



Competing Teams

FIL Championship Handbook

Draft for update

FEDERATION of INTERNATIONAL LACROSSE

CHAMPIONSHIP HANDBOOK – Competing Teams

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CHAMPIONSHIP HANDBOOK – Competing Teams

1. GENERAL

Frequency

At present there are three Men's Championships held:

- World Lacrosse Championships (Senior Field)
- Under 19 World Lacrosse Championships (Field)
- World Indoor Lacrosse Championships

The programme for the conduct of these events will be determined by the FIL with the intent that the Championships be held every four (4) years.

Host / Location

The host and location for a specific Championship will be subject to bid process to a timescale set by the FIL Board (see separate FIL World Events - Bid Dates). The intent being, where possible, to have the arrangements agreed five (5) years in advance of the event. This provides the opportunity for the next host to learn from and profile the event at the previous one.

Team Eligibility for Entry

All members are eligible to compete in all World Championship events and it is expected that all Full Members, at present, would compete in Senior Field World Championships.

This changes following GA2017.

Associate Members may compete but are not eligible to progress to the Medal rounds, but will play a full schedule to determine their relative position.

Newer members may be permitted to play an "over age" team in the Under 19 competition. This generally being "up to age 21" to aid development. See separate FIL Men's Player Eligibility Criteria).

Likely entries for a Championship will be agreed by the FIL and will normally be two (2) years in advance of a Championship. Initial Participation Fees (50%) are due a year before the event with final payment by 31st December of the year preceding the event. Later entry than this may be agreed by the FIL but will be subject to discussion with the hosting member to consider the practical and financial implications.

2. PLAYING RULES

The Rules of the Game of Lacrosse as adopted by the Federation shall be the playing rules in any World Championship.

Note : No change may be made to the Rules to apply to a particular Championship within the two year period prior to the Championship without unanimous agreement of all members competing in

that specific type of event..

Type of Ball

Note : It is the responsibility of the host organisation to advise all Championship / Event participants of the type of ball to be used at least six months in advance.

Team Bench Area

The maximum number of people, excluding the 23 players, permitted in the Team Bench Area is 12 (plus an interpreter if English is not the first language).

Actions are:

Warning to be given by Officials prior to the game starting

First Offence – Technical Foul

Second and subsequent Offences – Personal Foul (to be served by the In Home)

3. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

Format

The schedule is based on the format of having a “seeded” top division, known as the Blue Division, where each team will play each other in the pool play. The Blue Division comprises the top six teams from the previous event. The order of play is based on a “draw” undertaken by the FIL Board to determine the sequence of games.

The structure below this and the “Play In” games allow for Full Member teams (who do not have age dispensation in the U19 events) to reach the medal games. The Pay In structure also allows teams to advance their position.

Teams below Blue Division are placed in divisions on a snaked seeding basis reflecting performance at the previous event including teams who have not previously competed. adjustment may be made for geographic diversity..

It is the intent that the schedule of games will be advised to all competing countries at least one hundred and eighty (180) days before the commencement date of the Championship..

Time Period

The games shall be programmed as far as is possible over a maximum nine (9) day period. A minimum of one (1) day's rest will be scheduled before the medal games for the teams competing in the those games.

Qualifying Round Positions / Play In / Finals

The winner of each game will be awarded one (1) point and the loser nil. There are no ties.

Below Blue Division the structure is such that after the initial pool play teams are grouped based on performance for further pool play against comparable strength teams. The top two teams from the top group advance to the Pay In games against Blue Division teams who finish in 3rd and 4th places in their pool.

Blue 3 v 2nd placed team
Blue 4 v 1st placed team

Winners play Blue 1 and Blue 2 in the semi-finals and losers in the 5–8 bracket with Blue 5 and 6

The two teams which lose the semi- final games shall play a consolation final to determine the third position award winner.

A similar structure carries through such that all teams play throughout the event to positional finals to determine their position.

In the event of two or more teams finishing with equal points then positions will be determined by the procedure shown at Appendix A.

Score Sheets/Statistics

Copies of official scoresheets for each game shall be provided to all teams and shall be retained in a secure place.

Earliest Start Time for Games

If the playing venue is within reasonable walking distance of the accommodation the earliest start time will be 9.00am

If transport is required and this takes up to 30 minutes then 9.30am

If 31- 60 minutes then 10.00am

If more than 60 minutes then 10.30am

Latest Start Time for Games

This will not be later than 8.30pm but local Host considerations might dictate an earlier time.

Game Separation

There will be a minimum gap of fourteen (14) hours between a team finishing one game and starting its next game.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY TO COMPETE IN A WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

For Player Eligibility please see the separate document “Men’s Player Eligibility Criteria”

6. PLAYER REGISTRATION

Advance Notice

It is beneficial to the host member for general publicity purposes to have knowledge of the probable playing squad about six (6) months in advance of a Championship.

Eligibility Checks

Player details (name, date of birth, passport held, passport number, country of residence) will be requested 4 months prior to event commencement.

Further details may be requested to confirm eligibility.

Final Squad

The final squad of twenty three (23) players must be notified to the FIL Competition Committee by 9.00am on the day preceding the first game of the Championships.

No replacement is permitted after this time for a specific Championship.

Player Registration Form

All players must complete and forward the Player Registration Form prior to event commencement.

Code of Conduct

All players and staff must complete and forward the Code of Conduct document prior to event commencement.

7. UNIFORMS

These shall be advised to the FIL at least three (3) months in advance of the Championships and include players names, confirmed shirt numbering.

Team general biographical details should be sent to the host three months in advance for inclusion in the souvenir programme. Depending on print lead times etc. the host organisation may call for this information at an earlier date.

Shirt numbers may not be changed beyond this date except for player replacement.

Note: Numbers on shirts should be clearly contrasting with the main shirt colour to ensure that spectators can easily identify players during the course of a game.

See Appendix B for further detail relating to the FIL patch which must be on the uniform and other details.

8. MATCH ARRANGEMENTS

Warm Up Period

There will be a thirty (30) minute warm up time permitted on the field of play prior to game

commencement. In practice with the pre-game sequence of line ups, introductions and anthems the 30 minute period commences 45 minutes prior to the game commencing.

In general the field will be available to a team 60 minutes prior to game commencement

Up to 10 minutes warm down time is permitted however the bench are should be cleared quickly to allow for the next game.

The Competition Committee reserves the right to adjust this to meet unforeseen circumstances (such as inclement weather).

Gift Exchange

Gift exchange to take place on edge of the field at the end of each first group of pool games.nd game.

9. TEAM LIAISON

The host member shall appoint a Liaison Officer for each team competing in a Championship to act as a focal point for that team and through whom communication may be channelled.

Teams should be advised of their Liaison Officer as and when these are appointed and not less than three (3) months before a Championship commences.

Team Liaison Officers should assist with accommodation/transport matters and other local issues as defined by the particular organising committee.

10. PRACTICE FACILITIES

Practice fields, marked out and with goals, shall be provided for each team to use prior to and during a competing in the Championship. This does not imply a separate field for each team but an equitable sharing of available facilities. Training facility requests should be dealt made to the e Host Committee who confirm arrangements.

11. VIDEO / FILMING FACILITIES

These need to be provided at each playing venue.

Participating teams should be provided with video coverage of all games at their own expense if requested. Participating teams should be advised of the availability of video facilities and arrangements made for tapes and viewing.

Participating teams need to advise the Host at least six (6) months in advance as to whether they will require videos to be produced.

12. MEDICAL PERSONNEL

Medical

A qualified medical practitioner and physiotherapist must be present at all matches to provide emergency treatment as required.

Facilities

Appropriate first aid facilities/equipment should also be available.

13. OFFICIAL PARTY

The Official Party shall comprise a maximum of thirty five (35) people, 23 players and up to 12 staff for each competing team.

Supporters

Arrangements should be made for the co-ordination of accommodation needs for supporters and other visitors at their own cost.

14. ACCOMMODATION

Housing

It is the responsibility of the Host member to arrange suitable accommodation for the Official Party of all competing teams. This is a team cost

Meals

Meals should be arranged at or nearby to the accommodation venue or playing venue, if more convenient, or at nearby locations, for the official party of each competing team. This is a team cost.

15. TRANSPORT

All references below refer to the official party (35 people).

International Travel

International travel is the responsibility of the competing team.

Transfers to/from Entry/Departure Point

Each participating team should be welcomed at the airport and transported to their accommodation at their cost. Each participating team should be transported back to the local airport at the end of the Championship at their cost.

Local Transport

Appropriate transport or vehicles should be provided for each competing team for the championship period to be used for transporting the official party between accommodation, playing venues, practice sites, meal and formal occasion locations. This is a host cost.

16. OPENING / CLOSING CEREMONIES

In association with a World Championship the following functions are required to be held:

Opening Ceremony (OC).

All teams are expected to be at the Opening Ceremony, for those playing on that day specific arrangements will be made.

Details of the OC will be agreed between the Host and FIL Competition.

Players Oath and Officials Oath for the Opening Ceremony is included at Appendix B

Closing Ceremony.

To include awards, presentations and formal handover of the FIL flag from the Host representative to the FIL President then to the next World Event Host representative.

Details of the OC will be agreed between the Host and FIL Competition.

Awards Presentation.

This will usually be part of the Closing Ceremony.

See separate document regarding the Awards.

17. SOUVENIR BROCHURE

A souvenir type programme/booklet should be produced providing the programme of games and details of competing teams.

18. TICKETS

Tickets at No Cost

Tickets for entry to Championship games shall be made available at no cost to:

Each official party (35) of competing teams.

Officials

FIL Board and Competition Committee

Delegate and Observer of those members attending the FIL General Assembly

19. ANTI - DOPING

All competing teams shall be subject to the FIL Ant-Doping Bylaws

20. DISCIPLINARY POWERS

A Disciplinary Committee will consider any matters of concern arising during the event.
See separate Disciplinary Procedures document

Suspension

The Committee is empowered to impose a penalty on a team or members of a team which includes suspension from participation in the Championships.

Financial Penalties

The Committee may impose financial penalties for such matters as:

late attendance at formal functions (where attendance has previously been agreed)

players appearing in numbered shirts contrary to their registered/declared number.

playing uniform deviating from that indicated in the playing rules and as declared as the correct uniform for the match.

NOTE : If more than 23 players play in a game then there is a fixed penalty of the game being forfeit and a fine will be imposed of \$1000 US per player over the named 23.

21. BETTING & GAMBLING

It is not permitted for any person involved in the competition to bet on any game in that competition or event.

Persons involved in this context means any member of the Official Party of the team including:

- a) All 23 listed playing members of the team
- b) All members of the Coaching, Managerial, Support and Medical staff associated with the team

and also any of the following persons:

- c) All game officials for any and all event games, whether associated with a particular team

- or not including Referees, CBO, Bench Manager, Assessors and all Bench Officials.
- d) FIL Competition Committee member, other FIL personnel including the Referee in Chief and Deputy Referee in Chiefs.
 - e) Other persons deemed relevant by the President and Competition Committee Chair

Any person directly associated with a particular team (as above) who does not comply with this restriction (and who has been confirmed as undertaking inappropriate betting) will be immediately asked to leave the Official team party and take no further part whatsoever in the tournament or event. Failure of the relevant Team Management to comply with this penalty may result in possible default of all team games until compliance is accepted and achieved.

All persons not directly associated with a team (c,d,e above) will be asked to vacate their positions with immediate effect if found to have violated the betting restriction as set out above.

In addition to the exclusion from the event, for all persons who have been found to have violated the betting restriction (a to e above) an additional suspension will be imposed usually for a minimum of one complete event cycle. This is normally approximately four years, up to and including the next like event and also including all other FIL events of any nature within that time frame. The FIL Board reserve the right to impose longer penalties as appropriate including, if considered necessary, a lifetime ban for the person in question.

Further the Competition Committee will consider whether other additional measures, as appropriate, to restore a fair balance to the event taking into consideration all known circumstances to ensure that no team is unfairly disadvantaged by the actions (specifically betting and any related activity) of others.

Appendix A**Round Robin Tie Decider****Qualifying Games (Round Robin) change relating to teams on equal points**

Tied Teams in the Round Robin Competition

In the event two or more teams finishing with equal points then positions will be determined by :

- a) the win record taking into account those games in which the teams on equal points have competed against each other

if not conclusive then

- b) by the Goal Difference taking into account those games in which the teams on equal points have competed against each other.

if not conclusive then

- c) the decider will be the “fewest goals conceded” taking into account the games between the tied teams.

if not conclusive then

- d) the decider, between the tied teams, will be the Goal Difference taking into account all the games in the Round Robin Qualifying round

if not conclusive then

- e) the decider, between the tied teams will be the “fewest goals conceded” taking into account all the games in the Round Robin Qualifying round.

In the event of this being inconclusive the Games Committee will make a decision

For the Indoor Championship the successive steps are :

Least match penalties

Least misconducts

Least major penalties then least minors then least technical.

Appendix B**World Championships – Uniforms (Shirt / Jersey Considerations)**

Please find below guidance for uniforms.

a) Playing Rules - Rule 17 Personal Equipment

“17.2 Each player is required to wear a jersey with a contrasting block or Gothic number **centred on the front and the back**. The number on the **front** of the jersey shall be **at least 8 inches (20.32 centimetres)** high, and the number on the back shall be **at least 10 inches (25.4 centimetres)** high.

The numbers on the front and back of a player’s jersey shall be the same, and no duplicate numbers shall be permitted on the same team”.

b) Bylaws – PLAYER REGISTRATION**Team Uniform Colours and Numbers**

These shall be advised in advance of the Championship (to be provided by 30th April) and include player’s names and confirmed shirt number. The Host Organizing Committee will also request numbering and general biographical details for inclusion in the souvenir programme.

Shirt numbers may not be changed beyond this date except for player replacement.

Note: **Numbers** on shirts should be **clearly contrasting with the main shirt colour** to ensure that spectators can easily identify players during the course of a game.

Participating teams must have **two (2) sets of shirts - one light and one dark** - and each shirt must display the FIL patch for the Championship (see copy below).

Each set of uniforms must include at least **one spare uniform** (shirt and shorts) for use as a replacement for any blood soiled uniform. The spare uniform should carry the number 99.

c) Constraints on advertising

The following constraints apply in respect of advertising on uniforms and clearly the shirt number must not be obscured:

No tobacco / cigarette advertising

Nothing overtly sexual / religious / political etc.

Nothing that would offend the spectators or indeed other teams, event sponsors etc. (accepting on the latter point there may be some degree of competition e.g. Visa with one team and MasterCard with another etc.)

Additionally in Under 19 events no alcohol related advertising.

In terms of use of space usage there are no other limitations but I would ask that good judgement is exercised in getting the appropriate balance between potential sponsorship income and the honour that the players have in representing their country and wishing to be proud of the uniform that they are destined to wear.

d) FIL Event Detail

The FIL Event patch may either be printed on the uniform or embroidered. This may be positioned on either upper arm or either side of the upper chest. The patch must be a minimum of 3" (7.6cms) in diameter.

The penalties for not having the logo on all playing shirts are as follows:

If the patch is not present in one of the proscribed positions then the defaulting team will incur a three (3) minute penalty at the start of every game where the patch is not on the uniform.

Additionally if not worn by the third game (of the defaulting team) in a World Championship then a one-off (for that Championship) fine of \$500 (US) will be imposed.

e) Notification for World Championships

Player uniform details (light and dark) to be provided by 30th April yyyy. A picture or photograph is the preferred way of dealing with this.

f) Names on shirts

Players names, or abbreviated names where appropriate, may be shown on shirts but this must not interfere with or obscure the number on the shirt.

World Championships**PLAYERS OATH**

**ON BEHALF OF ALL THE LACROSSE PLAYERS IN THE 2015
FIL WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP AND OTHERS WHO PLAY
LACROSSE AROUND THE WORLD, I PROMISE TO PLAY FAIRLY
AND
HONORABLY WITHIN THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE CANONS
OF THE LAWS OF LACROSSE; TO ACCEPT ALL REFEREES'
DECISIONS PROMPTLY WITH GOOD GRACE; TO BE
GENEROUS IN VICTORY AND GRACIOUS IN DEFEAT; TO
STRIVE TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF FRIENDSHIP AND
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NATIONS AND TO FURTHER THE
SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP WITHIN THE LACROSSE COMMUNITY.**

OFFICIALS OATH

In the name of all the Referees, Bench Officials, Time-keepers and Assessors who are participating in the World Championship, and in the supporting tournaments and matches, I promise that we shall carry out our duties with complete impartiality, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, respecting and abiding by the Rules of International Lacrosse.

