

# Rules Committee - Terms of Reference

The World Lacrosse Rules Committee is established as a committee under section 1.8 of the WL Constitution in the WL Governance Handbook.

The Rules Committee is managed by a member of the WL Sport Department staff.

## 1. Purpose

1.1 The Committee is responsible for advising on WL rules activities in support of its members and in the best interests of the sport.

## 2. Responsibility

2.1 The Rules Committee is responsible for developing and writing rules of play, in harmony with the expectations set forth by the Sport Committee for events which are sanctioned and/or delivered by World Lacrosse.

2.2 In developing the rules of play, the Rules Committee will:

- 2.2.1 Solicit input from all stakeholders, including the Sport Committee for the evaluation, revision, and evolution of the rules of play.
- 2.2.2 Manage the rule change process, including presenting proposals for amendment, removal, or addition to the rules of play.
- 2.2.3 Determine the final verbiage used in the publication of the rules of play.
- 2.2.4 Liaise with relevant other committees to ensure feasibility in the implementation of the rules of play.
- 2.2.5 Provide interpretations of the rules.
- 2.2.6 Liaise with Medical Commission to ensure rules are safe.
- 2.2.7 Liaise with the Officiating Committee to ensure rules tests for Officials are aligned with the rules of play.
- 2.2.8 Form working groups as required to trial and collect feedback on rule change proposals.
- 2.2.9 Harmonize rules as appropriate across disciplines and sectors.
- 2.2.10 Maintain the WL Approved Crosse listing.
- 2.2.11 (A future consideration) Develop equipment standards and approvals process.

## 3. Composition, Membership, and Member Role

3.1 The Rules Committee is composed of sixteen (16) members. Each member serves the committee in their own capacity, and not as a representative of a WL Member or constituency unless otherwise detailed.

3.2 Members must be “in good standing” with their affiliated NGB and will submit a letter of no objection signed by the President/CEO of the NGB prior to being

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appointed to position. Electronic correspondence (email) shall suffice as evidence of no objection.

## 3.3 Independent Chair – 1 person

- 3.3.1 To serve as the convener and chair of meetings and prepare necessary reports on meeting activities.
- 3.3.2 In collaboration with staff, ensures relevant timelines and expectations are being managed.
- 3.3.3 The individual in the role of Ind. Chair is appointed by the WL Board of Directors.

## 3.4 Chair of Officiating – 1 person

- 3.4.1 Responsible for ensuring consistency of the application of rules, within the Officiating Committee
- 3.4.2 Provides perspective on the application of rules within the mechanics and procedures of officiating.
- 3.4.3 Represents the interests of the entirety of the officiating constituency.

## 3.5 Continental Federation representatives – 4 (1 per WL Member CF)

- 3.5.1 Disseminate and collect information from relevant CF constituencies (athletes, coaches, officials, NGBs).
- 3.5.2 Represent the interest of the entirety of the relevant CF members in committee meetings without bias to a particular constituent group.

## 3.6 Active Athletes <sup>1</sup>- 4 people

- 3.6.1 Disseminate and collect information from relevant athlete populations to provide “the players' perspective” in decision making of the committee.

## 3.7 Game/Discipline Experts <sup>2,3</sup> – 4 people.

- 3.7.1 Provide expertise as it pertains to a given discipline.
- 3.7.2 Collect information from additional “discipline experts” when providing expertise.
- 3.7.3 Serve as “the voice of the discipline” in committee meetings.

## 3.8 Marketing/Media from WL staff – 1 person

- 3.8.1 Contributes to the impact of rule changes on the marketability of the discipline.
- 3.8.2 Advises on appropriate communications for rules.

## 3.9 Sport Department staff – 1 person

- 3.9.1 Is the WL Staff Lead for the committee.
- 3.9.2 Manages the “day to day work” of the Rules Committee.

<sup>1</sup> An 'Active Athlete' is selected and appointed by the WL Athlete Commission and is defined as having competed in a World Championship within the previous eight (8) years. There must be one (1) representative per discipline (Men's Field, Women's Field, Box Lacrosse, Sixes).

<sup>2</sup> A 'Game/Discipline experts' may be a coach or official who has been active at a World Championship level within the previous 8 years. There must be one (1) representative per discipline (Men's Field, Women's Field, Box Lacrosse, Sixes).

<sup>3</sup> The initial 'Game/Discipline experts' will be comprised of the 2024 Rules Sub-Committee chairs, who shall finish out their current terms with this evolved committee structure.

## **4. Skills, Qualities, and Competencies**

4.1 A detailed position description outlining the profile and competencies of the Chair of the Committee will be used in the nominations and selection process.

4.2 Members of the Committee will need to have the skills, qualities and competencies outlined in Appendix 1. In forming the Committee or Subcommittees, the Chair will seek to balance a range of skills, qualities, and competencies, as well as gender and geographic diversity. Appendix 1 will be reviewed annually by the Committee Chair and may change.

## **5. Operating and Reporting Procedures**

5.1 The Committee will follow the WL General Procedures applicable to all Committees, which is available in the WL Governance Handbook.

## **6. Meetings**

6.1 The Committees must keep records of its meetings. These may be detailed minutes or summary reports with actions and names of people to act identified, as stated in each TOR. All documents for WL committees should be retained on the WL shared drives for purposes of committee continuity and appropriate record keeping across WL. The WL Office will assist in setting such files up.

6.2 The Chair of the Committee is responsible for ensuring meetings are called and that an agenda and any relevant papers are circulated one week prior to the meeting and for ensuring that minutes/records are kept and identifying who should take these.

6.3 The Rules Committee will prepare an annual summary statement of activity by 31st December, using the template provided by the WL Chief of Staff. This should be sent to the WL F&G Director and WL Chief of Staff who will combine the information into an annual activity report for the Board of all its Committees.

6.4 Once approved by the relevant Committee, all minutes/records are to be sent to:  
5.4.1 The Committee members.

5.4.2 Any other person specifically identified in the individual TOR for that committee.

6.5 It is expected that most of the meetings will take place virtually in video or audio calls unless in person meetings are specifically agreed as necessary by the WL Board when TOR are determined.

6.6 A quorum of a minimum of 50% of the Committee shall be required for all meetings. In the absence of the Chair, he/she will appoint a deputy, or the members present will appoint a Chair for that meeting, who will liaise with the Committee Chair.

6.5 A quorum of eligible voting members is required to conduct voting, when required in committee decision making.

6.5.1 WL Staff do not enjoy voting privileges.

6.5.2 The Chair will hold their vote until all other ballots are recorded and shall only cast a vote in the event a tied outcome needs to be settled.

6.5.3 All resolutions require a simple majority (50% +1 vote) to be accepted.

## **7. Delegated Authority**

7.1 The Committee, following notification to the President, may seek such external professional advice as it deems necessary to discharge its responsibilities.

7.2 The Committee has no delegated authority for decisions or expenditure other than where specifically authorized by the Board.

## Appendix 1 - Skills, Qualities, and Competencies for Members of the Rules Committee

In addition to the descriptors noted in section 3, the membership of the Rules Committee will seek to gain a balance of the following amongst its members:

- Rules knowledge and understanding within the sport of lacrosse preferably at an international or elite level with knowledge of two or more disciplines being advantageous.
- Strong interpersonal, political, and influencing skills with a can-do attitude.
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills that can translate concepts to written playing rules.
- Excellent IT skills, particularly MS Word creating complex documents with tables, indexes, styles.
- Project Management experience.
- Willingness to explore new options for delivery of Rules across the sport.
- Knowledge of the lacrosse competition landscape and willingness to look for and embrace harmonization opportunities across the disciplines.
- Experience in a similar role in lacrosse or another sport.
- Knowledge and understanding of the rules from other sports.

Members of the Rules Committee should aim to uphold the values of World Lacrosse and to encourage these to be upheld across the community.

- Teamwork
- Passion
- Respect
- Integrity
- Friendship
- Inclusiveness