

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA
RUGBY LEAGUE
AUSTRALIA
(FIRLA)



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1. **INTERPRETATION:**

In these rule unless there is something in the subject of context inconsistent therewith; “The Organisation” means “**Federazione Italiana Rugby League - Australia**”, (hereinafter referred to as “**FIRLA**”).

2. **NAME**

The name of the Organisation shall be the “**Federazione Italiana Rugby League - Australia**”, (hereinafter referred to as the “**FIRLA**”).

3.0 **OBJECTIVES**

The objects of the FIRLA shall be;

- 3.1 That the game be developed, promoted, played and controlled by the FIRLA throughout Australia.
- 3.2 To provides junior & senior players with Italian heritage opportunities to play representative rugby league and also a pathway to allow players with potential and ability to progress into established competitions such as National Youth Cup, NSW Cup, Queensland Cup, Super League and NRL.
- 3.3 To maintain a close liaison and co-operate with Federazione Rugby League Italia (FIRL) and all other Rugby League organisations relative to the development of Rugby League Football.
- 3.4 FIRLA will assist in the development of Italian heritage players and promote opportunities playing Rugby League in Italy under the jurisdiction of FIRL.
- 3.5 FIRLA will assist with grants to FIRL via donations/grants, subject only to the approval of the FIRLA Board and whilst only in the best financial interest of FIRLA at all times.
- 3.6 FIRLA will be affiliated with FIRL and will work in-conjunction with FIRL in relation to developing the code of rugby league in Italy.
- 3.7 FIRLA will have a nominated representative to liasie with the FIRL Board/Executive Committee and abide by requirements recorded in the minutes of FIRL meeting (items 1 to 13) dated 10 March 2015.

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4.0 **POWERS**

For the purpose of carrying out such objects the FIRLA shall have the following powers;

- 4.1 To provide competitions, tournaments, tours and organise fixtures of Rugby League Football between other International Teams and between clubs of its Members and Affiliates within Australia;
 - 4.2 To regulate and control the formation and operation of all affiliated bodies which are at any time members of the FIRLA;
 - 4.3 To regulate and control relationship between the FIRLA and Players, Officials, 4 Administrators & Managers to provide facilities for settlement of disputes and for punishment of misconduct and for breaches of this Constitution or any Rules made hereunder;
 - 4.4 To invest the funds of the FIRLA in such manner as shall be decided from time to time;
 - 4.5 To uphold the rules of the game and where appropriate contribute in the modification of such rules;
 - 4.6 To establish a FIRLA Rugby League Football Academy in order to promote, educate and develop Rugby League Football with Italian heritage Players, Coaches, Referees, Managers, Administrators and Officials;
 - 4.7 To establish a Head Office where the FIRLA will base its Executive Committee and Management team in order to administer the code of Rugby League Football within Australia;
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- 4.8 To preserve statistics and records of Rugby League Football involving all FIRLA teams and tournaments/fixtures;
 - 4.9 To advertise and publish relevant information and references concerning FIRLA Rugby League Football;
 - 4.9.1 Generally to do all things necessary for or incidental to the pursuit of the objects of the FIRLA.

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5.0 **MEMBERSHIP**

- 5.1 The members of the FIRLA are those bodies listed in the Schedule hereto and any other bodies as may be admitted to membership by the FIRLA upon such terms as the FIRLA may from time to time decide.
- 5.2 Applications for membership shall be made and determined in such manner as the FIRLA shall from time to time decide.
- 5.3 Applications for membership will be accepted from persons residing from any state or territory of Australia, example: NSW, Queensland, ACT, WA, Victoria, etc.
- 5.4 Any member shall be liable to have its membership suspended or terminated at any time for a breach of its constitution or of any rules made hereunder or for breach of direction by the FIRLA. Only Executive Committee shall have power to suspend or terminate membership and this decision is final.
- 5.5 The Membership is classified into the following two categories;
- (a) Gold Foundation Member – IRL a XIII
 - (b) FIRLA Full Ordinary Member
- 5.6 A Gold Foundation Member is a member who has paid a one off payment of \$100.00 for Foundation Membership status and has voting rights for the Board, in-conjunction with (article 5.8).
- 5.7 A Full Ordinary Member is a member who supports the FIRLA with activities in Australia and abroad. An Annual fee is payable and as determined by the FIRLA Committee.
- 5.8 To be eligible to be elected to the FIRLA Board, a person must be a Gold Foundation Member IRL a XIII and a financial Full Ordinary Member and have been a financial member for a two consecutive year period prior to nomination to the FIRLA Board.
- 5.9 A person seeking election to the FIRLA Committee, must be able to provide evidence of Italian Heritage, re: have been born in Australia of parents who were born in Italy whether it be one or two of the parents of the proposed member or any other person who is able to trace his/her ancestry as having been born in Italy or any person who is a spouse of a person born in Italy or who is a spouse of a person born in Australia of parents either one of whom were born in Italy. The FIRLA Executive Committee have sole discretion and

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final determination on eligibility status.

- 5.9.1 To become a member a person must;
- (a) Be over the age of 18 years and;
 - (b) Comply with rules 5.6, 5.7, 5.8 & 5.9
 - (c) Members must agree to uphold the FIRLA Constitution and By-Laws and conduct themselves in a manner that is not the detriment to the Organisation's interests, its policies or its welfare.

6.0 MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The Affairs of the FIRLA shall be under the control of the Executive Committee which shall have power to appoint sub-committees and to define their powers and responsibilities. Unless otherwise expressly stated herein, any of the Executive Committee may be delegated to a sub-committee, which shall meet as directed by the Executive Committee.
- 6.2 In the events that an official of FIRLA is appointed to the Board or Executive Committee of FIRLA and resides in another State/Territory outside of NSW or a regional location within NSW, that official will establish under the authority of FIRLA Executive committee a sub-committee to assist in its activities.
- 6.3 The appointed official that resides in another State/Territory outside of NSW or a regional location within NSW, will abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of FIRLA.
- 6.4 The Board of Directors in consultation with the Executive Committee will nominate suitable Patron/s who will;

Support and promote FIRLA and its objectives and activities and can be called upon at any time for advice or guidance. A patron will be a person of character that the members and the rugby league fraternity hold the up-most respect for as an individual.

7.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the FIRLA shall be ;

7.1 Board of Directors:

- 7.2 President
- 7.3 Senior Vice President
- 7.4 Vice President
- 7.5 National Secretary
- 7.6 Registrar
- 7.7 Treasurer
- 7.8 Football Operations Manager

7.9.1 Executive Committee:

- 7.9.2 President
- 7.9.3 Senior Vice President
- 7.9.4 Vice President
- 7.9.5 National Secretary
- 7.9.6 Registrar
- 7.9.7 Treasurer
- 7.9.8 Football Operations Manager
- 7.9.9 Social Media Manager
- 7.10 Sponsorship & Promotions Manager
- 7.10.1 Chief Medical Officer
- 7.10.2 and any other Official deemed necessary. All officers subject to contract shall retire bi- annually and be eligible for re-election by the Executive Committee.

8.0 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Management of the FIRLA shall be vested by the “Executive Committee” which shall consist of the officers and any other Official deemed necessary. These Executive Committee members will be elected for a two year term of office. The Executive Committee shall be entitled to exercise all the powers where it is resolved by the Executive Committee that the business in hand is urgent and it is impracticable to call a General Committee Meeting to deal with that business.

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8.1 The Executive Committee shall also have the power to deal with any matters not provided for in these rules, as it so decides.

9.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9.1 All Officers shall be elected at the Bi-annually General Meeting by Ballot.

9.2 In the event of any vacancy in the position of officers arising, such vacancy shall be filled at the General Committee meeting next following the arising of that vacancy.

9.3 Any person who is a bonafide members of the FIRLA shall be eligible for election to any office.

9.4 Office-bearers appointed at the Biennially General Meeting shall continue in office until the next Biennially General Meeting.

10.0 MEETINGS

The business of every meeting of any committee or sub-committee of the FIRLA shall be as follows:-

10.1 The adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting of that committee or sub-committee

10.2 Correspondence In & Out

10.3 Reports as per Agenda

10.4 General Business

10.5 At the Bi-annual General Meeting the Secretary shall present the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statement and Balance sheet prior to the election of officers as well as placing notification of any change or addition to the Constitution or Rules.

10.6 The Executive Committee shall meet as is decided from time to time. If the Executive Committee meeting does not appoint a time for its next meeting then the Secretary shall call the next meeting, upon either the direction of the Executive Committee or upon written application signed by at least 4 members of the Executive Committee.

10.7 On all questions voting shall be by show of hands or division unless a ballot shall be demanded and agreed upon by the Chairman before the question is put to the vote.

10.8 On all questions the Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote only.

10.9 The President or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at all meetings. If neither the President nor any of the Vice-Presidents are present at the meeting then the meeting itself shall elect a Chairman.

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11.0 MISCONDUCT

- 11.1 The Executive Committee shall have the power to summons, deal with or sit and adjudicate on any complaint or misconduct laid against a member or player made to it by a member of the Organisation or a complaint leveled through the various governing Rugby League bodies/federations.
- 11.2 The Executive Committee shall have the power to fine, suspend, disqualify or expel after proper inquiry has been conducted.
- 11.3 Any member or player that has been called to answer a misconduct charge/s or summons shall be advised by registered post to the last given address.
- 11.4 The notice shall include particulars of all allegations, time, date and place of hearing and the right to call upon such defense that can be considered relevant to the matters at hand.
- 11.5 Failure to attend, without reasonable notice or excuse, shall be deemed as an admission of guilt.

12.0 RIGHT OF APPEAL

- 12.1 Any member has the right of appeal against disciplinary action of the Executive Committee provided written notice is given to the Secretary within seven (7) days and accompanied by a \$50 surety, which shall be forfeited if the appeal is deemed to be frivolous.

13.0 FILLING OF VACANCIES:

- 13.1 A position will become vacant, and shall be filled in accordance with clause 8, if a Executive Committee Member becomes:
- (a) Deceased;
 - (b) Is convicted of a criminal offence resulting in a term of imprisonment;
 - (c) Resigns the position;
 - (d) Is absent from 3 or more meetings without a reasonable excuse;
 - (e) Fails at a vote of 'No Confidence';
 - (f) Is subject to disciplinary action at either Club, District, FIRL or any other official governing Rugby League Body/Federation ie: NRL, RLEF, RLIF, etc;
 - (g) If a Committee person leaves a meeting without permission of the Chairman.

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14.0 VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

- 14.1 Can be made in writing and forwarded to the Secretary for consideration by the Executive Committee if signed by 3/5th of the membership in regards to a Committeeman, who will be required to stand down.
- 14.2 Can be made in writing and forwarded to the Secretary if signed by 4/5th of membership in relation to either the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, who shall stand down and fresh elections held, the Secretary will remain until the elections have been completed.

15.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 15.1 The Organisations “Code of Conduct’ shall be that of the FIRLA. Failure to abide by this ‘Code’, will be considered misconduct and will be dealt with in accordance with Clause 11.0.

16.0 ADMINISTRATION - FINANCES

- 16.1 The operation of the FIRLA is financed by membership fees, sponsorship revenues and donations and other revenues/levies collected under this Constitution and such other sources as the FIRLA determines.
- 16.2 Subject to any resolution passed by the FIRLA in general meeting, the funds of the FIRLA shall be controlled by the Secretary and Treasurer and shall be used in pursuance of the objects of the FIRLA in such manner as the FIRLA determines.
- 16.3 The Membership fee of ‘Gold Foundation Member and Full Ordinary Member’ shall be determined by the Executive Committee
- 16.4 The Funds of the FIRLA shall be deposited with such bank or banks as shall be approved by the FIRLA Executive Committee.
- 16.5 In the event that an official of FIRLA is appointed to the Board or Executive Committee of FIRLA and resides in another State or Territory outside of NSW or a regional location within NSW, that official will establish under the authority of FIRLA Executive Committee an operating bank account approved by such committee.

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16.6 Statements of accounts shall be prepared by or under the direction of the Secretary at such annual or other intervals as shall be determined by the FIRLA to enable such accounts to be considered at its general meetings.

16.7 The statements of accounts shall include an account of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities.

17.0 MISCELLANEOUS

17.1 Awards and Trophies shall be presented to eligible members, players, officials and other nominated person/s or body as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee

17.2 Alterations to the constitutions or by-laws can only be made at the Bi-Annual Meeting or Special Meeting, convened for that purpose, with fourteen days notice given to all members. The amendments that have to be approved by the Board of Directors. The boards decision will be final.

17.3 Registration fees for players and officials, shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

17.4 A copy of the Organisation's Constitution and By-Laws shall be available at every meeting.

18.0 BY-LAWS

18.1 The Executive Committee shall have at any time to make, amend or repeal by-laws not inconsistent with this constitution for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the FIRLA. In particular, and without in any way limiting out the exercise of this general power, the Executive Committee shall have the power to make rules with respect to:-

18.2 the admission of new members of the FIRLA

18.3 the conduct of Competitions

18.4 the terms of Membership

18.5 registration, fees and qualification of players

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- 18.6 the relationship between a player and his club including the movement/transfer of players from one club to another and from this League to any other.
- 18.7 revenue raising, such as, but not limited; functions, sponsorship, merchandise sales, etc
- 18.8 The Game will be played under three categories;
- (a) Junior Rugby League, (b) Senior Rugby League and (c) International Heritage Rugby League
- 18.9 All standard rules and guidelines will be adopted in conjunction of participation in these three categories of Rugby League, as so directed and advised by the Australian Rugby League and its affiliates and Rugby League International Federation.
- 18.9.1 Members of the FIRLA can inquire of this organisations rules and interpretations thereof.

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19.0 AGREEMENT OF MEMBERS

The following person(s), being the person(s) who consented to become a member / members of the Organisation in the application for the Organisation's registration, agree to the terms of this constitution and by-laws.

Dated: 22 March 2017

Name and addresses of person who consented to become a member

Domenic Pezzano

Leo Epifania

Ricardo Baitieri

Carmine Barbaro

Nick Viterale

Reno Santaguida

Steve Kadry

Anthony Gagliardi

Ross-John Bonaccorsi -

Peter Narducci -

Sam Panarello -