

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLAYING RULES PROCESS SUB GROUP

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to present to the General Assembly (GA) the background to the vote on the changes to the playing rules process, which will be discussed at the GA in October 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. This work was initiated under the Governance Working Group (GWG), through the establishment of a Playing Rules Process Subgroup (PRPSG), to consider the best way to manage the rules review process without every rule change going to the GA.
- 2.2. Draft proposals were considered by National Governing Bodies and Continental Federations as part of the GWG Roadshows in late June/July. The feedback received was useful in determining the best course of action for managing changes to the playing rules in future, particularly in relation to the frequency of rules changes and trials of the rules.
- 2.3. In addition, comparison was made with similar International Federations as to how they managed their rules change process and this has been taken into account in the development of the final proposals.
- 2.4. The Board discussed a series of questions at its meeting on 6th July and the paper was subsequently approved by a Board postal vote in late July.

3. LEGISLATION CHANGES

- 3.1 See para 4 in the attached report from the PRPSG.

4. VOTES AT THE GA

- 4.1 There will be three (3) votes at the GA as follows:
 - 4.1.1 "Motion to accept the proposed recommendations contained in the PRPSG final report and the WL Rules Process 101 (2/3 majority)."
 - 4.1.2 "Motion to vote on the recommended rules change process occurring on either a two (2) or four (4) year cycle. Membership will choose one of the two above options on a ballot (2/3 majority)."
 - 4.1.3 "Motion to accept all other legislation changes in a block vote (2/3 majority)"

RULES PROCESS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. Initiated by Governance Working Group (GWG) Decision/Action 40: To consider the best way to manage the rules review process without every rule having to go to the General Assembly (GA).
- 1.2. Feedback received from Members at/after three recent GA meetings about a need to do something different.
- 1.3. GWG set up a subgroup to progress this task. Subgroup members: Sue Redfern, Don Blacklock, Lorna Powell (ELF), Glenn Morley (APLU), Miguel Lozada (PALA) and Steve Roush (WL Governance Consultant)

2. BACKGROUND TO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GA

- 2.1. The subgroup considered in depth the following areas, both reviewing what exists and considering how it might be changed and also considered best practice in other International Federations.
 - Principles that could be established that might require constitutional or bylaw changes
 - Whether all rules need to be discussed and voted on at the GA, or could an alternative decision-making body be proposed
 - Who should be involved in rules change discussions to provide best advice to voting delegates
 - The role of the WL Board in relation to rules changes
 - Frequency of rules changes
 - Committees/Subcommittees relating to rules
 - Rules change process
 - Consultation with members, including considering how the CF qualifiers fitted into the rules change process. Early drafts of detailed documents circulated for feedback.
 - Timescales for rules changes in the calendar
 - Review of feedback from consultations, Governance Working Group and the Board.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 3.1. The GA should not normally in future have rules on its agenda post 2021 GA)
- 3.2. A new virtual Rules Assembly (RA), preceded by webinars as needed, should be set up.

- 3.3. The role of the RA is to debate and clarify proposed rules changes prior to voting and to determine which proposals need to be taken as a separate vote and which can be covered in a block vote.
- 3.4. Attendees at the RA should include Member official voting delegates, plus representatives of officials, coaches and athletes (and others as the NGB determines). **Perceived benefits include:** all members can participate and relevant expertise is in the room for discussions.
- 3.5. Electronic Voting on rules should normally take place 14-28 days following the RA. **Perceived benefits:** Allows members to have ‘in country’ discussions following the RA prior to voting.
- 3.6. Voting entitlements, process, quorum and sector voting would be as for the GA and laid out in the WL Constitution 5.5- 5.9 and Bylaw 13.
- 3.7. A new rules change process calendar should be adopted, which is different to the GA schedule. The intent is that the calendar will be the same annually once established, with webinars and RA occurring in the same Quarter of each calendar year. **Perceived Benefits:** Scheduling by quarter allows the process to avoid international events, whilst allowing for clearer time frames annually. This calendar would replace current WL Policies 15.2 and 15.3
- 3.8. A standard form for submission of rules change proposals will be developed, and will include ‘prompts’ for Members to consider consultation with appropriate stakeholder groups. The form will also provide a ‘tick box’ to indicate the category or reason for the proposed rule change.
- 3.9. Rules changes proposed by Members must be submitted by the NGB official voting contacts, (not rules/officiating personnel), and must have a seconder from another NGB from a different Continental Federation region.
- 3.10. The WL Rules Committee will oversee and manage the process, and its membership will be extended to provide a wider input from different stakeholders across the lacrosse community so that it is not comprised only of officials and must have geographic, gender and discipline diversity. Separate discipline subcommittees will allow the subject matter experts to manage the technical aspects of the relevant rules sets.
- 3.11. WL Rules should only be developed by WL for WL events, WL recognized/sanctioned/authorized international events and external multisport events. All other levels of playing rules should be determined by the NGB/CF for domestic use – they can elect to follow the WL rules or they can choose to adapt them or develop their own rules sets. **Note This is a change of principle and is the unanimous view of the subgroup and other bodies consulted that WL must be able to set its own rules for its own events.**
- 3.12. Rules may be changed up to one year prior to a WL event with RA agreement. **(Rationale: a limited group of national team players will be immediately affected by the new rules)**
- 3.13. WL should contract and pay an impartial person, with appropriate knowledge, to proofread and seek out inconsistencies prior to Rule Book publication.

- 3.14. Following feedback and presentation at the GA, the GA 2021 should determine whether the rules changes should occur every 2 years or every 4 years. **Note:** Rules relating to safety, equipment modification or new disciplines, may need to be changed more frequently as needed.
- 3.15. Some rules may be trialed as agreed by the RA. Commitment and accountability would be required from NGBs to trial rules in a defined period.

4. Legislation changes required in governance documents

4.1 CONSTITUTION

Definitions – Add a definition for the Rules Assembly.

“The RA is the virtual decision making body for WL playing rules. The quorum, voting entitlements, processes, sector voting and voting majority follow the same constitutional provisions as the General Assembly. Votes on rules will normally take place electronically following a Rules Assembly, but on occasion votes may be taken electronically during a Rules Assembly if Members agree.

3.1.3 Delete “Tournaments”. Add “competition, including playing rules” at the end.

3.1.4 Delete as now included in 3.1.3

5.2.2 Delete “(rules changes which will be subject to sector voting)”

Insert 5.2.2.1 “Rule changes will be voted on in a separate Rules Assembly and will be subject to sector voting”

8.1 Delete “and playing rules”.

Insert 8.1.1 “Proposed changes to the Playing Rules must be submitted in accordance with the new Rules Change Process and will need to be submitted to the WL Rules Committee Chair, with proposals seconded by a Member from another Continental Federation region. The timelines for rule changes are different from those of the General Assembly and proposed rules changes must be submitted in January of each calendar year”.

8.3 Change “By the GA” to “By the WL Rules Assembly”

Delete sentence “shall be an Appendix to the Federation bylaws” (because they are not there).

WL Bylaws

6.4.4 Add “and RA” after GA in two mentions in 6.4.4.

WL Policies (Note: this document will not exist once the WL Handbook is approved as all clauses will either move into the Constitution, ByLaws or separate policy and procedure documents. But until the Handbook is approved the GA needs to approve the changes to this policy document”

15.1 Change “two years” to “one year”

15.2 Delete last sentence.

15.3 Delete whole text. Replace with “Will follow the Rules change process 101 document”

VOTING

1. To adopt the Recommendations in this document and in WL Rules Change process 101.
2. Separate vote on rules change cycles every two years or every 4 years. GA to decide. No clear and evident way of reaching this decision other than by vote.
3. All other legislation changes related to this to be voted on in block vote.

Included relevant documents

1. WL Rules change process final (PPT)
2. WL Rules change process 101 final

August 12th Stakeholder Webinar provides an opportunity to raise questions with the GWG Rules Process Subgroup members.

Rule Change Process 101



NGB = National Governing Body of lacrosse for a WL member nation
RSc = World Lacrosse Rules Sub Committee (for relevant rule set)

RC = Rules Committee
WLRC = World Lacrosse Rules Committee



WORLD LACROSSE

TM

Introduction

The diagrams show the **key** activities for the Rule Change Process. Based on member feedback there are 3 formal consultation opportunities for members during the process:

- 2 webinars and a dedicated Rules Assembly

An optional trial period has been built in, so that agreed rules can be trialled, the success of which is dependent on receiving feedback from members. As the rules are used at World Events, they should be trialled by the top level teams in each member nation, so that adjustments can be made are required. Naturally everyone can trial the rules, but it is important to ensure that rules are thoroughly tested as this will produce a more rounded, robust set of rules.

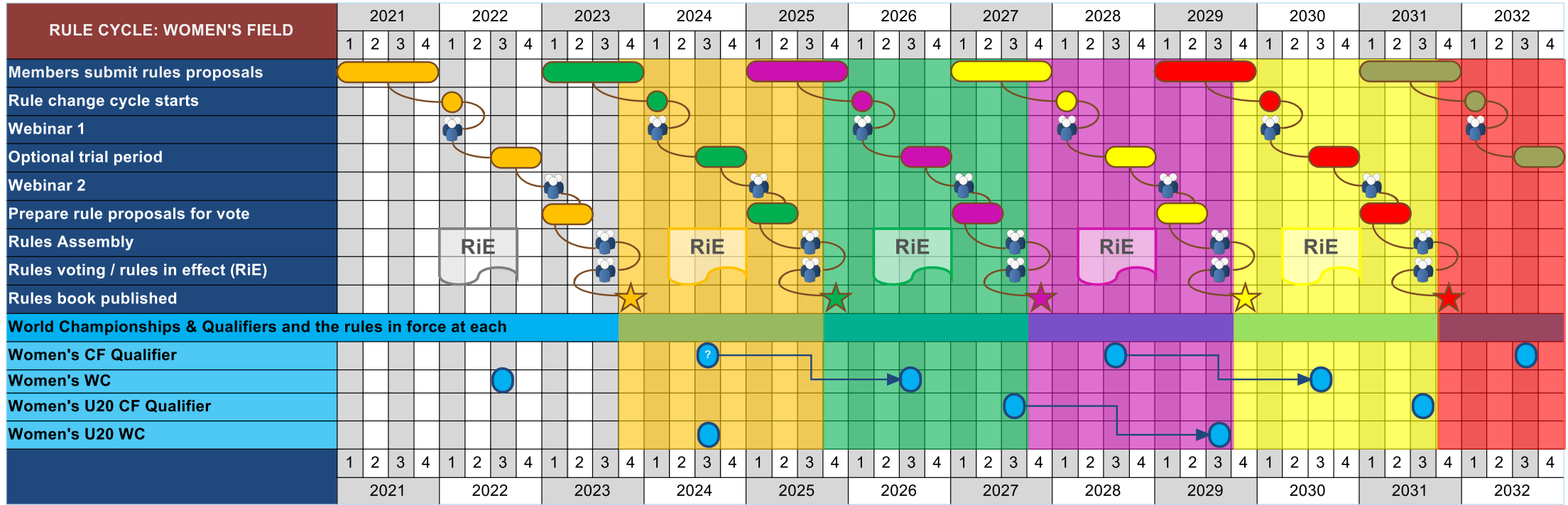
Once the rules have been passed, they are “in force” or “in effect. This simply means that they have been passed and the new rule book wording is in progress. Member nations can choose to use them straightaway or wait until the rule book comes out.

Rules change cycles

A 2 year, 3 year & 4 year cycle were all assessed. A 3 year cycle does not integrate well into the 4 year event cycle, so this was discounted. There are pros and cons for both the 2 year & 4 year cycle, a sample of which are shown below to help to kick-start the thought process

2 YEAR CYCLE	4 YEAR CYCLE
Allows rules to be updated frequently enabling the sport to more agile with regard to product innovations or unique concepts which improve the participant experience	It takes longer to changes rules that are not adding value to the game
Regular changes can help to ensure that lacrosse keeps up with the demands of players, officials and spectators	Innovation & development of the game is slower
There is a lot to do in a short space of time, with very little slack and no / minimal contingency if the process takes longer. It will be quite an ask for volunteers time.	There is more time to ensure that we are producing quality rules, especially as the people working on rules are volunteers
The trial period is shorter, but still allows time for some serious testing of the agreed rules and it is more likely to generate discussion as nations will be trialling at roughly the same time.	There is a more time to trial the rules, but with it will take a lot longer to analyse the feedback which will be returned over a longer period and there may be less opportunity for “live” discussion if people are trialling at very different times.
Rule changes every 2 years allows very little time to play them before the next set of rules proposals are due, so we could be making changes before the last rules have settled.	The rules played at qualifying events will be the same as those played at the World Championships.
The rules played at qualifying events cannot be the same as those played at the World Championships as the rules change cycles in combination with a 24 month CF qualifier make this impossible. If the qualifiers take place 12 months before then the qualifier can be played to the same rule set.	

Women's Field 2 year cycle



Rules: 2023/24

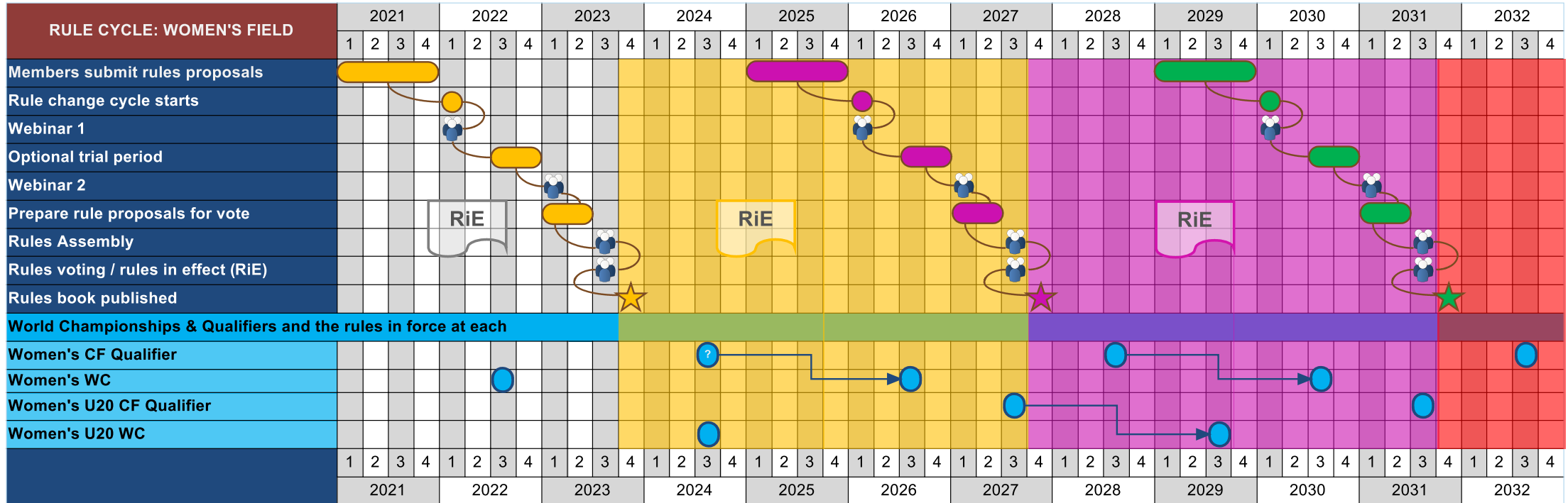
Rules: 2025/26

Rules: 2027/28

Rules: 2029/30

Rules: 2031/32

Women's Field 4 year cycle

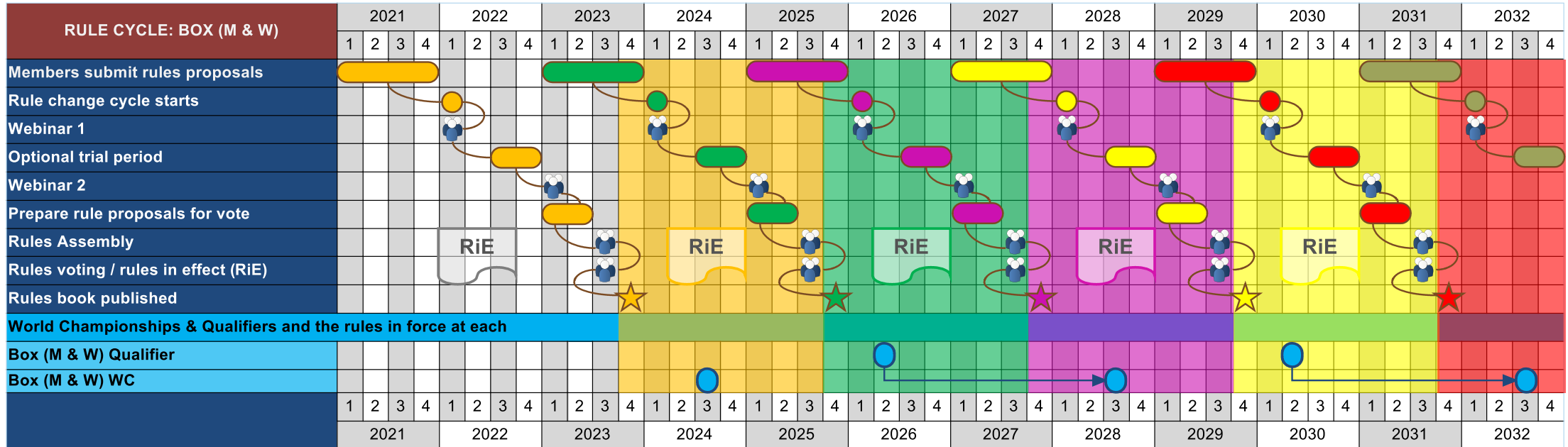


Rules: 2023/27

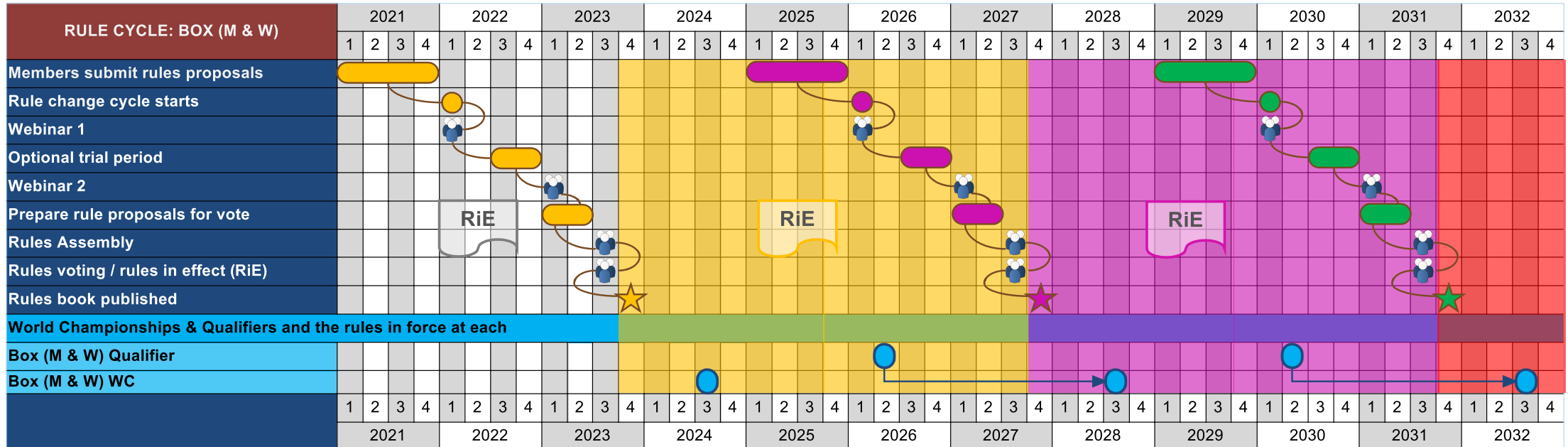
Rules: 2027/30

Rules: 2031/32

Box (Men & Women) 2 year cycle



Box (Men & Women) 4 year cycle

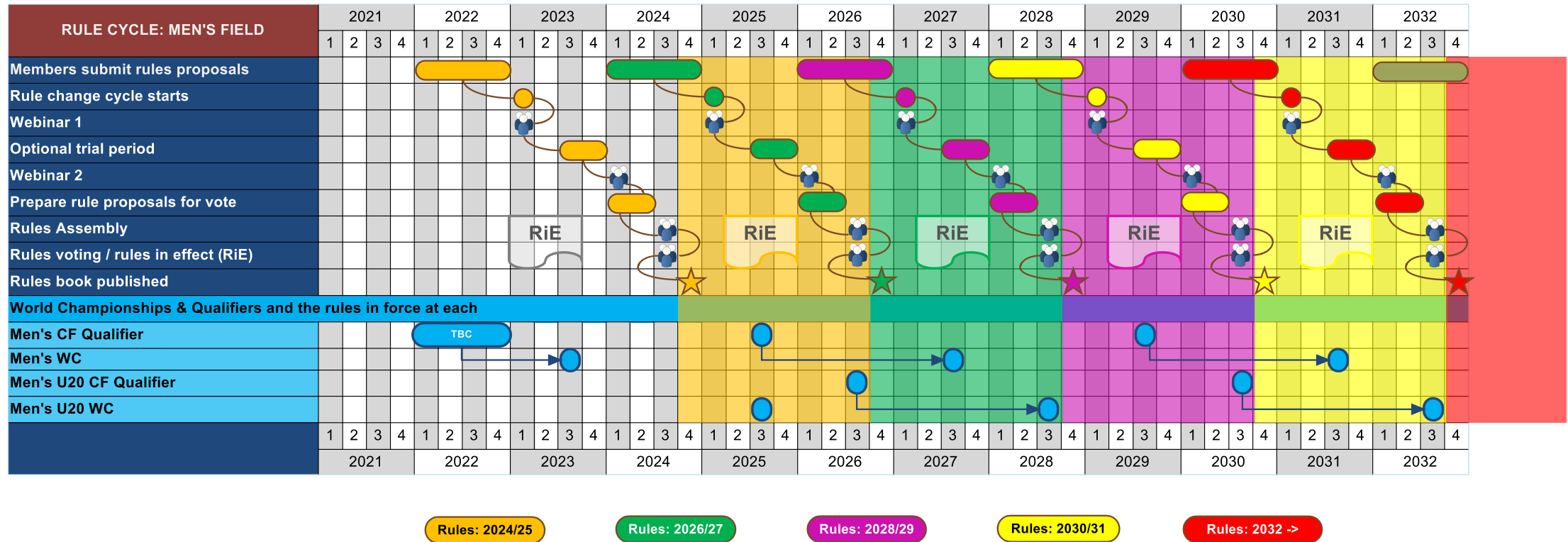


Rules: Now until 2027

Rules: 2027/28

Rules: 2031/32

Men's Field 2 year cycle



Rules: 2024/25

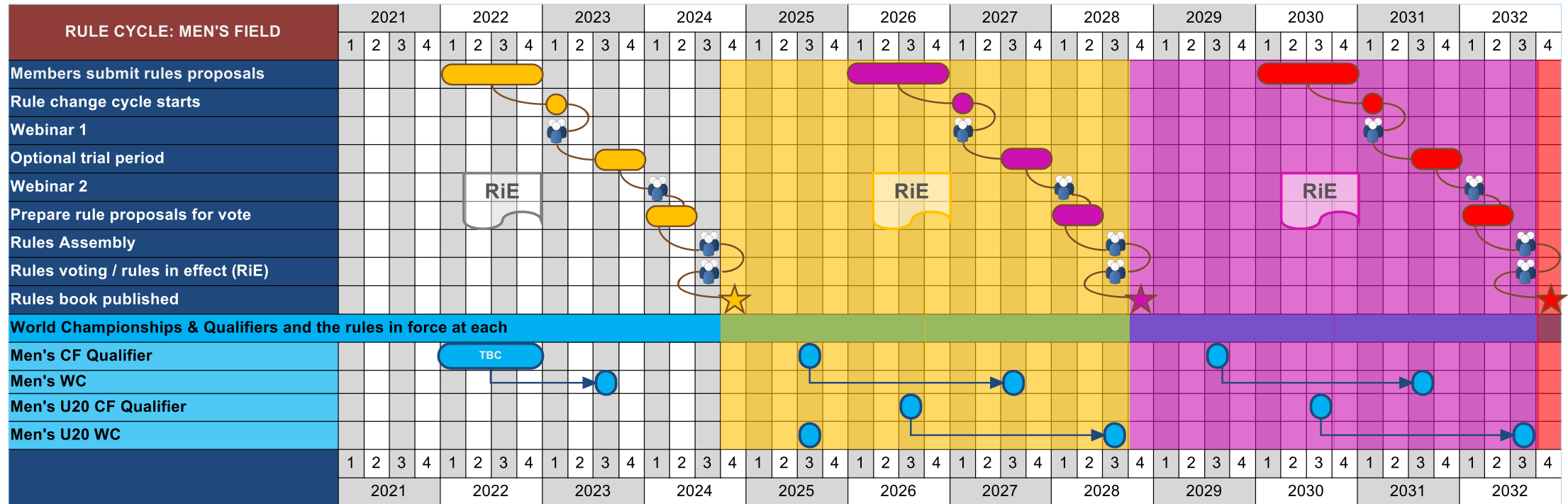
Rules: 2026/27

Rules: 2028/29

Rules: 2030/31

Rules: 2032 ->

Men's Field 4 year cycle

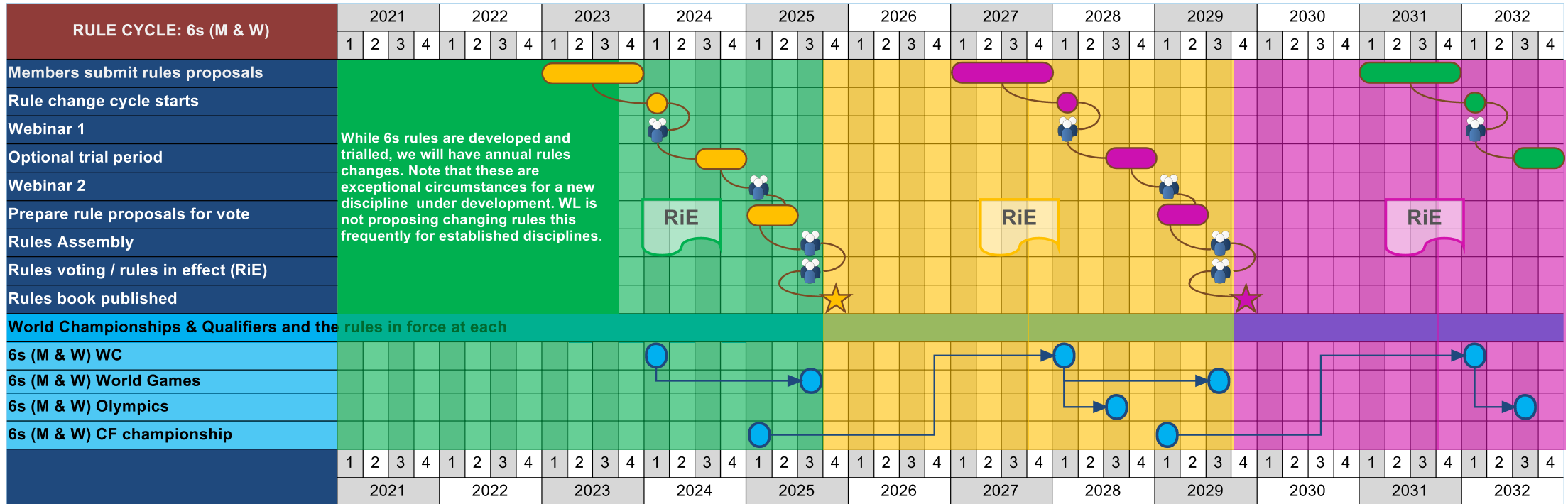


Rules: 2024/27

Rules: 2028/31

Rules: 2032 ->

6s cycle



Rules: 2025/28

Rules: 2029/32

To ensure that we had the right rules set in place in time for the 2028 Olympics (or the World Games), and played the same rules in the qualifying event, we worked our way back from this date. As 6s is evolving, it is essential that we can be flexible and able to put in the necessary changes to get the best format possible. Between now and 2023 World Lacrosse will consider annual changes before moving to a longer cycle.