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| Bylaws |
| World Lacrosse |
| October 2021  |

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS ALL PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE 2021 GA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AGENDA ITEM 3.1 (EDITORIAL AND STRUCTURAL CHANGES TO THE WL HANDBOOK)**

WORLD LACROSSE (WL)

BYLAWS

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

**1. Membership Approval**

**1.1** The criteria for Full Members, Provisional Members, Continental Federation Members and Affiliated Members are outlined in Appendix A to these Bylaws.

**1.2** The Development Committee will review membership applications as presented by Management, the Chair of the Development Committee, the Development Committee Regional Representative and the Continental Federation representative, 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.

**2. Membership Subscriptions**

**2.1** These shall be agreed at the GA and detailed as Appendix B to these Bylaws.

**2.2** For a new Member, including Full, Provisional, Continental Federation, and Affiliate, the relevant subscription will be applicable from January 1st following membership acceptance or change of status. Benefits will be applicable from date of membership.

**3. Member’s Management Obligations**

**3.1** Every Full Member, Provisional Member, Continental Federation Member and Affiliated Member may be asked to provide a report when requested by the WL Board. Member obligations are shown at Appendix B.

**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 and/elected by other relevant groups including the Athletes’ Commission and the Continental Federations.

**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 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 GAs 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.

**6. Board Responsibilities**

**6.1** The Board shall have the ultimate authority to oversee 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 and the Rule Assembly (RA), in between meetings of the GA and RA, in the management of the Federation except for the following:

* + 1. The adoption, amendment or repeal of the Bylaws and Constitution.
		2. The amendment or revocation of any resolution of the GA that by its terms is amendable or revocable only by the GA.
		3. Action that is in conflict with the Bylaws or a GA resolution pertaining to a committee of the Federation.
		4. Playing rule changes.
		5. Eligibility requirements.
		6. Increases in member dues.
		7. Decisions on proposed new WL championship events.
		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.

**7. Committees**

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

**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 World Lacrosse. Committee Chairs are also responsible for participating in the budget process and effectively managing budget allocations.

**7.3 Committees**

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

Athletes

Competition

Development

Ethics

Finance and Audit

Nominations

Officiating

Technical

Women in Sport

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.

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

**7.6** WL Committee member costs shall be funded by World Lacrosse upon approval of the specific costs by WL Management.

Further detail regarding the Committees is at Appendix D

**8. Finance**

* 1. Broadcast Rights
		1. The rights for television and radio for all WL events belong to WL.

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

* + 1. For television a license fee of a minimum of $100US (negotiable) per game per station, plus an archival copy at cost, is payable to WL for the transfer of broadcast rights for any WL event.

**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 WL from the host country. This will be subject to contractual agreement.

 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 WL and the NGB of the host country.

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

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

**9. Licenses**

**9.1** 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.

**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**

**11.1** WL Men’s World Events (Senior, Under 20 Field and Box) shall be conducted according to the Men’s existing Championship Handbook.

**11.2** WL Women’s World Events (Senior and Under 20) shall be conducted according to the Women’s existing World event Guidelines. Note: the Women’s senior event was previously called a World Cup.

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

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

**11.5** WL may add additional lacrosse disciplines and related world events as agreed by the membership.

**11.6** For the Senior Events, participants must be Full Members by the start of that Event.

**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 WL WADA Rules at Appendix C.

**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 For** Anti-Doping offence penalties see Appendix C.

**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.

**13.4** As per the Constitution (5.9) on matters relating to Constitution, Bylaws, , 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.

**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.

APPENDIX A

1. **WORLD LACROSSE MEMBERSHIP**
2. Membership Categories and Definitions – Rename membership categories to better align with best practices as determined via the previously noted comparative analysis, as well as add clear definition to each category.
	1. 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.
	2. Provisional Member : New members and/or those members who are developing in their ability to govern domestically.
	3. Continental Federation 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).
	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.  (Team Great Britain (GB) would be an example of a special circumstance)
3. Member Requirements: The MWG reviewed the existing requirements for each member category, compared those with the requirements in the IF Analysis and recommends the following requirements:
	1. Provisional Member Requirements:  To be considered for Provisional Member status, the applicant needs to:
		1. Provides authority for the sport of lacrosse in their geographic region or territory, as agreed by WL and the CF(s).
		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.
		3. Have a Constitution and Bylaws – (using WL template with edits as needed by local laws/conditions is recommended) that contains; Full endorsement by their board at a minimum and ideally by their members; compliant with WL and CF charters; Free and fair democratic elections with term limits defined, Recognizes 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.
		4. Submit a 3-year plan for development of the sport and for the organization.
		5. Submit an anti-discrimination declaration statement.
	2. Full Member Requirements:  Meet all requirements of a Provisional Member, plus;
		1. Board is comprised of minimum 50% in-country leadership and has constitutional provisions that ensure in-country development work is carried out; mixed gender representation with Target of 50% gender equity.
		2. Must demonstrate working in good faith to provide equitable resources and opportunity for both gender-games.
		3. Must demonstrate financial sustainability and independence via submission of operating budget and statement of accounts.
		4. Have participated in a WL and CF General Assembly within one-year of the request for Full Member status.
		5. Be current with all subscriptions due to WL and the CF.
		6. Provide a plan for the administration of a prevention of abuse (SafeSport) policy.
		7. Must have competed in an approved regional or approved WL event.
	3. Continental Federation Requirements: To be considered for CF Member status, the applicant shall have the same requirements as a Full Member, plus;
		1. For proposed Continental Federations to be approved, the proposed Continental Federation must provide a letter endorsed by ⅔ 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).
	4. Affiliate Member Requirements: To be considered for Affiliate Member status, the applicant shall:
		1. The Affiliate's mission and vision shall align and/or be complementary to the mission and vision of WL and its members.
		2. The Affiliate shall submit a written proposal for Membership, detailing why the organization should be permitted membership with WL.
4. Member Rights:  The MWG reviewed the existing rights for each member category, compared those with the rights in the IF Analysis and recommends the following:
	1. Provisional Member Rights: The Provisional Member enjoys the following rights:
		1. May send up to two delegates to a WL/CF General Assembly as observers without vote.
		2. Provisional Member delegates may be permitted to have a voice at the discretion of the President or chair of the meeting.
		3. Access to all WL/CF grant programs and services.
		4. May participate in Continental events but will not qualify for World Championship events at the Senior level.
		5. May participate in age related Events.
	2. Full Member Rights: The Full Member enjoys the same rights as a Provisional Member plus:
		1. One of the two delegates is a voting delegate at General Assemblies.
		2. Delegates are entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the General Assembly.
		3. May nominate persons from their NGB for positions on the WL Board.
		4. May participate in Continental and World Championship events at every competition level adhering to relevant competition rules and regulations.
	3. Continental Federation Member Rights: The CF Member enjoys the following rights:
		1. May send up to two delegates to a General Assembly.
		2. One of the two delegates is a voting delegate at General Assemblies.
		3. Delegates are entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the General Assembly.
		4. One WL board seat will be made available for CF representation. The person shall be elected by the CFs and presented to WL for affirmation. This position will enjoy the rights that are conferred upon other board members, as related to matters of the board. The creation of a WL Board Member position, who is a representative from the three (and possibly long-term more) CFs (voted on by the CFs) would give them a voice and vote within the governance structure of WL and allow the WL Board to have an understanding of the issues facing the CFs when critical decisions are being made. The CFs will be responsible for the election of their representative. Each CF will have 1 vote. Any tied vote will require resolution by the CFs.
		5. One WL Development Committee (DevComm) seat will be created for regional representatives, in agreement with the Chair of the Development Committee, from each of the existing and any future regions. Note: All parties agree that it is important to have enhanced and effective communication between the DevComm and CFs. The CFs currently support all the regional representatives on the DevCom and if and when there is a need to change that individual, the relevant CF will submit 2-3 names to the Development Committee and the Development Committee will work with the CF to find a mutually agreeable replacement to represent the relevant regional representative. Regional representatives will have an obligation to communicate openly with the relevant CF and if the regional representative is not communicating, the CF should notify the Development Committee accordingly. This process will be reciprocated from the Development Committee to the CF.
	4. Affiliate Member Rights: The Affiliate Member enjoys the following rights:
		1. May send two delegates to a WL General Assembly as observers.
		2. May be permitted to have a voice at the discretion of the President or chair of the meeting.
		3. May only compete in international multi-sport events under special circumstances, as noted in the Affiliate Member definition and agreed by the WL Board.

1. Member Obligations:  The MWG reviewed the existing obligations for each member category, compared those with the obligations in the IF Comparative Analysis and recommends the following:
	1. Provisional Member (PM) Obligations: Provisional Members are obligated to:
		1. Upon confirmation of Provisional Member status, the member will work towards obtaining Full member status within 5 years.
		2. Upon the 2-year anniversary of Provisional Member confirmation, the Development Committee shall review the Provisional Member plan and make a recommendation as to the course of action needed.
		3. Each Provisional Member shall submit a yearly status report (Annual Report) to WL and the CF related to the goals and objectives of their development plan.
		4. Dues/Subscription: $100 USD (to WL)
			1. (First year to be paid with application submission)
			2. (Subsequent to be paid by conclusion of Q1)
			3. (CFs may set own subscription rates)
	2. Full Member Obligations: Full Members are obligated to:
		1. Be an extension of World Lacrosse and the Continental Federation in supporting the development of the sport within the region/country.
		2. Work cooperatively with World Lacrosse and the CF to ensure domestic members are in alignment with WL and CF policies, statutes, and regulations.
		3. Invite WL/CF representatives to its General Assembly and other meetings where knowledge sharing would be beneficial to all parties.
		4. Submit a yearly status report (Annual Report) to WL and the CF related to the goals and objectives of their plan.
		5. Dues/Subscription: $500 USD (to WL) for NEW Full Members
			1. (First year to be paid with application submission.)
			2. (Subsequent to be paid by conclusion of Q1)
			3. (CFs may set own subscription costs)
	3. Continental Federation Obligations: Continental Federation Members have the same obligations as Full Member plus;
		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.
		2. Conduct own championship events for membership engagement and development.
		3. Dues/Subscriptions: $0 USD
	4. Affiliate Member Obligations: Affiliate Members are obligated to:
		1. Obligations will be negotiated on a case-by-case  basis, as relationships will vary in this category.
		2. Dues/Subscriptions: $250 USD (to WL)
			1. First year to be paid with application submission
			2. CFs may set own subscription costs if joining a CF is applicable

1. Membership Process:

 The MWG reviewed the processes for joining World Lacrosse and the CFs for each member category, compared those with the processes in the IF Comparative Analysis and recommends the following:

1. A country must join World Lacrosse and the respective Continental Federation simultaneously.
2. Provisional (formerly Associate) Member Join Process: The process noted below is for prospective member-countries to receive Provisional Member (PM) status with World Lacrosse and their respective Continental Federation.
	1. Application package containing noted items in 'requirements' is submitted to the WL Director of Sport Development for review and communication with CF.  (This is reciprocal if a prospective member approaches the CF first)
	2. WL DSD, respective Regional representative, CF representative and Chair of Development Committee works with the potential PM to revise the application as needed.
	3. The application package to be approved by the respective CF Board via the CF representative.
	4. WL DSD, respective Regional representative, CF representative and Chair of the Development Committee present the application to the DevComm for review. Once approved, the WL Director of Development takes the recommendation including all required documentation to the WL Board.
	5. Once approved by the WL Board, WL sends the recommendation to its full membership for a postal vote or depending on timing consideration at a General Assembly
	6. Once approved by WL member vote, WL and CF co-confer PM status upon the applicant.
3. Full Member Join Process: The process noted below is for Provisional (formerly Associate) Members to advance to Full Member status with World Lacrosse and their respective Continental Federation (if applicable).
	1. Application package containing noted items in 'requirements' is submitted to the WL DSD for review and communication with CF (This is reciprocal if a prospective member approaches the CF first).
	2. WL DSD, respective Regional rep, CF representative and Chair of Development Committee works with the PM to revise the application as needed.
	3. The application package to be approved by the respective CF Board via the CF representative. To be undertaken during step ii above.
	4. WL DSD, respective Regional rep, CF representative and Chair of the Development Committee present the application to the DevComm for review. Once approved, the Director of Development takes the recommendation including all required documentation to the WL Board.
	5. Once approved by the WL Board, WL sends the recommendation to its full membership for a postal vote or depending on timing consideration at a General Assembly vote.
	6. Once approved by WL member vote, WL and CF co-confer FM status upon the applicant.
4. Continental Federation Member Join Process: The process noted below is for organizations seeking membership with World Lacrosse as a Continental Federation Member.
	1. Application package containing noted items in 'requirements' is submitted to the WL Director of Sport Development.
	2. Prospective CF will be recommended from the Development Committee to the WL Board. For the prospective CF to be approved, WL Board will seek approval by a vote of  ⅔ of the full member NGBs in the respective geographic region.
5. Affiliate Member Join Process: The process noted below is for organizations seeking Affiliate Membership with World Lacrosse and a Continental Federation(s) if applicable.
	1. Candidate organization completes an Affiliate Membership form (would need to develop). The form will indicate if the organization desires to join respective CF and/or WL. For Affiliate Membership, membership in both is not required in most circumstances. Only WL Board and relevant CF Board/Boards would consider.
	2. The form is reviewed by WL Management/DevComm as appropriate and CF Board if applicable.
	3. A contract/memorandum of understanding is established between all organizations involved; MOU requires signature of CEOs or appointee for each organization.
	4. WL CEO and/or CF President (if applicable) recommend application to appropriate Board(s);
	5. Appropriate Board(s) accept or decline the Affiliate application. If the application is accepted, MOU is activated. If the application is denied, the MOU is not activated.

**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.

APPENDIX B

**WL Member Rights, Obligations and Expectations**

**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 WL Board and Committee Chair positions
* To participate in WL World events subject to pre-qualification from the previous event, being the host, or through Regional Qualifiers. For Senior Events members must be Full Members before event commencement.
* To participate in relevant development programs
* To exercise all other rights arising from the WL Governing documents

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 WL 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
* 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 WL Anti-Doping Bylaws
* To ensure that members own regulations (Constitution, Articles, and Statutes etc.) are complied with.
* To respect the Rules of the Games

**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.

APPENDIX B

**MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

See separate document which lists the subscriptions for each member.

APPENDIX C

**WL WADA Rules**

See separate document which covers the WL WADA Rules

APPENDIX D

**WL COMMITTEE / COMMISSION COMPOSITION**

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.
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, Sub-Committes and Working Groups will normally meet electronically or in association with another event and will not incur travel expenses unless agreed by the Management with input from 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.