



WINNIPEG BOX LACROSSE COMMISSION DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY

A. PURPOSE

1. The Winnipeg Box Lacrosse Commission (WBLC) recognizes there may be occurrences where parties that participate within the Commission can reach an impasse.
2. The WBLC supports Individuals and organizations in seeking to resolve their own conflicts and recognizes that, in many cases, disputes can be resolved directly and quickly in an informal way. In situations where direct action by parties may be inappropriate or unsuccessful, the WBLC supports the principles of Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) to resolve disputes, which can be achieved through negotiation, facilitation, and mediation. ADR also avoids the uncertainty, costs, and other negative effects associated with lengthy appeals or complaints, or with litigation.
3. The WBLC encourages all parties to communicate openly, collaborate, and use problem-solving and negotiation techniques to resolve their differences. The WBLC believes that negotiated settlements are most often preferable to arbitrated outcomes. Negotiated resolutions to disputes with and among parties are strongly encouraged.

B. DEFINITIONS

WBLC – refers to the Winnipeg Box Lacrosse Commission, the governing body for box lacrosse in the Greater Winnipeg area

Parties – encompasses all categories of membership defined by the WBLC's Bylaws, as well as individuals employed by, or engaged in activities with the WBLC, including, but not limited to, athletes, coaches, conveners, clubs, referees, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, Directors and Officers of the WBLC, spectators at events, and parents/guardians of athletes.

C. SCOPE

1. This policy applies to disputes with and among Individuals, including those between Individuals and member Clubs of the WBLC.
2. This policy **applies to** disputes relating to:
 - i. Differences of opinion in the interpretation of the WBLC By-Laws, Policies, Rules and other governing documents
 - ii. Other such disputes that do not qualify under other policies and do not require disciplinary action

3. This policy **does not apply to** disputes relating to:
 - i. Matters of Board membership
 - ii. Infractions for doping offences, which are dealt with pursuant to the Canadian Policy on Doping in Sport and the Canadian Doping Control Regulations; The rules of lacrosse, which may not be appealed
 - iii. Discipline matters arising during events organized by entities other than WBLC, which are dealt with pursuant to the policies of these other entities

D. APPLICATION

1. This policy applies to all Individuals and Clubs participating in the WBLC. Opportunities for Alternate Dispute Resolution may be pursued at any point in a dispute when all parties to the dispute agree that such a course of action would be mutually beneficial.
2. Should a dispute arise that is time sensitive to the participation of an athlete or the operation of the league, the WBLC has the authority to render a decision on the matter by simple vote at any meeting of the Commission.

E. FILING A DISPUTE

1. Any Individual or Club may file a dispute with the WBLC.
2. The dispute must be in writing and must be filed within seven (7) days of the alleged incident or decision. Anonymous disputes may be accepted at the sole discretion of the WBLC.
3. A dispute filed outside of the seven (7) day period must provide a written statement giving reasons for an exemption to this limitation. The decision to accept or not accept, the complaint outside of the seven (7) day period will be at the sole discretion of the WBLC.
4. This decision may not be appealed.

F. FACILITATION AND MEDIATION

1. The dispute will first be referred to the Organization's President (or designate) for review, with the objective of resolving the dispute via Alternate Dispute Resolution and/or mediation.
2. If all parties to a dispute agree to Alternate Dispute Resolution, a mediator or facilitator, acceptable to all parties, shall be appointed to mediate or facilitate the dispute.
3. The mediator or facilitator shall decide the format under which the dispute shall be mediated or facilitated, and shall specify a deadline before which the parties must reach a negotiated decision.
4. Should a negotiated decision be reached, the decision shall be reported to, and approved by, the WBLC. Any actions that are to take place as a result of the decision shall be enacted on the timelines specified by the negotiated decision, pending the WBLC's approval.

5. Should a negotiated decision not be reached by the deadline specified by the mediator or facilitator at the start of the process, or if the parties to the dispute do not agree to Alternate Dispute Resolution, or if a decision is time sensitive, the dispute shall be resolved by the WBLC.
 - i. Should the WBLC be required to render a decision to resolve the dispute, the process will be a simple majority vote by the WBLC.
 - ii. This can be done at any meeting or in any format chosen by the Commissioner where a proper vote is conducted and results recorded.
6. The costs of mediation and facilitation will be shared equally by the parties.

G. FINAL AND BINDING

1. Any negotiated decision will be binding on the parties.
2. Negotiated decisions may not be appealed.
3. No action or legal proceeding will be commenced against the WBLC, or its Individuals in respect of a dispute, unless the WBLC has refused or failed to provide or abide by the dispute resolution processes set out in its governing documents

Approved: January 28, 2026