

**INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION
ATHLETES' COMMISSION – ELECTION PROCESS
(Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules)**

Background

Schedule 10 of the **Constitution and Rules** of the International Weightlifting Federation (**IWF**) establishes the IWF's **Athletes' Commission** (**Schedule 10** is referred to herein as the **Athletes' Commission Charter**).

The Athletes' Commission is established, and is to be maintained by the IWF according to the Constitution and Rules, and also in accordance with the guidelines applicable to international sports federation Athletes' Commissions enacted by the International Olympic Committee.

Clause 2.2 of the Athletes' Commission Charter states that the election process for electing members of the Athletes' Commission will be determined by the Executive Board, subject to the final approval of Electoral Commission.

Set out below in these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules is the process for the election of the members of the Athletes' Commission, for the election that shall take place in conjunction with the **2021 IWF World Championships**, to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 7 to 17 December 2021 (**2021 Athletes' Commission Election**).

Capitalised terms used in these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules have the same meanings as given in the Constitution and Rules, unless otherwise indicated.

Composition and eligibility

1. **Clause 2.3** of the Athletes' Commission Charter prescribes that the composition of the Athletes' Commission in the following terms:

The Athletes' Commission shall be made up of no more than eleven (11) members and will have a balance of male and female members and representation from different continents who are eligible according to the criteria outlined in **section 2.4**. The Athletes' Commission must at all times have at least four (4) members who are female, and four (4) members who are male. No more than three (3) Athletes' Commission members can be appointed from any single continent.

2. **Clause 2.4** of the Athletes' Commission Charter prescribes the following eligibility criteria for candidates seeking to be elected to the Athletes' Commission:

- (a) A candidate must be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of nomination for election.
- (b) A candidate must have at least a conversational capacity to communicate in the English language, as the working language of the IWF and the Athletes' Commission is English.
- (c) A candidate must have represented their National Federation in at least one (1) of the following:

- (i) At least one (1) of the two (2) most-recent Olympic Games (which for the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election means the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo).
 - (ii) At least one (1) of the two (2) most-recent Youth Olympic Games.
 - (iii) At least one (1) of the two (2) most recent IWF Youth World Championships, Junior World Championships or Senior World Championships.
 - (iv) The most-recent Continental Championships or Continental Games for which their National Federation was eligible to enter athletes.
- (d) The majority of athletes elected to the Athletes' Commission must be athletes involved in the Sport who, at the time of their nomination, are currently participating in the Sport at the international level or who have done so within the previous four (4) years.
- (e) A person is ineligible for election to the Athletes' Commission if the person has at any time been found to have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.

For the avoidance of doubt, a person who is or has been a member of the Athletes' Commission **is** eligible to stand for re-election for a further term *provided that* the person continues to satisfy the eligibility requirements for candidates seeking to be elected to the Athletes' Commission, as at the time that the person seeks to be re-elected.

3. **Rule 37.2** of the Constitution and Rules establishes disqualifying criteria for all members of all IWF Commissions, including the Athletes' Commission. In addition to the specific requirements of the Athletes' Commission Charter, a person is disqualified from being eligible to be appointed to the Athletes' Commission (and if already appointed as a member of the Athletes' Commission, then that appointment shall terminate immediately) if any of the following applies to that person:

- (a) If the person is bankrupt, whether under the laws of the Country or Sport Country that the person is a Citizen of, or anywhere else.
- (b) If the person is determined to be a Mentally Incapacitated Person.
- (c) If the person is an employee, on whatever terms, of the IWF.
- (d) If the person has at any time been convicted of an offence which is punishable by a period of imprisonment of four (4) years or greater, whether or not that person was convicted of that offence by a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction in the Country or Sport Country of which the person is a Citizen, or by a court or tribunal of any other Country or Sport Country.
- (e) If the person has been charged with, or convicted of any offence relating to or concerning a child or minor.
- (f) If the person is disqualified or is banned from being a director of a corporation or being involved with the management of a corporation, as a result of any decision made by any court, tribunal or authority with competent jurisdiction.

- (g) If the person is serving any period of ineligibility (including any provisional suspension) for any breach of any rules of the Sport or any other sport, including any rules relating to ethics and conduct. The decision must be issued by a competent body and the concerned person shall have the right to appeal to CAS or any court, tribunal or other independent body of the sport jurisdiction.
 - (h) If that person has been deprived of their civil rights by a proper application of any applicable law.
 - (i) If the person is determined to be not a fit and proper person to be appointed as a member of the Athletes' Commission.
4. **Rule 37.3** of the Constitution and Rules prescribes that any question as to whether or not a person is disqualified from being eligible to be appointed as a member of the Athletes' Commission is to be determined by the Eligibility Determination Panel.

Term of office

5. **Clause 2.1** of the Athletes' Commission Charter prescribes that the term of office of Athletes' Commission members is a *maximum* of four (4) years.
6. The Athletes' Commission to be elected in December 2021 at the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall, subject always to the Constitution and Rules, remain in office until the conclusion of the IWF's Electoral Congress held in accordance with **rule 15.5(b)** after the Olympic Games in 2024 (**2024 Electoral Congress**).

Nomination

7. The nomination of a person for election to the Athletes' Commission may be made by an eligible person themselves, and also by a person's National Federation with the consent of the person nominated. Further:
- (a) Where a person nominates themselves for election, that nomination must be accompanied by an endorsement provided by the Member Federation that the person represents.
 - (b) Where a National Federation nominates more than one candidate, the National Federation must nominate at least one male candidate and at least one female candidate.
8. The deadline for the lodgement, of any and all nominations made in accordance with this Athlete Commission Charter is **5:00pm in Lausanne, Switzerland on 12 November 2021**.
9. Nominations may be delivered to the IWF by any of the same means that **rule 44.2** permits the IWF to give a notice to a National Federation Member. The deemed dates and times at which notice is considered to be given, which are set out in **rule 44.2**, shall apply as if set out herein this rule (with the necessary modifications having been made) for the purpose of calculating whether or not a nomination has been made by the stated deadline of **5:00pm in Lausanne, Switzerland on 12 November 2021**. In addition, nominations may be delivered to the following email address: elections2021@iwfnet.net, provided that it shall be the responsibility of the

nominator to confirm with the IWF Secretariat that the email enclosing the emailed nomination has been duly received by the specified deadline.

10. Nominations must be made in writing in a form approved by the Executive Board subject to the requirements of the Constitution and these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules.

Eligibility vetting

11. All candidates nominated for election to the Athletes' Commission shall be subjected to a determination by the Eligibility Determination Panel as to whether the candidate is **eligible** or **ineligible**.
12. The Eligibility Determination Panel must by no later than **5 December 2021** publish, unredacted on the Website, its determination as to whether:
 - (a) a nominated person is **eligible** under the Constitution and these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules for election to the Athletes' Commission (**Eligible Nominees**); or in the alternative
 - (b) a nominated person is **ineligible** under the Constitution and these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules for election to the Athletes' Commission (**Ineligible Persons**).
13. Only those persons who are declared by the Eligibility Determination Panel as Eligible Nominees shall be entitled to be elected to the Athletes' Commission.
14. Further and specifically for the avoidance of doubt, all Ineligible Persons are to be excluded from the ballot papers; are excluded from standing as candidates in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election, and must not be elected to the Athletes' Commission under any circumstances.

Conduct of Eligible Nominees and campaigning

15. Eligible Nominees must, in all circumstances in relation to the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election and an Eligible Nominee's candidature in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election, conduct themselves in accordance with the strict requirements of the Election and Candidate Conduct Rules at **Schedule 5** to the Constitution and Rules.
16. The Eligibility Determination Panel is vested with its full jurisdiction and powers, set out at **Part F of Schedule 5**, in relation to any potential or actual breach of any of the requirements of the Election Candidate and Conduct Rules in relation to the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election.

Voting and election method

17. The 2021 Athletes' Commission Election, for the period in office commencing from the conclusion of the 2021 IWF Electoral Congress held on 20 and 21 December 2021 (**2021 Electoral Congress**) and ending at the conclusion of the 2024 Electoral Congress, shall take place during the period of, and in conjunction with the 2021 IWF World Championships.
18. Each athlete competing at the 2021 IWF World Championships (**Eligible Voter**) shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election.

19. Ballot papers for the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall include a complete list of Eligible Nominees, which organises candidates' names into five separate groups, so that there are separate groups of candidates who together represent:
- (a) The National Federation Members listed among the "Africa" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules.
 - (b) The National Federation Members listed among the "Asia" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules
 - (c) The National Federation Members listed among the "Europe" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules.
 - (d) The National Federation Members listed among the "Oceania" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules.
 - (e) The National Federation Members listed among the "Pan America" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules.

The candidates' names in each of the five groups shall be organised in alphabetical order by each candidate's surname.

The ballot paper shall also include a blank square adjacent to the name of each Eligible Nominee.

20. **Clause 2.3** of the Athletes' Commission Charter prescribes that the Athletes' Commission shall be made up of no more than eleven (11) members, with a balance of male and female members and representation from different continents. The Executive Board has determined that the Athletes' Commission elected as a result of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall be comprised of ten (10) members.

In accordance with **clause 2.3** of the Athletes' Commission Charter the outcome of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election *must* include that at least four (4) members of the Athletes' Commission are female, and at least four (4) members of the Athletes' Commission are male.

In addition to the requirements of the Athletes' Commission Charter as referred to the preceding paragraph, the Executive Board has determined that subject to this **rule 20** of the Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules, the Athletes' Commission elected as a result of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election must be comprised as follows, so as to best ensure that the Athletes' Commission is structured to achieve appropriate levels of gender equity, and appropriate levels of national and continental representation:

- (a) Two Athletes' Commission members may represent the National Federation Members listed among the "Africa" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules, where at least one of those two Athletes' Commission members must be male, and where the other of those two Athlete Commission Members is female.
- (b) Two Athletes' Commission members may represent the National Federation Members listed among the "Asia" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix**

B to the Constitution and Rules, where at least one of those two Athletes' Commission members must be male, and where the other of those two Athlete Commission Members is female.

- (c) Two Athletes' Commission members may represent the National Federation Members listed among the "Europe" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules, where at least one of those two Athletes' Commission members must be male, and where the other of those two Athlete Commission Members is female.
- (d) Two Athletes' Commission members may represent the National Federation Members listed among the "Oceania" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules, where at least one of those two Athletes' Commission members must be male, and where the other of those two Athlete Commission Members is female.
- (e) Two Athletes' Commission members may represent the National Federation Members listed among the "Pan America" group of National Federation Members specified at **Appendix B** to the Constitution and Rules, where at least one of those two Athletes' Commission members must be male, and where the other of those two Athlete Commission Members is female.

People of the same gender may only be elected to the two positions referenced in each of **rule 20(a), rule 20(b), rule 20(c), rule 20(d) and 20(e)** where there are **no** Eligible Nominees, of the opposite gender, for the two available positions.

- 21. **Clause 2.4** of the Athletes' Commission Charter also provides that the majority of athletes elected to the Athletes' Commission (and therefore at least six (6) athletes elected) must be athletes involved in the Sport who, at the time of their nomination, are currently participating in the Sport at the international level or who have done so within the previous five (5) years.
- 22. The conduct of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall be in accordance with the Voting Rules and Procedures set out at **Schedule 4** to the Constitution and Rules. In particular, the following provisions shall apply in relation to the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election:
 - (a) The **Election Manager** appointed in accordance with the Constitution and Rules in respect of the 2021 Electoral Congress shall conduct and manage all voting in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election.
 - (b) The responsibility for the correct conduct of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall lie with the **Electoral Commission**. The Electoral Commission shall be the sole point of contact between the IWF and the Election Manager in relation to the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election.
 - (c) The Election Manager, under the supervision and scrutiny of the Electoral Commission, shall have the sole and exclusive responsibility for:
 - (i) the conduct of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election, including the confidential tallying of votes;
 - (ii) the determination of valid and invalid votes;

- (iii) the announcement of results of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election; and
 - (iv) any related matters.
- (d) The Election Manager shall be responsible for securely keeping and maintaining all records relating to the conduct the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election. The Election Manager shall be required to keep those records for a period of 180 days from the date that the results of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election were declared, where immediately thereafter the Election Manager shall ensure that all such records are destroyed or otherwise permanently obliterated and deleted.
- (e) The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission is the exclusive and final dispute resolution chamber in respect of any dispute as to the results of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election and any related matters. Any dispute in respect of any such matter must be made within fourteen (14) days commencing from the day that the results of the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election are announced.
23. Voting in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall be conducted by secret ballot.
24. The 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall be conducted using ballot papers or any technological or electronic means certified by the Election Manager and approved by a Special Resolution of the Electoral Commission.
25. The period within which an athlete is eligible to cast a vote in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall commence at **9.00am in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 7 December 2021**. The period within which a vote can be cast shall end at **3.00pm in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 16 December 2021**.
26. The Election Manager shall determine the periods of time during each day, between 7 December 2021 and 16 December 2021 that voting is open, provided that voting **must be open** for at least the period from 9.00am to 3.00pm (inclusive) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on each day between 7 December 2021 and 16 December 2021 (inclusive).
27. Voting in the 2021 Athletes' Commission Election shall proceed on the basis that an Eligible Voter shall mark a "X", "✓" or similar symbol in the box adjacent to each Eligible Nominee that the Eligible Voter wishes to vote for.
28. An Eligible Voter may vote for anywhere between one (1) and ten (10) Eligible Nominees, however a **ballot paper shall be invalid for all purposes** in any event where an Eligible Voter casts a vote for greater than ten (10) Eligible Nominees.
29. The ten (10) Eligible Nominees who receive the highest number of valid votes shall be declared elected by the Election Manager as a member of the Athletes' Commission, provided always that the gender balance and continental representation balance of the Athletes' Commission, as referred to in these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules, are observed and complied with.
30. In the case of a tie for any position, the person to be declared elected shall be decided by a drawing of lots conducted by the Election Manager, provided always that the gender balance and continental representation balance of the Athletes' Commission, as referred to in these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules, are observed and complied with.

31. In accordance with **clause 2.5** of the Athletes' Commission Charter prescribes that the Athletes' Commission members, once elected, shall elect one of the Athletes' Commission members as the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission for a period of up to four (4) years or until the next Athletes' Commission Elections.
32. In accordance with **clause 2.6** of the Athletes' Commission Charter, the Athletes' Commission shall have three (3) voting seats on the Executive Board. These seats will be made up of the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, and two (2) other Athletes' Commission members, as determined by the Athletes' Commission in compliance with rule 19.1.c) of the IWF Constitution.
33. The Athletes' Commission, once elected, shall elect one of the Athletes' Commission members to serve in the position of each of:
 - (a) Vice-chairperson of the Athletes' Commission.
 - (b) First Officer of the Athletes' Commission.

The positions of Vice-chairperson and First Officer must be filled by Athletes' Commission members representing different Member Federations, and neither of the Vice-chairperson nor the First Officer shall be Athletes' Commission members who represent the same Member Federation that is represented by the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission, nor of the same gender as the Chairperson of the Athletes' Commission.

34. In the event of any of the elected Athletes' Commission positions becoming vacant for any reason, at any time before the 2024 Electoral Congress, a casual vacancy shall be created in that position that is so vacated. In the event of such a casual vacancy arising, that casual vacancy shall be filled by a replacement person who:
 - (a) Is eligible by reference to **rule 2** of these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules;
 - (b) Is of the same gender as the person who has vacated the position; and
 - (c) By reference to **rule 20** of these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules, represents a Member Federation in the same continental grouping as the person who has vacated the position.
35. The replacement person to fill a casual vacancy in accordance with **rule 34** of these Athletes' Commission Electoral Rules shall be identified and decided by the Athletes' Commission. In identifying and deciding on the replacement person, the Athletes' Commission is to have special regard to the results of the 2021 Electoral Congress, and the question of whether the next-highest polling candidates for the position vacant by reason of the casual vacancy are able to be appointed provided that those persons remain eligible by reference to **rule 2** of these Athlete Commission Electoral Rules.