

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE ACCREDITATION

PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES: To facilitate the rating of international umpires globally, especially in under-represented countries.

A. Current policies to be reviewed:

- Policy 1. "International accreditation will be conducted over at least two (2) full matches under the Three-person Umpire System Only."
- Policy 2. "Applicants may stand for the practical evaluation no sooner than 6 months following the previous field test."
- Policy 3. "International umpires must attain a score of 90% on the written examination. The written examination is set and distributed to member countries annually by the IFWLA."
- Policy 4. "One Theory Paper is set each year and an applicant can sit the test only once per year."
- Policy 5. "Each successful candidate must submit a registration fee for the amount of US\$75.00 for the three (3) year rating to the IFWLA VP Administration."
- Policy 6. "Candidates may be evaluated at the matches that will be listed and updated on the IFWLA website: [www.womenslacrosse.org](http://www.womenslacrosse.org)."

B. Proposed Changes and Reasons for Change (changes are in *italics* and **bold** type):

- Policy 1. "International accreditation will be conducted over ***no less than*** two (2) matches, ***or the equivalent in game playing time***, under the Three-person Umpire System only. ***The Umpire must officiate for at least 120 minutes of game playing time (the equivalent playing time of two (2) matches). If the venue at which the Umpire is standing for a rating is playing reduced time games (for example, 25 minute halves or 30 minute games), the umpire shall officiate enough games so that s/he has officiated for no less than 120 minutes of game playing time.***"
- Reason: Globally, there are limited opportunities for an umpire to receive a practical field evaluation on two (2) full matches (a full match being two 30-minute halves with a stopped clock as required). Many club tournaments, which have suitable levels of play on which an umpire can be evaluated, play less-than-30-minute halves due to the tournament structure. There also is limited funding to send umpires to the few full match events which exist currently. This change will provide more opportunities for umpires, especially those from under-represented countries, to stand for a practical field evaluation. It does not reduce the quality of the evaluation, as the umpire is rated over the equivalent amount of game-playing time.
- Policy 2. ***"There is no restriction as to how often an applicant may stand for a practical evaluation, as long as the most recent FIL evaluator noted on the applicant's evaluation that s/he is encouraged to continue to pursue an International rating. Without such notation, an applicant may only stand for a practical evaluation once every three months."***

Reason: Globally, there are limited opportunities for an umpire to receive a practical field evaluation, either for a new International rating or to renew an existing International rating. Many tournaments/events at which an umpire may receive a field evaluation are held within the same six month period. The policy of restricting an umpire to waiting every six months for a field evaluation, (which, in practice, often limits that umpire to receiving a practical field evaluation once per year) hinders the development of that umpire. Field evaluations are a useful tool for developing new international umpires, allowing the umpire to build upon each tournament experience. Field evaluations also are a useful tool for maintaining and upgrading the standards of existing International umpires. The emphasis behind this change is two-fold. First, if a prospective umpire is viewed as having the talent to likely be successful as an international umpire, that umpire should be allowed to stand for an International rating again at the next opportunity. Secondly, if a renewing international umpire is viewed as being a viable renewal candidate, that umpire should be allowed to stand for a renewal of his/her International rating at the next opportunity.

Policy 3. ***“Umpires standing for a new International rating or renewing an International rating must pass a written theory test on the rules. The written test is an “open book” format (“open book” meaning an umpire may use her/his rule book when answering questions on the test). Umpires must attain a score of 100% on the open book written examination. If the umpire does not pass the test with 100%, s/he may retake the test until s/he has achieved a score of 100%. The written examination is set and distributed to member countries annually by FIL. FIL reserves the right to deploy the written test on-line via the FIL web site. FIL reserves the right to establish and revise the protocols used in administering the test (for example, how much time an umpire is allowed to complete the test).”***

Reason: Lacrosse is expanding globally. English, in written form, is not always the primary language in new lacrosse countries. However, the need for new international umpires is from these new lacrosse countries. Under the current policy, (requiring an umpire to pass with a 90% pass rate) the written test can be a bar to a potential international umpire. The written test should be viewed as a method to ensure an umpire has a thorough knowledge of the rules. The written test, in an “open book” format, will require an umpire, in answering each question, to cite the specific rule which corresponds to the answer. The proposed policy to allow the umpire to retake the exam until s/he passes at 100%, and requiring the umpire to cite the specific rule for each answer, ensures the umpire will have a thorough knowledge of the rules upon passing. The proposal to allow FIL to distribute the test on-line in the future will allow for ease of distribution of the test, facilitate the taking and grading of the test, and allow for the capture of statistical data regarding the test and those taking the test (which would be used to improve the quality of the test and training programs).

Policy 4. Delete.

Reason: There would be no reason to limit how often an umpire takes the written test, as it would be an open book test. The umpire would still be required to pass the written test prior to standing for a field evaluation. The current policy, restricting an umpire to take the written test only once a year, and requiring the passing of the written test prior to standing for a field evaluation, puts potential international umpires from non-English speaking countries at a disadvantage, does not aid in the education of potential international umpires, and impedes the goal of increasing the number of international umpires from under-represented countries.

Policy 5. **"Each successful candidate must submit a registration fee for the amount of US\$75.00 for the three (3) year rating to the *FIL Women's Division*. *All registration fees shall be maintained in a separate fund and shall be disbursed by the FIL Women's Division to offset the costs of training and developing women's lacrosse International umpires.*"**

Reason: The requirement that a new or renewing International women's lacrosse umpire must pay a US \$75.00 fee can be a difficulty, both for new lacrosse countries which may not have extensive budgets (in those situations where the member country pays the cost for the umpire) or for the umpire herself/himself (if the umpire is paying the fee out of her/his own funds). Therefore, designating these funds specifically to the development and training of new/existing women's lacrosse international umpires allows the umpires to benefit from these fees through training and development opportunities provided to them via these funds.

Policy 6. ***"Each country shall forward each year to the FIL Women's Division Officiating Chair a list of events proposed as suitable for practical evaluations. Applicants shall submit to the FIL Women's Division Officiating Chair the venue to which they are applying to be evaluated for an international rating. The FIL Officiating Chair shall contact the venue to determine the anticipated level of play; to ensure the applicant will have access to suitable number of games; and to identify who the FIL evaluators will be at the event to ensure the evaluators have all the materials needed to evaluate the applicant. FIL reserves the right to post venues which may be opportunities for field evaluations on the FIL web page. However, a venue does not have to be listed on the FIL web page to be used as an opportunity for a field evaluation.***

Reason: Lacrosse is growing rapidly. New lacrosse events occur each year. The venues at which an umpire may stand for a practical field rating should not be limited to a few events which have been posted on the FIL web page. It is more important that umpires have access to field ratings. This change provides the flexibility so that events which are suitable for a field evaluation yet are organized in a short time period may be used to evaluate umpires.

F. Effective date for all changes: Upon approval of the General Assembly (summer 2010).