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Bylaws

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World Lacrosse

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June 2019

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WORLD LACROSSE (WL)

BYLAWS

Note: all references in this document to federation should be taken to mean World Lacrosse

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**1. Membership Approval**

- 1.1 The criteria for Full Associate Members and Allied Organization status are outlined in Appendix A to these Bylaws.
- 1.2 The Development Committee will review membership applications, and any proposed change of membership category, and present to the Board for consideration. The Board will determine whether an applicant country meets the criteria and policies set by the General Assembly (GA) and then submit to the membership for consideration.

1.3 The Board may approve a change of status of an existing member.

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1.4 Any National Governing Body (NGB) seeking membership must also at the same time seek membership of the relevant Continental Federation, where such body exists, or have already been accepted as a member of that body.

Note: In this context a Continental Federation (CF) is a Continental Federation or geographic Regional body that has been approved by WL.

1.5 In exceptional circumstances an applicant may be accepted as a member in advance of membership of the relevant CF but this would only occur after consultation with the CF.

**2. Membership Subscriptions**

- 2.1 These shall be agreed at the GA and detailed as Appendix C to these Bylaws.
- 2.2 For a new Member, Associate Member or Allied Organization the subscription will be applicable from January 1<sup>st</sup> following membership acceptance or change of status. Benefits will be applicable from date of membership.

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### 3. Member’s Management Obligations

- 3.1 Every Full Member, Associate Member and Allied Organization may be asked to provide a report when requested by the WL Board. Member obligations are shown at Appendix B

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### 4. Awards

- 4.1 Recognition of individuals, at different levels, will be considered by and presented to the Board or the GA, by the Nominations Committee.

### 5. Board Composition

- 5.1 Members of the Board are elected by the GA and for specialist positions appointed by the Board.
- 5.2 Members of the Board are responsible for attending up to two ‘Face to Face’ Board meetings generally held each year, audio / video / electronic conferences and attending the each GA. Board meetings will generally be scheduled twice each year, the specific date to be determined by the President.
- 5.3 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 GA’s or otherwise.
- 5.4 The Nominations Committee is responsible for publicizing any Board and Committee Chair vacancy to the Board 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.
- 5.5 Board terms will 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.
- 5.6 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.

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## 6. Board Responsibilities

- 6.1** The Board shall have the ultimate authority to manage the Federation’s budget once it is approved by the GA.
- 6.2** The Board shall serve as the Federation’s Strategic Planning Committee, with up to four (4) other people, and is charged with leading efforts to prepare, present for GA approval and implement the Federation’s strategic plan. The Board will also monitor and evaluate the plan, and provide regular progress reports to the GA.
- 6.3** The President shall establish the agenda and timing for Board meetings and the GA, and preside over these meetings. The President, subject to Board approval, shall have the power to temporarily fill Board vacancies until the next meeting of the GA, at which a formal election for the vacancy will be conducted.
- 6.4** The Board shall have and may exercise all of the powers and authority of the GA, in between meetings of the GA, in the management of the Federation except for the following:
- 6.4.1** The adoption, amendment or repeal of the Bylaws and Constitution.
  - 6.4.2** The amendment or revocation of any resolution of the GA that by its terms is amendable or revocable only by the GA.
  - 6.4.3** Action that is in conflict with the Bylaws or a GA resolution pertaining to a committee of the Federation.
  - 6.4.4** Playing rule changes.
  - 6.4.5** Eligibility requirements.
  - 6.4.6** Increases in member dues.
  - 6.4.7** Decisions on proposed new WJL championship events.
  - 6.4.8** Changes in the GA meetings or world event calendar.
  - 6.4.9** Acceptance of new members
- 6.5** General Assembly meeting minutes and financial reports, along with all accompanying reports, shall be circulated to the delegates of all members within 60 days following a meeting.
- 6.6** The Board shall 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.

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## 7. Committees

7.1 WJ shall have a number of standing committees, and Commissions, that shall convene regularly either in conjunction with the GA of members, WJ international events or independently (electronically or via conference call).

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7.2 A committee Chair is responsible for communicating committee activity to the Board and members through the relevant Board member. The Board provides oversight of and direction to each committee based on the strategic priorities of the Board and GA. Committee Chairs are also responsible for participating in the budget process and effectively managing budget allocations.

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### 7.3 Committees

The Board will have in place a number of standing committees / commissions covering:

- Athletes
- Competition
- Development
- Nominations
- Officiating
- Technical

This may change from time to time to meet the strategic needs of the organization

7.4 The Board will approve the formation of sub-committees and ad-hoc working groups as needed.

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7.5 The Committee structure will be advised to the GA and be listed on the WJ web site.

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Further detail regarding the Committees is at Appendix E

## 8. Finance

### 8.1 Broadcast Rights

8.1.1 The rights for television and radio for all WJ events belong to WJ.

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8.1.2 Written permission to broadcast such events must be obtained from WJ.

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8.1.3 For television a license fee of a minimum of \$100US (negotiable) per game per station, plus an archival copy at cost, is payable to WJL for the transfer of broadcast rights for any WJL event.

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8.2 World Event Revenues

8.2.1 A minimum of fifteen percent (15%), or as subsequently increased by the GA, of the revenue from all entry ticketed sales, excluding government taxes included in ticket prices, of all games would be due to WJL from the host country. This will be subject to contractual agreement.

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Note: the increase to 15% would not be applicable until 2024

8.2.2 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 the WJL and the NGB of the host country.

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8.2.3 A failure to meet deadlines could result in consideration of future event participation.

8.2.4 WJL may order an audit or examination of financial records for World events by independent auditors at WJL expense.

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9. Licenses

9.1 WJL retains all rights in and to its intellectual property. The GA may, upon appropriate resolution, authorize any member or other organization or individual to manage, organize or conduct any activities under license from FIL containing such terms and conditions as the GA may determine.

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9.2 A license fee of 15% of the retail price is payable for any merchandise sold displaying the WJL logo.

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10. International Visits

10.1 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.

10.2 The application must be approved by the host member NGB who must be kept fully informed of the visiting team program.

10.3 Visits should be encouraged and applications should not be unreasonably denied.

11. International Competition

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11.1 WJ Men’s World Events (Senior, Under 19 Field and Indoor) shall be conducted according to the Men’s existing Championship Handbook.

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11.2 WJ Women’s World Events (Senior and Under 19) shall be conducted according to the Women’s existing World event Guidelines.

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11.3 WJ World Indoor Events (Men) shall be played according to the WJ agreed Rules for Indoor Lacrosse as adopted by the General Assembly and the Men’s Championship Handbook.

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11.4 WJ may approve specific competitions to be conducted as WJ events including Regional Qualifiers for World Events.

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## 12. Anti Doping

12.1 Policies and procedures regarding doping shall be as prescribed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) from time to time and banned drugs shall be as outlined by the IOC / WADA. See attached document for details entitled WJ WADA Rules at Appendix D.

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12.2 For World Events the number of athletes and officials to be randomly selected for testing shall be agreed by the Board in conjunction with WADA.

12.3 Anti-Doping offence penalties

See Appendix D

## 13. POSTAL / ELECTRONIC (e-mail) VOTING

13.1 The Board may from time to time call for a postal / electronic vote (as referred to in the Constitution). When this occurs for Members the communication will be sent to the contact point as nominated by the Member. A response will be required within 30 days of the request.

13.2 For clarity it should be noted that declared abstentions are not considered as “cast votes” and only “cast votes” count in the tally.

13.3 The required response for a postal vote to be valid shall be 1/3, rounded up, of the eligible voting members.

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13.4 As per the Constitution (5.9) on matters relating to Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, Membership and the Rules a majority of 2/3 of cast votes is required. For all other matters a simple majority. In the event of a tie the President will have a casting vote.

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**13.5** For postal / electronic votes within the Board the response period will be 15 days however this may be reduced to a shorter period if a matter of critical urgency.

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MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

1. Guidelines

**Note:** These guidelines are for the purpose of eliciting information about the interested country and are not to be construed as an application form. It is expected that further information will be required as a result of the preliminary analysis of the information received.

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1.1. A proposal for membership of WJ should include information from the following areas of interest:

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- 1.1.1 The name and/or geographical description of the applicant country;
- 1.1.2 The name of the governing body for lacrosse within the applicant country together with a documentation confirming their status as a governing body;
- 1.1.3 The names of the Board of Directors or appointed persons who are in direct control of, and fiscally responsible for, lacrosse activities in the applicant country.

1.1.4 Confirmation and evidence that the applicant has also applied to join the relevant CF.

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1.2. A summary of the reasons for the application together with a brief history of lacrosse in the applicant country including any international involvement.

1.3. A timetable which will outline the proposed integration of the applicant into the WJ program of world events and other international competition including via the relevant CF.

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1.4. A commitment to the human and financial resources necessary to maintain membership in WJ and the CF, including the attendance at international competitions and/or meetings.

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1.5 The membership application must include:

- A copy of the Articles or Constitution of the applicant
- Listing of Board / Committee members
- Status of the Organization (e.g. set up as Not for Profit)
- A set of the most current minutes to confirm that a meeting has been held
- A copy of the Operational Plan /Proposals for development of lacrosse within the country

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A Strategic / Business Plan showing the structure of the organization and financial considerations (Income and Expenditure) covering the forward three (3) years.  
(Note this could be combined with the Operational Plan covering Development)  
A copy of the application to the CF

## 2. Full Membership

### 2.1 Criteria for Full Member status

- 2.1.1 National Governing Body (NGB) established.
- 2.1.2 Must have sent a delegate to at least one General Assembly (following invitation).
- 2.1.3 Must have a recommendation from the Development Committee that the applicant is ready to fully participate as a member of WL.
- 2.1.4 Must have participated in a WL approved event.
- 2.1.5 Must have been admitted into membership of the CF.
- 2.1.6 In good standing with WL and the CF
- 2.1.7 in person evaluation by a WL representative before granting WL Membership may take place

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### 2.2 Criteria for establishing Full membership by participation and qualification at an approved /recognized (but not necessarily sponsored) WL Event or CF Event. For the Associate Member applying for Full Membership:

- 2.2.1 WL dues must be current for all WL members participating in the event.
- 2.2.2 At least 3 WL members nations must participate in the event
- 2.2.3 The event must be played by WL rules

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### 2.3 Benefits:

- 2.3.1 Right to participate in all relevant WL events.
- 2.3.2 One voting delegate at General Assembly meetings

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- 2.3.3 Can nominate nationals / residents for WL Board positions
- 2.3.4 Can nominate nationals / residents for WL Committee Chair positions.

### 3. Associate Membership

- 3.1 An organization may be accepted as an Associate provided that the WL Development Committee:
  - 3.1.1 Is satisfied there is no other lacrosse organization active in that country
  - 3.1.2 Is satisfied that the organization is committed to the development of lacrosse in that country and
  - 3.1.3 Recommends that the organization be accepted as an Associate.
  - 3.1.4 Verifies that membership has been obtained or is being sought from the CF.

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- 3.2 Benefits:
  - 3.2.1 Invitation to participate in relevant WL events (but not able to compete for World Champion titles)
  - 3.2.2 One non-voting delegate should attend General Assembly meetings.

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### 4. Membership Rights, Obligations and Expectations

- 4.1 Participation in WL meetings
- 4.2 Participation in relevant World Events subject to pre-qualification from the previous event, being the host, or through Regional Qualifiers held by the CF.
- 4.3 Payment of all financial obligations established by WL, including:
  - 4.3.1 Membership Subscriptions
  - 4.3.2 Event participation and hosting fees
  - 4.3.3 Other fees as agreed by the GA
  - 4.3.4 CF membership and participation fees

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4.4 Further detail is at Appendix B.

### 5. Allied Organization

- 5.1 The Board may assign the category of Allied Organization to any organization, other than NGBs for Lacrosse.

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- 5.2 Allied Organizations have no voting rights.
- 5.3 There is no requirement for an Allied Organization to attend GA meetings but they may do so if they wish
- 5.4 Allied Organizations may speak at GA’s at the discretion of the President (or the Chair of the GA at that time).
- 5.5 Allied Organizations will be charged an annual subscription fee, which must be paid within the requisite period of time, to retain Allied Organization status
- 5.6 Allied Organizations do not attain playing rights in WL world events; this is only granted to National Governing Bodies.

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## 6. Membership review

6.1 The Development Committee shall 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.

6.2 The members must be in good standing with their CF at all times to retain membership of WL.

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**WJL Member Rights, Obligations and Expectations**

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**Rights**

Members have the following rights:

- To take part in the General Assembly
- To submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the General Assembly
- To nominate candidates for WJL Board and Committee Chair positions
- To participate in WJL World events subject to pre-qualification from the previous event, being the host, or through Regional Qualifiers.
- To participate in relevant development programs
- To exercise all other rights arising from the WJL Governing documents

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The exercise of these rights is subject to other provisions in this Constitution and other applicable governing documents.

**Obligations**

Members have the following obligations:

- To comply with the WJL Constitution, Bylaws, Policies and Rules of the respective games
- To comply with directives and decisions made by the General Assembly
- To pay membership subscriptions and other fees as invoiced in accord with the Constitution, Bylaws and Policies

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- To provide a timely response to all communications including requests for information and responses to postal votes
- To abide by the agreed Anti-Doping regulations and ensure that the domestic regulations are consistent with the World Anti-Doping Code and [WJL](#) Anti-Doping Bylaws
- To ensure that members own regulations (Constitution, Articles, and Statutes etc.) are complied with.
- To respect the Rules of the Games

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#### Expectations

- To determine its own office- holders by democratic elections, ensuring at all times an adequate minimum representation of each gender within its governance structure.
- Must be solvent
- To manage its own affairs autonomously and without interference from bodies outside of the Olympic movement.

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APPENDIX C

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

See separate document which lists the subscriptions for each member.

APPENDIX D

[WJ WADA Rules](#)

See separate document which covers the [WJ WADA Rules](#)

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APPENDIX E

WL COMMITTEE / COMMISSION COMPOSITION

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1. Standing Committee Chairs – nominations may be made by members, Board members and individuals and the relevant Board member will make a recommendation to the Board for appointment. Self-nomination is not permitted.
2. Ad-hoc Working Group Chairs and Commission Chairs will be nominated and set up as required by Board Members who will advise the Board of the Working Group remit and timescales.
3. Committees, Commissions and Working Groups will normally meet electronically or in association with another event and will not incur travel expenses unless agreed by the Board as part of the annual budget.
4. The Board will approve the numbers involved in each Committee, Commissions and Working Group.
5. Regional diversity on Committees, Commissions and Working Groups is strongly encouraged wherever possible.
6. Committee, Commission and Working Group membership must take into consideration the need for gender diversity.
7. No more than 50% of Committee / Commission members, including the Chair, may be from the same member
8. Rules Sub-Committees must include non-Officiating representation
9. Members of each Committee and Commission will be agreed by the Board
10. Membership of Committees and Commissions (but not Working Groups) will be between 4 – 6 people and calls will be made to the membership for nominations.
11. Terms of Office will normally be for two (2) x four (4) year consecutive appointments with a requirement to stand down for one year.
12. Membership of Working Groups which are much more of an ad-hoc nature and task / project based will be determined by the Board along with the term of office.
13. From time to time the Board may agree that any Committee, Commission or Working Group may benefit from external advice and membership and agree appointments to those groups for specific terms of office and role.

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