



International Mounted Games Association Strategic Planning Sub-Committee

Interim Update Report 01.03.2015 prepared by Nikki Carter

Executive Summary

The Strategic Planning Sub-committee recommends:

IMGA should have an equality statement:

The International Mounted Games Association is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and aims to ensure that no individual receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religious belief, class or social background, sexual orientation or political belief, except where this may conflict with local/national laws and regulations. This includes all those involved in mounted games in whatever capacity: riders, parents, employees, trainers, officials, other volunteers and spectators.

The Initial membership criteria (for national organisations applying to join IMGA) should be:

- The candidate member organisation must provide a letter requesting membership to executive committee of IMGA
- The candidate member organisation must be able to show that they offer membership within the requirements of IMGA's non-discrimination policy (see the equality statement) to all those who wish to join their organisation.
- The candidate member organisation must have an initial executive consisting of a minimum of three members residing in the country applying for membership
- The candidate member organisation must have 10 active riders
- The candidate member organisation must have a clear and concise understanding of the dynamics of IMGA, its structure, governing rules and regulations, constitution and the rules governing the sport of mounted games
- The candidate member organisation must appoint a country representative to be represented at IMGA
- The candidate member organisation must provide details of all other organisations within their country for which mounted games is the main or a major activity

Work Order Documents

Our initial work order documents defined our tasks to August 2015 as:

- Review the membership criteria for IMGA
- Formulate a long term strategic roadmap for IMGA

It was agreed by the committee that we would consider the membership criteria first.

Membership Criteria

The current membership criteria are:

INITIAL MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

- Must be able to offer equal membership to all riders within the guidelines of the IMGA constitution
- An initial executive consisting of a minimum of three members residing in the country applying for membership
- Must provide a letter requesting membership to executive committee of IMGA
- Must have a clear and concise understanding of the dynamics of IMGA. Its structure, governing rules and regulations, constitution and the rules governing the sport of mounted games
- Must appoint a country representative to be represented at IMGA

LONG TERM CRITERIA (TWO YEARS)

- Must be covered by a democratic constitution similar to organisations within the Equestrian federation or sports organisations in their country
- Must have active riders
- Must develop a plan to develop the sport of mounted games within their country
- Must take steps to become a sanctioned member of that countries Equestrian Association
- Must be able to attend either an SAGM or an AGM before the end of the initial two year period
- Must take steps in team development to be able to send teams to International competitions by the end of the two year period

Review of Discussions

There are no guidelines in the IMGA constitution. It was agreed that IMGA should have an equality statement, separate to the membership criteria. The proposed wording for such a statement (or policy document) is:

The International Mounted Games Association is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity and aims to ensure that no individual receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, pregnancy, religious belief, class or social background, sexual orientation or political belief, except where this may conflict with local/national laws and regulations. This includes all those involved in mounted games in whatever capacity: riders, parents, employees, trainers, officials, other volunteers and spectators.

The agreed initial membership criteria are:

- The candidate member organisation must be able to show that they offer membership within the requirements of IMGA's non-discrimination policy (see the equality statement) to all those who wish to join their organisation.
- The candidate member organisation must have an initial executive consisting of a minimum of three members residing in the country applying for membership
- The candidate member organisation must provide a letter requesting membership to executive committee of IMGA

- The candidate member organisation must have a clear and concise understanding of the dynamics of IMGA. Its structure, governing rules and regulations, constitution and the rules governing the sport of mounted games –
- The candidate member organisation must appoint a country representative to be represented at IMGA
- The candidate member organisation must provide details of all other organisations within their country for which mounted games is the main or a major activity
- The candidate member organisation must have 10 active riders

Sub committee's members come from a wide range of countries. Each of these countries has a national organisation with a different structure. This means that that each committee member holds a different view about how a national organisation should be structured.

This has led to detailed discussion of other criteria including:

- A new organisation must ensure all riders hold a federal licences and insurance
- A new organisation must be a member of its national equestrian federation
- A new organisation must hold national mounted games championships or at least have a competition structure in place
- A new organisation must have a professional training structure in place.

These criteria have generally been accepted as being more appropriate for long term national organisations.

There has been discussion about whether an organisation's membership should be determined on:

- The length of time they have been members of IMGA , or
- Whether they satisfy the initial membership criteria or long term membership criteria which would lead to a two-tier membership system (Full or Affiliate).

Two-tier membership has been rejected. Discussion continues about what should happen about organisations that fail to satisfy long term membership after the two year initial membership period

There has been more philosophical discussion about what is the primary role of IMGA:

- Is it to grow the number of member organisations, helping them to new organisations to build up the sport in their country from having only a small number of members?
- Is it to develop rules and structures to ensure that mounted games is a recognised and well organised sport within a more restricted number of countries?

Practicalities/Lessons Learned

One member of the sub-committee has yet to have any input into discussions.

There has been significant input from IMGA Officers

Discussion of the philosophy of IMGA is particularly difficult when the sub-committee members speak different languages. The sub-committee would particularly like to thank Sean Bource who has struggled to translate long and complex emails

Members of the sub-committee :

Nikki Carter (Chair), Signe Sehested (Secretary), Sean Bource (Translations), Jacque Cavé, Mark Devitt, Philippe Gargallo, Phil Logue.