FIL_CalendarFront:ILF_CalendarFront 3/30/11 4:35 PM Page 1

FIL Guide to International Lacrosse

FIL OVERVIEW

The Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) was established in August of 2008 in a merger of the International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Association (IFWLA) and the International Lacrosse Federation (I.L.F. Men).

FIL is responsible for the Men's World Lacrosse Championship, World Indoor Championship, Women's World Cup and both Men's & Women's U-19 World Lacrosse Championships. These events are run every 4 years.

Other key areas of responsibility of the Federation are the establishment of international rules of play and the promotion and development of all forms of lacrosse internationally.

FIL has 42 member nations and is a member of WADA.

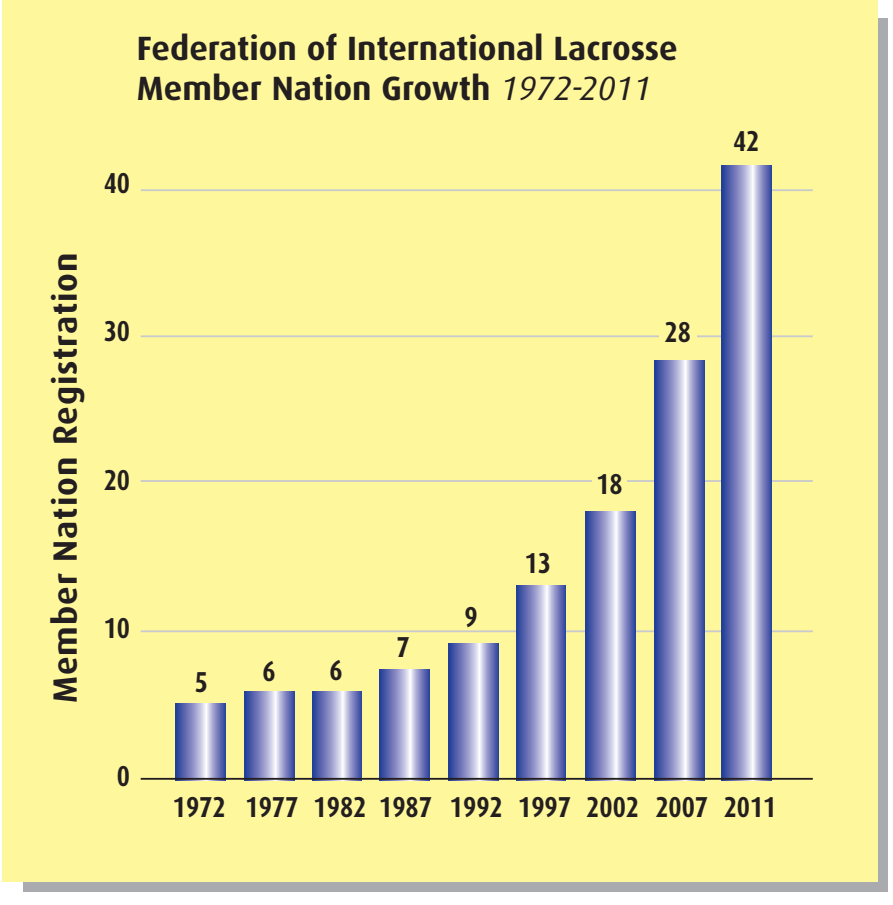
The next General Assembly of FIL will be held in 2012 in Amsterdam.

MISSION STATEMENT

Federation of International Lacrosse is responsible for the governance and integrity of all forms of Lacrosse and provides responsive and effective leadership to support the sport's development throughout the world.

VISION STATEMENT

Lacrosse is recognized and played by all countries world-wide, and becomes an Olympic sport again.



Indoor Lacrosse

Indoor lacrosse is played on a standard sized arena floor and features 6 players (goaltender and five runners) competing in play at any time. Team roster sizes are 18-20 players.

The strategy of Indoor Lacrosse is similar to that of basketball, with all five runners involved in the offense and the defense. Added to the appeal are the speed and excitement created by a 30-second shot clock. The combination of action and reaction makes Box as much fun to play as it is to watch.

Indoor lacrosse is currently played by ten FIL members: Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Ireland, Iroquois, Latvia, Scotland, and the United States. The inaugural FIL World Indoor Lacrosse Championship was hosted in Ontario, Canada in 2003.

There are currently over 100,000 indoor players in the World. Both males and females play this version of Lacrosse and the ages of competition range from 6-65 years.

The next FIL World Indoor Championship is in May 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic.

FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL LACROSSE

Men's Field Lacrosse

Men's Field Lacrosse is played outdoors on a 100m x 55m field. Teams consist of 10 players of a team roster of 23 players. The team on the field consists of goaltender, 3 attack, 3 midfielders and 3 defense.

Men's Field is very similar to Box in the fundamental skills of passing and catching, and the physical nature of the play. The games differ in style of play and strategy. There is no controlling shot clock in Men's Field and the game is more strategic and relies more heavily on possession and control of the ball.

Every four years the Federation of International Lacrosse holds a World Championships at the Junior (U-19) and Senior levels. Traditionally Australia, Canada, England and the United States have battled for supremacy but recent years have seen the expansion and emergence of high quality teams from Asia and Europe. Recent years have seen expansion of the game in Europe, Central America and Africa.

The initial World Championship was a four-team invitational tournament that coincided with Canada's centennial lacrosse celebration in 1967. The Mt. Washington (Md.) Lacrosse Club represented the United States and won the tournament. Seven years later, Australia celebrated its lacrosse centennial, and the U.S. fielded an all-star team to compete in a similar international invitational tournament with Canada and England again. It was here that the concept of holding a world championship tournament every four years was born and the International Lacrosse Federation (ILF) formed. World Championships have been held every 4 years sine 1974.

The ILF merged with IFWLA (International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Association) in 2008. The next sanctioned FIL U-19 Men's World Championship will take place in Turku, Finland in 2012 and the Senior Men's World Championship in Denver, USA in 2014.

Women's Field Lacrosse

Women's Field Lacrosse is a quick, free-flowing game which is easy to understand and watch. The game is played on a 100m x 55m field with 12 players aside on the field. The full roster of a Women's Field team is 16-20 players.

Unlike Men's Field or Indoor Lacrosse, Women's Field is a non-contact sport. There is no aggressive checking with either the stick or the body. This results in a game which has added emphasis on a fast-paced, polished game centred on ball movement.

The International Federation of Women's Lacrosse Associations (IFWLA) was formed in 1972 to promote and develop the game of women's lacrosse throughout the world. Inaugural members were Australia, England, Scotland, Wales and the United States. The IFWLA World Cup started in 1982 as an international lacrosse tournament that is held every four years.

The first IFWLA U-19 World Championship was held in the USA in 1995. The IFWLA merged with the ILF (International Lacrosse Federation) in 2008.

The next sanctioned FIL U-19 Women's World Championships will take place in Hanover, Germany in 2011 and Senior Women's World Championships in Oshawa, Canada in 2013.

www.filacrosse.com