

ATHLETES' COMMISSION POLICY

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 Athletes' Commission Policy at the World Lacrosse (WL) GA in October 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At the 2020 WL GA, during the discussion on the Athletes Commission (AC), it was highlighted that WL did not have an overarching policy for the AC.
- 2.2. This Policy has been in production since then and consultation has taken place on drafts of the document with the Governance Working Group (GWG), the existing AC and Members via the GWG Roadshows.
- 2.3. The Board discussed and approved this WL Athletes' Commission Policy at its meeting on 3rd August 2021.

3. LEGISLATION CHANGES

- 3.1 The following clauses of the Constitution and Bylaws will need to be edited if the recommendations are accepted:
 - 3.1.1 Redline Constitution 2021 GA – 5.1.1, 5.6.2
 - 3.1.2 Redline Bylaws 2021 GA – N/A

4. VOTE TO THE GA

- 4.1. The motion at the GA will be 'to accept the proposed 'WL Athletes' Commission Policy' in full as submitted to the General Assembly and as detailed in the corresponding paper (2/3 majority)'.

WORLD LACROSSE ATHLETES' COMMISSION POLICY

Introduction

Athlete involvement in decision-making is a core component of good governance within sports organizations. Pursuant to the recommendation of the IOC 2000 Reform Commission, *“athletes should be well represented at all levels of the sports movement: IOC, International Federations (IFs), NOCs and NFs”*, the IOC has encouraged IFs and NFs to form their own Athletes' Commissions (AC).

The initial World Lacrosse Athletes' Commission (WLAC) was established in 2016 and this policy seeks to further define the roles and responsibilities of the WLAC within World Lacrosse (WL).

Mission

The mission of the WLAC is to 'Be active and engaged in inspiring all athletes to develop their game through collaboration, innovation, and openness'.

In delivering that mission, the WLAC will:

- a) Represent the views and opinions of the national team athletes and ensure their voices are heard within WL;
- b) Inform athletes about WL's activities (i.e. educational tools, rules and regulations); and
- c) Work with and support WL in its mission to develop and promote the sport.

Purpose

The purpose of the WLAC is to:

- a) Consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to WL;
- b) Engage actively with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play;
- c) Represent the rights and interest of athletes and make related recommendations;
- d) Consult with athletes in the evaluation of the rules and regulations of lacrosse and provide feedback to WL;
- e) Encourage, assist and communicate with athletes, WL Member NGBs and CFs to establish their own Athletes' Commissions, representing athletes at all levels in their country or nation, to liaise with the WLAC;

- f) Recruit and appoint eligible athletes to serve on relevant WL Committees, Commissions and Working Groups;
- g) Maintain contact with the IOC Athletes' Commission, the WADA Athlete's Commission and Athletes' Commissions from other International Federations and recommend good practice from these organizations to the WL Board;
- h) Promote awareness of, and compliance with, WL Code of Ethics, Codes of Conduct and other relevant guidelines and procedures; and
- i) Engage with athletes and NGBs when present at events or in their countries.

Further detail on the work of the WLAC is provided in their Terms of Reference which are published on the WL website.

Accountability

The WLAC works independently within the wider world lacrosse community and is accountable to the WL Board through the WLAC Chair and Vice Chair who are full voting members of the WL Board of Directors.*

The WL Board of Directors will hold an annual meeting with the WLAC.

Until such time as all athletes have been elected by their peers, the AC will have one (1) vote at the GA. Once all athletes have been elected by their peers it is proposed that this Policy is revised, and all the elected athletes are considered voting members of the GA.

The WLAC may present proposals to the WL GA in accordance with the general process for the submission of items.

Composition of the WLAC

The WLAC is currently made up of six (6) members. Two (2) members from men's field, one (1) member from men's box, and three (3) members from women's field. Once women's box develops to a level that it holds its own World Championship and qualifier structure, women's box will elect one (1) member and women's field will reduce to two (2) seats. Similarly, when men's and women's Sixes develop to a World Championship level event, the size of the WLAC will expand to eight (8) with each discipline adding a representative at their first World Championships.

The following conditions apply to membership of the WLAC (more details are available in the WLAC Recruitment Pack):

- All members should be at least 18 years of age and must not have received a sanction in relation to the World Anti-Doping Code;
- Under the current structure, to ensure geographic diversity, at least two (2) of the three (3) men's seats must be from different continents and two (2) of the three (3) women's seats must be from different continents. Once the WLAC is fully seated with both women's box lacrosse and WL Sixes seats, the two (2) men's field roles must be from different continents, the two (2) women's field roles must be from different continents, the two (2) box roles must be from different continents, and the two (2) Sixes roles must be from different continents;
- There should be no more than three (3) athletes from one continent at any point in time;
- Eligible athletes should be active internationally and have competed in a minimum of one senior international World Championship for their country within the last eight (8) years. This includes any athletes who have been submitted on a World Championship roster even if the event has not started yet;
- There should be no more than one (1) athlete on the AC from an individual Member NGB at any point in time; and
- Eligible athletes should not be a current national or international team coach or official.

WLAC members serve an initial four (4) year term and may be elected for a second four (4) year term if they continue to meet the requirements above.

Elections

Consistent with IOC Athletes' Commission guidelines and current practices regarding Athletes' Commission elections, elections for positions on the WLAC will be voted on by accredited athletes competing at a relevant World Lacrosse Championship Event.

Voting will be carried out electronically.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The WLAC should elect its Chair and Vice Chair from among those members who have been elected to the WLAC and each may serve in these roles in two (2) year terms up to a maximum of two (2) terms or four (4) years total provided they remain on the WLAC. The Chair and Vice- Chair should not be of the same gender.

Meetings

The WLAC should meet at least once per year. Financially, WL will normally support one (1) face-to-face meeting of the AC per year which would normally be at a World Championship. This is to allow WLAC to interact with their constituents.

All relevant Codes of Conduct should be adhered to. Any alleged breaches of this policy will be referred to the Ethics Commission.

*The rationale for this is that the GA voted two (2) AC posts onto the WL Board and WL provides funding to the AC.