



Policy:	Disciplinary Policy
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SECTION I SCOPE OF APPLICATION

1. Scope:

- 1.1. This policy sets forth the complaint, adjudication and/or disciplinary processes applicable to any actual or alleged violation of any World Lacrosse (WL) governing document, rule, regulation or policy to the extent that either;
- a. Such governing document, rule, regulation or policy does not contain a separate complaint, adjudication and/or disciplinary process (whether in whole or in part) or,
 - b. The complaint, adjudication and/or disciplinary process set forth in such governing document, rule, regulation or policy does not expressly address, cover or otherwise apply to such violation (whether as a result of the type or nature thereof, the parties involved or otherwise). Without in any way limiting the foregoing, this policy applies to any and all actual or alleged violations of any WL governing document, rule, regulation or policy by any Covered Person (as defined below) other than;
 - i. actual or alleged violations of the WL Constitution or Bylaws that are expressly governed by the provisions of the WL Constitution, which shall be adjudicated exclusively in accordance with the provisions thereof,
 - ii. actual or alleged anti-doping violations, which shall be governed exclusively by the WL Anti-Doping Rules, and
 - iii. actual or alleged violations of any other WL policy that contains its own complaint, adjudication and disciplinary process, the provisions of which expressly address, cover or otherwise apply to in all respects the actual or alleged violation at issue.

All WL Sanctioned Events must also follow this policy, with the organizing committee managing any adjudications during the event(s) and reporting the adjudication to WL within 30 days of the event conclusion.

- 1.2. The following persons are subject to the jurisdiction of this policy:
- a. all board members, employees, volunteers and other representatives of WL;
 - b. all Members of WL;
 - c. all board members, employees, volunteers and other representatives of any Member of WL ;
 - d. all athletes, coaches, entourage members, or other representatives (including all managers, media and medical personnel) of any team representing any Member of WL; and
 - e. all game officials.

Any person or entity described in paragraph 1.2. above shall constitute a “Covered Person” for the purpose of this policy.

SECTION II DISCIPLINARY

2. General Principles:

- 2.1. Violations of the Rules of Play will be adjudicated as provided within the discipline specific rules of play. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a violation of the Rules of Play may also be subject to additional disciplinary action under the provisions of this policy.
- 2.2. A Covered Person need not have intended to violate any particular WL governing document, rule, regulation or policy in order to be subject to disciplinary action under this policy as a result of the violation thereof.
- 2.3. Members are responsible, and may be subject to disciplinary action under this policy, for the conduct of other Covered Persons representing or otherwise affiliated with such Member.
- 2.4. All complaints or other allegations of violation hereunder shall be submitted to WL in good faith in accordance with the provisions hereof no later than three (3) years after the date the alleged violation occurred or, in case of repeated or multiple alleged violations, three (3) years after the date the most recent alleged violation occurred.
- 2.5. This policy shall apply to all WL Sanctioned Events (including all Continental Qualifiers), and each Continental Federation (CF) and its respective Members shall apply this policy for use in its competitions.
- 2.6. Unless provided otherwise by WL, all sanctions imposed by WL on a Covered Person pursuant to the provisions hereof shall also apply to such Covered Person at the continental and national level., and each CF and Member shall enforce any such sanctions against such Covered Person accordingly.
- 2.7. If a party sanctioned under these Regulations commits another offence (similar in nature to the previous sanction) within five (5) years from the date of their last sanction being notified to them, WL may increase the sanction for the subsequent offence up to double the first sanction.

3. Offenses:

- 3.1. Disciplinary breaches are classified as follows:
 - a. Disciplinary offences: offences against the principles of proper conduct, loyalty to WL or the CF, integrity and fair play;
 - b. Institutional offences: offences committed by WL CFs, Members, and their officers;

In case of the WL Constitution, regulations and decisions that do not stipulate a specific sanction for the violation of a rule contained therein, such violation shall be treated as a Disciplinary offence.

4. Offenses Related to the Organization of and Participation in International Competitions:

- 4.1. Omission to obtain authorization for the organization of international competitions, per the WL Event Sanctioning Policy ([Appendix C](#))

- a. Members have the obligation to obtain authorization from WL (when teams from different CFs are involved) or from the respective CF (when teams from the same CF are involved) before they hold competitions between more than two (2) national teams.
 - b. Any Member which fails to obtain prior authorization but proceeds to organize the competition shall be given a warning if a first instance. In second and subsequent instances, Members will be fined up to USD \$1,500 per instance. The teams of the organizing Members and/or of the participating Members may also be fined or suspended for a period of up to one (1) year.
 - c. The sanction against the organizing and participating Members shall be doubled (up to USD \$3,000) if a suspended Member took part in the competition.
- 4.2. Participation of non-eligible teams or players
- a. Participation of one or more non-eligible players under WL Athlete Eligibility Policy ([Appendix A](#)) and/or those not properly rostered for the event, shall be sanctioned with disqualification of the player(s) from the competition, forfeiture of the match(es) where the player(s) participated, a fine on the Member involved of up to USD \$2,000 for each ineligible player and suspension of the Member teams, players and NGB officials involved for a period of up to two (2) years.
- 4.3. Withdrawal from international competitions
- a. Members have the obligation to fulfill their commitments to enter and participate in all relevant competitions organized by WL, when they have participated in the qualification process and have qualified for an event.
 - b. Any Member which has qualified into a WL event and fails to enter into the subsequent WL event shall be excluded from the following edition of the competition and/or be fined up to USD \$5,000.
 - c. Any Member which, after having entered a competition organized by WL or a CF, withdraws after the registration fee is paid and more than sixty (60) days from the starting date of the competition, shall be excluded from the following edition of the competition and/or be fined up to USD \$5,000. All deposits paid are non-refundable.
 - d. Should such withdrawal take place less than sixty (60) but more than fifteen (15) days prior to the start of a competition organized by WL or a CF, the Member shall be excluded from the following edition of the competition and/or be fined up to USD \$10,000. All deposits paid are non-refundable.
 - e. Should such withdrawal take place during the fifteen (15) days prior to the start of a competition organized by WL or a CF, the Member shall be excluded from the following edition of the competition and/or be fined up to USD \$20,000. All deposits paid are non-refundable.
 - f. Withdrawal during the course of a competition organized by WL (or during the qualification phase) or non-appearance at the beginning of the competition shall be sanctioned with:
 - i. in all cases, compulsory reimbursement to the Organizing Committee and WL of the expenses made on behalf of the withdrawing delegation and team, plus damages for loss of income and other financial consequences; and
 - ii. fine of up to USD \$10,000; and/or
 - iii. suspension from international competitions for up to two (2) years.

- g. In any case of withdrawal, the affected party/parties' right to compensation for damages remains unaffected.

4.4. Withdrawal from authorized competitions

- a. Members that have entered their teams for a competition recognized by WL, whether sanctioned or friendly, have the obligation to participate in such competition.
- b. In case of withdrawal and depending on when withdrawal takes place, a fine equivalent to two-thirds (2/3) of the amount established for identical cases of withdrawal from international competitions shall be imposed.
- c. In case of withdrawal from a friendly match during the fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the match, the obligation for reimbursement also includes all the expenses made by the Organizing Committee for preparations of the match.

4.5. Failure of a host to organize WL competitions

- a. A host withdrawing from the organization of or failing to organize a WL competition, without prior WL agreement and in spite of having a contractual commitment to do so, shall be sanctioned as follows:
 - i. fine of up to USD \$10,000 depending on the level of the competition; and/or
 - ii. up to one (1) year suspension from participation in international competitions; and/or
 - iii. up to four (4) years suspension as organizer of international competitions.
- b. In addition to the imposition of the corresponding sanctions, WL has the right to claim the reimbursement of any fees, expenditure, loss of income and up to one percent (1%) monthly interest on such amounts from the day of the withdrawal or failure.

4.6. Failure to respect obligations within the WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual

- a. A local organizing committee (LOC) shall respect the terms of the WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual and any other organizational requirements set by WL and its affiliates. A failure to respect the terms of the relevant WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual may be sanctioned in accordance with the severity of the offence.
- b. In addition to the imposition of the corresponding sanctions, WL has the right to claim the reimbursement of any fees, its own expenditures and those of any Members that have been damaged, loss of income as well as interest on such sums from the date that the breach of the obligation occurred.
- c. WL may not pursue disciplinary sanctions if it seeks remedies under its contract with the local organizing committee.

4.7. Obstruction to the start of a match

- a. A team declared forfeit because it did not start a match within the first 15 minutes of the scheduled time shall be fined up to USD \$2,000, with the possibility of increasing the amount due to additional damages caused to the organizer and WL.
- b. The team in question shall forfeit the match. If the same team commits another similar offence, the team shall be eliminated from the competition and shall be deemed to have lost also all its previous matches by forfeit.

- 4.8. Obstruction to the control of the players' entry list and eligibility documents:
- a. Delayed delivery of the team players' entry list and eligibility documents with required information, according to timelines established by the event director, shall be sanctioned with a fine of up to USD \$2,000.

5. Institutional Offenses:

- 5.1. Suspension and Expulsion of a National Governing Body
- a. The grounds for suspension of a Member are:
 - i. Debt of the WL annual fee, notably for delay in payment of three (3) annual fees, warning thereof having been issued three (3) months before the General Assembly.
 - ii. Debt to the WL higher than USD \$10,000 and arising from any cause other than the annual fee.
 - iii. Breach of the WL Constitution, Bylaws, decisions or these Regulations.
 - b. Unless the WL Board of Directors decides otherwise (e.g. authorizing participation in competitions under the WL flag), a suspended Member loses the rights as member of WL so long as it remains suspended and its teams and NGB officials may not organize and/or participate in relevant competitions or activities. In addition, a suspended Member is obliged to reimburse WL for all expenses incurred by the latter for the investigation of its case.
 - c. In order to recover its full affiliation, the said Member must have satisfied the financial obligations above, unless an exception is granted by WL.
 - d. The grounds for expulsion of a Member are:
 - i. loss of status as a Member (e.g. the entity no longer governs the sport of lacrosse in the relevant territory), on the basis of findings from inquiries made in conjunction with the competent national authorities and confirmed by WL;
 - ii. debt to WL higher than USD \$50,000 and arising from any cause other than the annual fee (e.g. for non-payment of fines) warning thereof having been issued three (3) months before the General Assembly;
 - iii. repeated breach of the WL Constitution, Bylaws, decisions or these Regulations.
 - iv. severe or repeated violation of the fundamental principles of the Constitution.
 - e. Quorum and voting requirements for the expulsion of a Member are the same as those stipulated for amendments to the Constitution.
 - f. A Member may propose the grant of amnesty to an expelled Member at the next General Assembly (GA), requesting inclusion of the matter on the agenda as per the Rules of Procedure of the GA.

Additional disciplinary sanctions may be imposed on the officers of the Member, who participated in its commission of an institutional offence.

- 5.2. Sanctions on a CF
- a. The grounds for a sanction on a CF and its officers as set out above are:
 - i. a violation of the WL Constitution;
 - ii. a violation of the CF's obligations under the WL Constitution, Bylaws, and/or these Regulations;
 - iii. debt to WL higher than USD \$50,000.

- b. Sanctions may be imposed on the officers of the CF who participated in the CF committing an institutional offence.

6. Offensive Behavior and Discrimination:

- 6.1. Violations of the following provisions may be sanctioned subject to these Regulations and sanctions already imposed under the Official Rules for the same conduct.
- 6.2. Violent physical misconduct
 - a. Any violent physical misconduct (including any such conduct in violation of the WL Safeguarding Policy) shall be sanctioned based on the severity of the misconduct.
- 6.3. Un-sportsperson-like conduct
 - a. Any un-sportsperson-like conduct (including any such conduct in violation of the WL Policy against Harassment and Abuse) shall be sanctioned based on the severity of the conduct. Un-sportsperson-like conduct is any conduct violating the generally accepted principles of sports-person-ship such as respect, fairness, honesty, fair play or similar as well as non-compliance with any other written or unwritten rules of play, including but not limited to:
 - i. insults.
 - ii. offensive gestures, signs or language.
 - iii. demonstrations of a non-sporting nature.
 - iv. behavior that brings the sport of Lacrosse and/or WL into disrepute
- 6.4. Discrimination
 - a. A Covered Person who offends the dignity or integrity of a country, a person or group of people through contemptuous, discriminatory or derogatory words or actions (by any means whatsoever) on account of race, skin color, ethnicity, national or social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, birth or any other status or any other reason (including any such conduct in violation of the WL Safeguarding Policy) shall be sanctioned in accordance with the severity of the discrimination.
- 6.5. Sanctions may be imposed on the Covered Person(s) involved and/or the Member or team accountable for such actions.
- 6.6. If incidents compromise the normal course of a match, the team held responsible for the public's conduct shall be additionally sanctioned with forfeiture of the match by 0-1 and no points awarded for the match.
- 6.7. Disciplinary offences as well as violations of the WL Safeguarding Policy ([Appendix E](#)) by a coach, player, team delegation member or NGB or game official against a player or any other team member, NGB official, or game official, shall be sanctioned by the Disciplinary Panel with a suspension for one or more matches or exclusion from the competition and event venues, depending on the seriousness of the violation.

7. Betting and Manipulation of Results:

- 7.1. The conduct described in [Appendix A](#), shall be sanctioned as a disciplinary offence, subject to the specific provisions set out below.
- 7.2. Any Member declared responsible for such conduct in accordance with Appendix A shall be sanctioned with forfeiture their team's match results compromised by such conduct described in

[Appendix A](#), withdrawal of any and all ranking points earned through these matches and suspension for up to two (2) years from all national and international competitions.

- 7.3. Individual persons found responsible for a violation under this Article shall be sanctioned with a fine of a minimum of USD \$5,000 and a suspension from participation in any relevant activity within the sphere of WL at national, continental and international level for a period between five (5) years and a lifetime ban.

8. Corruption of Related Violations:

- 8.1. The conduct described in [Appendix A](#), shall be sanctioned as a disciplinary offence, subject to the specific provisions set out below.
- 8.2. Individual persons found responsible for a violation under this Article shall be sanctioned with a fine of a minimum of USD \$5,000 and a suspension from participation in any relevant activity within the sphere of the WL at national, continental and international level for a period between five (5) years and a lifetime ban.
- 8.3. Game officials or other parties who carry out their jobs dishonestly in the course of any competition shall be discharged from duty or disqualified (as applicable) in the competition in question and be subject to an additional sanction for a disciplinary offence.

9. Breach of International Transfer Rules:

- 9.1. A Member that prolongs an athlete transfer or obstructs in any way to the transfer of an athlete shall be fined up to USD \$1,000.
- 9.2. Unauthorized registration or line-up of foreign players
 - a. Members that register or line up players of a different Member of origin without authorization established by the WL International Transfer Rules ([Appendix B](#)) for the transfer of players between Members, shall be fined up to USD \$2,000 for each player illegally registered or lined up.
 - b. The player in question shall be suspended for up to one (1) year. The Member in question shall be sanctioned for a disciplinary offence; sanctions may include forfeiture of the match(es) played with the illegally registered or lined up player, fines and/or other penalties consistent with this Disciplinary Policy.

10. Complaints (Non-Event Related):

- 10.1. Registering a Complaint
 - a. All complaints must be submitted in writing via the World Lacrosse complaint portal and/or via the appropriate WL member of staff.
 - b. Complaints received via the portal or other means will be acknowledged as received by the appropriate person.
- 10.2. Complaint Verification
 - a. Received complaints will be verified by the appropriate WL staff and supporting person(s), committee(s) and/or third-party.



- b. Verification is an internal review of the complaint against applicable rules and regulations to determine if further investigation is warranted.
- c. WL will inform the complainant upon reaching a decision on whether it intends to investigate the complaint further or not.

10.3. Complaint Processing

- a. All verified complaints will be managed in accordance with Articles 17 and 18 of this policy.

11. Complaints and Disciplinary Panel/Procedure (Event Related):

- 11.1. Complaints can be brought against players, coaches, team managerial / medical staff and game officials.
- 11.2. Complaints at an event may be made as follows:
 - a. Game Play – by the Official-in-Chief (OIC) or by the coach of a game participating team via the OIC and must be made in writing.
 - b. A player who has received an expulsion foul / red card and has been suspended from the game will automatically be reported to the Event Disciplinary Panel (EDP).
 - c. Off Field – may be made by a head of a competing team, member of the LOC, Facilities Managers or any WL Board member, Committee Chair or Staff member who witnessed the incident.
- 11.3. Complaints at an event must be sent to WL Director of Events (DoE) within four (4) hours of the incident. Verbal complaints must be followed up in writing (electronic means is acceptable) before action is taken (within the 4-hour deadline).
- 11.4. Management of the complaint
 - a. On receipt of the complaint, the WL DoE will decide whether the complaint requires an EDP to be convened.
 - b. If the WL DoE considers there is a valid complaint, the EDP will meet prior to the next game of the player concerned, deliberate, and advise the team management of its decision.
 - c. The EDP for game play complaints shall consist of 3 individuals as selected by the WL CEO for WL run championships and by someone in a leadership role for non-WL championship events. The EDP will never consist entirely of WL Staff. The Official In Chief will act as consultant to the Panel.
 - d. The EDP for off-field complaints will be as above in paragraph 11.4.c., with the addition of one representative of the LOC.
- 11.5. EDP Procedures
 - a. The WL DoE or their designee will record proceedings and will send all communications on behalf of the EDP. The Panel shall appoint its Chair.

- b. If either the complainant or accused is a minor (generally U18), they must be accompanied by an adult.
- c. The EDP may request additional information from any party prior to the hearing.
- d. The EDP will hold a pre-hearing meeting to confirm the process and plan questions.
- e. From this point on all parties shall be present.
- f. The written complaint will be read out and any evidence may be shown or read during the hearing.
- g. The complainant or their representative may speak for up to 5 minutes.
- h. The accused party or their representative may speak for up to 5 minutes.
- i. Witnesses may be called by either party or the EDP and may speak for up to 3 minutes each. Game Officials may speak for up to 5 minutes.
- j. EDP members may question all parties.
- k. Any questions from the complainant or accused must go through the EDP Chair.
- l. Following the above, the EDP will ask all parties to leave whilst it determines the outcome of the complaint.
- m. The decision of the EDP, with reasons, will be notified in writing to all parties involved. During the event this will be on the same day as the hearing. For a virtual meeting the decision will normally be sent within 72 hours.

12. Disciplinary Panel (Non-event related):

- 12.1. The WL Disciplinary Panel ("DP") is composed of one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice-Chairperson, three (3) members and five (5) substitute members appointed by the WL Board for a renewable term of four (4) years. All CF's shall be represented on the DP. The panelist criteria may include; legally qualified individuals, former lacrosse athletes, lacrosse coaches and game officials, or other persons with expertise in disciplinary matters, as determined by the WL Board.
- 12.2. The DP hears cases in the following composition:
 - a. For disciplinary offences, as a 3-members panel, appointed by the DP Chairperson. If a member is unavailable, resigns, or has a conflict of interest, the DP Chairperson shall appoint without delay a substitute for this case coming. A minimum of one panelist will meet the criteria of 12.1, and ideally the DP Chairperson is a legally qualified individual.
 - b. For anti-doping rule violations, the designated results management authority shall follow WADA regulations and rulings and communicate the violation to the offender.
 - c. If the DP Chairperson is unavailable, resigns or has a conflict of interest, the DP Vice-Chairperson shall be responsible for appointing the members of the panel. For anti-doping rule violations, this provision shall also apply in the event that the DP Chairperson has the same

nationality as the person charged or does not satisfy the independence requirement under the International Standard for Results Management set by WADA.

- 12.3. The DP Chairperson may appoint a “Reporter” among the members of the DP, with the duty to prepare a report of the case to the other members.

13. Disciplinary Procedure (Non-event related):

13.1. Investigation

- a. Any Covered Person listed under Article 1 who is alleged to have committed a violation of these Regulations must be informed of the alleged violations that have been committed, details of the alleged acts and/or omissions, and the range of possible sanctions. Notices shall be accomplished directly to the person concerned. If the contact details of the person concerned are not known to WL, notices may be accomplished by delivery of the notice to the Member to which this person is affiliated or is a member of. The Member is obliged to immediately forward the notice to the person concerned.
- b. Upon request by the competent WL body, the concerned person must provide any information which the competent WL body considers may be relevant to investigate the alleged violation, including records relating to the alleged violation (such as betting account numbers and information, itemized telephone bills, bank statements, internet service records, computers, hard drives and other electronic information storage devices), and/or a statement setting out the relevant facts and circumstances around the alleged violation.
- c. The Covered Person may decline an investigation and accept the charges brought against them and accept the resulting decision and sanctioning arising from the process.

13.2. Rights of the concerned person: In all procedures linked to violations of the present Regulations, the following rights must be respected:

- a. The right to be informed of the charges;
- b. The right to a fair, timely and impartial hearing either by appearing personally in front of the competent WL body and/or submitting a defense in writing. The following principles apply:
 - i. Except for urgent matters (e.g. provisional suspension), a sanction may not be imposed before the person concerned has had the opportunity to be heard and to present his/her case.
 - ii. The competent WL body is free to decide whether the right to be heard may be exercised solely in writing (ordinary mail, facsimile or email), or also orally. It may authorize the use of telephone or video conference.
 - iii. Proceedings shall be conducted in English unless otherwise decided by the competent WL body.
- c. The right to be accompanied and/or represented by a legal counsel. Parties shall be responsible for and bear the expenses of their representatives, experts, witnesses etc.

13.3. Burden and standard of proof

WL shall have the burden of establishing that a violation has been committed. The standard of proof in all matters under these Regulations shall be the balance of probabilities, a standard that implies

that on the preponderance of the evidence it is more likely than not that a breach of these Regulations has occurred.

13.4. Consolidation of Disciplinary Proceedings

If different disciplinary proceedings are opened against the same Member(s), CF(s), Clubs or individual(s), the competent disciplinary panel may consolidate the proceedings into one proceeding in the interest of procedural efficiency.

13.5. Intervention within Disciplinary Proceedings

Member(s), CF(s), Clubs or other individuals that might be directly affected by a disciplinary proceeding may be invited to participate in the proceedings as interveners, on the initiative of the competent WL body or at the request of the affected third-Party. The final decision whether to accept a request for intervention shall lie with the WL Disciplinary Panel for that case.

13.6. Hearing and decision-making process

- a. The competent WL body shall evaluate the evidence, take into consideration the specific conditions under which the events occurred, the previous conduct of the person(s)/or institution(s) concerned and generally all the circumstances in order to determine whether and to what extent a sanction is required. The following principles apply:
 - i. When determining the appropriate sanctions applicable, the competent WL body shall take into consideration all aggravating and mitigating circumstances and shall detail the effect of such circumstances on the final sanction in the written decision.
 - ii. Substantial assistance provided by a party that results in the discovery or establishment of an offence by another party may reduce any sanction applied under these Regulations.
- b. If a hearing (video/in person/hybrid) is organized under these Regulations, the competent WL body may make the organization of such hearing dependent upon one or more of the parties paying to WL reasonable administrative costs.
- c. The competent WL body is entitled to the benefit of legal counsel.
- d. At the end of the deadline granted for the exercise of the right to be heard or following the hearing at which the right to be heard was also exercised orally, the competent WL body will make its decision, which will be notified to the concerned person. This decision will indicate the deadline and appeal process, specifically mentioning the competent institution to revise the decision taken.
- e. Decisions are taken by majority. In case of a tie, the Chairperson has the casting vote.

13.7. Confidentiality

- a. The principle of confidentiality must be strictly respected by the competent WL body during all the procedure; information should only be exchanged with entities on a need-to-know basis. Confidentiality must also be strictly respected by any person concerned by the procedure until there is public disclosure of the case.
- b. Decisions may be published on the WL website and/or WL publications.

13.8. Appeal

An appeal may be filed against decisions imposing a sanction before the WL Appeals Panel within a period of fourteen (14) days from notification of the decision. Decisions imposing a reprimand, a warning, a fine of up to USD \$2,000 per person involved or a combination thereof, are final and not subject to appeal.

13.9. Provisional measures

- a. The competent WL body may impose provisional measures, including a provisional suspension, on parties where it deems there to be a justifiable risk, while ensuring respect for Articles 18.1 to 18.5 of these Regulations.
- b. Where a provisional measure is imposed, this shall be taken into consideration in the determination of any sanction which may ultimately be imposed.

14. Sanctions:

14.1. The following sanctions may be imposed for a disciplinary offense committed by individuals:

- a. Warning;
- b. Reprimand;
- c. Monetary fine;
- d. Suspension from participation in competitions;
- e. Suspension from carrying out a function within WL (including CF's, Members, clubs, etc.);
- f. Withdrawal of a title or award;
- g. Temporary or permanent withdrawal of a license or membership;
- h. Disqualification from competitions and/or exclusion from future competitions;
- i. Forfeit of match(es);
- j. Deduction of points (for the current and/or a future competition);
- k. Ban on international transfers;
- l. Ban on exercising any lacrosse-related activity;
- m. Lacrosse community service;
- n. A combination of the above sanctions.

14.2. The following sanctions may be imposed for an institutional offense committed by Members, CF's, and their officers:

- a. Warning;
- b. Reprimand;
- c. Monetary fine;
- d. Suspension from participation in competitions;
- e. Ban on the registration of new players;
- f. Discharge from position(s) within WL and/or the CF and/or the Members;
- g. Withdrawal of recognition of the Member or CF;
- h. Expulsion;
- i. A combination of the above sanctions.

14.3. Sanctions may be limited to a geographical area or to one or more specific categories of matches or competitions.

15. Execution of Sanctions:

15.1. The body that imposes the fine decides the terms and time limits for payment.

- 15.2. Members are jointly and severally liable for fines imposed on their national team players, members, NGB or game officials, supporters and any persons exercising a function within the Member and/or during the organization of a match on behalf of the Member, regardless of whether the person has left the Member after the fine was imposed. The person(s) to whom the fine is levied are ineligible to participate until the fine is resolved. The same applies to clubs in respect of their players, members, administration, and game officials, supporters and any persons exercising a function within the Member and/or during the organization of a match on behalf of the Member.
- 15.3. Fines must be paid to WL in its bank account in Colorado Springs, Colorado no later than three (3) months after receipt of the notification of the imposed sanction, unless decided otherwise by the decision-making body.
- 15.4. Delayed payment shall involve a five percent (5%) per annum surcharge and prohibition from participation in competitions until the entire fine has been paid.
- 15.5. Disqualification of players and coaches:
 - a. Disqualification must be applied to the WL and/or other competitions (as applicable) immediately following notification.
 - b. If a coach or player participates in a match while they are suspended or disqualified, their team shall forfeit the match and the sanction will be doubled and/or restart, as decided by the body which imposed it.
- 15.6. Suspension
 - a. Suspension starts from the day after receipt of the written notification of the sanction unless decided otherwise by the decision-making body.
- 15.7. Forfeit of match or reversal of results
 - a. Forfeit of match, reversal of results or adjustment of the ranking of a competition must be notified to the team(s) concerned by the Appeal Sub-Committee (or the WL Representative) of the respective Competition, if such sanctions are imposed during the course of such Competition, or by WL, if such sanctions are imposed after the end of the Competition.

16. Competence to Impose Sanctions:

- 16.1. The General Assembly has the exclusive competence for all cases of expulsion of a Member.
- 16.2. The WL Board is competent to impose sanctions for institutional offences (with the exception of Member expulsion) and for any disciplinary matter not falling under the competence of another body. However, it may impose a provisional suspension of Members in urgent and serious cases or in cases of non-payment of the membership fee for three (3) years.
- 16.3. The WL Board is competent to impose sanctions for disciplinary offences and if provided by the WL Medical and Anti-Doping Regulations.
- 16.4. The WL Disciplinary Panel (or its representatives) is competent to impose sanctions for disciplinary offences arising on the occasion of the competition for which it was appointed, as specified herein.
- 16.5. The EDP(or its representative) may refer the matter to the WL Board.

- a. The competence of the Event Disciplinary Panel (or its representative) is limited to the period of the Competition for which it was appointed. The WL President shall appoint one of the members of the WL Board to serve on the Event Disciplinary Panel during the Competition.
 - b. The Event Disciplinary Panel (or its Representative) cannot impose a sanction extending further to the end of the competition for which it was appointed. Further sanctions may be imposed by the competent WL Board. For this reason, the Event Disciplinary Panel (or its Representative) must transmit to WL, by fax or e-mail within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the Competition, a detailed report of the facts and circumstances of the offence, together with all the requested documents and evidence necessary for a complete evaluation.
 - c. Sanctions imposed by the Event Disciplinary Panel (or its Representative) are final for the duration of the Competition.
 - d. WL has exclusive competence for ratifying the match results and drawing up the ranking for Competitions in which more than two (2) teams participate. With respect to the procedure of protests/complaints, refer to the Event Hosting and Competition Manual ([Appendix D](#)).
- 16.6. The CFs are competent to impose sanctions at the continental level provided that the matter does not fall within the competence of WL or has been delegated expressly to them by the WL in a specific case. For this purpose, they must adopt the same procedural provisions as provided herein. WL has exclusive jurisdiction in:
- anti-doping disputes involving International-Level Athletes as defined by the WL Medical and Anti-Doping Regulations; and
 - cases of betting and manipulation of competitions.
- 16.7. CFs may impose sanctions only in and for their regional competitions.
- 16.8. The Members are competent to impose sanctions at the national level in accordance with their own regulations provided that the matter does not fall within the competence of another WL member body. In violations of the WL Policy against Safeguarding or competition manipulation matters, in the event that a Member either: 1) has an appropriate procedure in place but fails to properly act on a possible violation of these Regulations or 2) does not have an appropriate procedure to act on a possible violation of these Regulations, WL may assume competence of the case after providing the Member with an opportunity to act.

17. Non-Observance of Sanctions:

- 17.1. Non-observance of sanctions imposed by World Lacrosse or dually authorized bodies shall be subject to the sanctions provided under Article 14 of this policy.

18. Adopting Disciplinary Decision Taken by Organizations:

- 18.1. The WL Disciplinary Panel may, either ex officio, at the request of an affected person or organization having taken a disciplinary decision, decide whether and to what extent disciplinary decisions taken by other organizations (e.g. a CF, a Member, etc.) are to be applied worldwide.
- 18.2. The authority which issued the decision shall submit to WL all documentation relating to the case, together with a translation if requested by the WL.

18.3. The decision may be adopted and extended worldwide if it complies with general principles of law and with the WL Constitution and Bylaws.

18.4. In the absence of a decision by WL to adopt and extend a decision worldwide, such decision may apply only within the territory (or, in the case of event organizers such as the IOC, to the relevant competition(s)) controlled by the authority that issued the decision.

SECTION III APPEALS

19. Appeals (Non-Event Related):

19.1 The WL Appeals Panel (“AP”) shall be composed of one (1) Chairperson, one (1) Vice-Chairperson, and one additional member for three (3) total members and five (5) substitute members appointed by the WL Board for a renewable term of four (4) years. The panelist criteria may include; legally qualified individuals, former lacrosse athletes, lacrosse coaches and game officials, or other persons with expertise in disciplinary matters, as determined by the WL Board.

19.2 Ideally, at a minimum the Chairperson and all persons appointed to the AP will have legal training and may not hold any other position, with the exception of honorary titles, in WL or the CF.

19.3 The AP hears cases in the following composition:

- a. In all cases, as a 3-members panel composed of the AP Chairperson and two (2) members of the AP appointed by the AP Chairperson. If a member is unavailable, resigns or has a conflict of interest, the AP Chairperson shall appoint without delay a substitute for this case from among the other members of the AP.
- b. The AP Chairperson may appoint a Reporter among the members of the AP, with the duty to prepare a report of the case to the other members.

19.4 An appeal hearing will be granted when:

- a. A written appeal is lodged with the WL Board within seven (7) days of receiving the DP outcome from the disciplinary hearing.
- b. An appeal fee of USD\$250 is submitted which is returnable if the appeal is successful
- c. The rationale for the appeal is one of the following:
 - There was a failure on the part of WL to comply with the WL Constitution, Bylaws, Codes of Conduct and Procedures or Policies, or previous resolutions or determinations of the WL Board, during the course of the disciplinary action process; or
 - Panelist misconduct.
- d. The WL Board reviews the written appeal and determines the grounds for appeal to be valid.

19.5. The meeting will follow the steps below:

- a. The Reporter will record proceedings and will send all communications on behalf of the AP.
- b. If either the complainant or accused is a minor (generally U18) they must be accompanied by an adult.
- c. The AP will hold a pre-meeting to confirm the process and plan questions.
- d. From this point on all parties shall be present.
- e. The written appeal will be read out.
- f. New evidence may not be shown or read during the hearing by either the AP or complainant.
- g. The appellant or their representative may speak for up to 5 minutes.

- h. Witnesses may be called by the appellant or the Panel and may speak for up to 5 minutes.
- i. Panel members may ask questions.
- j. Following the above, the AP will ask all parties to leave whilst it determines the outcome of the appeal.
- k. The results of the AP, with reasons, will be notified in writing to the appellant and other relevant parties. For a virtual meeting the notification will be sent within 72 hours.

20. Appeals (Event Related):

20.1. Any appeal against the EDP's decision will be sent to the WL DoE and follow the appeal procedure below.

- a. A written appeal must be lodged with the WL DoE within four (4) hours of receiving the EDP outcome from the disciplinary hearing. An appeal fee of USD\$250 must be submitted which is returnable if the appeal is successful.
- b. The rationale for the appeal must be one of the following:
 - There was a failure on the part of WL to comply with the WL Constitution, Bylaws, Codes of Conduct and Procedures or Policies, or previous resolutions or determinations of the WL Board, during the course of the disciplinary action process; or
 - Panelist misconduct.
- c. On receipt of the appeal, the WL DoE will determine whether the appeal is valid. In which case WL will appoint members of the appeal panel and convene a meeting.

20.2. If a player is suspended for the next game and an appeal is lodged, the player is eligible to play in that game if this appeal cannot be heard before the next game.

20.3. A ban occurring at the end of an event and not served during that event will be recorded by the WL DoE. It will carry over to the next WL event or sanctioned event that the player participates in, and relevant Members will be notified.

20.4. Composition and Procedures of the Appeal Panel

- a. An Appeal Panel of three (3) voting people, shall be convened. No member of the AP shall be allowed to hold any office on the WL Board nor Chair any of its Committees. However, a WL Board member may be asked to chair the panel without vote and a member of staff may be present to record the meeting.
- b. The three (3) AP members must be from different WL member countries who are present at the event. They must not have any conflict with the original complainant nor with the appellant, and during an event the panel members should also not be participants in any capacity with another team in the same division/pool as the appellant to try to achieve objectivity. Ideally the individuals would have prior experience on the governing body of their member country or a legal or legislative background or similar professional background, but in event it is recognized that with the short notice these ideal backgrounds may not be possible to achieve.
- c. The meeting will follow the steps below:
 - l. The WL DOE will record proceedings and will send all communications on behalf of the AP
 - m. If either the complainant or accused is a minor (generally U18) they must be accompanied by an adult.
 - n. The AP will hold a pre-meeting to confirm the process and plan questions.
 - o. From this point on all parties shall be present.

- p. The written appeal will be read out. Other relevant evidence, e.g. videos, may be shown or read during the hearing.
 - q. The appellant or their representative may speak for up to 5 minutes.
 - r. Witnesses may be called by the appellant or the Panel and may speak for up to 3 minutes. Game Officials may speak for up to 5 minutes.
 - s. Panel members may ask questions.
 - t. Following the above, the AP will ask all parties to leave whilst it determines the outcome of the appeal.
 - u. The results of the AP, with reasons, will be notified in writing to the appellant and other relevant parties. During the event this will be on the same day as the hearing. For a virtual meeting the notification will be sent within 72 hours.
- d. Decisions of the AP will be binding and final
- 20.5. Possible Outcomes:
- a. The appeal is not upheld and the original penalty stands.
 - b. The appeal is upheld and the penalties are either adjusted or removed.
 - c. Where the appeal is upheld, the appeal fee of \$250 will be returned.

21. Competence of the Appeals Panel:

- 21.1. Unless otherwise provided in the WL Constitution and Bylaws, the AP shall decide appeals filed by an affected party against decisions of WL bodies (e.g. the President, the Board of Administration, the Disciplinary Panel etc.) or CFs.
- 21.2. Decisions arising from complaints against officials' decisions are final and not subject to appeal before the AP or the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

22. Procedure Before the Appeals Panel (Non-event related):

- 22.1. Appeals must be made in writing and must be received by the WL Board within fourteen (14) days from notification of the decision, failing which the appeal will be considered inadmissible.
- 22.2. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the decision appealed against and a bank certificate confirming payment of the administrative fee of USD \$250. Failure to pay the administrative fee within the deadline fixed by the WL Board will result in considering the appeal withdrawn. The AP may decide that the administrative fee be reimbursed in the event that the appeal is successful.
- 22.3. The appeal does not have a suspensory effect, unless otherwise decided by the AP. In urgent cases, the AP Chairperson may decide to stay the execution of the decision appealed against pending a decision by the AP on the suspensory effect of the appeal. Prior to taking its decision, the AP may invite the respondent to submit its position.
- 22.4. If different appeals are filed against the same decision, the AP may automatically consolidate them into one proceeding in the interest of procedural efficiency.
- 22.5. Members, CFs, Clubs or other individuals that might be directly affected by an appeal proceeding may be invited to participate in the proceedings as interveners, on the initiative of the competent WL

body or at the request of the affected third-Party. The final decision whether to accept a request for intervention shall lie with the AP for that case.

22.6. After receipt of the appeal and of the administrative fee, the AP Chairperson shall fix the deadlines for the filing of the reasons of the appeal and of the answer. In case of dispute, he shall also determine the language of the proceedings.

22.7. After review of the parties' submissions, the AP shall invite the parties to a hearing. It may authorize the use of telephone or video conference. If the parties do not request an oral hearing, the AP may decide the case on the basis of written submissions. Proceedings shall be conducted in English unless otherwise decided by the AP.

22.8. If a hearing is organized, the AP may make the organization of such hearing dependent upon one or more of the parties paying to WL reasonable administrative costs. In any event, parties shall be responsible for and bear the expenses of their representatives, experts, witnesses etc.

22.9. Decisions are taken by majority. In case of a tie, the AP Chairperson has the casting vote.

22.10. Decisions may be published on the WL website and/or WL publications.

23. Further Appeal:

A further appeal against the decision by the AP can only be lodged with the Court of Arbitration (“CAS”) for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, in accordance with the Code of Sports-related Arbitration, within twenty-one (21) days following receipt of the relevant decision. The parties expressly waive any right to appeal to any other court or tribunal, including any federal or state court in the United States. The decision rendered by CAS shall be final and binding on all parties. The language of the arbitration shall be English, and the panel shall consist of three (3) members. The arbitration shall be governed by the rules and regulations of World Lacrosse in conjunction with the laws of the United States of America and the State of New York. The award rendered by CAS shall be final and binding on all parties.

SECTION IV FINAL PROVISIONS

24. Entry Into Force:

These Disciplinary Regulations were approved and entered into force by the WL Board of Directors on July 12, 2025.

25. Appendices:

Appendix A [WL Competition Integrity Policy](#)

Appendix B [WL Athlete Eligibility Criteria Policy](#)

Appendix C [WL Event Sanctioning Policy](#)

Appendix D [WL Event Hosting and Competition Manual](#)

Appendix E [WL Safeguarding Policy](#)