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## World Lacrosse Bylaws

As approved by the General Assembly

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## 1.1 World Lacrosse Membership

The criteria, requirements, rights and obligations for Full Members, Provisional Members, Continental Federation Members and Affiliate Members, as well as membership subscriptions and the membership approval process, are stated below.

### Membership

- 1.1.1 **Provisional Member:** New members and/or those members who are developing in their ability to govern domestically.
- 1.1.2 **Full Member:** Members who have met a predetermined set of criteria that demonstrate their ability to govern domestically and can contribute to the continental and/or global development of the sport.
- 1.1.3 **Continental Federation (CF) Member:** This membership category is for those entities responsible for carrying out the purposes of World Lacrosse and supporting the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) within a defined geographic region that includes more than one country as agreed by WL and the CF(s).
- 1.1.4 **Affiliate Member:** Organizations who have and can demonstrate a valid interest in aligning with or being members of World Lacrosse, but not qualify as a Full or Provisional Member. May only compete in international multi-sport events under special circumstances (British Lacrosse for Team Great Britain (GB) would be an example of a special circumstance).

### Member Requirements

- 1.1.5 **Provisional Member requirements:** To be considered for Provisional Member status, the applicant needs to:
  - 1.1.5.1 Provide authority for the sport of lacrosse in their geographic region or territory, as agreed by WL and the CF(s).
  - 1.1.5.2 Have a defined leadership structure for the organization (a board) with a target of 50% of members residing within the geographic area and 50% gender equity.
  - 1.1.5.3 Have a Constitution and Bylaws that contains full endorsement by their board at a minimum and ideally by their members; compliance with WL and CF constitutions and bylaws; free and fair democratic elections with term limits defined, recognition of WL and the relevant CF as sole authorities governing the sport of lacrosse, WADA compliance provisions and holding an annual governance meeting representative of the membership.
  - 1.1.5.4 Submit a 3-year plan for development of the sport and for the organization.
  - 1.1.5.5 Submit an anti-discrimination declaration statement.
- 1.1.6 **Full Member requirements:** meets all requirements of a Provisional Member, plus:
  - 1.1.6.1 Board is comprised of minimum 50% in-country leadership and has constitutional provisions that ensure in-country development work is carried out.
  - 1.1.6.2 Must demonstrate working in good faith to provide equitable resources ensuring opportunity across all genders.
  - 1.1.6.3 Must demonstrate financial sustainability and independence via submission of operating budget and statement of accounts.

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- 1.1.6.4 Have participated in a WL and CF General Assembly within one year of the request for Full Member status.
- 1.1.6.5 Be current with all subscriptions due to WL and the CF.
- 1.1.6.6 Provide a plan for the administration of a prevention of abuse (SafeSport) policy.
- 1.1.6.7 Must have competed in an approved regional or approved WL event.

1.1.7 **Continental Federation requirements:** To be considered for CF Member status, the applicant shall have the same requirements as a Full Member (in respect of 1.1.6.1, 1.1.6.3 and 1.1.6.4), plus:

- 1.1.7.1 For proposed Continental Federations to be approved, the proposed Continental Federation must provide a letter endorsed by two thirds of the current full member NGBs within the region and recognizing the proposed CF as the Continental Federation, to present themselves as the sole governing authority for the sport of lacrosse in their geographic region or territory, in accordance with the United Nations and/or as agreed by WL and the CF(s).

1.1.8 **Affiliate Member requirements:** To be considered for Affiliate Member status:

- 1.1.8.1 The Affiliate's mission and vision will align and/or be complementary to the mission and vision of WL and its members.
- 1.1.8.2 The Affiliate will submit a written proposal for Membership, detailing why the organization should be permitted membership with WL.

## Member Rights

1.1.9 **Provisional Member rights:**

- 1.1.9.1 May send up to two observers to a WL/CF General Assembly without vote.
- 1.1.9.2 Provisional Member observers may be permitted to have a voice at the discretion of the President or chair of the meeting.
- 1.1.9.3 Access to all WL/CF grant programs and services.
- 1.1.9.4 May participate in Continental events but will not qualify for World Championship events at the Senior level.
- 1.1.9.5 May participate in WL age related Events.

1.1.10 **Full Member rights:** The Full Member enjoys the same rights as a Provisional Member plus:

- 1.1.10.1 One of the two participants is a voting delegate at General Assemblies.
- 1.1.10.2 Delegate is entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the General Assembly.
- 1.1.10.3 May nominate persons from their NGB for positions on the WL Board.
- 1.1.10.4 May participate in Continental and World Championship events at every competition level adhering to relevant competition rules and regulations.

1.1.11 **Continental Federation Member rights:**

- 1.1.11.1 May send one observer and one voting delegate to a General Assembly.
- 1.1.11.2 Delegate is entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the General Assembly.
- 1.1.11.3 One WL board seat will be made available for CF representation. The person will be elected by the CFs and presented to WL Board for affirmation. This position will enjoy the rights that are conferred upon other board members, as related to matters of the board. Each CF will have one vote. Any tied vote will require resolution by the CFs.
- 1.1.11.4 One WL Development Committee (DevComm) seat will be created for regional representatives from each of the existing and any future regions, in agreement with the Chair of the DevComm. At the end of the term of a regional representative the relevant

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CF will submit two to three names to the DevComm and the DevComm will work with the CF to find a mutually agreeable replacement to represent the relevant region.

## 1.1.12 **Affiliate Member rights:**

- 1.1.12.1 May send observers to a WL General Assembly.
- 1.1.12.2 May be permitted to have a voice at the discretion of the President or chair of the meeting.
- 1.1.12.3 May only compete in international multi-sport events under special circumstances, as noted in the 1.1.4 and 1.1.8 and agreed by the WL Board.

## **Member Obligations**

### 1.1.13 **Provisional Member obligations:**

- 1.1.13.1 Upon confirmation of Provisional Member status, the member will work towards obtaining Full member status within 5 years.
- 1.1.13.2 Upon the 2-year anniversary of Provisional Member confirmation, the DevComm will review the Provisional Member plan and make a recommendation as to the course of action needed.
- 1.1.13.3 Each Provisional Member will submit an annual report to WL DevComm and to the relevant CF, related to the goals and objectives of their development plan.
- 1.1.13.4 Dues/Subscription: \$100 USD (to WL)
  - First year to be paid with application submission
  - Subsequent years to be paid by conclusion of Q1
  - CFs may set own subscription rates

### 1.1.14 **Full Member obligations:**

- 1.1.14.1 Be an extension of WL and the CF in supporting the development of the sport within the region/country.
- 1.1.14.2 Work cooperatively with WL and the CF to ensure domestic members are in alignment with WL and CF policies, statutes, and regulations.
- 1.1.14.3 Invite WL/CF representatives to its General Assembly and other meetings where knowledge sharing would be beneficial to all parties.
- 1.1.14.4 Submit an annual report on request to WL DevComm and to the relevant CF, related to the goals and objectives of their plan.
- 1.1.14.5 Dues/Subscription: \$500 USD (to WL) for new Full Members
  - First year to be paid with application submission
  - Subsequent years to be paid by conclusion of Q1
  - CFs may set own subscription costs
- 1.1.14.6 Dues/subscriptions for existing full members will be as determined by the General Assembly from time to time.

### 1.1.15 **Continental Federation obligations:** CF members have the same obligations as Full Member plus:

- 1.1.15.1 Conduct Continental Qualifying events as needed for WL World Championships at the senior levels of each discipline, as agreed by WL and the CF.
- 1.1.15.2 Conduct own championship events for membership engagement and development.
- 1.1.15.3 Dues/Subscriptions: \$0 USD.

### 1.1.16 **Affiliate Member obligations:**

- 1.1.16.1 Obligations will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, as relationships will vary in this category.

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- 1.1.16.2 Dues/Subscriptions: \$250 USD (to WL)
  - First year to be paid with application submission
  - Subsequent years to be paid by conclusion of Q1
  - CFs may set own subscription costs if joining a CF is applicable.

## Membership Process

- 1.1.17 A country must join WL and the respective CF simultaneously.
- 1.1.18 **Provisional Member Joining Process:** The process noted below is for prospective member-countries to receive Provisional Member status with WL and their respective CF.
  - 1.1.18.1 Application package containing items noted in 1.1.5 to be submitted to the WL Director of Sport Development (WL DSD) for review and communication with CF (This is reciprocal if a prospective member approaches the CF first).
  - 1.1.18.2 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm works with the potential Provisional Member to revise the application as needed.
  - 1.1.18.3 The application package to be approved by the respective CF Board via the CF representative.
  - 1.1.18.4 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm present the application to the DevComm for review and recommendation to the WL Board.
  - 1.1.18.5 Once approved by the WL Board, WL will send the recommendation to its full membership for a postal vote or depending on timing consideration at a General Assembly.
  - 1.1.18.6 Once approved by WL member vote, WL and CF co-confer Provisional Membership status upon the applicant.
- 1.1.19 **Full Member Joining Process:** The process noted below is for Provisional (formerly Associate) Members to advance to Full Member status with WL and their respective CF (if applicable).
  - 1.1.19.1 Application package containing items noted in 1.1.6 will be submitted to the WL DSD for review and communication with CF (This is reciprocal if a prospective full member approaches the CF first).
  - 1.1.19.2 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm will work with the Provisional Member to revise the application as needed.
  - 1.1.19.3 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm will present the application to the DevComm for review and once approved will take the recommendation to the WL Board.
  - 1.1.19.4 Once approved by the WL Board, WL will send the recommendation to its full membership for a postal vote or depending on timing consideration at a General Assembly vote.
  - 1.1.19.5 Once approved by WL member vote, WL and CF co-confer Full Member status upon the applicant.
- 1.1.20 **Continental Federation Member Joining Process:** The process noted below is for organizations seeking membership with World Lacrosse as a Continental Federation Member.
  - 1.1.20.1 Application package containing items noted in 1.1.7 will be submitted to the WL DSD.
  - 1.1.20.2 Prospective CF will be recommended from the DevComm to the WL Board. For the prospective CF to be approved, WL Board will seek approval by a vote of two thirds of the full member NGBs in the respective geographic region.

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- 1.1.21 **Affiliate Member Joining Process:** The process noted below is for organizations seeking Affiliate Membership with World Lacrosse and also with a CF if applicable.
- 1.1.21.1 Candidate organization will submit a written proposal. indicating if the organization desires to join respective CF and/or WL. For Affiliates, membership in both is not required in most circumstances.
  - 1.1.21.2 The form will be reviewed by WL Management/DevComm as appropriate and CF Board if applicable.
  - 1.1.21.3 A contract/memorandum of understanding(MOU) will be established between all organizations involved; MOU requires signature of CEOs or appointee for each organization.
  - 1.1.21.4 WL CEO and/or CF President (if applicable) will recommend application to appropriate Board(s).
  - 1.1.21.5 Appropriate Board(s) will accept or decline the Affiliate application. If the application is accepted, MOU is activated. If the application is denied, the MOU is not activated.
- 1.1.22 **Membership Review**
- 1.1.22.1 Every Full Member, Provisional Member, CF Member and Affiliate Member may be asked to provide a report when requested by the WL Board or DevComm. Understanding the time and effort it can take to develop an annual report, WL will provide a template to its members for annual reporting. This template is heavily focused on raw data collection and will be available in the Member Toolkit
  - 1.1.22.2 The DevComm will regularly review the status of member NGBs and make recommendations on any status change as necessary or on benefit limitation as a Member considering their attendance at WL meetings and WL Events and also their domestic play situation as necessary.

## 1.2 World Lacrosse Board Composition

- 1.2.1 Members of the Board are elected by the GA and for specialist positions appointed by the Board and elected by other relevant groups including the Athletes' Commission and the Continental Federations.
- 1.2.2 BOARD COMPOSITION (precise titles and related responsibilities may change from time to time to reflect strategic priorities)
- 1.2.2.1 President - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.2 Vice President - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.3 Finance & Governance Director - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.4 Competition Director - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.5 Technical Director - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.6 Development Director - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.7 Diversity and Inclusion Director - Member-elected
  - 1.2.2.8 Independent Directors (2) - Board-appointed, with voting privileges
  - 1.2.2.9 Athletes Commission (2) - Commission-appointed, Chair and Deputy Chair, gender balanced, both with voting privileges
  - 1.2.2.10 Continental Federation Director - elected by the Continental Federation Members
  - 1.2.2.11 CEO - Board-hired, with voting privileges
  - 1.2.2.12 Legal Counsel - Board-appointed, without voting privileges

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- 1.2.3 Board nominees, for election, must be a National of or reside within a Full Member nation in order to be considered for Board positions. If nominated by a different Member (not the country of residence) then the nomination must be supported by the home country Member (written confirmation being required). Board members may nominate for positions that fall vacant at General Assemblies or otherwise.
- 1.2.4 The Nominations Committee is responsible for publicizing any Board and Committee Chair vacancy to the Board, committees and delegates of the GA, identifying nominees, and distributing to the Member nominated contact point, at least 30 days prior to all GA meetings, a list of nominees for any Board positions for which an election is required.
- 1.2.5 Board terms will normally be four (4) years, and elected Board members may serve up to three (3) consecutive four-year terms, before they must cycle off the Board for at least one year.
- 1.2.6 Appointed Board members will serve at the will of the Board and will be defined at the time of appointment. Appointment durations will be advised to members at each General Assembly.

## 1.3 World Lacrosse Board Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.3.1 World Lacrosse (WL) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. As a result, WL and its Board members are subject to strict ethical guidelines and public scrutiny. Board members must meet three standards of conduct when carrying out Board responsibilities, including:
  - 1.3.1.1 Ensuring that operations and resources are aligned to fulfil the mission. Programs and services must support the mission.
  - 1.3.1.2 Ensuring responsible financial and legal stewardship when making Board decisions and taking action.
  - 1.3.1.3 Committing to serve the best interests of the organization. Board members cannot “self-deal” or use their Board position for personal gain, nor can they favor the interests of a stakeholder group above the overall interests of the WL.
- 1.3.2 WL Board collective responsibilities include the following:
  - 1.3.2.1 **Determine mission and purposes.** The WL Board creates and periodically reviews a statement of mission and purpose that is relevant in the current environment and appropriately serves its primary stakeholders.
  - 1.3.2.2 **Select the chief executive.** The WL Board reaches consensus on the chief executive’s (CEO) responsibilities and undertakes a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
  - 1.3.2.3 **Support and evaluate the CEO.** The WL Board ensures that the CEO has the moral and professional support they need to further organizational goals.
  - 1.3.2.4 **Perpetuate diversity and inclusion goals.** The WL Board reflects the organization’s core belief that a diverse, inclusive and welcoming culture will best position the organization to achieve its strategic goals.
  - 1.3.2.5 **Ensure effective strategic and operational planning.** The WL Board must actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring plan goals.
  - 1.3.2.6 **Monitor and strengthen programs and services.** The WL Board determines which programs are consistent with the organization’s mission and monitor their effectiveness.

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- 1.3.2.7 **Ensure adequate financial resources.** The WL Board makes sure the organization has the resources needed to fulfil its mission.
- 1.3.2.8 **Protect assets and provide financial oversight.** The WL Board assists in developing an annual budget, oversees an annual audit, ensures that proper financial controls are in place and monitors organizational compliance with legal and fiduciary laws and regulations.
- 1.3.2.9 **Build a competent Board.** The WL Board articulates prerequisites for Board candidates, recruits and orients new members, periodically and comprehensively evaluates its own performance, and ensures that Athlete representation is maintained.
- 1.3.2.10 **Ensure legal and ethical integrity.** The WL Board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
- 1.3.2.11 **Enhance the organization's public standing.** The WL Board clearly articulates the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public, and garners support from the community.

**1.3.3** Understanding Board responsibilities is fundamentally important. Understanding how to perform them is equally important. WL Board members are expected to perform the following:

- 1.3.3.1 Understand and execute Board responsibilities, both generally and specific to the board position held, while respecting the board delegated authority and responsibility of the CEO.
- 1.3.3.2 Lead strategically with a forward focus; collaboratively with the CEO, set strategic direction and high-level priorities.
- 1.3.3.3 Avoid micromanagement by getting caught-up in day-to-day details; respect the CEO's authority to lead and manage WL staff and operations.
- 1.3.3.4 Commit to the best interests of WL and its membership; vote and act responsibly in support of WL and its stakeholders, not exclusively for one member or a group of members.
- 1.3.3.5 Support Board decisions once they are made.
- 1.3.3.6 Assure the confidentiality of information distributed to and discussed by the board.
- 1.3.3.7 Behave ethically, taking care to disclose and act appropriately on any conflicts of interest.
- 1.3.3.8 Behave courteously; communicate succinctly and respectfully; listen attentively to others; proactively encourage and seek to understand diverse viewpoints.
- 1.3.3.9 Regularly attend and prepare for Board meetings, GAs, calls and other activities.
- 1.3.3.10 Serve as an advocate for WL, speak well of WL and other Board members.

**1.3.4** The increasing legal and fiduciary responsibilities of WL, as well as the desire for greater mission success, requires the following commitments:

- 1.3.4.1 **Roles & Responsibilities:** Highly performing organizations clearly define roles. Job descriptions that articulate roles and responsibilities for Board members (and for officers, CEO and committee chairs) have been developed and will continue to be reviewed, distributed and presented in a comprehensive Board member orientation, and reviewed annually. Board powers and key responsibilities are codified in these Bylaws.
- 1.3.4.2 **Board Recruitment:** Board recruitment is strategic and proactive. WL will recruit individuals who are highly capable of performing Board responsibilities and will act in accordance with best practices and governing standards. Careful consideration must be given to what each Board candidate can contribute in terms of skills, experience, and sound judgment for the organization. Well-qualified Board members possess the highest personal values, judgement and integrity. They understand athletic competition, Olympic ideals and will be familiar with the business, financial and other challenges that face WL. They may have a strong background in finance, marketing, fundraising, audit, management, communications and sport. Before accepting a Board position,



candidates must be informed of Board responsibilities and be asked if they are prepared to commit the necessary time and effort to fulfil them well.

- 1.3.4.3 **Athletes as Board Members:** Athletes are key stakeholders of WL, and WL Bylaws require WL Athletes Commission-appointed representation on the Board. Given that athletes may be actively competing or just beginning their professional careers, attention must be given to whether the athlete being put forward has the time, flexibility and focus to perform Board service.
- 1.3.4.4 **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest:** Avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest is a Board imperative. The Board develops and follows ethics and conflict of interest policies that are applicable to NGB stakeholders, including staff, volunteers, Board and committee members. These stakeholders certify compliance annually, which includes completion of conflict of interest disclosure forms.
- 1.3.4.5 **Fiduciary Responsibility:** Financial oversight is a crucial Board responsibility and includes, but is not limited to:
- Approving and monitoring budgets
  - Approving independent auditors to conduct annual audits
  - Approving any loans, accumulations and restricted accounts
  - Overseeing bank accounts, investment advisors and/or endowments
  - Monitoring sales transactions and checking for any unrelated business income
  - Complying with legal and fiduciary laws and regulations
  - Overseeing compensation, benefits and liability.
  - Approving capital campaigns and fundraising goals.
- 1.3.4.6 **Strategic Planning:** WL Board members partner with the CEO to set strategic direction and measure progress. The value of strategic planning lies not only in creating a plan document, but also in the planning process itself. If done well, this process provokes productive thought, sparks compelling dialogue, and fosters stakeholder collaboration and commitment to the success to benefit the entire organization.
- 1.3.4.7 **Fundraising:** Board members prioritize and support the execution of WL fundraising activities.
- 1.3.4.8 **Assessment:**
- **CEO:** The WL Board, or a subset of the Board, will manage the CEO's job performance annually. The job description, any performance goals and review process will be established and agreed upon with the CEO at least one-year in advance of the review. Board members must commit to supporting the CEO's efforts toward goal achievement, while simultaneously holding him or her accountable to those goals. Constructive feedback, both positive and developmental, must be given regularly throughout the year.
  - **Board Members:** The WL Board will engage in a self-assessment program. In addition to assessing the CEO's performance every year, Boards will assess their own performances through a simple online tool. Individual Board members may evaluate the Board's performance, using Board member responsibilities and governing behaviors as the baseline. Results must be reported to the Board and discussed at a meeting.
- 1.3.5 The Board will have the ultimate authority to oversee the Federation's budget once it is approved by the General Assembly.
- 1.3.6 The Board will serve as the Federation's Strategic Planning Committee, with up to four (4) other people, and is charged with overseeing efforts to prepare, present for General Assembly approval and implement the Federation's strategic plan. The Board will also monitor and evaluate the plan, and provide regular progress reports to the General Assembly.

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- 1.3.7 The President will establish the agenda and timing for Board meetings and the General Assembly, and preside over these meetings. The President, subject to Board approval, will have the power to temporarily fill Board vacancies until the next meeting of the General Assembly, at which a formal election for the vacancy will be conducted.
- 1.3.8 Members of the Board are expected to attend all Board meetings whether held in person or electronically. As a minimum there will be 4 meetings per annum, as well as the General Assembly and various electronic calls in between formal Board meetings as required. The President and Finance and Governance Director will determine the dates of Board meetings in liaison with the WL CEO.
- 1.3.9 The Board will have and may exercise all of the powers and authority of the General Assembly and the Rules Assembly, in between meetings of the General Assembly and the Rules Assembly, in the management and governance of the Federation except for the following:
- 1.3.9.1 The adoption, amendment or repeal of the Bylaws and Constitution.
  - 1.3.9.2 The amendment or revocation of any resolution of the General Assembly that by its terms is amendable or revocable only by the General Assembly.
  - 1.3.9.3 Action that is in conflict with the Bylaws or a General Assembly resolution pertaining to a committee of the Federation.
  - 1.3.9.4 Playing rule changes.
  - 1.3.9.5 Eligibility requirements.
  - 1.3.9.6 Increases in member dues.
  - 1.3.9.7 Decisions on proposed new WL championship events.
  - 1.3.9.8 Changes in the world event calendar.
  - 1.3.9.9 Acceptance of new members.
- 1.3.10 The Board will have the responsibility to evaluate the performance of each committee of the Federation and approve and/or replace committee chairs as needed or in the best interest of the Federation.

## 1.4 General Assembly Meetings

- 1.4.1 **Organization:** For an in person meeting the following is required:
- 1.4.1.1 A main meeting room capable of holding 100+ people is required.
  - 1.4.1.2 A “top table” is required that will accommodate all members of the WL Board.
  - 1.4.1.3 A side table near the ‘top table’ is required for staff members.
  - 1.4.1.4 All delegates and observers should be seated at tables facing the Board top table.
  - 1.4.1.5 Projection capability (DVD, PowerPoint) and a whiteboard should be available in all meeting rooms.
  - 1.4.1.6 Two smaller rooms capable of holding up to 50 with chairs, but not necessarily tables, should be available as breakout rooms for discussions.
  - 1.4.1.7 A third room capable of holding up to 20 people should be available as an office/board meeting room throughout the period of the GA from the night before until the end.
  - 1.4.1.8 The three meeting rooms are generally required over the period 8.00am to 7.00pm but it is desirable if the rooms could be available in the evenings up to 10.30pm.
  - 1.4.1.9 A reception room for one night (either the night before or the first night of the GA) is needed to hold 100+ people, with food and drink in buffet style, with some tables and chairs.
  - 1.4.1.10 All venues to have microphone for speakers (ideally mobile but fixed is also acceptable). Ideally mobile microphones for questions from the floor should also be available.

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- 1.4.1.11 The main meeting room requires excellent internet capability both for delegates to download papers to mobile devices and also for electronic voting during the meeting.
- 1.4.1.12 Multiple extension cables should be made available so that delegates may plug in devices during meetings as needed.
- 1.4.1.13 Sometimes the main meeting room may be required on the day prior to the start of formal meetings for discussions on specific issues/pre briefings for delegates.

**1.4.2 Documentation:** Where any provision of the Constitution or of any other document provides expressly or by implication for any document to be “in writing” or “written” or refers to “a copy” of any document, such document may be in the form of and sent by fax, e-mail, pdf or any other form of electronic communication provided that the Board will be entitled to request that any such document will, or will in addition, be in hard copy and, if signed, with the original signature in manuscript and/or delivered by hand or sent by post, airmail or courier.

**1.4.3 Notice of GA Meetings:** Preliminary notice of each General Assembly Meeting shall be sent to the nominated contact points of all Members not less than four months prior to its scheduled date. Such notice will provide as much information as possible including the proposed place, date and time of the meeting, and be accompanied by a draft agenda. Members are required to submit matters for inclusion in the final agenda to the Finance and Governance Director no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled General Assembly. Final notice of each General Assembly together with relevant documentation, including any resolutions for Constitution, Bylaw or Rule change, shall be sent to all NGB nominated contact points not less than 60 days prior to the General Assembly. The notice will specify the place, date and time of the General Assembly and include a final agenda specifying the nature of the business to be transacted at the General Assembly and the names of any candidates for the Board or Committee Chair positions

**1.4.4 Attendance at General Assembly Meetings:** As stated in the Constitution all Full Members and CF members are entitled to send one delegate (who must be named in advance). Additionally, each Full and CF Member may optionally send an observer (who must be named in advance) to the meeting. Observers will be seated behind the delegates (where physical constraints of the meeting room permit this). Observers may only address the meeting with agreement of the Chair at the specific request of the delegate. The Chair may decline such a request. In advance of any meeting, and before 30 days, the member NGB must declare and advise the name of their delegate and any observer to the WL Chief Operating Officer (COO). The delegate must cast any vote. Provisional and Affiliate members may send up to 2 observers to General Assemblies, who must be named 30 days prior to the General Assembly.

**1.4.5 NGB Nominated Contact / General Assembly Delegate:** Member NGBs must declare and advise their prime contact point for all Federation communications. It is expected that this would be an officer or employee of the NGB. Prior to any meeting of the General Assembly the NGB must declare and advise the name of their delegate and any observer to the COO. This should be at least 30 days in advance of any meeting. Expenses for delegates and observers will be the responsibility of the relevant Member NGB.

**1.4.6 Meeting Standing Orders:**

- 1.4.6.1 The President will preside as chair at all meetings of the General Assembly. In their absence or if unwilling to act, the Vice President will act and if the Vice-President is absent or unwilling to act, another Board member will act subject to agreement of the General Assembly on a show of hands.
- 1.4.6.2 No resolution will be put to a vote at a meeting of the General Assembly unless a quorum of Members (as defined in the Constitution) is present at the time it is so put.

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- 1.4.6.3 At any meeting of the General Assembly a resolution put to vote will be decided on a show of hands unless, before the show of hands, a poll is demanded by the chair or by at least four General Assembly eligible voting Members.
- 1.4.6.4 “Show of hands” in this context means holding up the Voting Card (or paddle). A Voting Card will be provided to each Member eligible to vote to clearly indicate the sectors (Men’s / Women’s, Field / Box / Sixes) that are appropriate to the Member.

## 1.4.7 Election of Board:

- 1.4.7.1 In any case where there is only one candidate for an office, whether or not that candidate is elected will be determined by Resolution.
- 1.4.7.2 In any case where there are two candidates for an office, a secret ballot will be taken of the eligible voting General Assembly Members present. On any such ballot, the candidate receiving the majority in number of votes cast will be elected to the relevant office. If a tie occurs on any such ballot a repeat secret ballot will be taken. To avoid doubt, there will be no limit on the number of such repeat secret ballots that may be taken.
- 1.4.7.3 In any case where there are more than two candidates for an office, a secret ballot will be taken as above. On any such ballot the candidate receiving the least number of votes cast will be eliminated from the election. This will occur until two candidates remain for office.
- 1.4.7.4 Ballot papers will be in such form as the Board (acting by resolution or by the majority in number of its members who would constitute a quorum for the purposes of a resolution) may from time to time prescribe. The Board (so acting) will be entitled to decide whether a ballot paper purporting to cast a vote has validly cast a vote and its decision will be final. The General Assembly will be entitled to appoint two (2) scrutineers to manage any ballot. Nominations for election to each Board position will be submitted in writing to the VP (Chair of the Nominations Committee) by no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled date for the General Assembly at which any election is due to take place. The VP will forward it to the Nominations Committee.

## 1.4.8 Playing Rule Changes Process

- 1.4.8.1 Playing Rules are determined separately from the General Assembly, through debate in a virtual Rules Assembly (RA) and subsequent electronic/postal voting, and are subject to sector voting rules as laid out in Constitution 1.6.9.
- 1.4.8.2 Playing Rules will normally be subject to a two year review process, except for rules relating to safety, equipment modification and new disciplines, which may require more frequent changes. The process is shown in a flow chart in Rules 101.
- 1.4.8.3 The WL Rules Committee will oversee and manage the process, with a broader membership including different stakeholders beyond the rules/officials representatives.
- 1.4.8.4 Rules made by WL are only intended to be for WL events and recognized/sanctioned/authorized international events and external multisport events.
- 1.4.8.5 Rules for all other levels of play should be determined by the NGB/CF for domestic use. NGBs/CFs may choose to follow the WL rules or to adapt them or to develop their own rules sets.
- 1.4.8.6 No alteration to the Playing Rules will be made to apply to a world event within a period of one (1) year prior to that world event except with the unanimous agreement of relevant sector votes or if a rule clarification or equipment modification (see below for definitions).
  - **Rule clarification:** minor changes to wording to improve understanding of intent of a rule). These can be passed by the World Lacrosse Board with the input from the relevant Rules subcommittee Chair through the Technical Director and do not require GA approval.

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- **Equipment Modification:** changes to equipment specifications which are measurable or impact player safety. These can be passed by the World Lacrosse Board with input from the relevant Rules subcommittee Chair through the Technical Director and do not require GA approval
- 1.4.8.7 Unless submitted by the World Lacrosse Board, a request for changes to Rules may only be submitted by Full Members that field at least one team in the respective (Box, Field or Sixes) World Event discipline and must be seconded by a Full Member from another Continental Federation region that has fielded at least one team in the respective World Event discipline in order to be considered by the RA. Proposals must be submitted by the official contact for each of the NGBs involved and not by their rules/officiating representative(s).
- 1.4.8.8 Proposed rules changes must be submitted using a standard form which indicates the category or reason for the proposed change.
- 1.4.8.9 Proposed Rule Change Schedule
- January 31 annually – deadline for open submission of rule changes to Rules committee.
  - Sector rules committee consider potential changes during Q1.
  - A virtual Rules Assembly (RA) will be called for each sector considering rules changes in each year, with the role to debate and clarify proposed rules changes prior to a vote. Sector members attending such RA will be enabled to bring appropriate stakeholders (e.g. Athletes, coaches, officials and an authorized official voting person) to ensure wide debate and understanding prior to vote.
  - The RA will determine if any rules need to have a trial period prior to voting and under what timescale and conditions.
  - An electronic postal vote will normally be called 14-28 days after each RA. Voting procedures will be as laid out in Constitution 1.6 for the General Assembly.
  - Any new rules book will be subject to external professional editing.
- 1.4.9 **GA meeting minutes and financial reports**, along with all accompanying reports, will be circulated to the delegates of all members within 60 days following a meeting.
- 1.4.10 **Annual Member Reports:** The WL Board or DevComm may request from each Member a report covering playing / coaching / officiating numbers and such other information as required. The information will be defined at the time of the request and a template will be provided by WL in the Member Toolkit.

## 1.5 World Event Finance

### 1.5.1 Broadcast Rights

- 1.5.1.1 The rights for television and radio for all WL events belong to WL.
- 1.5.1.2 Written permission to broadcast such events must be obtained from WL.
- 1.5.1.3 Rights shall not be transferred without appropriate compensation to WL.

### 1.5.2 World Event Revenues

- 1.5.2.1 A minimum of fifteen percent (15%), or as subsequently increased by the General Assembly, of the revenue from all entry ticketed sales, excluding government taxes included in ticket prices, of all games will be due to WL from the host country. This will be subject to contractual agreement. Note: the increase to 15% would not be applicable until 2024.

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- 1.5.2.2 Fifty percent (50%) of the amount due must be paid within three (3) months of the date of the final game and the balance must be paid within six (6) months of the final game, this will be subject to the contractual agreement between WL and the NGB of the host country.
- 1.5.2.3 A failure to meet deadlines could result in consideration of future event participation.
- 1.5.2.4 WL may order an audit or examination of financial records for World events by independent auditors at WL expense.

1.5.3 **Member Financial Loss:** The Board of the WL can determine that in the event that a member organization is caused to suffer the loss of financial support due to a WL decision that inadvertently results in such loss, the WL can submit to the membership for vote the waiver of participation fees for a member country for up to two (2) full cycles of championship events (full cycle is defined as men's, women's, seniors, U20, Sixes and box).

## 1.6 Licenses

1.6.1 WL retains all rights in and to its intellectual property. The Board of Directors may authorize any member or other organization or individual to manage, organize or conduct any activities under license from WL containing such terms and conditions as the Board may determine. This includes any license fees with respect to merchandise sold displaying the WL logo.

## 1.7 International Visits

- 1.7.1 An application for a National team/squad visit to another country must be approved by the member National Governing Body (NGB) of the team intending to tour.
- 1.7.2 The application must be approved by the host member NGB who must be kept fully informed of the visiting team program.
- 1.7.3 Visits should be encouraged and applications should not be unreasonably denied.

## 1.8 International Competition

- 1.8.1 WL Men's and Women's World Events (Senior Field, Under 20 Field, Box and Sixes) shall be conducted according to the WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual.
- 1.8.2 WL may sanction specific competitions to be conducted as WL events including Regional Qualifiers for World Events.
- 1.8.3 WL may add additional lacrosse disciplines and related world events as agreed by the membership.
- 1.8.4 For the Senior Events, participants must be Full Members by the start of that Event.

## 1.9 Recognition and Awards

- 1.9.1 Recognition of individuals, at different levels, will be considered by and presented to the Board. Different categories of awards will be listed on the WL website and an annual call for nominations

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for appropriate awards will be made by WL staff. Some awards may be recommended by specific committees of WL to the Board.

1.9.2 **World Lacrosse Awards** will be made at the discretion of the Board and/or General Assembly.

- Lifetime Award
- International Honorary Officiating Award
- Service Award
- Development Award
- Athlete of the Year (from 2023 onwards)

1.9.3 **World Lacrosse Event Awards**

1.9.3.1 **Women**

- a) Women's Lacrosse World Championship Trophy (Senior Field)
- b) Margaret Boyd Trophy: (U20)
- c) Medals (1-3): Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- d) World Team: Senior, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- e) Player of the Match
- f) Championship MVP: Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- g) Participation Certificates (all players and officials): Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- h) Heart and Spirit of Lacrosse Awards
- i) Wes Patterson Award

1.9.3.2 **Men**

- a) Laurie Turnbull World Championship Shield( Senior Field)
- b) Tom Hayes Trophy (World Under 20)
- c) Cockerton Cup (World Box)
- d) Medals (1-3): Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- e) Participation Certificates (all players and officials): Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- f) Championship MVP: Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- g) Positional Awards: Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box)
- h) World Team: Senior Field, Under 20, Sixes and Box
- i) Heart and Spirit of Lacrosse Awards (all competing teams and Officials) Senior Field, Under 20 and Box. The Heart and Spirit of Lacrosse Award for the Official will be known as the "Graham Lester Spirit of Lacrosse Award"

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## World Lacrosse Bylaws – Version History

<b>Version/Date</b>	<b>Status/Committee</b>
December 2020	• Changes approved at General Assembly (18 October & 15 November 2020)
December 2021	• Changes approved at General Assembly (9 & 31 October 2021)
December 2021	• DEI check done in accord with General Assembly 2021 agreements
March 2022	• Consistency check and edit done across all Handbook and Event Hosting and Competition Manual