

FUTURE FORMAT AND TIMINGS OF WORLD LACROSSE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to present to the General Assembly (GA) the background to the vote being taken on the future format and timings of the World Lacrosse GA at the GA in October 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Over the past few years there have been a number of discussions with World Lacrosse (WL) Members about ways in which we could use face-to-face meetings at events in a more productive way and we began exploring workshops on either side of the GA in 2019. Feedback from Members was positive to these workshops, and they asked for more of them.
- 2.2 Additionally, the Governance Working Group held discussions on the ways in which we could encourage more members to attend the formal GA meetings with the official contacts for each organization present.
- 2.3 The pandemic related postponement in 2020 provided us with a new opportunity to consider another different approach – the virtual GA.
- 2.4 **Virtual GA** – The benefits of the first virtual GA were self-evident, as for the first time in WL history, it was possible to have all countries present at the GA because there were no associated travel and accommodation costs. The benefit of this cannot be overstated.
- 2.5 **Event face to face meetings** – If WL was to move to a virtual GA in the future, consideration would be given to organizing workshops on important topics alongside World events, in a face to face discussion with interested parties, in addition to an ongoing commitment to the virtual stakeholder engagement series.
- 2.6 **Timings of GA in Future Years** – When WL/FIL was formed, there was no thought of virtual GA meetings and so it was always assumed that the only reasonable way to hold them was alongside a world event, as at least a significant number of members were likely to have someone present to support their team. So, it was determined that it needed to be held in the designated world event time period (July – September).
- 2.7 If WL moves to formal GA meetings that were virtual, it is much more conceivable to consider having the GA at a different time to the World event(s) in each year.
- 2.8 From the WL perspective, having the GA at a different time to the World event annually would relieve considerable pressure that trying to organize both in the same time period currently creates, and it would be the WL Board/Management view that we should move to an October/November or a January/February virtual GA and remove it entirely from being associated with World events.
- 2.9 Such a time frame also provides members with a better reporting period from WL leadership as we would effectively be reporting on the majority of (or the whole year) the calendar year activities rather than 5/6 months of them.

3. LEGISLATION CHANGES

- 3.1 Article 5.3 of the WL Constitution would need to be edited if the recommendations are accepted.

4. VOTE AT THE GA

- 4.1 There will be three (3) motions at the GA as follows:
 - 4.1.1 The WL GA should be held virtually in the future
 - 4.1.2 The virtual GA should be held in either Oct/Nov or Jan/Feb (vote on which is preferred)
 - 4.1.3 If 4.1.1 is agreed, the GA will need to determine what to do about the GA in 2022 which is currently scheduled to be held in person on June 27/28 in Towson, USA, particularly as a decision to move it from June 2022 to Jan/Feb 2023 will mean that there is no 2022 GA.
 - Proposal 1 - Not to have an in-person GA in 2022
 - Proposal 2 - To move to a virtual GA in the period Oct 2022 – Feb 2023
 - Proposal 3 - From 2024 onwards to have virtual GA in Jan/Feb annually.