

*When did the IQA decide to change the name of the sport?*

US Quadball, Major League Quidditch, the IQA, and other NGBs have been having discussions about the name of the sport for many years, including an in-person strategy session following the IQA World Cup in 2018. In December 2020, USQ announced that they were formally exploring the possibility of a name change, and in December 2021, USQ and MLQ announced they would be pursuing a change in the name of the sport in the US. Following the announcement and significant discussion with IQA trustees, staff, and member NGBs, the project was broadened and the IQA began to officially look into changing the name globally. A name change committee was formed in February 2022. In March 2022, the committee recommended that the name of the sport be changed and in July 2022, the IQA announced that they would be going with the same name as USQ and MLQ.

*What feedback did the IQA formally receive from NGBs in January 2022?*

In January, 2022, the IQA published a survey to NGBs that contained two questions (with a possibility to comment).

The first question was: Do you want the IQA to be involved in the process of picking a new name for the sport now?

In total 23 NGBs responded to this question and 22 said “yes,” representing 96% of respondents.

The second question was: The IQA will be trying to work with USQ/MLQ to reach a mutually beneficial agreement for use of the sports name. If this isn't possible, should the IQA pursue this project independently?

In total, 22 NGBs responded to this question and 15 said “yes,” representing 68% of respondents.

*When did the IQA form a Name Change Committee and who was on it?*

In February 2022, the IQA board of trustees established a name change committee. Representatives of NGBs and IQA volunteers were invited to apply for the committee, which was competitively selected (multiple candidates who were interested were turned away). The committee was comprised of nine individuals, with no more than five of any single gender, and no more than four from any given continent. The committee was comprised of individuals with experience representing NGBs on four continents (South America, Oceania, Europe and Asia) and with diversity of experience throughout the sport. More on the composition of the committee can be found [here](#).

*What did the IQA Name Change Committee do?*

The Name Change Committee focused on answering three questions:

- Should the IQA maintain the name “quidditch” as the name of the sport,
- Should the IQA accept whichever changes US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch make in the United States on an international scale and,
- Depending on the answer to the previous questions, what name to recommend for the sport.

*What did the IQA Name Change Committee decide regarding changing the name of the sport of quidditch?*

In March 2022, the committee recommended that the IQA change the name of the sport. In connection with issuing its recommendation, the Committee prepared an extensive report detailing its reasoning, which can be found [here](#).

*What did the IQA Name Change Committee decide with regards to using the same name as USQ and MLQ?*

In March 2022, after recommending that the IQA change the name of the sport of quidditch, the Name Change Committee submitted a one question survey to NGBs (allowing for comment). The question was:

“The IQA Name Change Committee has recommended that the name ‘quidditch’ be changed and will also consider changing the name of related terms in the sport (e.g. positions and balls). As you may be aware, US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch are already seeking to rename the sport in the United States, to have the freedom and opportunity to take the sport in a direction they feel is beneficial, including but not limited to broadcasting competitions on mainstream channels, large scale national leagues, sponsorship deals with approved partners, or the opportunity to profit off of merchandise containing the newly chosen name. These efforts would entail US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch potentially ‘owning’ a trademark on the name they choose, which may allow them to make money off of such name, or license that trademark to other organizations who wish to partner with US Quidditch or Major League Quidditch. The IQA may be able to negotiate a license with those organizations to use the new name in the United States. Do you think the new name the IQA picks for use globally should:

There were five possible responses to this question, as detailed below.

In total 22 NGBs responded to this question,

- 13 responded that the new name the IQA picks for use globally should “Be the same name as chosen by US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch only if the IQA feels they can negotiate suitable arrangements with US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch”;

- 3 responded that the new name the IQA picks for use globally should “Be the name the IQA feels is best for the sport, regardless of whether chosen by US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch - this may raise either of the concerns expressed above”
- 2 responded that the new name the IQA picks for use globally should “Be the same name as chosen by US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch no matter what - this would present a uniform name, but may raise complications regarding use going forward depending on the terms agreed to between the organizations”
- 2 responded that the new name the IQA picks for use globally should “Be a different name than the one chosen by US Quidditch and Major League Quidditch no matter what - this may present a different identity of the sport, but would simplify concerns regarding ownership”
- 2 abstained

In summary, 15 of the 20 NGBs that expressed a preference (75%) wanted the IQA to use the same name as the one chosen by USQ and MLQ (assuming certain conditions).

#### *What did the Name Change Committee do next?*

The Name Change Committee discussed these results with USQ who, working with their lawyer and MLQ, prepared a first draft term sheet which was sent to the IQA in April 2022.

#### *How did the IQA respond to the term sheet?*

In May, the IQA responded to USQ and MLQ’s initial proposal by way of an issues list. USQ, MLQ, and IQA went back and forth for several weeks going over the finer points of the sheet. The term sheet was signed in July 2022.

#### *What were the main points that were negotiated in the term sheet?*

USQ, MLQ, and the IQA focused on three primary points in the term sheet. 1) Who would be permitted to use the name, 2) How much would it cost to use the name? 3) How long would the license agreement last? The goals were to allow the IQA and member NGBs to be able to access to use the new trademarks while protecting the legal interests of all parties.

Due to confidentiality obligations, the IQA will not be publicly sharing the resolution of these issues, but these points were heavily negotiated between the sides over multiple months and the IQA is content that the term sheet that has been agreed adequately protects the interests of all of its member NGBs, and players and teams around the world.

#### *How frequently were NGBs updated on this process?*

The Name Change Committee updated its members through Slack on a regular basis, initially weekly and then less frequently as the substance of updates reduced. Andy Marmer, the chair of the IQA Name Change Committee, also attended a meeting of the Assembly of Members in April 2022 and updated NGBs on the status and key open issues.

#### *What progress was made between April and July?*

From April to July, the term sheet was finalized and the groundwork was laid for the IQA to formally proceed with the name change.

*When was the term sheet agreed upon?*

The IQA, MLQ, USQ agreed to terms in principle in July 2022. The term sheet is non-binding and is subject to the negotiation and execution of definitive agreements. Also in July, USQ informed the IQA about an exciting opportunity that it was pursuing that required accelerating the proposed announcement. The IQA agreed that the opportunity was worth pursuing and required a name change and that this opportunity was in the best interests of all IQA members. USQ also informed the IQA that they planned to announce the new name on July 19 or July 20.

*What happened next?*

On July 14, 2022, the IQA board of trustees met and received information from Mary Kimball, Executive Director of USQ and Andy Marmer, chair of the IQA Name Change Committee and interim Chief of Staff of the IQA. At the IQA board meeting, the directors approved a resolution.

On July 15, 2022, the IQA formally executed the term sheet, which was approved by the IQA board of trustees with three trustees in favor, one opposed and one abstaining.

*What was presented to IQA Members?*

By Slack and email NGBs were presented the following question, which is redacted in part due to agreements:

USQ and MLQ have chosen a new name for the sport in the United States and plan to announce it as soon as July 19. The IQA and USQ/MLQ have agreed in principle (and signed a non-binding term sheet) on terms of use for the IQA and member NGBs that will allow for the IQA and member NGBs to use the name [on terms] to be determined in a final definitive agreement.

The IQA board is in principle agreeable to reaching a definitive licensing agreement with USQ and MLQ and is planning to change the name of the sport worldwide (though would not be mandating that any NGB change its name immediately). Before we proceed, we would like to hear your views by having a non-binding vote: does your NGB agree that the IQA should adopt the name chosen by USQ and MLQ as the new name of the sport of quidditch? Yes or no? Given timing, voting will close in 48 hours

The Board will take into account the results of this vote and make a decision, but will not be bound by the results of this vote.

In total, 10 NGBs voted in favor of this (not including USQ who abstained), 3 NGBs voted against this proposal and 5 NGBs abstained. As a result, the Board determined that a majority of NGBs supported the name change.

*How was the name quadball chosen?*

In April 2022, the IQA Name Change Committee released a survey asking a number of questions related to the name change, in total approximately 1,300 people filled out the survey, representing approximately 30 NGBs. The most popular name in the IQA survey was Quidball; however, after consultation with legal advisors, the IQA determined that this name was likely to raise trademark issues and was therefore not viable. The next three most popular names, that were within approximately 100 votes of each other were Hoopball, None of the Above and Quadball. The IQA Name Change Committee discussed also not changing the name based on these results. In the end, members of the IQA Name Change Committee thought it would be minimally disruptive to use a name beginning with “q.”

*How much will it cost me, my team or my NGB to use the name quadball?*

NGBs who are members of the IQA will not pay a licensing fee. The term sheet between USQ, MLQ, and the IQA allows the IQA to license the name and the IQA is covering the cost of the license fee (included as a perk of membership for NGBs). If your team is a member of an NGB who is also an IQA member, then your team does not need to apply for a license. However, if your team or company is not registered with an IQA member NGB or if you are seeking to use the name quadball commercially in the US for an individual project, you will need to apply for a license separately.

Note that individuals and companies based in the US will go through a separate licensing process.

*Earlier you mentioned that USQ chose the name, is that true?*

In a sense, yes, in a sense no. USQ and MLQ proposed the name “quadball” after reviewing their own US-focused surveys and research, the IQA’s survey results and survey results from the UK. Given the IQA’s survey results, we were supportive of the name. Names were generally discussed between the IQA and USQ and MLQ and since both sides were supportive of quadball there wasn’t much discussion. USQ and MLQ proposed the name and the IQA agreed.

*I heard NGBs were required to sign confidentiality agreements to learn the name and share it with their members. Is that true?*

Yes. USQ, MLQ and the IQA coordinated on a massive global rollout designed to maximize press attention and we did not want to risk that these efforts would be jeopardized by a leak. We believe that these have been massively successful and if the name had been widely known before we may not have gotten the level of press attention we ultimately got. Additionally, the

IQA wanted to give member NGBs time to secure new domain names, social media handles, and other assets with quadball if they so desired.

*Why was the name released just a few days before European Games?*

USQ, with support from MLQ, initially proposed the release date based upon external opportunities and announcements that were forthcoming for them. Most prominently, USQ had been invited to participate in ESPN8: the Ocho, a huge broadcast opportunity for them and for the sport as a whole. The IQA viewed the massive press potential right before a signature event as being an opportunity that would draw increased attention to the sport and agreed with the timeline. Many news articles about the name change mentioned European Games, and the announcement garnered significant international press attention.

*Will the name of balls and positions be changing as well? Who will make that decision?*

Yes. As with the name change, USQ, MLQ and the IQA will work in conjunction to determine and announce changes in the names of balls and positions.

*What happens next?*

The IQA, USQ and MLQ will work to negotiate a definitive license agreement for use of quadball worldwide. Once agreed, we will include more information on what this means for NGBs and teams.

*Will my team have to change its name?*

The IQA is not mandating that any NGB or team change its name at this time, but may in the future. NGBs may determine their own guidelines for how this works on a nation-by-nation basis. The IQA will be working to support each NGB in their localized decisions and the quadball community as a whole.