIL was not shortlisted for the 2016 procedure, we would like to meet with you in January 2017 to provide general feedback”*

Note: ARISF is the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (this is those who are recognised but not yet included in either the Summer or Winter Olympics).

We are now in discussion with the IOC Sports Department to arrange the meeting for January.

As this develops I will keep you informed of progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

Yours sincerely

To: All FIL Members  
cc: FIL Board

30<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Dear Members

### **FIL Application for IOC Recognition**

As a follow up to my letter of 9<sup>th</sup> December 2016 I would like to provide you with further information regarding our application subsequent to discussions with the IOC Sports Department (SD) staff.

The main points were:

- 1) 4 sports (who they were has not been disclosed as yet) had applied in the Phase 1 timescale and 12 in Phase 2. This, a total of 16, was double the expectation (of 8 in total) and overwhelmed the IOC SD in terms of the volume of work.
- 2) There was a similar situation with the Association of Recognised Sports Federations (ARISF) who are vetting all the applications and who had been "contracted" by IOC SD to look at 8 applications this year
- 3) The procedure that was adopted was for IOC SD to do a quick review of the 12 in Phase 2, selecting the top 4 (again not disclosed as yet) adding these to the Phase 1 applicants (to make a total of 8) and these went through the full review by IOC SD and ARISF.
- 4) Lacrosse was not in the top 4 from Phase 2 and we have not yet been advised of the criteria that were applied.
- 5) At this stage the IOC SD are not prepared to release details of the "quick review" of our application.
- 6) Recommendations were made by the SD and as previously advised the IOC Executive Board at their meeting earlier this month agreed to award provisional recognition to sports the International Cheer Union and to Muaythai.
- 7) The IOC SD have asked to meet with us early in 2017 (end of January or early February, date still to be agreed) to review our application and at that time agree an action plan on any further work that is needed.
- 8) A feature of the meeting will to discuss those areas where we may not have in place the documentation or commissions that they require and give us an opportunity to advise how we handle such matters.

A very positive comment made was that we had good potential and no conflicts with other sports (rival International Federations) which seem to be a feature of many sports.

After the proposed meeting has taken place early next year I will provide a further update.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns.

To: Members  
cc: FIL Board  
FIL Committee Chairs

14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

### **FIL meeting with IOC Sports Department - 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

In the previous mailing I advised that I would let you know the outcome of our meeting with the IOC Sports Department. The meeting took place on Tuesday of this week and also included representatives from SportAccord.

It was explained to us that the IOC SD, with SportAccord, were holding face to face meetings with all of the 16 sports who applied for IOC recognition last year (including the two granted Provisional Recognition) to review the applications.

#### **Key Positives from the meeting:**

- Our application was considered to be good and of high quality
- We were In the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> (out of the 16) [no detail of the 16 or who else above us apart from the International Cheer Union and Muaythai]
- There is no need to resubmit the application, it is a continuous process and we can add documents and update existing submitted documents.
- We do not have any competition in the sense that there are no rival federations purporting to represent lacrosse and there are no very similar sports (as per the multiple martial arts sports)
- IOC people and SportAccord staff like the sport
- They were impressed with the growth in the number of members
- NOC recognition of members can be actioned without IOC recognition (Olympic Charter Section 28.1.2). I will be advising further on this in due course
- Our overall (world- wide) totals of players were considered to be good in respect of the ratio of male / female players.

#### **Areas to work on:**

- Action Plan to cover work noted below
- Africa – only 2 members , plans for further development to be prepared
- Oceania (aka Australasia) noted that only 2 members but this had less emphasis than Africa. Africa)
- Plans needed for Continental Federations (Central /South America /Caribbean and Africa) to be considered. Noted that future event regional qualifiers would be a stimulus to this.
- NOC recognition (as above).
- Multi-sport games a key activity, more consideration (World Games / other)
- Consider Youth Olympics. Too late for 2018 but 2022 could be considered.
- Where do we want to progress (develop) to, Olympic Recognition want or need.
- Athlete representation to be established
- Entourage (Coaching /Managerial) voice to be heard
- Sustainability –Finance / the game / Organisation / Environment, further documentation needed
- Possible Multi-sport collaboration for development purposes [Netball and Rugby combine]
- Athlete Learning Gateway – use resources on IOC web site etc. and web site link/ publicise
- Fantastic product consider USP and how to sell
- Lobbying will be needed going forward (IOC Members)



**Negative:**

- No real clarity on timescales (will probably not be assessed until the meetings with all 16 sports have taken place and Action Plans / workloads assessed).

It is a little disappointing that we do not have specific timescales but I think that after last years' experience (of twice the number of applications than expected) they are being a little more careful on this and do not want to commit until after all the review meetings have taken place. It was also noted that in the last three years the IOC Executive Board have only given Provisional Recognition to two sports and the IOC Full Recognition to one, however they do want a more varied programme within the Olympic framework.

I have a further working level meeting with IOC SD in April and will advise on the points above as plans develop.

To: Members  
cc: FIL Board  
FIL Committee Chairs

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**FIL application for IOC Recognition**

In my letter of 14<sup>th</sup> February I advised of the meeting with the IOC Sports Department (SD) earlier that month and the points and actions noted at that time. This letter is to update you on what has happened since then.

Four additional documents have been sent to the IOC covering:

Africa Development Plan  
Continental Federations (establishing where these do not exist currently)  
Athletes Commission Action Plan  
Sustainability

Additionally the press releases advising of new members have been sent to the IOC as they are issued.

At a further meeting in April (at the SportAccord Convention) with IOC SD staff advice was given that:

- a) All our documents would now be submitted to the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) and SportAccord for review and possible further follow up.
- b) No timescale had been set by the IOC Executive Board (EB) for review of applications and the earliest it could be considered would be at the December meeting, I stress that this is "could" be and not "would" be.

At the Convention the name of SportAccord was changed to the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF).

Also at that time IOC SD met with GAISF and ARISF and considered a revised overall procedure for handling applications. This meant that our documents were not in fact passed over for review but were caught up in the new proposed arrangements. The main points of this new procedure have been advised as being:

- a) ARISF and GAISF will work together so that one person reviews the application and provides recommendations to both organisations (and subsequently IOC provides feedback to the Federations).
- b) Not all Federations will have their applications submitted, there will be some pre-selection to avoid swamping ARISF / GAISF, details of how this will operate are not yet known.
- c) There will be a recommendation to the IOC EB that they have IF Recognition as an agenda item at every December meeting

I am advised that the revised procedure was agreed at a working level by all parties on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and that it is now waiting for agreement by the respective Directors. Publication to applicants is expected after Director agreement.

A further update on this should be available before the end of this month. At that time we should understand whether we have met the requirements or further action is needed.

As and when further information becomes available I will advise you and I will explain where we currently stand at the General Assembly next week.

To: Members  
cc: FIL Board  
FIL Committee Chairs

**30<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

### **FIL application for IOC Recognition**

This is a follow up to my letter of 19<sup>th</sup> July with an update following a recent meeting with IOC Sports Department (IOC SD) staff held during the World Games in Wroclaw last month.

To recap you may recall that 16 sports applied for recognition last year and of these only four (not including lacrosse) were considered in any depth because the number applying was more than twice that expected. Of these two, International Cheer and Muaythai gained recognition.

The IOC SD have now advised that a further 4 applications including that from FIL will have their applications reviewed by the Association of Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) and the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) [previously known as SportAccord]. We have supported this by providing additional information including increases in membership, appointment of a Chief Executive Officer, updated Constitution, Bylaws and audited Finance Report.

It is expected that this review will be concluded in September and that any queries that those organizations have will be raised with us.

IOC SD will then do a further internal review over the period September – December and make a recommendation to the IOC Executive Board.

The IOC Executive Board is expected to consider the recommendation at their December 2017 meeting.

As and when further information becomes available I will advise.

To: Members  
cc: FIL Board  
FIL Committee Chairs

**1<sup>st</sup> November 2017**

#### **FIL application for IOC Recognition**

In my letter of 30<sup>th</sup> August I advised that the IOC Executive Board would be considering the request for recognition by 4 International Federations, including FIL, at their meeting in December of this year.

We have just (31<sup>st</sup> October) been advised of a delay until early next year. The relevant part of the mailing is shown below:

***From:** Mike Joyce*

***To:** Ron Balls*

***Sent:** Tuesday, 31 October 2017, 7:39*

***Subject:** IOC IF Recognition 2017*

*Dear Ron*

*Thank you for your patience regarding progress with the 2017 IOC IF Recognition procedures.*

*As you may be aware, the IOC is currently reviewing the relationship with GAISF, ARISF and other umbrella bodies, including with regard to alignment of recognition procedures for both organisations.*

*As these areas of delivery will include new roles regarding the IOC IF Recognition procedures we have taken the difficult decision to not present any decisions to the IOC Executive Board in December 2017. We appreciate that this delay will be a disappointment, but confirm you that your application will be considered in early 2018 as part of the new procedures.*

*In previous communications we had stated that the annual opportunity for IOC IF Recognition decisions to be presented would be at the December IOC Executive Board meeting. However, due to the procedural changes that are currently underway we have decided to open up the opportunity to further IOC EB meetings in 2018 in accordance with a potential new process aligned with the new relationship with GAISF.*

*I would like to assure you that we fully appreciate the scale of work you and your team have put in to developing the institutional and operational areas of FILx in preparation for your application for recognition.*

*Please continue to keep me updated with progress, new initiatives and important developments.”*

I will be in discussion with the IOC Sports Department to try and clarify the position on meeting dates and will advise when further information is available.

To: Members  
cc: FIL Board  
FIL Committee Chairs

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

### **FIL application for IOC Recognition**

The purpose of this mailing is to keep you up to date with the progress of our application

In my letter of 1<sup>st</sup> November last year of delays I advised of delays in considering the applications (of the 4 sports under consideration) until early 2018 to allow the documentation to be reviewed.

We have now been advised that the analysis of our documentation by a representative of the Association of Recognised Sports Federations (ARISF) will commence shortly in conjunction with further work by the IOC Sports Department (SD). There will also be consultation with other IOC Departments (Legal, Ethics, and Finance etc.), the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and WADA.

This work will not be completed until late April. After completion recommendation will then be presented to an IOC Executive Board meeting which hopefully will be this summer.

The delays are not welcomed however we continue to work with the IOC SD advising updates (new members, audited accounts etc.) to our application.

During the analysis further questions may be asked and depending on what these are I may need to come back to you for further information.

Updates will be provided as and when further information is available.

To: Members  
cc: FIL Board  
FIL Committee Chairs

19<sup>th</sup> April 2018

### **FIL application for IOC Recognition**

This is a follow up to my letter of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018. I advised at that time that our application and documents were being reviewed by a representative of the Association of Recognised Sports Federations (ARISF). That review is now being conducted by the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF). It is the same person undertaking the review but with an organization change he has moved across to work for GAISF.

Over the last couple of weeks during the review a few points of clarity have been raised with us and these have been answered

While at the SportAccord event this week we have taken the opportunity to meet with our liaison from the IOC Sports Department (SD) and the document reviewer for an update.

In that meeting they advised that they expect to complete the review by the middle of next month (May) and will then make a recommendation to the IOC SD Director. If the recommendation is positive and the Director agrees then this will be presented to a future meeting of the IOC Executive Board (EB). We certainly hope that it will be positive and if any concerns that they are discussed with us.

The IOC EB meets on a quarterly basis with a usual schedule of July, September and December each year. Noting the other pressures on the IOC EB at the present, many of which have wide publicity, the members of staff are not in a position to confirm at which meeting the Recognition Applications will be considered. They have however indicated that the early date of July 2018 is most unlikely.

Our understanding is that there are four International Federations are being considered in this phase.

We may hear more next month after the review is completed and I will provide further information as this becomes available.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Kelly', is written above a horizontal line.