



Certification Protocol – Officials

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1. Overview

Officials will go through a six-step system with steps 1 – 3 being evaluated domestically, and 4 – 6 internationally. These steps are called domestic 1 (D1), domestic 2 (D2), domestic 3 (D3), World Lacrosse 1 (WL1), World Lacrosse 2 (WL2), and World Lacrosse 3 (WL3). Countries may use their own domestic certification. For any official applying to the international program, they must hold the equivalent to the D3 certification in content and application. National Governing Bodies (NGB's) may apply to World Lacrosse for recognition of their domestic programs.

2. Certification Validity

WL Domestic certification is valid for 2 years.

WL International certification is valid for 4 years.

All certifications expire on 31 December.

Example – An official gains a WL certification in August 2024. This will expire on 31 December 2028.

If an official undergoes evaluation within this timeframe, they will have the certification level from the most recent evaluation. An official may drop in level before their certification expires. The expiration date will be based on the most recent evaluation.

3. Certification Components

Each step will require passing the following:

- Rules test.
- Fitness test.
- Competency evaluations including formal performance evaluations by a WL Certified Educator.
- WL certifications will include an English Proficiency test.

Officials must meet the set standard in all areas to gain the certification.

3.1. Rules Test

There are two rules' tests, domestic and international. Tests are open book. Officials must complete the relevant test and reach the passing grade.

Domestic Certifications

- Tests are available on the WL Virtual Training Center.
- Participants must download their certificate and submit it to their relevant governing body.

International Certifications

- Tests are in Classmarker. Links are shared with officials when required.
- Results are collated by WL staff and the officiating committee.
- Maximum of two attempts and then a stand down period of 6 months.
- WL2 and WL3 rules testing will occur 2-4 weeks prior to a World Championship. Information tested on these tests will be different than the WL1 rules test and officials will not have the opportunity to practice the questions prior to testing.

D1	D2	D3	WL1	WL2	WL3
Domestic 70%	Domestic 80%	Domestic 90%	International 80% No time limit, two attempts	International 90% Time limit, two attempts	International 90% Time limit, one attempt

3.2. Fitness Test

See [WL Website](#) for the fitness testing protocol and how to complete each test.

- Domestic Certifications
 - Testing will be administered and verified by the relevant governing body (NGB or other applicable board).
- International Certifications
 - Testing will be verified by WL with officials submitting video evidence of testing.
 - Selection testing will be completed 6+ months prior to an event. Tests are relevant if completed after 1 Jan in the year they are required.
 - Certification testing will be completed 2 – 4 weeks prior to an event.

3.3. English Proficiency

For WL certification, all officials must meet B1 Intermediate level in the Common European Framework of Reference <https://www.efset.org/cefr/b1/> OR have the equivalent in a recognized qualification.

3.4. Competency Evaluation

Officials must demonstrate a level of competency by the end of their evaluation period. Performance Evaluations will be collated alongside evidence collected by educators to determine a competency level. Please see [WL Website](#) for the required competency to be shown at each level, alongside the performance criteria that matches each competency level.

- There are five strands that officials will be evaluated against. These are:
 - Professionalism
 - Teamwork
 - Game Management
 - Rules Knowledge and Application
 - Mechanics and Positioning
- An evaluation period will be four games with performance evaluations completed.
- In the four performance evaluations the official must show the required competency at the certification level, and all previous certification levels, in a minimum of three performance evaluations.
- Evidence towards competencies outside of the performance evaluation is collected in the following ways:
 - Coach / Athlete / Bench Feedback Form
 - Peer Feedback Form
 - Self-Reflection Form
 - Pre-game / Post-game Observation
 - Debrief with educators
- To meet the required competency, the official must demonstrate all listed actions within the competency.
- Each organizing body (domestic, continental, and international) will appoint a lead educator to collate evaluation reports for selection and certification decisions.

3.5. Performance Evaluation

Performance evaluations are used to measure performance in an individual game. They will be used to determine game assignments. They may or may not show all the competencies outlined depending on the game. Performance evaluations are completed using the game evaluation form.

International performance evaluations used for game assignments will be weighted by the game level.

- Top national level OR Qualifier pool play
- World Championship pool play OR Qualifier play off (quarter or semi-final)
- World Championship play off (quarter or semi-final) OR Qualifier placing game 1 – 8
- World Championship placing game 1 - 8



3.6. Formative and Formal Evaluation

Formative Evaluation: Games that are evaluated for educational purposes only.

- They may use the game evaluation only, rather than all the evaluation tools required for a competency evaluation.
- These MAY contribute to a performance evaluation. These games WILL NOT contribute to a competency evaluation.
- These MAY be used for officials whose current certification has more than 12 months remaining and who are not aiming for higher certification. IF the formative evaluation shows discrepancies with an official's current rating, the official MAY be required to undergo formal evaluation.
- Formative evaluations MAY be used for talent identification.

Formal Evaluation: A performance evaluation for educational and certification purposes.

- They will utilize all the tools required.
- They will contribute to an overall competency evaluation for certification purposes.

It is suggested that in tournaments where officials will officiate multiple games, the final four games are formally evaluated to assess competency and for certification purposes.

4. Awarding Certifications

4.1. Domestic Certifications

D3 certifications may only be awarded or renewed at a Senior Club, National or International level event.

D1 and D2 certifications may be awarded at any domestic level event.

4.2. International Certifications

WL2 and WL3 certifications will only be awarded at World Championships.

WL1 certifications will be awarded at approved WL1 certification events, Continental Qualifiers, and World Championships.

4.3. Matriculation Candidates

In the first instance, candidates will apply to officiate at an approved WL1 certification event administered through a CF or NGB. When a matriculation candidate is unable to officiate at a WL1 certification event AND they are applying to officiate at a tournament where a WL1 certification is required, they MAY be evaluated against the WL1 criteria in-person at a non-certification event or via film.

- Evaluation will be at the discretion of the officiating committee as to if the official is evaluated or not.
- The official will be evaluated against the WL1 criteria using a performance evaluation.
- Where the official clearly demonstrates the WL1 criteria, they will be awarded a provisional WL1 certification. This will be valid for 12 months.
- The official may be considered for selection to WL1 certification required tournaments.
- They must undergo formal competency evaluations for certification at the first possible opportunity within the 12 months.