



21 May 2023.

Dear Members,

It is with great regret that I announce that **the APLU ASPAC Sixes** (scheduled for the Gold Coast, Australia over 20-26 November 2023 **have been cancelled by APLU** after a considered and time critical evaluation. The basic reason for this is a shortfall of Member team registrations in the required time frame and the exposures that emanate from that fact.

There had been an excellent and positive submission from Lacrosse Australia to host this event for men's and women's teams that was accepted and promoted by the APLU. It was based in excellent competitive arenas with nearby appropriate playing fields and well priced accommodation located on the attractive Gold Coast in Queensland. That planned for 8 Member teams of both men and women (a total of 16 competing teams) in order to be a successful and financially viable event.

Unfortunately that was not the case as when submissions closed there were only 4 teams registered (i.e. half of the required teams). Plus 1 registered observer (being Mongolia)!

Subsequently an expedited follow-up to a number of Full Members (not already nominating) was undertaken by the APLU Executive. Those Members initially targetted for re-consideration all remained non-acceptors. Valid reasons were stated and they included the significant cost and time expended in World Lacrosse Competition post COVID (ie WC Women/Towson/2022, WC Men U21/Limerick/2022, World Games Sixes/Men & Women/Alabama 2022, WL APLU Qualifiers for Men's WC 2023 held in Korea 2022) all with greatly increased airfares, new quarantine entry/exit (for COVID) regulations incurring accommodation costs and time. As there were additional factors (for both time and costs) to consider into 2024 World Lacrosse WC competition (WomenU20/Hong Kong, Men & Women Box/Utica) there was not adequate money nor team resources to additionally enter the APLU Sixes 2023.

This left a financially exposed situation existing with our Host. After checking with Lacrosse Australia and the 4 registered Member countries it was ensured that they could all exit this month without penalty and/or loss of any expenses/prepayments. The two identified alternate dates for postponing into 2024 were found not to be viable.

Hence the APLU Executive have made the decision to cancel the ASPAC Sixes 2023 as the only sensible solution. The APLU Board will now reconsider their planning for the future of ASPAC events and notify the Members when decided. The APLU will refund the ASPAC Sixes 2023 registration fee for those that had paid it.

Regards,

Mike Slattery.

APLU President.