



Suggestions to constitution from members

1) Suggestion from Unga Reumatiker, Sweden

§ 5 General assembly

Under this article we would like to add the article Agenda. Under this article it should be explained the certain items on the agenda that must be considered on the general assembly.

This is what we think should be on the agenda:

1. Question if the general assembly was advertised properly
2. Roll-call of representatives and establish register of voters
3. Establish the agenda
4. Election of functionaries
 - a) One chairman for the meeting
 - b) One secretary for the meeting
 - c) Two persons to check the minutes
 - d) Two persons to count the votes
5. Annual reports for the last three years
6. Economical reports for the last three years (including accountant report)
7. Question about the leaving board's freedom of responsibility
8. Suggestions/motions from the board
9. Suggestions/motions from the member organisations
10. Aims, directions and activities for the coming three years
11. Budget for the coming three years and determination of membership fee
12. Election of the board
 - a) One chairman
 - b) One treasurer
 - c) At least five boardmembers
13. Election of two accountants

This part might be under constitutional rules:

Adjusted minutes from the general assembly should be sent to the board, the accountants and the member organisations latest three months after the general assembly.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – we have added all of your suggestions with one change. We feel it is not realistic to say the minutes will be sent within 3 months as the new board will have to meet and / or arrange to approve these. From our experience working over an international level, it is more realistic to agree they will be sent within 6 months.

§ 8.2 Finance

We think all member organisations should pay a membership fee and that the level of fee should be related to the member organisation's own economy. Therefore we'd like to suggest that the fee should be a percentage of the own organisations yearly budget and that there should be a maximum limit for the fee. Both the percentage and the maximum limit should be decided on the general assembly.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – this has been a discussion point for some time and the agreement is that this suggestion may be too difficult to work in practice. Using this rule might mean that some organisations that pay now would not pay and vice versa. Some organisation’s money is tied up with rules to do with their funding and might not be able to be used for such memberships. Also as the fee is set for 3 years, some organisation’s finances change so much in that time. The board therefore feels the current system is easier to administer. This is also the system the General Assembly has agreed. However, the GA may change its decision at the next GA.

§ 10 Constitutional rules

We’d like to add the following under this article:

(11) Minutes should be sent to the accountants latest one month after every board meeting.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – please see our first response above

§ 12

Here we’d like to change the last sentence:

“... exclusively for european co-operation between national organisations of youth with rheumatism.”

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version of the constitution this section has been changed to reflect that IOYR is an international organisation

2) Suggestions from Laura, Switzerland

Preamble

Aims

- Including the hope of IOYR to become a world wide organisation
- including the importance of support between family-members, friends and young people with rheumatism

Membership

After long time thinking i got the opinion, that the current age (18 – 35) shouldn’t be changed nor should there be any flexibility in this. I think that somewhere there has to be drawn a line, even though it might sound hard (and is hard for sure!). of course there is always an exception, someone being maybe 38 and still maching with the younger, but you can’t build up a constitution on flexibility.

Partnership with other organisations:

any partnership with other organisations or interactive work with other organisations should be first discussed in board and should (if no youth congress is close) be presented to every member, so that every one knows about the activities with others. Otherwise i’m quite happy with the constitution at the moment! :-)

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – we hope you feel we have reflected your suggestions where possible. In terms of partnership working the board will use the constitutional aims to decide if and how to work with an organisation. The board

then reports on this work in many ways e.g. via minutes of board meetings, on its website and in its report to the GA.

3) Suggestions from FNUG, Denmark

1. In the present elaboration of the constitution the English language has many legal and bureaucratic terms. We find that a lot of work is needed concerning this area, since all the members - and future members - of IOYR should be able to read and understand the contents of the constitution. This is especially difficult for those, where the representatives do not have the best knowledge of the English language. The elaboration of the new constitution has to be written in more understandable English, where the descriptions of the rules are very clear and precise.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – the board agrees the language is very difficult to understand sometimes. However, in order for the constitution to be approved officially by the tax office and legally it must include certain terminology. The board aims to produce an easy to read version and / or an explanation of the most difficult terms. We will make sure at the GA that everyone understands the content of the constitution.

2. The preamble has to be changed to the actual status. Like “working in Europe” and “Its address is IOYR Bonn. It is listed there as a registered association and thus uses the suffix “e.V.” (eingetragene Verein).”

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version these changes have been made.

3. In §1:

?? Delete “initially in Eastern and Western Europe”
?? There should be a “to” after aim and then delete all the “to” in front of each point.
?? Delete “Arthritis and Rheumatism International, the European League against Rheumatism and”

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version these changes have been made.

4. §3:

?? The membership is limited to only one organisation from each country, which also appears of the paragraphs, but it is also stated that every organisation working for the young with rheumatism’s interests can become a member. We do not think that there should be this ambiguity. And is it only national organisations?
?? 7 “Voluntary resignation must be sent in writing to the Board. It is only valid at the end of the calendar year giving three months notice”. Is it possible to have it like that?? What happened if an organisation doesn’t do this?
?? Membership can be obtained by application, but the ending of a membership is complicated.
?? It is important to write more clearly about associated members.
?? If the board refuses a membership, should it then be possible for the organisation to appeal to the General Assembly?

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version we have tried to make membership rules clearer. We have stated that in each country only one organisation can be a full member and that other organisations can be associate non-voting members. With regard to ending membership there are legal reasons why we must include all of the options.

5. §7:

?? Is it necessary to have the IYC specified in the constitution in an own paragraph? It could be in the paragraph with the board. “Just” as a task...

?? What does “including those who are not members of the General Assembly” mean? Those who are not the official delegate from a IOYR-member organisation or those who are not yet a member of IOYR? - There might be either a conflict or double meaning in §7, 2 and 3. And what status has the forum that is mention in §7? Instead the General Assembly could include this forum and be open for everybody, but only one delegate from each memberorganisation can vote.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version these changes have been made and the IYC paragraph removed

6. §8, IOYR 's funds are managed by the chair and the treasurer reports IOYR's financial position to each meeting of the Board and General Assembly. - Does it mean “... chair. The treasurer....”?

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version changes have been made.

7. All of §11 (the inauguration) can be deleted.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version this has been done

8. §12 should be changed as well. An ex. the money could be transferred to ARI with the label “for the work of young people with Rheumatism”.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version this change has been made.

9. Finally we suggest that §2, §4, §5, §6, (maybe §7), §9 and §10 are put together to 2 paragraphs “The General Assembly” and “The board”. To this we have some specified comments besides those already mentioned:

?? We think that it should be emphasised that it is the General Assembly, which is the top agency in the organisation, and that the board of directors works with the wishes and decisions of the General Assembly.

?? There should be a specified agenda for the General Assembly.

?? According to the constitution the General Assembly has to be lead by the chair, which we find problematic, and we would rather see an impartial person elected as the chair of the General Assembly.

?? When is the voting and decisions of the General Assembly legal? The moment they are decided or when the General Assembly is closed?

?? The present §9 should be shortened in the paragraph about the board and the chair can spread the tasks if necessary.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version these changes have been made.

4) Suggestions from the Netherlands

1. Aims:

2.4 (?) Lobby for practical matters, not just the attitude, but also the action.

Involving of 'healthy' persons. Not in the board or another decisive function, but as a sponsor-member and for practical support.

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – changes have been made to reflect the comments we received. Changing practice can only happen when people change their attitudes so that is our starting point.

5/6 Set every year a new goal or topic that can be dealt with like a project. This is something that 'shows' and can be checked at the end of the year.

Age: Board: at the moment of election 18-35 year.

Country can always be re-elected, person has a maximum of 3 periods.

Activities like IYC and MM: age-limits as in the national organisations.

General Assembly election

Advise: set out the rules very clear (non-members count the votes, every member votes for exactly 7 countries otherwise vote not valid, from the 7 countries maximum 3 non paying countries)

Annual report

- activities

- financial

Once every 3 years 'check' as preparation for the GA (set a new project / goal)

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version changes have been made to reflect your comments. Some of these suggestions could be included in a code of conduct or procedural document rather than in the actual constitution, which is only about policy.

11 – out

12

What to do with the money when IOYR ends? (money should go to other organisations who will spend it on young persons with rheumatism)

IOYR BOARD RESPONSE – as you will see in the new version these changes have been made.