

THE INTERNATIONAL POLOCROSSE COUNCIL (IPC)

CONSTITUTION

22 June 1976 9 July 2002 5 May 2003 17 August 2007 17 April 2019

24 July 2024

Adopted at Shongweni KwaZulu Natal South Africa on the 24th of July 2024



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PREAMBLE

This is the constitution of the International Polocrosse Council. The International Polocrosse Council shall be constituted of affiliated National Associations who have all their members registered with their respective National Associations.

1. Name and formation

- 1.1 "The International Polocrosse Council" abbreviated to "IPC".
- 1.2 The IPC was established on 21st June 1976. The first meeting was a conference held at the Broadbeach International Hotel on the Queensland Gold Coast. Countries represented were New Zealand, Papua-New Guinea, Rhodesia, South Africa and Australia. The main aim of the conference was for people interested in playing polocrosse throughout the world to come together to exchange ideas, and promote better understanding and goodwill, and to establish friendships so as to improve the sport, exchange visits of coaches and players and to promote polocrosse throughout other countries of the world.

2. Definitions

In this Constitution, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings:

Affiliated National Association means a fully paid-up member association.

Associate Member means a nation that holds associate membership of the IPC.

By-Laws means by-laws and other documents referred to in this constitution.

Council means the appointed delegates from each full member country.

Delegates means a representative of a National Association that sits on the Council as a member country.

Deliberative vote is a vote given to a person because they are a member of the group. The term is usually applied to people who chair the meeting to draw a distinction between the vote they get as a member, and the casting vote they may get as the presiding person.

Director means a member of the Council from time to time elected or appointed in accordance with this Constitution and includes the Elected Directors and Independent Directors.

Executive Committee means the management body of the IPC comprised of the President and Vice Presidents as elected or appointed from time to time in accordance with this Constitution.

The financial year begins on 1 January and ends on 31 December of the same year.

IPC means The International Polocrosse Council.

Life Member means an honorary life member of the IPC.

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Member Country means a nation that holds full membership of the IPC.

Playing Rules means the 'International Polocrosse Rules' relating to the game of polocrosse.

Special Majority means at least sixty-six percent (66%) of the votes cast in relation to a particular election or resolution.

Special Resolution means a resolution passed.

In this Constitution, unless the context indicates otherwise:

- a. a reference to a function includes a reference to a power, authority and duty.
- b. a reference to the exercise of a function includes, where the function is a power, authority or duty, a reference to the exercise of the power or authority of the performance of the duty.
- c. words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa.
- d. words importing any gender include the other gender; and
- a reference to 'writing' includes references to printing, photography and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form, including messages sent by electronic mail.

3. Objects of the Council

The objectives of the IPC are to govern the sport of Polocrosse throughout the world, in accordance with the principles of democracy, good governance and transparency.

To achieve its objectives the IPC shall:

- 3.1 Lead, promote, administer and further the interests of the game of polocrosse internationally.
- 3.2 Promote the formation of National Associations who shall control all polocrosse affairs within their respective countries.
- 3.3 Promote amicable and friendly relations between its member countries;
- 3.4 Deal with all matters which concern the betterment and improvement of the game of Polocrosse throughout the World.
- 3.5 Provide support to emerging nations.
- 3.6 Support each countries National rules of the game and maintain a set of international rules of the game for use when representative National teams compete against each other.
- 3.7 Appoint an executive committee for the purpose of conducting and controlling the affairs of the Council.
- 3.8 Regulate participation in games of polocrosse sanctioned by the IPC.
- 3.9 Deal with member cancellation or suspension of any associate or full affiliated country, on the grounds of misconduct.
- 3.10 Fix levy and collect affiliation fees.
- 3.11 Fix levy and collect any other fees agreed by the IPC council.
- 3.12 Apply the income and property of the Council, wheresoever derived, solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council as set forth in this Constitution, and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of distribution of profits or assets to any person or persons who at any time are or have been members of the IPC or to any of them or any person claiming through them;

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3.13 The Council shall establish a Rules Review Committee through the Chief International Umpire responsible for the annual evaluation and recommendation of updates to the playing rules.

4. Powers

The IPC council shall have the capacity and power to act solely towards furthering the objects described in Clause 3.

MEMBERSHIP

- 5. Member Nation Categories
 - 5.1 There are two categories of members within the IPC:
 - a. Full members; and
 - b. Associate members.
 - 5.2 A list of IPC full members and associate members is listed on the IPC web site.
 - 5.3 Applications to become a member of the IPC shall be in such form as determined by the IPC.

6. Conditions for Affiliation

- 6.1 Applications from a National Association for affiliation with the Council shall be made in writing to the Secretary and shall be accompanied by:
 - a. copy of the constitution of the National Association seeking affiliation.
 - b. copy of the rules of the game of the National Association seeking affiliation.
 - c. list of the National Association's office bearers and officials; and
 - d. certified statement as to the numbers of playing members and registered Clubs as at the date of application.

7. Honorary life membership

- 7.1 The Council shall have the power to grant honorary life membership of the Council to a person who, in the opinion of the Council, has given long and outstanding service to polocrosse at international level.
- 7.2 Such a person shall be nominated by a fully affiliated body in writing such nominations to set out full details of the nominee and the justification for granting life membership.
- 7.3 The Secretary shall give at least twenty-one days' notice of such nomination to all countries prior to the Council meeting at which the nomination is to be considered.
- 7.4 A life member of the Council shall be entitled to attend Council meetings but shall not take part in the business of the meeting or vote on any matter unless he is in fact
 - an elected member of Council.
- 7.5 Life membership may be terminated if:
 - a. The life member resigns by notice in writing.
 - b. The life member dies.
 - c. the life member becomes of unsound mind; or
 - d. he/she brings discredit to the Council or the IPC by his/her actions.

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8.0 Associate members

- The Council shall have the power to grant Associate Membership to an organisation 8.1 which, in the opinion of the Council, has similar aims and objects for promoting horses and horse-sports.
- One representative from any organisation granted Associate Membership may 8.2 attend meetings of the Council but shall not take part in the business of the meeting without the permission of the Council. They shall not be entitled to vote on any matter.
- The Council shall determine Associate Members' fees annually. 8.3

Membership requirements 9.0

- Accept and fully comply with the IPC constitution, objects, rules and by-laws of the Council.
- Accept and execute decisions made by the Executive Committee. 9.2
- Submit an annual activity report. 9.3
- Advise the IPC of any suspended members. 9.4
- Respond to any IPC requests; and 9.5
- Pay affiliation fee as determined by the council.

Affiliation fees - time for payment

- 10.1 The annual membership and registration fees of the IPC shall be determined by the resolution of the Council.
- The annual fees referred to in clause 10.1 above shall be payable prior to the end of March in each calendar year.
- 10.3 The affiliation of any nation whose affiliation fees have not been paid by 30 April in each year to the body granting it affiliation shall be suspended.

Discipline 11.0

- 11.1 Where the Council considers that a Member of the IPC has allegedly:
 - a. breached, failed, refused or neglected to comply with a provision of this constitution or any other by-law, rule or determination of the Council.
 - b. acted in a manner unbecoming of a member or prejudicial to the objects and interests of the Council and/or Polocrosse; or
 - c. brought the Council or Polocrosse into disrepute.
- 11.2 The Council may commence or cause to be commenced disciplinary proceedings against that Member and that Member will be subject to, and submit unreservedly to the jurisdiction, procedures, penalties and appeal mechanisms (if any) of the Council set out in the By-Laws. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council shall have the power to disqualify or suspend any Member.

12.0 Right of appeal

12.1 Any Member disqualified, suspended, fined, expelled or otherwise disciplined under this Constitution may appeal to the Council against

such a decision. Procedures and penalties for such an appeal process (if any) shall be set out in the By- Laws, however the following minimum conditions must be met:

- a. written notice of such an appeal, stating the grounds and nature of the evidence to be furnished, shall be given by the appellant Member to the Secretary within sixty days of the sanction.
- b. on receipt of such notice, the Secretary shall forthwith notify the Council, and any other bodies concerned; and
- c. an appeal under this clause may come only from the Member that has been sanctioned.

13.0 Player Register and Registered Players

- 13.1 The member country will maintain a register of players and provide annually a list of registered playing member numbers, by category, to the IPC Secretary at the end of each calendar year.
- 13.2 A person who wishes to participate in a game of polocrosse sanctioned by the IPC must be a registered player of a club in an affiliated nation; and
- 13.3 The Player Register shall contain such categories or classes of polocrosse player (if any) as the IPC thinks fit.

MANAGEMENT

14.0 The Council

- 14.1 The voting power of the IPC shall be in a Council appointed by each member country.
- 14.2 Each member country shall be entitled to appoint three Delegates.
- 14.3 Each member country shall, not less than 60 days prior to the General Meetings of the IPC, elect its Delegates. The Secretary of each member country will advise in writing to the IPC Secretary/Treasurer of the names and addresses of its Delegates for the ensuing year not later than 28 days prior to the General Meeting of Council.
- 14.4 The delegates are appointed prior to a meeting of the Council and shall hold office from that next meeting of the Council until the meeting of the Council following unless removed under clause 7 of this Constitution or the Secretary is otherwise advised by the relevant member country.
- 14.5 A person who is not a member of an affiliated member country, in the country they reside shall not be eligible for appointment as a Councilor;
- 14.6 The Council may meet at such other times as the Council deems appropriate.
- 14.7 Delegates who cannot physically attend any meeting may attend virtually. (Based on the assumption that a virtual meeting is possible)
- 14.8 Once a member country appoints delegates within the time frame allowed, prior to the next meeting of IPC council. All such delegates cannot be excluded from attending Under whatever format the meeting is conducted and should as a matter of course be notified of and included in any meetings relating to the council.

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15.0 Role of Council

The role of the Council shall be to carry out the following functions:

- a. Decide the annual membership and affiliation fees payable to the IPC.
- b. Approve any amendments to this Constitution.
- Formulate a Strategic Plan for each year commencing 1st January of each Year and terminating on the 31st of December of each year
- d. Approve and review the IPC's strategic direction; and
- e. Discuss International issues.

16.0 Office Bearers

The general management of the Council shall be in the hands of the Executive Committee, comprising of the President, the two (2) Vice Presidents subject to the direction of the Council.

- 16.1 Every four (4) years the Council shall elect the following office bearers.
 - a. President.
 - b. First Vice President: and
 - c. Second Vice President.
 - d. International Chief Umpire
 - 16.2 Sixty days prior to the Council meeting the Secretary/Treasurer shall call for nominations for the above posts.
 - 16.3 The nomination in writing, together with the written consent of the nominee, must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer no later than the time and date specified in the notice calling the nominations.
 - 16.4 If there is only one (1) nomination for any of the Office Bearer positions, such a person shall be declared to have been duly elected to such office. If there is more than one (1) nomination received for any of the positions of office the elections shall be conducted by secret ballot under ordinary preferential voting; and
 - 16.5 No person can be elected to more than one position. The positions shall be held for a period of four years. Office bearers may be elected for a second period of four years, but any one person shall not stand for the same position beyond a continuous period of eight years. A person having served a term as Office Bearer may only stand again for that same position after an interval of four years.
 - 16.6 The outgoing Executive (President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President and International Chief Umpire) may not be entitled to cast a vote when electing The President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President and International Chief Umpire. Only the voting delegates from member countries may cast a vote for these positions.



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17.0 Composition of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall comprise:

- 17.1 the President elected by the Council.
- 17.2 First Vice President elected by the Council; and
- 17.3 Second Vice President elected by the Council.
- 17.4 International Chief Umpire elected by the Council

18.0 Powers of the Executive Committee

- 18.1 Subject to this Constitution the business of the IPC shall be managed, and all the powers of the IPC shall be exercised by the executive committee.
- 18.2 The executive committee, as the controlling authority of the IPC shall be responsible for acting on all issues in accordance with the objects of the IPC and shall operate for the collective and mutual benefit of the IPC and the sport of polocrosse internationally and shall:
 - a. govern the sport of polocrosse in accordance with the objects of the IPC.
 - b. exercise all the powers of the IPC.
 - c. appoint suitably qualified members into key roles where required
 - d. determine major strategic directions of the IPC.
 - e. review the IPC's performance in achieving its pre-determined aims and objectives.
 - f, manage the financial performance of the IPC; and
 - g. manage international responsibilities.

19.0 Appointment of Independent Directors

- 19.1 The Executive Committee may appoint two independent directors.
- 19.2 The independent directors may have specific skills which complement the executive committee composition.
- 19,3 The independent directors do not need to be members.
- 19.4 Independent directors must declare any position they hold in a member country.
- and independent directors must resign from that position within three months of being appointed.

20.0 Decisions of Council

Subject to this Constitution, questions arising at any meeting of the Council shall be decided by a majority of votes and all questions so decided shall for all purposes be deemed a determination of the Council.

21.0 The President

- 21.1 The President may preside at all meetings of the Council and must preside at all meeting of the Executive Committee; and
- 21.2 If the President is absent or unwilling to preside, the First Vice President shall, where relevant, preside for that meeting.
- 21.3 Should the First Vice President be absent or unwilling to preside at the meeting,

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21.4 Should neither the First or Second Vice Presidents be absent or unwilling to preside at the meeting, a Presiding Officer will be elected from the Councilors present to preside over such meeting.

22.0 Secretary/Treasurer

- 22.1 The Secretary/Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a term of four years and may be elected for a second period of four years and shall not stand for a position of more than eight years and on conditions as the executive committee thinks fit;
- The Secretary/Treasurer shall be entitled to notice of, attend and participate in debate at, all meetings of the Council, but shall have no entitlement to vote.
- 22.3 The Secretary/Treasurer shall attend to all correspondence on behalf of the executive committee and the IPC.
- The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare and furnish to the Council such returns as may be required.
- 22.5 The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep the following:
 - a. Minutes electronically; and
 - Registers provided for in this Constitution together with such fees as may be payable in relation thereto.
- The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep all such books and registers in such form as may be prescribed by the IPC; and
- 22.7 The Secretary/Treasurer shall perform and carry out all such other duties and services as may be assigned by the IPC Executive Committee.
- 22.8 The Secretary/Treasurer shall also be responsible for managing and overseeing all forms of digital communication, including the maintenance and security of a digital platform for council and member communications. This role includes ensuring that all official documents and communications are accessible to members through modern, user-friendly, and secure digital solutions, adhering to the latest standards in digital accessibility and data protection.

23.0 International Chief Umpire

- 23.1 Nominations for the International Chief Umpire shall be forwarded by any member countries who wish to nominate a person for the position of International Chief umpire with the understanding that such nominee is a registered member of the country where he/she resides in. Such a person does need to be a registered member of the country who nominates him/her.
- 23.2 Establish and maintain a squad of independent umpires and referees
- 23.3 Regulate umpiring and officiating at games of polocrosse sanctioned by
- 23.4 Establish and maintain an Umpire framework and training syllabus.
- 23.5 Plan and implement training programs for Umpires and Referees

permitted to umpire and officiate at games of polocrosse sanctioned by the IPC; and

23.6 Select umpires and referees for IPC sanctioned events.

24.0 The Auditor

- 24.1 The Auditor shall be appointed by the IPC Council.
- 24.2 The Auditor shall not be a member of the IPC; and
- 24.3 The location of the Secretary/Treasurer should be taken into consideration prior to the Auditors appointment by Council.

MEETINGS

25.0 General Meeting of the Council

- 25.1 The Council shall meet on a date set by the Secretary/Treasurer every six months and at a World Cup.
- 25.2 The order of business at a General Meeting of the Council shall be to:
 - a. receive the financial report of the IPC.
 - receive the Presidents' reports of the IPC for the previous financial year.
 - c. install the new Council; and
 - conduct elections as are required in accordance with this Constitution.

26.0 Meeting procedure

A meeting of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with the clauses below:

- 26.1 At any meeting of the council at least 66% of full-member countries shall form a quorum
- 26.2 All motions except those for which special provision is made herein shall require only a simple majority.
- 26.3 The President shall have a casting vote.
- 26.4 A majority of three quarters of the members of the Council present and voting shall be required to carry out the following motions:
 - To amend this Constitution or any rules or By Laws made in pursuance thereof.
 - b. To amend or rescind a resolution of the Council; or
 - c. To wind up the IPC.
- 26.5 Only Delegates, representing each member country currently affiliated with the IPC shall be eligible to vote at Council meetings.
- 26.5 Delegates who cannot physically attend any meeting may attend virtually. (Based on the assumption that a virtual meeting is possible). Virtual Voting electronically may be done via an acceptable electronic platform such as Zoom, teams, google meet or any other platform decided on by the IPC. A

delegate must be present at the meeting via the electronic platform to cast his vote. Should the meeting decide that it wishes to conduct voting through cellphone apps such as WhatsApp, I messenger or any other acceptable platform it may do so. All votes shall be sent to an appointed member of the council who will tally the votes and report them back to the meeting chairperson. (It is preferable that meetings are attended by nominated members who should be physically present to cast their vote)

27.0 Proxies

Representation by proxy at Council meetings shall be permissible.

- 27.1 The proxy shall be nominated in writing 48 hours prior to the meeting by the absentee Councilor.
- 27.2 A proxy shall not be another member of the Council; and
- 27.3 A proxy shall be an affiliated member of the country they are representing.

28.0 Business at Meetings

- Official business shall be minutes of the previous meetings, apologies, reports and recommendations from delegated bodies, and a full set of management accounts available 21 days prior to the meeting.
- 28.2 Special business shall be notices of motions; and
- 28.3 General business shall be matters raised by members of Council and of which due notice has not been given.

29.0 Notice of motion

- 29.1 Other than as hereafter specified all notices of motion shall be in writing and given to the IPC Secretary/Treasurer with sixty days' notice.
- 29.2 Motions of adjournment, motions of amendment, motions for leave to amend or withdraw a motion of amendment, motion for vote of thanks, motion for leave, motion dealing with business arising from the minutes or arising from any report or recommendation of a delegated body or sub-committee or motion for suspension of standing orders may be made without notice.
- 29.3 Except as expressly provided in clause 29.4 below or elsewhere in this Constitution, a motion of which due notice has not been given may be discussed or voted upon with the sanction of three quarters of the Council present and voting.

29.4 A motion:

- a. affecting this Constitution, the objects of the IPC, the rules of the IPC or the By-Laws of; or
- b. to rescind or amend a previous resolution of the Council; or
- c. to reinstate the registration of any Affiliated country or emerging country; or
- d. to intervene in the affairs of any member country.
- 29.5 In the event of a meeting lapsing the business thereof or in the case of an adjournment of a meeting such business as remains-outstanding

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shall take precedence at the next meeting; and

29.6 An adjourned meeting of the Council shall not deal with any business that was not on the business paper of the original meeting except as previously provided for.

30.0 Agenda

The Secretary/Treasurer shall forward to all Delegates twenty-one days prior to any Council meeting an agenda of matters to be considered at that meeting.

31.0 Attendance at Council Meetings

Any affiliated person or registered member may at the discretion of the Council attend Council meetings but without the express permission of Council shall not take part in the proceedings or address Council.

32.0 Special General Meetings

Special General Meetings may be held in such places and at such times as the Executive Committee and or the Council may from time to time direct for any special purpose provided that the Executive Committee and or the Council shall be obliged to call such special Meeting upon requisition in writing to do so by not less than 66% of the affiliated National Associations stating the purpose for which the meeting is required. 66% of the National Associations eligible to vote and present shall constitute a quorum.

MISCELLANEOUS

33.0 Amendment of Constitution

- 33.1 Before any amendment to the Constitution, Objects, Rules or By-laws of the Association is made, the Council shall submit the proposed amendment in writing to the affiliated National Associations for their consideration. Such notice shall be given at least sixty days before such an amendment is decided by the Council.
- 33.2 Any amendment must be passed by a 66% majority of the Delegates present and entitled to vote at a Council meeting.

34.0 By-Laws

- 34.1 Subject to clause 34.2 below, the Council may (by itself or by delegation to the executive committee) formulate, approve, issue, adopt, interpret and amend such by-laws, regulations and policies for the proper advancement, management and administration of the IPC, the advancement of the objects of the IPC and the sport of polocrosse as it thinks necessary or desirable.
- 34.2 By-Laws must be consistent with this Constitution.
- 34.3 All By-Laws made shall be binding on the IPC and all individuals and organisations bound by this Constitution; and
- 34.4 All by-laws, regulations and policies of the IPC in force at the date of the approval of this Constitution in so far as such by-laws, regulations and policies are not inconsistent with, or have been replaced by these

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Articles, shall be deemed to be By-Laws.

34.5 The Umpiring Committee as described in Clause 3.13 above. This committee will gather feedback from stakeholders globally to ensure the rules remain relevant and reflective of the sport's evolving nature. The committee's recommendations will be presented annually to the Council for approval.

35.0 Inspection of Books

The records, books and other documents of the IPC shall be open to inspection, free of charge, by a member of the IPC at any prescribed General meeting.

36.0 Accounts and Audit

- 36.1 There shall be prepared as at the end of each Financial Year, for submission to the Committee, a Balance Sheet together with Statement of Receipts and Payments, and of Income and Expenditure, for such year.
- 36.2 Immediately after the expiration of each Financial Year the Accounts of the Council shall be examined and the correctness of the Balance Sheet, Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statements of Income and Expenditure shall be ascertained and certified by the Auditor appointed by the Committee.

36.3 The Auditor shall:

- a. Have access to and examine all books, papers, deeds, documents and Accounts of the Council; and they may examine any office bearer, officer or servant of the Council in regard to the accounts; obtain from any bank in which the funds of the Council are deposited or invested a written statement from the Banker or Bankers as to the balance of the account or accounts, and satisfy himself as to the number of the banking accounts used by the Council.
- b. Furnish to the Committee a written statement that all documents certified are kept and used in accordance with the Rules of the Council, or, if unable to certify, report in what respect they are incorrect.
- Place before the Committee any suggestions he desires to make concerning the financial affairs of the Council.
- Indicate to the Committee any improvement desirable to secure more effective control and economic administration.
- e. Check the records of all affiliation and registration fees.
- f. Report to Committee any inaccuracy, irregularity or breach of any of these Rules relating to the finances of the Council.
- 36.4 The Executive committee is authorized on behalf of the Council to make monetary transactions for amounts up to and including US\$5,000 as necessary for running the IPC. All payments above this amount must be passed for payment by 66% of the Council and may be carried out by e-mail.
- 36.5 No portion of any income or property of the Council shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of a dividend, bonus or

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otherwise howsoever by way of a profit to a persons or persons who at any time are or have been Members of the Council or to any member of them or any person claiming through any of them, provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of remuneration to any servants of the Council or to any member thereof or other person in return for any services actually rendered to the Council nor prevent the payment of interest at a rate not exceeding current bank overdraft rate on money borrowed for any of the purposes of the Council or reasonable or proper rent on premises demised or let to the Council.

36.6 The Secretary shall at the end of each Financial Year, in conjunction with the Treasurer, prepare a statement of income and expenditure together with a balance sheet and when audited shall forward a copy of such documents to the Secretary of each National Association.

37.0 Winding Up

- 37.1 If it shall be resolved that the IPC be wound up and subject to provisions of the surplus of assets of the IPC after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the IPC but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the IPC and which shall also prohibit the distribution of its or their property among its or their members.
- 37.2 The institution or institutions referred to above in 33.1 above shall be determined by the members at or before the time of dissolution.

38.0 Conflict of Interest

- All parties involved in the IPC operations shall be committed to promoting a standard of conduct, safeguarding the members' confidence in integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the IPC activities. They must ensure that outside activities or financial interests cannot interfere with or influence the IPC's decision-making processes.
- 38.2 Any individual who is directly involved in the matter to be decided should abstain from that decision-making process and may be requested to leave the room for the time the decision/making process.

	Signed on this day 24 of 24 July 2024 at Thongweri Durban
	President of the International Polocrosse Council
1	HANNES VAN ASWEGEN
	WESSELL TRAUSS
	Second Vice President of the International Polocrosse council
	SANDRA WESTON