



Officials Matriculation Protocol

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1. Introduction

This protocol serves to provide the necessary information and tools for Continental Federations (CFs) and National Governing Bodies (NGBs) to be able to:

- Identify and nominate matriculation candidates.
- Apply and deliver matriculation events for officials.

Matriculation events are tournaments / series that meet the criteria outlined below, and where officials can be evaluated for WL1 certification. This provides a standardized methodology for the matriculation and development of officials in events that are managed by CFs and NGBs. This development stage is critical in the identification, development, and ultimately the selection of talented officials to World Championships.

As World Lacrosse (WL) continues to grow its membership and participation in the international multi-sport games, it must also increase its ability to meet the demand for highly qualified, geographically diverse officials. This program provides an objective and systematic methodology to recruit, train, and retain high-quality officials for selection and participation in international events.

2. Implementation

WL will partner with CFs to implement a matriculation program using the WL Officiating Certification at matriculation events. CFs will apply to WL to have the event considered as a matriculation event for officials. NGBs may apply via their CF to have an NGB managed event considered as a matriculation event.

CFs may apply to WL to fund two out of region Educators per event, to attend a total of four matriculation events per calendar year. This could be one per discipline, or multiple events per discipline depending on the CFs needs. There are requirements for events with out-of-region Educators that must be met. CFs and NGBs can apply to host matriculation events using only in-region Educators.

In implementing a matriculation program, WL is responding to its membership and own event needs for a deeper and broader pool of highly qualified lacrosse officials. A program such as this will also create opportunities for greater CF and NGB engagement in the identification of those officials with competencies for the international officiating pathway. This results in increased member satisfaction, as well as a higher quality of officiating at the continental and domestic levels.

Further to the above, WL certified officials will be instrumental in the development and implementation of domestic officiating programs. Their first-hand understanding of the applicable WL Rule Set(s), on-field mechanics, advanced management of high-level games and the educating process will enable WL and member NGBs to deliver high quality, standardized education and certification programs.

3. Out-of-Region Educators

Benefits to the CF / NGB:

By participating in this matriculation program, each CF receives guaranteed support for officials at its CF and/or NGB events on an annual basis. Additionally, by participating, the CF can be confident that its regional officials are being developed in a manner that is consistent with that of all other CFs and corresponding officials in the World Lacrosse sphere of influence. Doing so creates more consistent game play, a more diverse pool of officials, and deeper insights for the identification and selection of officials to World Championship events.



WL will provide the following to CF Members to allocate as appropriate:

1. Airfare for 2 Officials Educators per event to 4 CF events per year.
 - a. To promote global consistency in the training and evaluation of officials and as a means of professional development, the Educators sent to an event must come from a region, other than where the event is being hosted. For each event:
 - i. APLU would receive 1 from ELF and 1 from PALA, assigned by WL.
 - ii. ELF would receive 1 from APLU and 1 from PALA, assigned by WL.
 - iii. PALA would receive 1 from APLU and 1 from ELF, assigned by WL.
2. A grant of USD \$2500 per year, to offset the expense associated with the CF providing any additional certified Officials Educators from their region to CF / NGB events.
 - a. CFs must submit a proposal detailing how the funding will be used, as well as who the prospective CF Officials Educators are/will be, and at what events the funds will be incorporated. This should be submitted in the 4th quarter of the year, for the upcoming year.
3. This program has an estimated value of USD \$34,500 per year to the CFs, broken down as follows:
 - WL Officials Educators to CF Events - USD \$16,000
 - CF Officials Education Grant – USD \$2500
 - CF Officials Educators Professional Development – USD \$16,000

Requirements of the CF / NGB:

1. The hosting CF / NGB provides local transportation, meals, and accommodations for the WL funded out-of-region Officials Educators for the duration of the event.

Special Note:

1. As the Africa Association of Lacrosse and its members are still in its early stages of development of officials, their region will be developed with a greater emphasis on NGB level officials, as opposed to CF and WL level officials.

4. Matriculation Event Application Process

The following process must be followed for all matriculation events.

1. Request for matriculation event to be approved.
 - a. The CF President can provide the form to relevant bodies in their CF.
 - b. This must be submitted 6 months before the event.
2. Apply for WL funded and sourced out-of-region Educators if required.
 - a. This is an additional information section in the application form. This must be completed by the CF.
 - b. This must be submitted 6 months before the event.
3. Preliminary approval, request for further information, or rejection.
4. Open applications to Educators and Officials.
5. Send matriculation application form to the identified D3 level officials (based on WL competency rubric criteria).
 - a. [Click here for a copy of this form](#)
6. Send proposed roster including in region Educators, matriculation candidates and current WL certified officials to WL staff.
 - a. Include name, email, NGB, current certification and expiry date.
 - b. WL will select any out of region Educators in consultation with the CF.
7. WL staff to validate certifications and ensure all matriculation candidates have applied.
8. Final approval, request for further information, or rejection.

5. Approved Matriculation Certification Events Criteria

The following criteria must be met for events to be certified, and evaluations completed to be valid.

1. The Chief Official is appointed by the event organizer with consultation with WL.
 - a. The Chief Official is responsible for officials' assignments. They should consult with the lead educator as to officials' performance.
 - b. Best practice is that the Chief Official is also a certified Educator and remains in an off-field role.
2. If WL is funding Educators, WL will consult with the CF to appoint the Lead Educator. If there are no WL funded Educators, the CF will appoint the Lead Educator.
3. All Educators are World Lacrosse certified.
4. Educators who are charged with evaluations and certifications for matriculation candidates, are only appointed as Educators (they do not participate as on-field officials).
 - a. Educators who are only educating officials with a current WL certification may be selected as on-field officials.
5. Officials selected that do not hold a WL certification must have applied to the WL Matriculation program before the event starts.
6. The WL competency-based evaluation and certification system is used at the event.
7. The platform provided for the collection of evaluation data is used for all formally evaluated games.
8. Educators are provided with field level seating and a table at field(s), opposite the team benches, and an appropriate distance from spectators. This will have adequate sun and rain cover.
9. There is a required ratio of 1:5 Educators for every matriculation candidate. Governing bodies can appoint as many additional Educators as they see fit to educate officials not in the matriculation program.
10. There is a minimum of 2 Educators from within the CF region appointed. This is required so:
 - a. When there are out-of-region WL Officials Educators, they can develop not only regional officials, but also CF Officials Educators.
 - b. When there are only in-region Officials Educators, there is a requirement to have a minimum of two Educators evaluate an official for a WL1 certification.
11. The event structure must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Level of play
 - i. There are more than 4 National Teams participating in the event, **OR**
 - ii. The event is sanctioned by World Lacrosse, **OR**
 - iii. The level of play at the event is comparable to a Senior World Championship 30th place game or better for W1 evaluation/certification.
 - b. The event is played by World Lacrosse rules and timings.
 - c. Each official is guaranteed a minimum of 3 games, and ideally 4 games, to be evaluated during the event.
 - d. On-field officials are limited to the following physical demands:
 - i. Sixes – 80 minutes of game clock time/day as a running official, with a minimum of 2 hours between games if being assigned to multiple games.
 - ii. Box and Field – 140 minutes of game clock time/day as a running official, with a minimum of 2 hours between games if being assigned to multiple games.
 - iii. Should overtime periods occur, this is to be factored into the amount of time an official is used as a runner.
 - iv. Ideally, if an official runs in one game, they are assigned a non-running role for the second game.

6. Officials Development Program and Matriculation Program

Officials' development consists of four parts: identification, training, evaluation, and certification. The matriculation program is a targeted program to provide a pathway for top level domestic officials to become international officials.

Identification For Event Selection:

1. It is ultimately up to each governing body to identify those individuals who have the skills and abilities to participate in events.
2. When selecting for CF events, WL recommends that the CF confers with the NGBs in its region to identify officials with the ability of a D3 to WL3 official using the Officiating Competency Framework.

Identification For Matriculation Program:

1. To be eligible to apply for entry into the matriculation program officials must:
 - a. have, or be the equivalent of, the WL domestic 3 certification (game evaluations, fitness tests and rules tests).
 - b. show demonstrated competency in English to the equivalent of B1 level in the British Competency test.
2. Officials will apply to be a matriculation candidate and to officiate at a matriculation event at the same time.
 - a. All NGB and CF officials who are selected to officiate at a matriculation event, and who meet the entry criteria, will automatically be accepted into the program.
 - b. If the official is not selected for, or unable to attend, a WL1 certification event, they will have their application considered by a working group designated by the Officiating Committee. Certified Educators may conduct a game evaluation via film or in-person (preferred) and provide the detail of this evaluation to the working group.

Training:

1. WL will provide at no cost to CFs, NGBs, or the individual participants training tools and resources to assist in guiding Officials Educators in training new officials, as well as upskilling existing officials. This includes:
 - a) Training materials such as presentations, online courses, and webinars.
 - b) Evaluation tools that measure the actions against the WL Officiating Competencies.
 - c) An Education and Certification course (Educator Academy) for Officials Educators, to instruct them on how to use the various training and evaluation tools.
2. WL will schedule Educators to run free online clinics targeted at domestic level and matriculation level officials.
3. WL will provide free online courses for officials that match the WL Competencies.

Evaluation:

1. **For an evaluation to be valid, all organizing bodies and all educators must follow the processes and procedures set out in the Educators Manual.**
This is available on the World Lacrosse website - <https://worldlacrosse.sport/the-game/officiating/>

Matriculation Event Certification:

1. All relevant forms and information will be sent to the relevant discipline officiating expert representative on the officiating committee and the Sport Manager: Education and Certification.
2. Officials must complete successful rules and fitness tests within 2 weeks of the event starting.
3. The officiating committee will issue all WL certifications. Decisions made by the WL officiating committee are final.
4. CFs and NGBs may issue domestic certifications at matriculation events.
5. All candidates who do not receive a WL certification remain in the program while they are active officials.