



Ireland Lacrosse

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019

HELD AT: Room A004 Health Sciences, University College Dublin (UCD), Belfield, Dublin 4

ON: Friday, 5 April 2019, 7-9pm

Minutes

Ireland Lacrosse CEO Michael Kennedy (MK) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

1. Minutes of the AGM of 13 April 2018 and Matters Arising (*circulated*)

It was noted that the minutes of the previous AGM were posted on the Ireland Lacrosse website ([About Us section](#)). The minutes of the previous AGM were approved.

2. Ireland Lacrosse – Governance & Management proposal

It was noted that the application for formal recognition as a National Governing Body (NGB) was made to Sport Ireland in May 2018. A decision was made by Sport Ireland and a letter dated 6 September 2018 was received from them indicating that the Sport Ireland Board decided not to grant Sport Ireland recognition to Ireland Lacrosse. The basis on which this decision was made was based on evaluation against the following criteria:

- a) *The NGB has a wide geographical spread in terms of registered clubs*
Sport Ireland noted: *At present there are only 6 registered clubs with the organization, 4 of which are university based clubs and 3 of which are Dublin. This does not reflect a wide geographical spread in terms of registered clubs.*
- b) *The NGB is committed to providing its members with technically and ethically sound and safe sport coaching programmes and content based on the Lifelong Involvement in Sport and Physical Activity (LISPA) framework.*
Sport Ireland noted: *While Ireland Lacrosse outlines aspirations of providing its members with technically and ethically sound and safe sport coaching programmes and content based on the Lifelong Involvement in Sport and Physical Activity (LISPA) framework, its current membership model does not allow for the fruition of these aspirations at this time.*

It was noted that the process for preparation of the application for Sport Ireland was successful in its own right insofar as it helped the organisation to develop and clarify the wide variety of rules, policies, procedures and regulations that an NGB requires, with reference in particular to, and benchmarked against, national and international guidelines and practices. This includes the Governance Code (<http://www.governancecode.ie/>) which Ireland Lacrosse needs to implement. The relevant documentation is included in the Ireland Lacrosse Governance Manual and Ireland Lacrosse Book of Rules, which are published on the [About Us section of the Ireland Lacrosse website](#).

It was noted in particular, and in-line with the Governance Code, that most entities have a division between the Chair of the Board, and the Chief Executive Officer, and it is unusual (and not good practice) for this role to be one and the same, as is effectively currently the case with Ireland Lacrosse. MK proposed, and it was agreed, that a thorough governance review should be undertaken, to re-formulate a new Board of Directors, and create a distinction between this Board and a Management/Operations Group. Furthermore, we would seek to utilize the Boardmatch service to advertise two new Board roles: 1) Chairperson; and 2) Director for Business Development. It was agreed that these two new Board positions must be filled by individuals based in Ireland, and ideally by individuals with no current direct involvement with Ireland Lacrosse, with a view to gaining independent input into the governance re-structuring. Whilst these positions are being advertised and the governance review is being undertaken, all current incumbents in their roles as part of the current Ireland Lacrosse Board will continue – this was agreed/approved – and an Operations Group would also be formed to improve and enhance communication and operations with key leaders within Ireland Lacrosse.

Decision/Action: MK to work with Boardmatch to advertise the two new positions; all current incumbents in Ireland Lacrosse Board positions to continue in those roles; a new Operations Group is to be formed.

3. Budget, Finance & Sponsorship Committee (BF&SC) – Financial Report 2018-2019

A Running Expenditure & Income Report developed by the BF&SC covering activities over the course of 2018-2019 was made available to members in advance of the AGM. This included two previous BF&SC Reports – one on general organizational finances and one on national team finances – which are published on the [About Us section of the Ireland Lacrosse website](#). There was also a detailed account of all items of Expenditure covering the period September 2018 – April 2019. These transactions were further categorized under the following headings: Administration; Insurance Policies; Development; ÉIRE; WWC2017; WC2018; EC2019; ECU202019; WU192019; WILC2019; WU192020. It was agreed that this report should be provided to members on a more regular basis, for example, twice per annum.

Decision/Action: The BF&SC to develop a reporting system for Ireland Lacrosse members with twice-yearly reports.

4. New Membership System – update

It was noted that the new Membership System – which is through a company called GoMembership – was now fully operational and that this will now be used going forward. The new system has many new benefits, including the ability to schedule events, and charge fees for such events, and to process national team player payments for selection events and also for tournaments for those players selected to a given national team. This will make the tracking of player payments for national teams exponentially easier. This new system will be piloted for the 2019 selection events for the two men’s national teams (Senior and U19) due to compete in 2020.

Decision/Action: The event registration and payment feature, as well as the national team player payment feature, will be piloted in the new Membership System, and rolled out further pending the success of this.

5. Youth Development, Coaching & Summer Session

In 2018 a set of Saturday morning ‘Summer Sessions’ were piloted, which took place at Railway Union in Sandymount, Dublin. These are intended to give new, school-age kids the chance to try lacrosse. They took place for one hour, followed by an open training session for adult players. There was not significant attendance at these; and it was agreed that more marketing and advertising was required for the sessions in 2019, planned for every Saturday in June and July. Regarding coach training, it was agreed that there would be a Level One Coaching Course run in UCD in the autumn of 2019. It was also agreed that there is a need for a dedicated meeting/workshop on domestic lacrosse in Ireland, covering youth, schools, coaching, reffing/umpiring and the Irish Lacrosse League (ILL) – this will also take place in the autumn 2019.

Decision/Action: Summer Sessions 2019 to be marketed/advertised more widely, including through existing School contacts; Level One Coaching Course to be run in UCD in autumn 2019, and a dedicated workshop on domestic lacrosse also to be run in autumn 2019.

6. Proposed Amendments to the [Ireland Lacrosse Book of Rules](#)

In light of the planned governance review (as outlined under agenda item #2 above), this was deferred to the 2020 AGM.

7. Ireland Lacrosse schedule 2019-2020 planning

This item was deferred and referred to the workshop on domestic lacrosse planned for autumn 2019 as noted under agenda item #5 above.

8. Irish National Teams – 2019 & 2020 Selection events

The following forthcoming tournaments were noted. Initial selection events will take place in summer 2019 for the two men’s teams competing in 2020. These will be joint sessions to include players for both teams together. There will be selection events in the USA and in Ireland, and a final National Team Training Camp (NTTC) will take place at the University of Limerick in August 2019 to make final selections for the two 2020 men’s teams. The selection process and events for the 2021 teams is still to be determined.

- 2020 Men’s World U-19 Championships – 9-18 July 2020, University of Limerick, Ireland
- 2020 Men’s European Championships – 23 July – 1 August 2020, Wrocław, Poland
- 2021 Women’s World Championship – 7-17 July 2021, Towson University, Maryland, USA
- 2021 Men’s European Indoor Championships – dates still to be confirmed, Hannover, Germany

9. 2020 Event (www.2020worldlax.com) – Volunteer Opportunities

MK noted that there will be extensive opportunity for volunteers to get involved in the event in Limerick, and these will be publicised in the near future.