



**WL ATHLETES'
COMMISSION
2023 Elections
Candidate Pack**



1. Introduction

This Candidate Pack summarises the steps and requirements for any athlete wishing to be considered for election as a member of the World Lacrosse Athletes' Commission.

There are two positions available for election at the 2023 World Lacrosse Men's Lacrosse Championship to be held in San Diego, California, USA.

The importance of athletes to decision-making within WL was recognized and embedded into the WL structure with the governance and integrity reforms approved in December 2016. As agreed at the 2020 World Lacrosse General Assembly, the chair and vice chair of the Athletes' Commission (one male and one female) will be full voting members of the WL board of directors.

The rules relating to the Athletes' Commission, and the election process, are set out in the attached WL Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference, the WL Candidacy Rules, the WL Governance Rules (effective from October 1, 2019), the WL Integrity Code of Conduct and other related WL rules.

These are all available at WorldLacrosse.sport.

2. Mission and Athletes Definition

A. Mission

The World Lacrosse Athletes' Commission is fully supportive in the overall delivery of the World Lacrosse mission to provide governance and integrity for all forms of lacrosse, along with responsive and effective leadership to support the sport's development throughout the world.

In addition to the main organizational mission the World Lacrosse Athletes' Commission's mission is: "Be active and engaged in inspiring all athletes to develop their game through collaboration, innovation and openness."

B. Athletes Definition

To fully consider all the matters (anti-doping, elite performance, rules, event structure, competition format, international development, sport education, etc.) that relate to international sport, the WLAC uses the following definition when referring to athletes:

Athletes are "All lacrosse athletes who have or who will represent their country or national team at a senior World Lacrosse championship."

3. Role, Responsibility, Composition and Term

A. Role

The purpose of the WLAC is to examine all questions of interest to the athletes and to present suggestions or recommendations to the WL board. It may not present proposals directly to the General Assembly, but may present proposals to the board or to the other committees of WL and for this reason, the AC has the right to assign one of its members to represent the athletes' interest in a number of specific committees, including:

- Rules
- Competition
- Other committees or commissions as agreed from time to time by the board

B. Responsibilities

Members of the Athletes' Commission must participate in at least one in-person meeting per year, quarterly conference calls and on-going email consultation in between meetings, as well as promotion and other events when possible.

All members are expected to review all materials when circulated and provide meaningful feedback either in person, by email and/or by conference call, on a variety of important subjects concerning athletes and the sport. To that end, the WLAC will:

- Prepare for the WL board an Athletes' Commission Operational Plan (2021-25 Operational Plan is available [here](#))
- Implement and evaluate the agreed Operational Plan
- Serve as a consultative body and make recommendations to the WL board, WL committees and other bodies as required
- Seek feedback from athletes and provide feedback to the relevant areas of WL
- Encourage and assist athletes and WL members to establish their own Athletes' Commissions
- Liaise with the Athletes' Commissions of the International Olympic Committee and other sporting organizations to enable the sharing of information and research
- Create, manage and promote platforms and structures for athletes that facilitate communication and the sharing of knowledge and experiences among the group
- Develop, collate, provide and promote resources for athletes on topics of direct concern, including but not limited to athlete health and welfare, anti-doping, betting, ethics and match-fixing

The vice chair is responsible for carrying out any of the responsibilities described above if the chair is unable to do so. He or she may also have specific responsibilities delegated to him or her by the chair of the Athletes' Commission.

The term in these positions is two years, but these members may be elected to these positions for one additional term provided they remain members of the Athletes'

Commission. This is outlined in the World Lacrosse Athletes' Commission Chair Appointment Procedure.

C. Athletes' Commission Members on the WL Board of Directors

The chair of the Athletes' Commission is automatically a member of the WL board of directors.

In addition, the vice chair of the Athletes' Commission also sits on the WL board of directors. The vice chair must identify as a different gender than that of the chair. This member is also to be elected by all the members of the Athletes' Commission.

D. Composition

Athletes' Commission members are currently elected in the following cadence:

- Three female athletes are elected at the World Lacrosse Women's Championship
- Two male athletes are elected at the World Lacrosse Men's Championship
- One male athlete is elected at the World Lacrosse Box Championships

Applications will be published a minimum of 45 days prior to the proposed election event, allowing at least 30 days for nominations to take place and 15 days to appropriately vet candidates. Elections are voted on by all participating athletes from a respective championship.

Please take note that the application deadline for the 2023 election is April 21, 2023.

The term of appointment is four years, commencing upon the conclusion of the election.

The Athletes' Commission always should consist of the following:

- At least one member from each of the recognized Continental Federations
 - To avoid significant imbalance in the representation of CFs, once the AC has reached eight elected members, each CF should have no more than three representatives (= 37.5% representation)
 - Prior to the AC reaching eight members, no more than two members should come from the same CF
- No more than one elected or appointed member from any national federation
- A 50/50 split of male and female representatives
- At least one member responsible for each recognized discipline of lacrosse (men's box, women's box, men's field, women's field, men's sixes, women's sixes, etc.)

A member of the Athletes' Commission, if eligible, may be re-elected or re-appointed for one additional four-year term.

The current make-up of the Athletes' Commission and the expiration of their terms is below.

Member Federation	AC Member	Elected or Appointed	Expiration of Term	Terms Served	Gender
Australia	Keith Nyberg	Appointed	2023	First	M
Germany	Tessa Helf	Elected	2026	First	F
Ireland	Sean Gibson	Appointed	2024	First	M
Mexico	Maribel Gallegos Rivera	Elected	2026	First	F
South Korea	Jane Lee	Elected	2026	Second	F
USA	Rob Pannell	Appointed	2023	First	M

Member federations that already have an Athletes' Commission member represented until December 31, 2024 (i.e., IRE, KR, GER, MEX) may not nominate candidates for the 2023 Athletes' Commission elections.

Candidates from CFs that already have two out of six Athletes' Commission members represented until December 31, 2024 (i.e. European Lacrosse Federation), may not participate in the 2023 Athletes' Commission election.

For sake of clarification, candidates from regions other than the ELF may stand for election to the WL Athletes' Commission in 2023.

E. Eligibility

Every candidate for election or appointment to the Athletes' Commission must satisfy all of the following requirements:

1. Be a current member of a recognized World Lacrosse member National Governing Body (or a body affiliated to the NGB), where the NGB is in good standing
2. Be at least 18 years old
3. Be able to read, write and communicate in English reasonably well
4. Competed in a minimum of one senior world championship event
5. Competed in a major international lacrosse competition within the last eight years
 - 5.1. These include:
 - 5.1.1. World Lacrosse championships
 - 5.1.2. Continental Federation championships or WL continental qualifiers
6. Not be one of the following:
 - 6.1. Head coach of a senior-level national team
 - 6.2. National or international level official (referee or umpire)
 - 6.3. Any official (referee or umpire) who has or has been selected to officiate at the Olympics; multisport games; WL championships; or CF or WL qualifiers
7. Not be under investigation, or convicted or otherwise sanctioned for:
 - 7.1. Doping offenses (whether they have served the sanction imposed on them); or

- 7.2. Any other offense or breach of any rules of World Lacrosse, a Continental Federation or a National Governing Body (whether they have served the sanction imposed on them)
- 7.3. An offence under any applicable laws punishable by a term of imprisonment of two years or more (unless the person has served the sanction imposed on them)
8. Be vetted by a panel

The Vetting Panel will ensure that all candidates meet the requirements listed above, and will consist of two current Athletes' Commission members and one external member from the World Lacrosse board.

4. Election Steps

A. Six steps are required in order to be elected to the Athletes' Commission:

Step 1 – Self nomination

Step 2 – Supporting recommendation from one of the following:

- A senior officer (i.e., president, secretary general or chief executive) of the candidate's NGB
- Continental Federation Athletes' Commission member
- NGB Athletes' Commission member
- National team head or assistant coach
- National team captain or assistant captain

Step 3 – Vetting

Step 4 – Election

Step 6 – Board of directors notification

B. Step 1 - Nomination

Any athlete seeking to be a candidate must be self-nominated and come from a NGB that is in good standing with WL, where either:

- a. The athlete is a current member or affiliated to the NGB; or,
- b. The athlete's club or other lacrosse organization is a current member of the NGB

The candidate must submit a tailored resume / CV that highlights relevant administrative, leadership and playing experience in the sport of lacrosse. The candidate's resume / CV should clearly identify the qualifying events and country represented.

In addition to the lacrosse resume, the candidate must submit a one-page promotional document in which they detail their biography and explain the reasons for their candidature.

Athletes from NGBs that already have a standing member of the Athletes' Commission may not be nominated as candidates (see table of members included at paragraph 3.D).

C. Step 2 – Written Recommendation

A written recommendation must support the candidate and be received by the WLAC by no later than April 21, 2023 (23:59 CEST). This deadline will be strictly enforced.

The recommendation letter must be sent via email to Elections-AthletesCommission@worldlacrosse.sport.

It must be signed by the candidate and one of the following:

- A senior officer (i.e., president, secretary general or chief executive) of the candidate's NGB
- Continental Federation Athletes' Commission member
- NGB Athletes' Commission member
- National team head or assistant coach
- National team captain or assistant captain

D. Step 3 - Vetting

All candidates must be declared eligible by the Vetting Panel.

Eligibility to stand for election requires that the candidate:

- a. Has all the documentation submitted prior to the appropriate deadlines
- b. Meets the eligibility criteria outlined above in section 3E
- c. Is of good character and reputation within the lacrosse community

To expedite the process and help ensure vetting is completed prior to the elections, all prospective candidates are required to submit all documentation for vetting by April 21, 2023 as outlined above.

Candidates who pass the vetting will be sent a letter confirming their eligibility.

A list of all the approved candidates, including brief profiles drafted by each candidate, will be sent to all NGBs and published no later than June 1 on the WL website.

E. Step 4 – Election

For 2023, an Athletes' Commission Elections Committee will be appointed by the World Lacrosse Athletes' Commission chair.

The AC Elections Committee will be composed of five members as follows: chair, secretary and three other persons. The members will be announced on the WL website prior to the election. Members of the current AC whose position is up for election may not serve on the AC Elections Committee.

The AC Elections Committee will:

- Organize and supervise the election, including determining the valid votes, counting the votes, certifying the results and notifying the WL president of the outcome
- Respond to questions or complaints about or by a candidate and investigate any alleged breaches
- Refer any alleged breaches to the Lacrosse Integrity Unit for investigation and, if appropriate, prosecution under the Code of Conduct

Only eligible registered competing athletes holding an athlete accreditation at the WL championship, will have the right to vote. Only one vote per accredited athlete is permitted. Each athlete will be sent a link to their email address upon being recognized as a participating athlete by World Lacrosse.

The election will be held over the preliminary round of a World Lacrosse championship. Commencing at 11:00 on the opening day to 14:00 on the last day of the preliminary round. Elections will be facilitated through an online voting mechanism to be communicated to all participating athletes.

Votes will be cast using an online election platform and to be valid, the ballots must indicate a minimum of one name and a maximum of two names.

After voting has closed, the chair of the AC Elections Committee will inform the WL president of the result. The outcome of the election as certified by the chair of the AC Elections Committee is final and there is no right of appeal.

The names of the elected athletes will be announced before the closing of the WL World Lacrosse championship and posted on the WL website. WL members will also be informed of the results.

F. Step 5 – Board Notification

Following the election, the chair of the AC Elections Committee will notify the World Lacrosse board in writing of the elected members.