

World Lacrosse Handbook

November 2024

World Lacrosse Bylaws

As approved by the General Assembly

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1.1 WL Membership

The criteria, requirements, rights and obligations for Full Members, Provisional Members, Continental Federation Members and Multi Nation Members, as well as membership subscriptions and the membership approval process, are stated below.

Membership Categories

- 1.1.1 **Provisional Member (PM):** New members and/or those members who are developing domestic lacrosse governance.
- 1.1.2 **Full Member (FM):** A NGB that meets the WL criteria to govern lacrosse domestically and contribute to regional/global lacrosse development.
- 1.1.3 **Continental Federation Member (CFM):** Generic term for the Continental/Regional bodies that represent a specific geography and are CF Members of WL. CFs represent WL members and MNMs in their region and their responsibilities include hosting WL Event qualifiers.
- 1.1.4 **Multi-Nation member (MNM):** Term to denote an organization which is comprised of nations and/or athletes who share the same passport and compete together under another organization that is not their NGB affiliation in certain competitions that use International Olympic Committee eligibility rules (e.g. Great Britain).

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Member Requirements

1.1.5 **PM requirements:** To be considered for PM status, the applicant needs to:

- 1.1.5.1 Provide authority for the sport of lacrosse in their geographic region or territory, as agreed by WL and the CF(s).
- 1.1.5.2 Have a defined leadership structure for the organization (a board) with a target of 50% of members residing within the geographic area and 50% gender equity.
- 1.1.5.3 Have a Constitution and Bylaws that contains full endorsement by their board at a minimum and ideally by their members; compliance with WL and CF constitutions and bylaws; free and fair democratic elections with term limits defined, recognition of WL and the relevant CF as sole authorities governing the sport of lacrosse, WADA compliance provisions and holding an annual governance meeting representative of the membership.
- 1.1.5.4 Submit a 3-year plan for the development of the sport and for the organization.
- 1.1.5.5 Fulfill the NGB obligations in Article 18 of the WL Anti-Doping Rules which can be found [here](#).
- 1.1.5.6 Submit an anti-discrimination declaration statement.

1.1.6 **FM requirements:** Meets all requirements of a PM, plus:

- 1.1.6.1 The board is comprised of a minimum of 50% in-country leadership and has constitutional provisions that ensure in-country development work is carried out.
- 1.1.6.2 Must demonstrate working in good faith to provide equitable resources ensuring opportunity across all genders.
- 1.1.6.3 Must demonstrate financial sustainability and independence via submission of operating budget and statement of accounts.
- 1.1.6.4 Have participated in a WL and CF GA within one year of the request for FM status.
- 1.1.6.5 Be current with all subscriptions due to WL and the CF.
- 1.1.6.6 Provide a plan for the administration of a prevention of abuse (SafeSport) policy.
- 1.1.6.7 Must have competed in an approved regional or approved WL event.
- 1.1.6.8 Have an Athletes' Commission in place when requesting FM status.

1.1.7 **CFM requirements:** To be considered for CFM status, the applicant shall have the same requirements as a FM with the exception of 1.1.6.7 above plus:

- 1.1.7.1 For proposed CFs to be approved, the proposed CF must provide a letter endorsed by two thirds of the current full member NGBs within the region and recognizing the proposed CF as the CF, to present themselves as the sole governing authority for the sport of lacrosse in their geographic region or territory, as agreed by WL and the CF(s).

1.1.8 **MNM requirements:** To be considered for MNM status, the applicant needs to:

- 1.1.8.1 Provide a letter endorsed by all the NGBs constituting the MNM, recognizing the MNM as having the governing authority in all matters where individual NGB membership is not applicable.
- 1.1.8.2 Have a defined leadership structure for the organization, eg a board, with targets of 50% of members residing within the nations constituting the MNM and has constitutional provisions that ensure 50% gender equity.
- 1.1.8.3 Have a Constitution and Bylaws that contains full endorsement by their members and board; compliance with WL and CF constitutions and bylaws; free and fair democratic elections with defined term limits, recognition of WL and the relevant

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- CF as sole authorities governing the sport of lacrosse, WADA compliance provisions and holding an annual governance meeting representative of the membership. Alternatively, be registered with the appropriate government organization and be constituted by a set of articles and managed by company law.
- 1.1.8.4 Submit a document of understanding which explains the relationship between the countries and the MNM and clarifies roles and responsibilities.
 - 1.1.8.5 Submit a development plan for the organization.
 - 1.1.8.6 Submit an anti-discrimination declaration statement.
 - 1.1.8.7 Demonstrate working in good faith to provide equitable resources ensuring opportunity across all genders.
 - 1.1.8.8 Demonstrate financial sustainability and independence via submission of operating budget and statement of accounts.
 - 1.1.8.9 Be current with all subscriptions due to WL and the CF.
 - 1.1.8.10 Fulfil the NGB obligations in Article 18 of the WL Anti-Doping Rules which can be found [here](#).
 - 1.1.8.11 Provide a plan for the administration of and prevention of abuse (SafeSport) policy.

Member Rights

1.1.9 PM rights:

- 1.1.9.1 May send up to two observers to a WL/CF GA without vote.
- 1.1.9.2 PM observers may be permitted to have a voice at the discretion of the President or chair of the meeting.
- 1.1.9.3 Access to all WL/CF grant programs and services.
- 1.1.9.4 May participate in Continental events but will not qualify for World Championship events at the Senior level.
- 1.1.9.5 May participate in WL age related Events.

1.1.10 FM rights: The FM enjoys the same rights as a PM plus:

- 1.1.10.1 One of the two participants is a voting delegate at GAs.
- 1.1.10.2 Delegates are entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the GA.
- 1.1.10.3 May nominate persons from their NGB for positions on the WL Board.
- 1.1.10.4 May participate in Continental and World Championship events at every competition level and in any sector/discipline adhering to relevant competition rules and regulations.

1.1.11 CFM rights:

- 1.1.11.1 May send one observer and one voting delegate to a GA.
- 1.1.11.2 Delegates are entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the GA.
- 1.1.11.3 One WL Board seat will be made available for CF representation. The person will be elected by the CFs and presented to the WL Board for affirmation. This position will enjoy the rights that are conferred upon other board members, as related to matters of the board. Each CF will have one vote to elect the CF representative to the WL Board. Any tied vote will require resolution by the CFs.
- 1.1.11.4 One WL Development Committee (DevComm) seat will be created for regional representatives from each of the existing and any future regions, in agreement with the Chair of the DevComm. At the end of the term of a regional representative the relevant CF will submit two to three names to the DevComm and the DevComm will work with the CF to find a mutually agreeable replacement to represent the relevant region.

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1.1.12 MNM rights:

- 1.1.12.1 May send a maximum of two observers to the WL GA with no voting rights and speaking rights at discretion of the Chair.
- 1.1.12.2 Delegates are entitled to speaking rights in meetings of the GA.
- 1.1.12.3 Right to participate in multi-sport events and for WL events that are for multi-sport event qualifiers/Olympic qualifiers as the MNM.
- 1.1.12.4 For WL Championship events and qualifiers, must identify in advance whether the MNM is entering or the countries making up the MNM.
- 1.1.12.5 May not compete in sanctioned events alongside the countries in membership of the MNM but can do so in events unsanctioned by WL.

Member Obligations

1.1.13 PM obligations:

- 1.1.13.1 Upon confirmation of PM status, the member will work towards obtaining FM status within 5 years.
- 1.1.13.2 Upon the 2-year anniversary of PM confirmation, the DevComm will review the PM plan and make a recommendation as to the course of action needed.
- 1.1.13.3 Each PM will submit an annual report to WL DevComm and to the relevant CF, related to the goals and objectives of their development plan.
- 1.1.13.4 Take responsibility for ensuring they meet the visa and border entry requirements for the country where a WL event is being held.
- 1.1.13.5 Subscription: To be determined by the WL GA.
 - First year to be paid with application submission.
 - Subsequent years to be paid by conclusion of Q1.
 - CFs may set their own subscription fees.

1.1.14 FM obligations:

- 1.1.14.1 Be an extension of WL and the CF in supporting the development of the sport within the region/country.
- 1.1.14.2 Work cooperatively with WL and the CF to ensure domestic members are in alignment with WL and CF policies, statutes, and regulations.
- 1.1.14.3 Invite WL/CF representatives to its GA and other meetings where knowledge sharing would be beneficial to all parties.
- 1.1.14.4 Submit an annual report on request to WL DevComm and to the relevant CF, related to the goals and objectives of their plan.
- 1.1.14.5 Take responsibility for ensuring they meet the visa and border entry requirements for the country where a WL event is being held.
- 1.1.14.6 Subscription: To be determined by the WL GA.
 - First year to be paid with application submission.
 - Subsequent years to be paid by conclusion of Q1.
 - CFs may set their own subscription fees.
- 1.1.14.7 Subscriptions for FMs will be as determined by the GA.

1.1.15 CFM obligations: CFMs have the same obligations as FMs plus:

- 1.1.15.1 Conduct Continental Qualifying events as needed for WL World Championships at the senior levels of each discipline, as agreed by WL and the CF.
- 1.1.15.2 Conduct own championship events for membership engagement and development.
- 1.1.15.3 Subscriptions: To be determined by the WL GA.

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1.1.16 MNM obligations:

- 1.1.16.1 Be an extension of WL and the CF in supporting the development of the sport within the region/country.
- 1.1.16.2 Work cooperatively with WL and the CF to ensure domestic members are in alignment with WL and CF policies, statutes, and regulations.
- 1.1.16.3 Invite WL/CF representatives to its GA and other meetings where knowledge sharing would be beneficial to all parties.
- 1.1.16.4 Submit an annual report on request to WL DevComm and to the relevant CF.
- 1.1.19.5 Take responsibility for ensuring they meet the visa and border entry requirements for the country where a WL event is being held.
- 1.1.16.5 Subscription: To be determined by the WL GA.
 - First year to be paid with application submission.
 - Subsequent years to be paid by conclusion of Q1.
 - CFs may set their own subscription fees.

Membership Process

1.1.17 A country or nation must join WL and the respective CF simultaneously.

1.1.18 **PM Joining Process:** The process noted below is for prospective member countries or nations to receive PM status with WL and their respective CF.

- 1.1.18.1 An application package containing items noted in 1.1.6 to be submitted to the WL Director of Sport Development (WL DSD) for review and communication with CF (this is reciprocal if a prospective member approaches the CF first).
- 1.1.18.2 The WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm works with the potential PM to revise the application as needed.
- 1.1.18.3 The application package to be approved by the respective CF Board via the CF representative.
- 1.1.18.4 The WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm present the application to the DevComm for review and recommendation to the WL Board.
- 1.1.18.5 Once approved by the WL Board, WL will send the recommendation to its full membership for a postal vote or depending on timing consideration at a GA.
- 1.1.18.6 Once approved by WL member vote, WL and CF co-confer PM status upon the applicant.

1.1.19 **FM Joining Process:** The process noted below is for PMs to advance to FM status with WL and their respective CF (if applicable).

- 1.1.19.1 Application package containing items noted in 1.1.6 will be submitted to the WL DSD for review and communication with CF (this is reciprocal if a prospective full member approaches the CF first).
- 1.1.19.2 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm will work with the PM to revise the application as needed.
- 1.1.19.3 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm will present the application to the DevComm for review and once approved will take the recommendation to the WL Board.
- 1.1.19.4 Once approved by the WL Board, WL will send the recommendation to its full membership for a postal vote or depending on timing consideration at a GA vote.
- 1.1.19.5 Once approved by WL member vote, WL and CF will co-confer FM status upon the applicant.

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- 1.1.20 **CFM Joining Process:** The process noted below is for organizations seeking membership with WL as a CFM.
 - 1.1.20.1 Application package containing items noted in 1.1.6 will be submitted to the WL DSD.
 - 1.1.20.2 A prospective CF will be recommended from the DevComm to the WL Board. For the prospective CF to be approved, the WL Board will seek approval by the FM NGBS in the respective geographic region. A two thirds majority will be required
- 1.1.21 **MNM Joining Process:** The process noted below is for organizations seeking MNM with WL and their respective CF.
 - 1.1.21.1 Application package containing items noted in 1.1.6 will be submitted to the WL DSD for review and communication with CF.
 - 1.1.21.2 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm will work with the MNM to revise the application as needed.
 - 1.1.21.3 WL DSD, respective regional representative, CF representative and Chair of DevComm will present the application to the DevComm for review and once approved will take the recommendation to the WL Board.
 - 1.1.21.4 Once approved by the WL Board, WL will inform the membership of its decision to confer MNM status on an organization.
- 1.1.22 **Membership Review**
 - 1.1.22.1 Every FM, PM, CFM, and MNM may be asked to provide a report when requested by the WL Board or DevComm. A template has been provided by WL and is located in the Member Toolkit.
 - 1.1.22.2 The DevComm will regularly review the status of member NGBs and make recommendations on any status change as necessary or on benefit limitation as a member considering their attendance at WL meetings and WL Events and their domestic play situation as necessary.

1.2 WL Board Composition

- 1.2.1 Members of the WL Board are elected by the GA and for specialist skills, appointed by the WL Board and elected by other relevant groups including the Athletes' Commission and the CFs.
- 1.2.2 The Board will be comprised of a President and between 8-10 additional members (including the CEO). The positions will be determined by the Board with the number of elected voting members being greater than the appointed/otherwise selected voting members. In addition to the President, the Board can name other officers it deems necessary from within the existing membership of the Board.
- 1.2.3 The WL Board should aim to have a 50:50 gender split, but with a minimum of 40% each of men and women.
- 1.2.4 Board nominees, for election, must be a National of or reside within an FM nation to be considered for Board positions. Board nominees may be nominated by any FM.
- 1.2.5 The appointed directors will be recruited by open advertisement.

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- 1.2.6 The Nominations Committee is responsible for publicizing any Board and Committee Chair vacancy to the Board, committees and FMs. A list of nominees for any Board positions for which an election is required will be distributed to the Member nominated contact point, at least 30 days prior to all GA meetings.
- 1.2.7 Board terms will normally be four (4) years, and elected Board members may serve up to three (3) consecutive four-year terms, before they must cycle off the Board for at least one (1) year.
- 1.2.8 Appointed Board members will serve at the will of the Board and will be defined at the time of appointment. Appointment durations will be advised to members at each GA.

1.3 WL Board Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.3.1 WL is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. As a result, WL and its Board members are subject to strict ethical guidelines and public scrutiny. Board members must meet three standards of conduct when carrying out Board responsibilities, including:
 - 1.3.1.1 Ensuring that operations and resources are aligned to fulfil the mission. Programs and services must support the mission.
 - 1.3.1.2 Ensuring responsible financial and legal stewardship when making Board decisions and taking action.
 - 1.3.1.3 Committing to serve the best interests of the organization. Board members cannot “selfdeal” or use their Board position for personal gain, nor can they favor the interests of a stakeholder group above the overall interests of the WL.
- 1.3.2 WL Board collective responsibilities include the following:
 - 1.3.2.1 **Determine mission and purposes.** The WL Board creates and periodically reviews a statement of mission and purpose that is relevant in the current environment and appropriately serves its primary stakeholders.
 - 1.3.2.2 **Select the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).** The WL Board reaches consensus on the Chief Executive Officer’s (CEO) responsibilities and undertakes a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
 - 1.3.2.3 **Support and evaluate the CEO.** The WL Board ensures that the CEO has the moral and professional support they need to further organizational goals.
 - 1.3.2.4 **Perpetuate diversity and inclusion goals.** The WL Board reflects the organization’s core belief that a diverse, inclusive, and welcoming culture will best position the organization to achieve its strategic goals.
 - 1.3.2.5 **Ensure effective strategic and operational planning.** The WL Board must actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring plan goals.

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- 1.3.2.6 **Monitor and strengthen programs and services.** The WL Board determines which programs are consistent with the organization's mission and monitors their effectiveness.
- 1.3.2.7 **Ensure adequate financial resources.** The WL Board makes sure the organization has the resources needed to fulfil its mission.
- 1.3.2.8 **Protect assets and provide financial oversight.** The WL Board assists in developing an annual budget, oversees an annual audit, ensures that proper financial controls are in place and monitors organizational compliance with legal and fiduciary laws and regulations.
- 1.3.2.9 **Build a competent Board.** The WL Board articulates prerequisites for Board candidates, recruits and orients new members, periodically and comprehensively evaluates its own performance, and ensures that athlete representation is maintained.
- 1.3.2.10 **Ensure legal and ethical integrity.** The WL Board is ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms, including those articulated in the WL Code of Ethics.
- 1.3.2.11 **Enhance the organization's public standing.** The WL Board clearly articulates the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public, and garners support from the community.

- 1.3.3 Understanding Board responsibilities is fundamentally important. Understanding how to perform them is equally important. WL Board members are expected to perform the following:

- 1.3.3.1 Understand and execute Board responsibilities, both generally and specific to the board position held, while respecting the board delegated authority and responsibility of the CEO.
- 1.3.3.2 Lead strategically with a forward focus; collaboratively with the CEO, set strategic direction and high-level priorities.
- 1.3.3.3 Avoid micromanagement by getting caught-up in day-to-day details; respect the CEO's authority to lead and manage WL staff and operations.
- 1.3.3.4 Commit to the best interests of WL and its membership; vote and act responsibly in support of WL and its stakeholders, not exclusively for one member or a group of members.
- 1.3.3.5 Support Board decisions once they are made.
- 1.3.3.6 Assure the confidentiality of information distributed to and discussed by the Board.
- 1.3.3.7 Behave ethically, taking care to disclose and act appropriately on any conflicts of interest.
- 1.3.3.8 Behave courteously; communicate succinctly and respectfully; listen attentively to others; proactively encourage and seek to understand diverse viewpoints.
- 1.3.3.9 Regularly attend and prepare for Board meetings, GAs, calls and other activities.
- 1.3.3.10 Serve as an advocate for WL, speak well of WL and other Board members.

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- 1.3.4 The increasing legal and fiduciary responsibilities of WL, as well as the desire for greater mission success, requires the following commitments:
- 1.3.4.1 **Roles & Responsibilities:** Highly performing organizations clearly define roles. Job descriptions that articulate roles and responsibilities for Board members (and for officers, CEO, and committee chairs) have been developed and will continue to be reviewed, distributed, and presented in a comprehensive Board member orientation, and reviewed annually. Board powers and key responsibilities are codified in these Bylaws.
 - 1.3.4.2 **Board Recruitment:** Board recruitment is strategic and proactive. WL will recruit individuals who are highly capable of performing Board responsibilities and will act in accordance with best practices and governing standards. Careful consideration must be given to what each Board candidate can contribute in terms of skills, experience, and sound judgment for the organization. Well-qualified Board members possess the highest personal values, judgement, and integrity. They understand athletic competition, Olympic ideals and will be familiar with the business, financial and other challenges that face WL. They may have a strong background in finance, marketing, fundraising, audit, governance, management, communications, and sport.
 - 1.3.4.3 **Athletes as Board Members:** Athletes are key stakeholders of WL, and WL Bylaws require WL Athletes Commission appointed representation on the Board.
 - 1.3.4.4 **Ethics and Conflicts of Interest:** Avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest is a Board imperative. The Board develops and follows ethics and conflict of interest policies that are applicable to NGB stakeholders, including staff, volunteers, Board, and committee members including those articulated in the WL Code of Ethics. These stakeholders certify compliance annually, which includes completion of conflict of interest disclosure forms.
 - 1.3.4.5 **Fiduciary Responsibility:** Financial oversight is a crucial Board responsibility and includes, but is not limited to:
 - Approving and monitoring budgets.
 - Approving independent auditors to conduct annual audits.
 - Approving any loans, accumulations, and restricted accounts.
 - Overseeing bank accounts, investment advisors and/or endowments.
 - Monitoring sales transactions and checking for any unrelated business income.
 - Complying with legal and fiduciary laws and regulations.
 - Overseeing compensation, benefits and liability.
 - Approving capital campaigns and fundraising goals.
 - 1.3.4.6 **Strategic Planning:** WL Board members partner with the CEO to set strategic direction and measure progress. The value of strategic planning lies not only in creating a plan, but also in the planning process itself. If done well, this process provokes productive thought, sparks compelling dialogue, and fosters stakeholder collaboration and commitment to success for the benefit of the entire organization.
 - 1.3.4.7 **Fundraising:** Board members prioritize and support the execution of WL fundraising activities.

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1.3.4.8 **Assessment:**

- CEO: The WL Board, or a subset of the Board, will manage the CEO's job performance annually. The job description, any performance goals and review process will be established and agreed upon with the CEO at least one year in advance of the review. Board members must commit to supporting the CEO's efforts toward goal achievement, while simultaneously holding them accountable to those goals. Constructive feedback, both positive and developmental, must be given regularly throughout the year.
- Board Members: The WL Board will engage in a self-assessment program. In addition to assessing the CEO's performance every year, the Board will assess their own performances through a simple online tool. Individual Board members may evaluate the Board's performance, using Board member responsibilities and governing behaviors as the baseline. Results must be reported to the Board and discussed at a meeting.

- 1.3.5 The Board will have the ultimate authority to oversee WL's budget once it is approved by the GA.
- 1.3.6 The Board will serve as WL's Strategic Planning Committee, with up to four (4) other people, and is charged with overseeing efforts to prepare, present for GA approval, and implement the WL's strategic plan. The Board will also monitor and evaluate the plan and provide regular progress reports to the GA.
- 1.3.7 The President, in consultation with a designated Board Director and the CEO, will establish the agenda and timing for Board meetings and the GA. In addition, the President will preside over these meetings. The President, subject to Board approval, will have the power to temporarily fill Board vacancies until the next meeting of the GA, at which a formal election for the vacancy will be conducted.
- 1.3.8 Members of the Board are expected to attend all Board meetings whether held in person or virtually. As a minimum there will be four (4) meetings per annum, as well as the GA and a number of virtual calls in between formal Board meetings as required.
- 1.3.9 The Board will have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the GA and the Rules Assembly (RA), in between meetings of the GA and the RA, in the management and governance of WL except for the following:
- 1.3.9.1 The adoption, amendment or repeal of the Bylaws and Constitution.
 - 1.3.9.2 The amendment or revocation of any resolution of the GA that by its terms is amendable or revocable only by the GA.
 - 1.3.9.3 Action those conflicts with the Bylaws or a GA resolution pertaining to a committee of the Federation.
 - 1.3.9.4 Playing rule changes.
 - 1.3.9.5 Athlete eligibility for events and member eligibility requirements.
 - 1.3.9.6 Increases in member subscriptions.
 - 1.3.9.7 Decisions on proposed new WL championship events for the world event calendar.
 - 1.3.9.8 Acceptance of new members.

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- 1.3.10 The Board will have the responsibility to evaluate the performance of itself and each committee of WL and approve and/or replace committee chairs as needed or in the best interest of WL.

1.4 General Assembly Meetings

- 1.4.1 **Documentation:** Where any provision of the Constitution or of any other document provides expressly or by implication for any document to be “in writing” or “written” or refers to “a copy” of any document, such document may be in the form of, and sent by, fax, e-mail, pdf or any other form of electronic communication.
- 1.4.2 **Notice of GA Meetings:** Preliminary notice of each GA Meeting shall be sent to the nominated contact points of all Members not less than one hundred and twenty days (120) prior to its scheduled date. Such notice will provide as much information as possible including the proposed place, date, and time of the meeting, and be accompanied by a draft agenda. Members are required to submit matters for inclusion in the final agenda to the WL Finance and Governance Director no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled GA. Final notice of each GA together with relevant documentation, including any resolutions for Constitution or Bylaw change, shall be sent to all NGB nominated contact points not less than sixty (60) days prior to the GA. The notice will specify the place, date and time of the GA and include a final agenda specifying the nature of the business to be transacted at the GA and the names of any candidates for the Board.
- 1.4.3 **Attendance at GA Meetings:** As stated in the Constitution, all FMs and CFMs are entitled to send one delegate (who must be named in advance). Additionally, each FM and CFM may optionally send an observer (who must be named in advance) to the meeting. Observers may only address the meeting with agreement of the Chair at the specific request of the delegate. The Chair may decline such a request. In advance of any meeting, and before five (5) days, the member NGB must declare and advise the name of their delegate and any observer to the WL Chief Operating Officer (COO). The delegate must cast any vote. PMs and MNMs may send up to 2 observers to GAs, who must be named at least five (5) working days prior to the GA.
- 1.4.4 **NGB and CF Nominated Contact / GA Delegate:** Annually, Member NGBs, MNMs and CFs must declare and advise their prime contact point for all WL communications. It is expected that this would be an officer or employee of the Member. Prior to any meeting of the GA the Member must declare and advise the name of their delegate and any observer to the COO. Expenses for delegates and observers will be the responsibility of the relevant Member.
- 1.4.5 **Meeting Standing Orders:**
- 1.4.5.1 The President will preside as chair at all meetings of the GA. In their absence or, if unwilling to act, another Board member will act subject to agreement of the GA on a show of hands.
 - 1.4.5.2 No resolution will be put to a vote at a meeting of the GA unless a quorum of Members (as defined in the Constitution) is present at the time it is so put.

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- 1.4.5.3 Voting at both in person and virtual GA meetings will be by the use of an electronic voting system. If this is unavailable, a show of hands or written ballot will be used.

1.4.6 Election of Board:

- 1.4.6.1 In any case where there is only one candidate for an office, whether or not that candidate is elected will be determined by Resolution.
- 1.4.6.2 In any case where there are two candidates for an office, a ballot will be taken of the eligible voting GA Members present. On any such ballot, the candidate receiving the majority in number of votes cast will be elected to the relevant office. If a tie occurs on any such ballot a repeat ballot will be taken. To avoid doubt, there will be no limit on the number of such repeat ballots that may be taken.
- 1.4.6.3 In any case where there are more than two candidates for an office, a ballot will be taken as above. On any such ballot the candidate receiving the least number of votes cast will be eliminated from the election. This will occur until two candidates remain for office.
- 1.4.6.4 Ballot papers will be in such form as the Board (acting by resolution or by the majority in number of its members who would constitute a quorum for the purposes of a resolution) may from time to time prescribe. The Board (so acting) will be entitled to decide whether a ballot paper purporting to cast a vote has validly cast a vote and its decision will be final.
- 1.4.6.5 Voting will be by e-vote except in exceptional circumstances. The WL Board Legal Counsel (or member agreed supervisor if Legal Counsel is not in attendance) will supervise the e-vote and results.
- 1.4.6.6 Nominations for election to each Board position will be submitted in writing to the COO no later than ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled date for the GA at which any election is due to take place. The COO will forward it on to the Nominations Committee.

1.4.7 Playing Rules Changes Process:

- 1.4.7.1 Playing Rules are determined separately from the General Assembly, through debate in a virtual RA and subsequent electronic/postal voting and are subject to sector voting rules as laid out in Constitution 1.6.9.
- 1.4.7.2 Playing Rules will normally be subject to a two-year review process, except for rules relating to safety, equipment modification and new disciplines, which may require more frequent changes. The process is shown in a flow chart in Rules 101 which can be found on the WL website.
- 1.4.7.3 The WL Rules Committee will oversee and manage the process, with a broader membership including different stakeholders beyond the rules/officials' representatives.
- 1.4.7.4 Rules made by WL are only intended to be for WL events and recognized/sanctioned/authorized international events and external multisport events.
- 1.4.7.5 Rules for all other levels of play should be determined by the NGB/CF for domestic use. NGBs/CFs may choose to follow the WL rules or to adapt them or to develop their own rules sets.
- 1.4.7.6 No alteration to the Playing Rules will be made to apply to a world

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event within a period of one (1) year prior to that world event except with the unanimous agreement of relevant sector votes or if a rule clarification or equipment modification (see below for definitions).

- Rule clarification: minor changes to wording to improve understanding of intent of a rule). The Rules Chair may submit such changes for approval by the WL Board and these do not require GA approval.
- Equipment Modification: changes to equipment specifications which are measurable or impact player safety. The Rules Chair may submit such changes for approval to the WL Board and these do not require GA approval.

1.4.7.7 Unless submitted by the WL Board, a request for changes to Rules may only be submitted by FMs that field at least one team in the respective (Box, Field or Sixes) World Event discipline and must be seconded by a FM from another CF region that has fielded at least one team in the respective World Event discipline in order to be considered by the RA. Proposals must be submitted by the official contact for each of the NGBs involved and not by their rules/officiating representative(s).

1.4.7.8 Proposed rules changes must be submitted using a standard form which indicates the category or reason for the proposed change.

1.4.7.9 Proposed Rule Change Schedule

- January 31 annually – deadline for open submission of rule changes to Rules committee.
- Sector rules committee considers potential changes during Q1.
- A virtual RA will be called for each sector considering rule changes in each year, with the role to debate and clarify proposed rules changes prior to a vote. Sector members attending such RA will be enabled to bring appropriate stakeholders (e.g., athletes, coaches, officials and an authorized official voting person) to ensure wide debate and understanding prior to vote.
- The RA will determine if any rules need to have a trial period prior to voting and under what timescale and conditions.
- An electronic postal vote will normally be called 14-28 days after each RA. Voting procedures will be as laid out in Constitution 1.6.9 for the GA.
- Any new rules book will be subject to external professional editing.

1.4.8 **GA meeting minutes and financial reports**, along with all accompanying reports, will be circulated to the delegates of all members, the WL Board, WL Lifetime Achievers and the official contact of all Members within sixty (60) days following a meeting.

1.4.9 **Annual Member Reports**: The WL Board or Director of Sport may request from each Member a report covering playing / coaching / officiating numbers and such other information as required. The information will be defined at the time of the request and a template will be provided by WL in the Member Toolkit.

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1.5 World Event Finance

1.5.1 Broadcast Rights:

- 1.5.1.1 The rights for television and radio for all WL events belong to WL.
- 1.5.1.2 Written permission to broadcast such events must be obtained from WL.
- 1.5.1.3 Rights shall not be transferred without appropriate compensation to WL.

1.5.2 World Event Revenues

- 1.5.2.1 WL will negotiate event revenue splits with the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) on a case-by-case basis. This will be captured in a contract between the LOC and WL, which will also include LOC/WL roles and responsibilities, as well as timing of any payments and revenue shares.
- 1.5.2.2 WL may order an audit or examination of financial records for World Events by independent auditors at WL expense.

- 1.5.3 **Member Financial Loss:** The Board of WL can determine that in the event that a member organization is caused to suffer the loss of financial support due to a WL decision that inadvertently results in such loss, WL can submit to the membership for vote the waiver of participation fees for a member country for up to two (2) full cycles of championship events (full cycle is defined as Men's and Women's World Events (Senior Field, Under 20 Field, Box and Sixes).

1.6 Licenses

- 1.6.1 WL retains all rights in and to its intellectual property. The Board may authorize any member or other organization or individual to manage, organize or conduct any activities under license from WL containing such terms and conditions as the Board may determine. This includes any license fees with respect to merchandise sold displaying the WL logo.

1.7 International Visits

- 1.7.1 An application for a national team/squad visit to another country must be approved by the member National Governing Body (NGB) of the team intending to tour.
- 1.7.2 The application must be approved by the host member NGB who must be kept fully informed of the visiting team program.
- 1.7.3 Visits should be encouraged, and applications should not be unreasonably denied.

1.8 International Competition

- 1.8.1 WL Men's and Women's World Events (Senior Field, Under 20 Field, Box and Sixes) shall be conducted according to the WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual.
- 1.8.2 WL may sanction specific competitions to be conducted as WL events including Regional Qualifiers for World Events.
- 1.8.3 WL may add additional lacrosse disciplines and related world events as agreed by the membership.

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- 1.8.4 For the Senior Events and Qualifiers for Senior Events, NGBs must be FMs prior to submitting entry to the event.

1.9 Recognition and Awards

- 1.9.1 Recognition of individuals, at different levels, will be considered by, and presented to, the Board. Different categories of awards will be listed on the WL website and an annual call for nominations for appropriate awards will be made by WL staff. Some awards may be recommended by specific committees of WL to the Board.
- 1.9.2 **World Lacrosse Awards** will be made at the discretion of the Board and/or GA.
- 1.9.3 **World Lacrosse Event Awards** will be made as per the WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual.

World Lacrosse Bylaws – Version History

Version/Date	Status/Committee
December 2020	• Changes approved at General Assembly (18 October & 15 November 2020)
December 2021	• Changes approved at General Assembly (9 & 31 October 2021)
December 2021	• DEI check done in accord with General Assembly 2021 agreements
March 2022	• Consistency check and edit done across all Handbook and Event Hosting and Competition Manual
November 2023	• Changes approved at General Assembly (11 November 2023)
November 2024	• Changes approved at General Assembly (16 November 2024)