

IMRB

International Mines Rescue Body

CONSTITUTION



PREAMBLE

THE CASE FOR “IMRB”

Without an international body such as “IMRB”, several complications and barriers exist:

➤ ISOLATION

Individual jurisdictions are isolated from each other because of distance, unfamiliarity with other programs and language.

➤ DUPLICATION OF EFFORT

When acting in isolation, individual jurisdictions may invest significant portions of their budgets to create programs or products that already exist in other jurisdictions.

➤ MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFLUENCE

When jurisdictions are isolated, there is a missed opportunity to leverage influence with lawmakers and standard setters, to leverage purchasing power with product suppliers, and to influence the development of new products.

➤ MISSED OPPORTUNITY FOR HELP/BENEVOLENCE

When acting in isolation, individual jurisdictions do not know where expertise is embedded around the world, and whom they might ask for help. Likewise, jurisdictions with expertise have no mechanism for sharing, other than giving product and knowledge to enterprises who will not share it equitably.

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VISION

A world in which all countries share knowledge and expertise related to Mines Rescue and Emergency services in such a manner that each may develop to its full potential.

MISSION

We will create a network of members across the world and facilitate collaboration providing knowledge and information, so that each member can enhance their capacity to save Miners and to safeguard the Health and Safety of Mine Rescuers.

To the limit of our capacity, we will share our strengths and knowledge with those who seek our assistance, to contribute towards a strengthening of mine rescue across the world.

ROLES AND GOALS

FACILITATING

We will host groups, events and committees that bring members and participants together to address common problems. Additionally, we will provide guidance to our members regarding hosting conferences and competitions that will result in improved consistency of mine emergency and response capability.

BROKERING

On a case-by-case basis, we will connect those with a specific need to organizations or individuals with the relevant expertise. When the IMRB is contacted for assistance, every effort will be made to connect the request to a member who can share knowledge.

SUPPORT PROVIDED

1. From an independent and non-influential position, we will provide Standard setting bodies and Manufacturers with technical expertise as far reasonably practical, with the aim in mind to enhance the quality of mine rescue standards and equipment internationally.
2. To share mine rescue related information freely among members and others where appropriate.

KNOWLEDGE CREATION

We will encourage and assist research bodies to develop new knowledge on current and emerging issues that are identified by our members.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

We will develop a world-recognized mine rescue knowledge hub that includes, standards, research, and best practices, and make such information easily accessible to our members.

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Charter and Founding Statement

Representatives from United Kingdom, France, Germany, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, Australia, and the United States of America, at meeting on 29 May 2001, in Ustroń-Jaszowiec, Poland, agreed to establish an International Mines Rescue Body with the purpose to promote mines rescue internationally, to improve mine rescue standards and improve emergency response capability.

Following a constitution that was drafted on the 6th day of September 2015 and a member workshop that was held on the 8th day of September 2019 this constitution originates as follows:

Article I - Name

This organisation shall be named and known as the **International Mines Rescue Body** and will be abbreviated as **"IMRB"**.

Article II - Emblem

The **"IMRB"** will use the following logo on its' correspondence, website, letterheads etc., and the use of this emblem will be for official **"IMRB"** use only. Written permission must be obtained from the **"IMRB"** Board prior to use of the emblem by any organization, person, or company.



Article III - Objectives

The objectives of the **"IMRB"** will include but not be limited to:

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1. The **"IMRB"** is a "non-profit" organisation with a mission of improving mines rescue, emergency preparedness and response Internationally through maintaining co-operation with organisations and manufacturers involved with mines rescue and emergency response.
2. The **"IMRB"** is also the governing body of the International Mines Rescue Competition **"IMRC"**, whereby it establishes and maintain **"IMRC"** competition rules which will provide structure and standards to such competitions. This will assist hosting partners granted through the **"IMRB"** to ensure standards are met, and fairness in hosting such international mines rescue competitions are achieved.

Article IV – Membership

1. Full Member

Full members of the **"IMRB"** shall be representatives of organisations that have responsibility for training, mobilisation of rescue teams and co-ordinating of rescue activities or regulatory authorities of rescue activities within a country. Countries having multiple authorities or full members shall be limited to the number of votes by such representatives and their majority vote shall be counted as one vote by the **"IMRB"** governing body.

2. Associate Member

Associate members shall be representatives from other organisations involved in the mining industry, academia, research organizations, development centers and related manufacturers that are actively involved in rescue and through their involvement can benefit the objectives of the **"IMRB"**. Associate members are encouraged to attend and fully participate in **"IMRB"** activities however will not be entitled to hold a board position or eligible to vote at meetings.

3. Application for Membership

Any organisation wishing to become a member or associate member shall make an application to the **"IMRB"** and such application shall be considered by at least two of the **"IMRB"** board members. Such application shall be reviewed at the scheduled Board meetings and then officially acknowledged at the next official upcoming **"IMRB"** event.

4. Membership Register

A register of all members and associate members shall be maintained and will include the name of the organisation, the county it represents and the names of the person or persons representing that organisation. It will be the sole responsibility of such member to keep their personal representative information and contactable information updated through the secretary-treasurer of the **"IMRB"**

5. Withdrawal of Membership

Membership may be withdrawn where the member resigns, such resignation needs to be forwarded to the secretary-treasurer and such member will forfeit any subscription fees that such member has or should have had to pay as set out within the membership fees in this constitution and reviewed biennially at a general meeting of the **"IMRB"**. Where the member no longer participates in the activities of the **"IMRB"**, fails to attend general meetings or are in arrears

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with membership fees, such membership would be presented by the Board at a general or special meeting and whereby two third majority of members voting to the withdrawal of such membership such membership would be cancelled.

6. Members in Good Standing

Only members who have paid their membership fees are considered in good standing and are entitled to vote.

Article V - Officers

1. "IMRB" Board

An "IMRB" board consisting of four individuals will be established and maintained comprising of three elected directors and a secretary-treasurer.

The "IMRB" Board is responsible to establish operational processes for the "IMRB".

The "IMRB" Board is responsible for reviewing and approving operational expenses, approval of membership and associated membership, general governing of the "IMRB" and the "IMRC" as set out within this constitution.

The "IMRB" Board is responsible to present all relevant information and documentation to the members at the General meeting as required within this constitution.

All members of the "IMRB" Board shall be full members of the Association in good standing. The "IMRB" Board shall be elected by the full members of the Association in good standing at a biennially general meeting or by way of round robin resolution.

2. Secretary / Treasurer

Full members shall elect a Secretary-Treasurer, biennially, who will assist with the efficient operation of the "IMRB". This person will retain the membership register, collect dues from members, prepare financial statements, collect, and prepare new membership application and/or resignations, maintain correspondence and minutes of meetings and present these to the "IMRB" Board membership.

3. Term of Office

A term of office shall be two years and any appointments referred to in sections, 1 and 2 of this constitution can be re-elected to serve an additional term or terms.

To ensure continuity, at least 2 (two) "IMRB" Board members inclusive of the Secretary-Treasurer, shall avail themselves to serve a second term in office. The "IMRB" Board will indicate to members which Board members are available for re-election at the biennially general meeting for full members to vote on. "IMRB" Members must nominate full member representatives in good standing for the remaining 2 (two) vacant positions and to be voted on by full members at the biennially general meeting.

A Board member may resign from office in writing or be disqualified from office upon termination of membership to the "IMRB" association or be removed from office through a two-thirds member resolution.

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Vacancies on the “*IMRB*” Board must, as soon as reasonable possible, appoint someone to fill any vacancy that reduced the number of board members to less than four. This can be done at the biennially general meeting or by way of round robin resolution.

Appointments referred to in sections, 1 and 2 of this constitution are non-remunerational positions although some incidental costs would be covered out of membership fees as approved by the Board from time to time.

Article VI - International Mines Rescue Body Conference (“IMRB”)

1. Hosting International Mines Rescue Body Conference

Full members shall select and support “volunteer” countries or members to host the biennial International Mines Rescue Conference, General meeting, and related activities. This volunteer county or member shall be responsible for arranging a Conference, the General Meeting, and any related events.

The “*IMRB*” board shall have the right to cancel or amend arrangements to the Conference, the General Meeting, and any related events, if it is of the view that it is not aligned with the objective of the “*IMRB*” and/or this constitution.

2. Honorary Conference Chairperson

Through consultation with the Conference host, an Honorary Conference Chairperson will be nominated to work in partnership with the IMRB Board, and this person will preside over the event.

3. Conference Cost

The “*IMRB*” Conference host is responsible to arrange for all the necessary support, resources and finances related to accommodating the event. The “*IMRB*” Board and previous event hosts will provide assistance, guidance, advice and support, including historical background information, that will ensure a successful event.

Article VII - International Mines Rescue Competition (“IMRC”)

1. Hosting International Mines Rescue Competitions

Full members shall select and support a “volunteer” organization, country, or member to host the biennial mines rescue competition each even-numbered year. This volunteer organization, country or member shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects related to the competition.

The “*IMRB*” board shall have to right to cancel or amend arrangements to the Competition and all aspects related to the competition if it is of the view that it is not aligned with the objective of the “*IMRB*” and/or this constitution.

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2. Competition Rules

The "IMRB" Board will provide an official guideline to the ("IMRC") competition hosts based on best practices to ensure a fair, successful and high-quality event that advances the "IMRB" mission and objective. This guideline will be continually updated by the "IMRB" Board.

The "IMRC" host is responsible for establishing competition rules that ensure transparency, equity, and fairness in line and as per guidance of the "IMRB".

3. Competition Cost

The "IMRC" host is responsible to arrange for all the necessary support, resources and finances related to accommodating the event. The "IMRB" Board and previous event hosts will provide assistance and support, including historical background information, that will ensure a successful event.

Article VIII - Meetings

1. General Biennial Meeting

A General Meeting of Full members of the "IMRB" will be arranged by the "IMRB" board at least once every two years that typically will coincide with the "IMRB" Conference or other official "IMRB" event and will be communicated to all full members in a timely manner.

Board Members will agree in advance of General Meetings which Board Director/s will be responsible to oversee the meeting proceedings.

The purpose of General Meetings is to update members regarding "IMRB" finances, key initiatives, and conduct, inform members on new memberships accepted and any proposals for the future relating to the "IMRB".

The Members shall nominate the Secretary Treasurer and members of the Board and an election shall occur in a timely manner at or following the meeting.

The Members may establish Sub-Committees which enable the "IMRB" to achieve operational objectives including its mission and vision.

2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board can be arranged to discuss urgent operational issues, and these may be in person, teleconference, e-mail, or conference call where appropriate.

3. Voting and Quorum

Before any meeting, a quorum will be established, a quorum shall be at least 51% of Full members in good standing being present. All Full members, in good standing, are entitled to a vote and voting will be a simple show of hands, unless the meeting chair, at his/her discretion, deems it necessary for a secret ballot. All decisions or resolutions, unless specified

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separately in this constitution, will require a simple majority and a majority is greater than fifty percent of Full members. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be a voting member only in the event of a deadlock.

Countries represented by more than one full member; such members votes would be ruled to one vote on their majority voted results.

Article IX – Membership Fees

Membership fees will be approved at each general meeting and shall be based on a budgeted forecast of expenses of the “IMRB”.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall present a budget to the Board for consideration together with the actual expenses of the previous year term.

Members will be required to pay membership fees within six months of invoicing.

A bank account will be opened and maintained in the name of the “IMRB” where all membership fees will be deposited, and expenses paid from.

The Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to use budgeted funds with Directors pre-approval and discretionary spending up to \$500 per transaction for operational expenses with the provision of follow-up background documentation.

Article X – Transition

During transition to the new constitution the Directors are authorized to make decisions which are in the best interest and as stipulated within this said constitution of the “IMRB” until such time that the revised constitution is approved at a general meeting of the “IMRB” membership. This section, “Article X – Transition” will be removed once the constitution is accepted at a General meeting.

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Article XI – Liability

“IMRB” Directors and the Secretary-Treasurer are entrusted by the membership to take reasonable care in managing the finances and make decisions that are in the best interest of this Organisation. Board members shall not be held liable in their personal and/or professional capacity for the wrongdoing, harm or losses towards any individual, party, organisation or regulating body of whatsoever nature or reason as far as reasonably practicable and whereby beyond reasonable doubt.

Article XII – By-Laws

The “IMRB” will establish and enact as far as reasonably practicable By-Laws which are intended to ensure consistent application of “IMRB” rules and the smooth operation of the organisation.


Article XIII – Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted in writing at least two months prior to a meeting by or towards the Secretary-Treasurer and distributed to all Full members prior the said voting meeting. An amendment to this constitution shall require a vote as stipulated in this constitution by all Full members as listed in the membership register at the time of the meeting.

This constitution was adopted at a general meeting held in Brisbane, Australia. (Virtual meeting)
 on the Sixth day of September 2021.

Canada 
 Alex Gryska: Secretary

Australia 
 David Carey: Board Member

Canada 
 Ted Hanley: Board Member

South Africa 
 Mannas Fourie: Board Member

20 Nov. 2023

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