



5. July 2004

Comments to revised constitution from members

Our members in Poland and Iceland have sent signed copies of the constitution to IOYR to represent their acceptance of the new version. Our member in Czech Republic have sent a mail and said that they agree with the text of the Constitution and don't have any comments.

The German organisation Deutsche Rheuma-Liga sent some comments to which the board replied. These comments are given below and our replies.

§ 1 Aims: exert policy influence, both internationally and *nationally*

As you may imagine the national organisation would not be that happy if someone "outstanding" would like to exert his influence on the national level...

IOYR encourages and supports its members to exert political influence nationally, so it is not the IOYR board or IOYR specifically that exerts the influence. For example with the PARE Manifesto, IOYR was involved in this and gave copies to its members and had information discussions, etc at the IYC to encourage and support IOYR members to "exert policy influence, both internationally and *nationally*". I hope this reassures you of the context of this aim.

§ 3 Membership

There is missing a definition of those organisations who can become a member of IOYR.

The definition of an organisation who can become a member is: "any organisation or emerging organisation of young people with rheumatism, or involving young people with rheumatism" This is in point 4 under the heading of "members".

§ 5 General Assembly

(3) Quorum and voting

Does it make sense to fix at 50% + 1 including chair or treasurer. What happens if one of the mentioned persons is – e.g. – ill?

It is common practice to make the quorum 50%+1 person. In most countries it is the law of organisations that to be able to make an official decision,

one of the officers of the board must be present. With IOYR there are only two officers - the chair and the treasurer. If both of them were ill, the meeting could go ahead but be *inquorate*. This means that any decisions have to be taken to the next meeting before becoming official.

(5) Agenda

According to your proposition you want to install *an independent* chair/independent people to count the votes. What is - in this context - the definition of independent?

For this purpose an *independent person* is someone who is not on the IOYR board or a member of IOYR.

§ 6 Board

No. 9: I do not understand what you want to achieve with this proposal. What happens in the meantime, between the resignation of the chair and the next General Assembly?

If the chair resigns during his/her three-year period of office, the member organisation that provided the chair should replace him/her. If the organisation is not able to find a new chair, they should provide a board member and the Board votes for a new chair by simple majority. In the event that none of the Board members or their organisations wishes to be chair, the board may co-opt a chair until the next General Assembly.

There are 3 options:

- 1. the member organisation that holds the chair position provides another person to be the chair, OR,**
- 2. the member organisation that holds the chair position provides another person to join the board as an ordinary board member. Then the board votes for its own chair, OR,**
- 3. the board decided themselves to *co-opt* someone to be their chair. This means they find the most suitable person they can think of who is able to be the chair. This means perhaps they will not be a member of IOYR or even a young person with rheumatism (but it would be very unlikely that the board wants this). This person is not elected and so cannot have a full vote but will do all of the other duties of the chair. This arrangement will last until the next GA or until the member organisation that was originally elected as the chair position provides someone who is able to be the chair.**