

Appendix S5

World Rowing Athletes' Commission Regulations

(Please refer also to the “*Explanatory Note for Proposed Commission Changes Arts. 39 and 54*”)

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Section I – Athletes' Commission Regulations

1. Preamble

These regulations set out the membership criteria, election and appointment process of the Athletes Commission (AC) members and the AC Chair.

The Purpose and Activities of the AC are set out in Appendix S9 – Duties of Commissions and Working Groups.

2. Membership

2.1 The AC is composed of ten (10) members, who are Active Athletes or Recently Retired Athletes.

2.2 An Active Athlete is an athlete who participated at Senior and Coastal World Rowing Championships (WRCh), as a representative of a Member Federation, in the year of their election or appointment.

2.3 A Recently Retired Athlete is an athlete who competed at a WRCh or the Olympic & Paralympic Games, in the applicable discipline or format (Rowing, Para Rowing, Coastal Rowing), as a representative of a Member Federation, in the previous eight (8) years.

2.4 The AC is composed of:

- i. Five (5) Active Athletes or Recently Retired Athletes elected at the WRCh by their peers, in accordance with Art.3 Election and Appointment of AC Members.
- ii. Five (5) Active Athletes or Recently Retired Athletes appointed by the Council, in accordance with Art.3 Election and Appointment of AC Members.
- iii. Of the five (5) elected AC members, four (4) shall represent Rowing (of which one (1) will represent Para rowing) and one (1) shall represent Coastal rowing.

2.5 Membership of the AC is subject to the World Rowing Statutes Art.58 Ethical Principles and Integrity.

2.6 Members of the AC can no longer serve on the AC after 31 December following the eighth anniversary of their last participation as a rower at a WRCh or Olympic or Paralympic Games, except for the Chair in accordance with Art.5.2.

3. Election and Appointment of AC Members

- 3.1** Elections for AC members will be held in the 2nd year following the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games (AC Election Year).
- 3.2** The election of AC members will take place at the respective WRCh for the relevant discipline.
- 3.3** The procedure for election of AC members shall be conducted in accordance with Section II: The Athletes' Commission Election Procedure.
- 3.4** Following the election of the elected AC members, the Council shall, on the recommendation of the AC Chair, appoint or re-appoint five (5) AC members chosen from among the candidates in such election, or additional candidates.
- 3.5** Such appointments shall ensure gender equality and take into consideration the balance of representation across geographic areas, Member Federation (MF) size, discipline, etc, and the results of the election.

4. Term of Office

- 4.1** The term of office of AC members, elected or appointed, shall be four (4) years from 1 January of the year following the AC Election Year, subject to Art.2 Membership.
- 4.2** Any AC member, elected or appointed, upon completion of his or her term of office, may stand for re-election, provided that such member continues to be eligible as an Active Athlete or Recently Retired Athlete in accordance with Art.2 Membership.

5. Chair of the AC Commission

- 5.1** The Council shall appoint the AC Chair. In appointing the Chair, the Council will take into consideration the AC's proposed candidate. The AC's proposed candidate will be determined in accordance with Art.5.4 below. In the event that the AC proposal is not appointed by the Council, the AC will be asked to propose an alternative candidate as AC Chair.
- 5.2** The AC Chair must be eligible for membership of the AC, in accordance with Art.2.6, at the time of the election and appointment process and may then serve a full four-year term as chair.
- 5.3** Voting for the candidate for the position of AC Chair shall take place at the first AC meeting following the announcement of the results of the AC member elections and appointments.
- 5.4** The AC members shall vote to determine which AC member to propose as the AC Chair to the Council, in accordance with the following procedure:
 - i.** All newly elected, appointed and reappointed AC members are eligible to put forward their candidature for the position of AC Chair.
 - ii.** Candidates and their MFs shall be aware of the requirements of the role as outlined in the AC Chair role description.
 - iii.** All candidatures must be approved by the relevant MF and submitted in writing to the staff member responsible for AC election administration.
 - iv.** All AC members are eligible to vote, including outgoing members.
 - v.** A candidate requires a majority of votes cast in order to be proposed as AC Chair to the Council. When there are more than two (2) candidates, the person with the lowest number of votes after the first round will be excluded. A new vote will be held until a candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

Section II – Athletes' Commission Election Procedures

1. Preamble

This procedure regulates and governs the election process of the elected members of the AC (the Election Procedure). The Election Procedure shall be applicable to all persons and organisations in any phase of the election including the candidates for the election, those directly or indirectly involved in the election, any other individuals or legal entities

supporting, acting in favour of or opposing any candidate, including but not limited to MF staff, coaches, trainers, agents, sponsors, supporters, relatives or friends of any candidate.

2. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for election to the AC, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

- 2.1** The candidate must be an Active Athlete or Recently Retired Athlete, in accordance with Arts.2.2 and 2.3 of the AC Regulations. Candidates that are Recently Retired Athletes and who have not already been a member on the AC must have participated at their last WRCh or Olympic & Paralympic Games, in the applicable discipline or format (Rowing, Para Rowing, Coastal Rowing), within the previous six (6) years.
- 2.2** The candidate must have reached the age of 18 no later than by the first day of competition of the relevant WRCh in the AC Election Year.
- 2.3** All candidates for the AC elections are subject to the World Rowing Statutes, Art.58 Ethical Principles and Integrity.
- 2.4** In accordance with the World Rowing Statutes, Bye-Law to Art.15, a MF which is not in good standing and has outstanding debts with World Rowing, cannot nominate a candidate for the AC election.

3. Nomination Process

- 3.1** At least six (6) months prior to the start of the Senior WRCh in the AC Election Year, World Rowing will notify MFs of the opening of the nomination process for the election(s) to the AC. The notice will include details of the elective position(s).
- 3.2** MFs intending to nominate a candidate shall submit a nomination form, by the published deadline and in the format and with the content as communicated by World Rowing.
- 3.3** MFs may nominate one candidate only in any AC Election Year.
- 3.4** At least three (3) months before the opening of the relevant WRCh, all candidates meeting the criteria set out in Arts.2 and 3.2 of the Election Procedures and having been duly validated will be declared admissible by the Executive Committee and the candidate list published.

4. Promotion and Conduct of Candidates

- 4.1** Following the publication of the candidate list for the election, candidates may start promotional activities.
- 4.2** Any promotional activity, or any materials produced, by any persons or organisations directly or indirectly connected to a candidate, or by the candidate themselves must be carried out with dignity, moderation and respect towards other candidates as well as all athletes.
- 4.3** Candidate promotional activities shall be carried out in accordance with the World Rowing Rules of Conduct for Elections.

5. Elections: Electorate and Voting

- 5.1** Each athlete holding an athlete accreditation for the relevant WRCh during which the election takes place will have the right to vote in person. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- 5.2** World Rowing will provide information on the World Rowing website presenting all candidates and providing information on the upcoming election, including the dates of the election, and voting instructions.
- 5.3** Any votes that do not comply with the voting instructions will be declared null and void.
- 5.4** Voting will be in person only unless otherwise decided by World Rowing.

6. AC Election Committees

- 6.1** The AC Election Committee for each Championships will be composed of one chair and two members, appointed by the Executive Committee for the AC Election Year. The Chair of the Election Committee will be a Council member; the other two members will be Council or Commission members.
- 6.2** The role of the AC Election Committee is to ensure compliance with the AC Election Procedure, to supervise the entire election process and procedure and count ballots.
- 6.3** A staff member will support and coordinate the work of the Election Committee.
- 6.4-3** The elected athletes will be those who have obtained the highest numbers of valid votes, for the vacant elective position(s).
- 6.5-4** In the event of a tie, the incumbent AC members, excluding those that are involved in the tie, shall decide the elected person based on a vote by secret ballot. The incumbent AC Chair shall have the casting vote, unless the incumbent AC Chair is involved in the tie, in which case the Executive Committee will have the casting vote.
- 6.6-5** The AC Election Committee will inform the Executive Committee of the election results. The Executive Committee will announce the election results.

Section III – Example Timeline (based on 2018; timeline for illustration here only, not for inclusion in Rule Book)

- **1 January – 1 March, AC Election Committee appointed** - AC Election Committee will be composed of one chair and two members, appointed by the Executive Committee for the AC Election Year. The Chair of the Election Committee will be a Council member; the other two members will be Council or Commission members
- **1 March, Nomination Process begins** - At least six (6) months prior to the start of the Senior WRCh in the AC Election Year, World Rowing will notify MFs of the opening of the nomination process for the election(s) to the AC. The notice will include details of the elective position(s) as well as the procedures relating to the AC Chair election process.
- **1 May deadline for MFs to submit nominations** - MFs intending to nominate a candidate shall submit a candidature proposal, by the published deadline and in the format and with the content communicated by World Rowing.
- **1 June, AC election candidate list published** - At least three (3) months before the opening of the relevant WRCh, all candidatures meeting the criteria set out in Arts.2 and 3.2 of the Election Procedures and having been duly validated will be declared admissible by the Executive Committee and the candidate list published.
- **9-16 Sept, WRChs, elections held for the 4 elective positions for 'Rowing', overseen by the AC Election Committee**- Each athlete holding an athlete accreditation for the relevant WRCh during which the election takes place will have the right to vote in person. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- **16 Sept, EC announces the election results for the 4 elective positions for 'Rowing', including one para rower.**

Appointment process for the 4 'Rowing' positions can now begin, using candidate pool from the election process, plus drawing on other identified candidates if applicable and necessary for representation/skills.

- **12-14 Oct, WRCCs, elections held for the 1 elective position for 'Coastal Rowing', overseen by the AC Election Committee-** Each athlete holding an athlete accreditation for the relevant WRCh during which the election takes place will have the right to vote in person. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- **14 Oct, Executive Committee announces the election results for the 1 elective position for 'Coastal Rowing'**
- *Appointment process for the 1 'Coastal Rowing' position can now begin, using the candidate pool from the election process, plus drawing on other candidates if applicable and necessary for representation/skills.*
- **24 Oct, AC appointment process ends; Council decides on appointments**
- **26 Oct, AC appointments announced**
- **23 Nov, AC Chair election process**, at the pre-JCM AC meeting – only the recently elected/appointed/reappointed members are eligible to put forward their candidature, i.e. those who will begin a 4-year term on 1 January of the following year. However, all AC members, current (including outgoing) and future, are eligible to vote.
- **23 Nov, the elected AC Chair candidate is proposed to the Council**
- **26 Nov, closing day of JCM, Council appoints the AC Chair (following a vote/approval process by email). AC Chair announced.**