

## CAPS ON U20s AND BOX CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BASELINE REQUIREMENTS FOR WORLD LACROSSE EVENTS

### 1. OVERVIEW

The purpose of this paper is to present to the World Lacrosse (WL) General Assembly (GA) the background to the vote to be taken by the membership to determine whether the Box Championships from 2028 and the U20 Championships from 2029 will have a cap on teams for both men and women and to implement baseline requirements for members to apply for participation in World Lacrosse championships.

### 2. BACKGROUND

#### Section 1: Cap on Teams (Motions 4.1.1 & 4.1.2)

2.1 In 2021 the WL General Assembly (GA) agreed to cap the number of teams at 16 at the Men's and Women's Senior Championships in field and then in 2024 the GA agreed the same cap for sixes.

2.2 Since that time, based on the growth of the game, it has become difficult to find viable hosts and to ensure teams who sign up to participate are qualified and committed to participating. As a result, it is apparent that WL needs to put in place a maximum cap on the number of teams for all championships, along with a qualifying process.

2.3 Below are the key reasons the cap on the number of teams for U20 and Box is necessary:

- A set number of teams will assist with the bidding, host planning, officials planning and cost projections for participating teams.
  - For example, this year's men's U20 started with 24 teams signed up and dropped down to 20 teams less than 6 months from the event and 19 teams by the start. Due to these changes, the schedule could not be set until a few months before the event and officials' selections were based on the original 24 teams causing an overspend by the host and teams. This also impacted the number of fields needed and ultimately delayed finalization of the venue plan.
- This moves towards alignment with other senior championships for Box (field and sixes now have a max of 16).
- The cap will allow equal pools of 4 for U20 and men's box and equal pools of 5 for women's box, keeping a simple/streamlined schedule that can be set further in advance.
- A cap of 20 teams allows for a competition venue with 2 competition fields for U20.
- A cap of 20 men's teams and 10 women's teams allows for a competition venue with 3 competition boxes for Box.

- The men's and women's box championships will be hosted together for at least one more cycle.
  - Equitable between genders, rather than equal, based on level of competition and number of countries actively participating; the men's box championship started with 6 teams, then had 8 at each of the next two editions; 2019 had 20 men's teams and 2024 had 28 men's teams and 10 women's teams.
- 2.4 Based on the timing of this decision as well as recent member feedback that there are too many events and it is becoming more difficult financially to attend everything they want to attend, there would be no mandated continental qualifying event.
- 2.5 This proposal has been reviewed and discussed by the WL Competition Committee, reviewed by the WL Governance Committee and subsequently discussed and approved at a Board meeting.
- 2.6 A vote on caps at this years' GA is imperative to secure a host for the 2028 Box event and 2029 U20 events.
- 2.7 It is recognized that further work will be required on the qualification requirements and selection process because continental qualifying events will not be held. This will be addressed by the Competition Committee before further proposals are submitted to the membership.
- 2.8 Members will have an opportunity to discuss the proposal prior to the GA at the WL GA webinar to be held on 23 October 2025.

## **Section 2: Introduction of baseline requirements for entry into WL Championships (Motion 4.1.3)**

- 2.9 Each championship, team(s) drop out after signing up due to lack of eligible athletes and/or financing, and teams are being assembled solely for a championship with no programming outside of it in the country. For this reason, it is important that members committing to competing in WL championships are certain they meet the requirements outlined in the invitation and fact sheet which are sent out prior to commitment. Implementing a set of baseline requirements for members to meet to be eligible to participate in all championships would provide the necessary proof for all parties.
- 2.10 It is recognized that further work will be required to determine the baseline requirements. This will be addressed by the Competition Committee.
- 2.11 Members will have an opportunity to discuss the proposal prior to the GA at the WL GA webinar to be held on 23 October 2025.

## **3. LEGISLATION CHANGES**

- 3.1 If approved, the cap for both men and women proposed at 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 below, will be included in the WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual.
- 3.2 If approved, the Competition Committee would continue working on the baseline requirements and selection process for proposal to the membership at a later date.

#### **4. VOTES AT THE GA**

(Proposed by Jim Scherr and seconded by Sallie Barker).

4.1 There will be three (3) motions at the GA as follows:

4.1.1 “To cap the World Lacrosse Under-20 Men’s and Women’s World Championships at 20 teams beginning in 2029.

4.1.2 “To cap the World Lacrosse Box Men’s and Women’s World Championships at 20 men’s teams and 10 women’s beginning in 2028.”

4.1.3 “To approve the principle that members must meet a set of baseline requirements to be eligible to apply to participate in World Lacrosse Championships.”