

Constitution of the Newfoundland & Labrador Fencing Association

1) NAME AND SEAL

- a. The name of the association of persons compiling this constitution for their own governance shall be the "Newfoundland & Labrador Fencing Association" and it shall be the Newfoundland & Labrador Branch of the Canadian Fencing Federation. The Newfoundland & Labrador Fencing Association will also be known by the acronym "NLFA".
- b. The Seal of the Newfoundland & Labrador Fencing Association shall be in such form as prescribed by the Executive Committee of the Association.
- c. The word "Association" in this document shall indicate the Newfoundland & Labrador Fencing Association.

2) MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

It shall be the mission of NLFA to establish, develop, promote, and support the sport of fencing throughout the Province of Newfoundland & Labrador, and to represent and coordinate the interests of Newfoundland & Labrador Fencers. The business of NLFA shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Canadian Fencing Federation.

NLFA holds the following values and philosophy to be central to the sport of fencing:

- 1) that the sport be carried out in a safe manner and in an environment that encourages participation without bias with respect to gender, visible minority, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status;
- 2) that fair play without bias is core to the fencing tradition and to be promoted and respected by all fencers, officials, coaches and volunteers; and
- 3) that the pursuit of these values in conjunction with athleticism and the pursuit of excellence in technique will promote growth in such individual aspects as good health, self-discipline, self-confidence, and self-reliance as well as promoting growth in such community aspects as camaraderie and leadership for each of its members.

3) BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- a. The Executive Committee of the Association shall have the power to form by-laws in order to reflect and facilitate the Association's current method of business for the proper management of the Association. No by-law is permitted to be inconsistent with the provisions and dictates of this constitution. Furthermore, any and all bylaws shall be subject to ratification by a members vote at a General Meeting or mail-in poll according to the dictates and controls detailed in the by-laws to this Constitution.
- b. Changes and additions to the Constitution may only occur at a General Meeting where quorum is present via a resolution circulated at least 14 days prior to the meeting and ratified by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes present.

4) MEMBERSHIP

- a. The number of members is unlimited. Members shall be bound first by the rules and regulations of the Fencing Association of Newfoundland & Labrador as described in this constitution and its by-laws and supplemented by the rules and regulations of the Canadian Fencing Federation.
- b. Membership types shall fall into one of the following three general categories, which are more specifically defined in the by-laws of this constitution in order to more accurately and flexibly reflect the needs of the membership at any given time.
 1. Individual: membership type held by an individual person
 2. Club: membership type held by an organization of persons formed Newfoundland & Labrador specifically to participate in the sport of fencing
 3. Institutional: membership type held by an organization which, though its primary purpose is not necessarily specifically fencing related, nonetheless holds an interest in the sport of fencing (e.g. sponsors, other sporting organizations wishing affiliation, etc.)
- c. Any group of six (6) or more members of NLFA are eligible to obtain a NLFA club membership, with a right to representation by their regional representative.
- d. Any person holding office in NLFA, serving on any committees or otherwise representing NLFA must hold current membership in NLFA.

5) FEES

- a. Membership fees for the membership categories described above in subsection 4)
- b. are required to be received by the Association for a member to be held in good standing. Details regarding such fees – including their definition process, total amount, structure, and collection procedure – are to be defined in the by-laws to this constitution.

6) CENSURE

- a. Any individual or group that has accepted membership in the Association shall be deemed to undertake to abide by the constitution and by-laws of the Association; by any rules and regulations which may from time to time be made by the Executive Committee or at a General Meeting of the Association; by the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Canadian Fencing Federation where they are applicable; and by the rules of the Federation Internationale d'Escrime where they are applicable.
- b. Violation of any rule shall render a member liable to censure by a Regulations Committee appointed for the occasion by the Executive Committee. Members shall be further subject to suspension or expulsion by the Executive Committee if the violation continues or is repeated, except in the case of violation of Rules for Competition, in which case the procedures laid down in the Federation Internationale d'Escrime Rules shall be followed.

7) MANAGEMENT

The Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of at least a President and Vice-President, who are directly responsible for ensuring that the Association's business is properly conducted. Various other officers are permissible and, indeed, are encouraged. Such support officer roles are to be defined and controlled via the bylaws to this constitution.
- b. All members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for one year at the Annual General Meeting of the Association according to the dictates and controls detailed in the by-laws to this constitution. All are eligible for re-election and must be registered members in good standing with the Association,
- c. The Executive Committee shall have the power to form By-Laws for the proper management of the Association, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the members in attendance at a General Meeting or via a poll.

8) MEETINGS

- a. A general meeting of the members of the Association shall be held annually within 90 days of the Association's fiscal year end.
- b. A Special General Meeting may be held upon request, as per the dictates and controls detailed in the by-laws to this constitution.
- c. Business or procedures implemented by the Executive Committee may be overruled by the membership at a General Meeting.

9) DISSOLUTION

- a. Dissolution of the Association may occur only through a notice circulated at least thirty (30) days prior to a General Meeting and supported by at least ninety (90) percent of the votes present at the meeting.
- b. In the case of dissolution the officers of the Executive Committee, or in the eventuality that there is not a full Executive Committee, a person or persons designated by the Association at the time of the vote to dissolve shall be responsible for the legal liquidation.

10) TRANSITION

- a. During the first year of operation of this constitution, beginning at the Annual General Meeting at which it is accepted, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for the integration of the existing programs into the structure required by the constitution.
- b. During the first year of this constitution the Executive Committee shall be empowered to fill vacant committee chairs.
- c. All previous versions of the NLFA constitution and any associated by-laws are hereby superceded by this current version of the constitution and its associated bylaws.