

General Assembly 2020 – Legislation changes

The document sets out the major changes being proposed by the World Lacrosse Board (in consultation with the Governance Working Group) to the Constitution and Bylaws, which are subject to a two-thirds majority vote, at the General Assembly (GA). Proposals sent in by Members are also included.

Most of the detail below has been sent out to members (17 July and 5 August 2020) and covered in recent webinars.

These proposals relate to the existing documentation and will be incorporated into the proposed new structure when that has been agreed by the Membership.

Documentation Structure

Revised structure proposed by the Governance Working Group (GWG) covering all documentation with five (5) major categories, these being:

1. Constitution
2. Bylaws
3. Governance Manual
4. Policies, Protocols and Procedures
5. Event Hosting and Competition

Separate documentation covers the detail of the proposed revision.

Note the numbers below refer to the paragraph numbers in the existing documentation

Constitution

Membership (4)

GWG discussions regarding the relationship of World Lacrosse and the Continental Federations (CFs) are still ongoing and an update will be provided on the current position to the GA. When concluded, there will be a proposal to set up an additional category of membership specifically to cover the Continental Federations.

There is a proposal from the Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union (APLU) supported by New Zealand Lacrosse to change the membership structure such that members report through CF rather than direct to World Lacrosse (WL). The CFs would be the members of WL.

This proposal is not supported by the WL Board or the GWG but needs to be considered by members at the General Assembly.

GA Structure (5.1)

To propose that the General Assembly consists of the membership, the Board and the Athletes Commission.

Auditors (5.2.14 & 7.1.6)

It is proposed that the independent Auditors are a Board appointment, following recommendation by the Finance and Audit Committee (rather than GA) and advised to the membership.

GA Voting (5.6)

There are two significant changes being proposed:

- a) The Board, as a collective body, should only have one vote.
- b) In common with many other International Federations it is appropriate to give an increased emphasis to the voice of our Athletes and their ability to influence decision making. The proposal is that this should be at the 20% level initially and possibly growing in the future. To achieve this, it is proposed that all elected members of the Athletes Commission are entitled to cast a vote at the GA.

GA Sector Voting (5.8.4)

It is proposed to change the reference to “Indoor” to “Box” reflecting the generally more well-known term for these disciplines (Men’s and Women’s).

If this proposal is agreed, then this change would also be made to all other relevant references in the documentation.

Board (6)

It is proposed that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is a Board member with voting privileges.

It is proposed that the Athletes Commission Vice-Chair is a Board member with voting privileges.

It is proposed to create a new Board position for a Diversity and Inclusion Officer who will be appointed. The Officer will attend Board meeting with voice but no voting privilege.

It is proposed to change the title “Secretary General / Finance” to Finance and Governance Director.

The Board structure will be such that the number of elected voting members will be greater than that of the appointed / otherwise selected voting members.

Financial (7.2)

It is proposed to change the title “Secretary General / Finance” to Finance and Governance Director in all occurrences.

(7.2 – 7.5)

Changes proposed to reflect responsibilities moving to staff functions.

Committee Meeting Costs (7.6)

To delete the reference to Committee members expenses being the responsibility of the relevant Member National Governing Body (NGB). (7.6). This is no longer appropriate.

Disciplinary Action (14)

Proposal to include appropriate wording as section 14.2 for the termination of a Director / Board member. This was identified at the General Assembly in 2018 as omitted from the documentation and the proposal to include this in 2019 was delayed with the setup of the Governance Working Group.

Discipline of Members (Appendix A)

Reference to “Not in good standing,” clarification.

There are also some wording changes for clarification.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution are attached.

Bylaws

Relevant sections of the Bylaws will be updated to reflect decisions made regarding the possible new membership category of Continental Federations and the overall relationship of WL and the CFs when agreed by the GWG and will be presented to the membership for agreement.

Board Responsibilities (6.4.10)

Latvia Lacrosse has proposed an addition to the current bylaw 6.4.10: “Changes in the Qualifying for World Events” document and a change to **Appendix A 4.2** to remove “pre-qualification from the previous event” for World Events.

It is also proposed that a Working Group be set up to produce the procedures to support this and they would be subject to postal vote during this year.

The WL Board does not support this proposal for 2023 (2022) as the GA had only in 2018 agreed the existing pre-qualifications for the two senior events prior to a review.

The Board supports setting up a future Working Group on qualifiers.

Protocols

Proposal to rename some of the documentation from Policies to Protocols.

This is intended to cover those aspects of documentation (currently within Bylaws and Policies) that are directed externally to WL by medical professionals, WADA, etc., and we follow the guidelines given. It is intended that Protocols would be Board approved rather than GA.

Documents currently planned for this category include:

- Concussion

- GDPR Data Protection

- Hydration

- WADA stipulated requirements (Note: The Anti-Doping Policy document would still remain as being for member consideration.)

There will also be a number of protocols in the Event Hosting and Competition Manual.

Ron Balls
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