

# High Level Update - New Zealand Lacrosse Merger

November 2019

## **What is the New Zealand Lacrosse Merger?**

At the moment, the men's and women's lacrosse governing bodies are separate. The New Zealand Lacrosse merger would see the men's and women's governing bodies dissolved, and the creation of a new governing body for both. This may be made up of a Board of Directors, one being the Chair of the Board, a CEO, potentially a President, and a Committee of Operational roles much like those currently in the men's and women's committees today (such as High Performance, Officials, Tournaments, Treasurer).

The Board would set the long term strategy, with input and feedback from the New Zealand Lacrosse community. The Committee would hold similar roles to those today in the men's and women's Committees and carry out the day to day tasks required to align the sport with the strategic plan.

## **Why do we need to merge?**

Within New Zealand Lacrosse we act in a fairly fragmented manner where the men's and women's governing bodies are completely different entities. We see an opportunity and requirement to have a collaborative approach to the management and growth of the sport we love across New Zealand.

In addition to this, when we look to other sporting bodies within New Zealand, as well as across other World Lacrosse Members, we are amongst a minority where we do not have a single governing body at National level. The NZALU is the formal governing body but in reality this is in name only.

One additional imperative is that World Lacrosse is working towards their stated aim of inclusion as an Olympic sport lacrosse at the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. We would need to work alongside organisations like Sport New Zealand and the New Zealand Olympic Committee but would need to be a single governing body to do this.

We see a need to change in order for New Zealand Lacrosse to continue to grow and compete on the world stage.

### **When is the merger happening, and what is the process?**

Currently, a New Zealand Lacrosse Merger Working Group has been established with Executive members of the NZWLA and NZLA. These members are:

- Bill Hollins - NZALU and NZLA Treasurer
- Marina Samountry - NZWLA Secretary
- Nicole Goode - NZWLA President
- Eleanor Burkin - NZWLA Chair
- Tom Deane - NZLA President

A draft constitution has been developed with support from Sport New Zealand and an independent lawyer with a sports governance background. We are awaiting a further meeting with the lawyer to review the draft constitution in its current form.

We expect that once we've confirmed this as the final proposed draft of the constitution, we will commence a consultation period. The purpose of this consultation is to provide all members an opportunity to review the constitution and the proposed approach to implementing the merger. All feedback will be collated and considered as part of a final review. Following this review, the working group, with approval from the NZWLA and NZLA, will confirm the new constitution and timeline for implementing this merger.

We are anticipating that this consultation period will run from January - March 2020. Throughout this period, sessions will be booked in all regions for the New Zealand Lacrosse Merger Working Group to present the proposed approach and constitution.

### **Where can I go if I have questions now?**

More detailed information about this merger and our proposed approach will be shared as part of the consultation period, however in the interim you may send any questions or feedback to:

- Nicole Goode (NZWLA President) - [president@nzwlacrosse.nz](mailto:president@nzwlacrosse.nz)
- Tom Deane (NZLA President) - [tpn.deane@gmail.com](mailto:tpn.deane@gmail.com)