

# 2025 IWF ELECTORAL CONGRESS VOTING GUIDELINES

24-25 May 2025, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

## Introduction

These guidelines are issued as guidance to explain the procedure for Member Federations' Representatives to vote at the 2025 IWF Electoral Congress.

The voting will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of (i) the IWF Constitution which was amended by the IWF Congress on 4 December 2024 and (ii) the IWF By-laws which were approved by the IWF Executive Board on 25 November 2024.

## General rules

Each Full Member with voting rights shall appoint one (1) voting representative in advance of the IWF Congress. Each Member has one vote only per election.

Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. If the vote is subject to Relative Majority and there is only one candidate for one position or as many candidates as there are positions to be filled (or fewer), the vote can be by show of hands or acclamation, unless a Member requires a vote.

For the voting representatives attending in person, paper ballots will be used. Representatives attending online shall vote by a secure electronic voting system.

All matters relating to the conduct of the IWF Elections rest with the Electoral Manager. Final decision on all matters of legal interpretation and validity of the IWF Elections rests at the discretion of the Electoral Commission.

To ensure complete fairness for all candidates and to have complete equality, no speeches or presentations, by the candidates or relating to the candidates, will be allowed before and during the Electoral Congress and no campaign material can be on display or distributed or otherwise promoted at the Electoral Congress Hall.

## Election Method

Election to a single position (e.g. President) will be decided by Simple Majority (i.e. fifty (50) percent (%) plus one (1) or more of the total number of eligible votes cast, including abstaining votes). If no candidate polls a Simple Majority, a second ballot will be conducted between the two highest-polling candidates (including ties, i.e. possibly the three highest-polling candidates in case of a tie between the second and third). The candidate who receives the highest number of votes cast in the second round is declared elected.

In the event of a tie, a third ballot will be conducted in the same way, and if a tie is again the result then the person to be declared elected shall be decided by the

candidates drawing lots.

For the Congress vote in accordance with Article 22.2 of the IWF Constitution (*“the Congress may by a decision made before the election permit up to a maximum of three (3) candidates to Executive Board positions to be elected notwithstanding that the concerned candidates have reached the age limit set forth under Article 22.1(b)”*), a decision shall be made by the Congress in respect to each of the concerned candidates applying to be allowed to be elected. Candidates must poll a Simple Majority to be admitted to the election. If the Congress approves more than three (3) candidates, in the election for the Executive Board positions, only the three (3) approved candidates obtaining the most votes may be elected to the Executive Board positions.

For election to multiple positions (e.g. Ordinary Executive Board Members) the winners will be declared by Relative Majority. This means the candidates equal to the number of available positions who poll the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

If a gender is not represented in all the elected First Vice President and Vice Presidents positions, then the highest voted candidate from the gender not represented in the two Vice President positions will replace the Vice President who received the lowest number of votes. The same principle will apply by analogy to ensure that:

- there shall be at least five members of both genders amongst the 12 Ordinary Executive Board members (Article 19.b IWF Constitution);
- there shall be at least one representative of a Member Federation of each Continental Federation amongst the 12 Ordinary Executive Board members (Article 20.2 IWF Constitution);
- the President, the General Secretary, the First Vice President, the two additional Vice Presidents and the 12 Ordinary Executive Board members must be each representative of different Member Federations.

Representatives are allowed to vote for as many candidates as the number of positions to be filled (e.g. **for one** candidate for the election of President, Secretary General, First Vice President, **for up to two** candidates for the election of the two Vice Presidents and **for up to 12** candidates for the election of the 12 ordinary Executive Board Members).

For IWF Commissions and Committees, candidates will be elected by Relative Majority. This means the candidates who poll the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Should there be a tie with respect to the highest-polling candidates to ensure a Simple Majority or to ensure gender or national diversity or for the second position of the two Vice Presidents' election or for the twelfth position of the 12 Executive Board members' election or for the last position of a Committee or a Commission, a further vote will be conducted involving those tied candidates to break the tie. In case of a tie in the second vote, the vote would be repeated for

a third time. If the tie cannot be broken after the third vote, a drawing of lots will be made to decide the election.

## Election procedure

The Member Federations will be called by name in alphabetic order. The voting representative will collect the voting paper and then go to the voting booth. After voting, the paper should be folded twice and put into the voting box.

For electronic voting, the designated voting delegate must log in with their unique password and then follow the instructions to vote. These votes will then be sent exclusively and directly to the Electoral Manager to count along with the paper ballots.

## Ballot Papers

A blank ballot paper (no option chosen) shall be null and void and shall not count to establish the majority of the votes cast.

## Withdrawals

The Election Manager will announce the candidatures before each respective vote for the concerned position(s). This is the last time a candidate can withdraw. For reasons of fairness to all candidates, it is strictly forbidden for a candidate to announce their withdrawal in support of another candidate. The right to initiate disciplinary proceedings remain reserved.

If a candidacy is not withdrawn timely, the candidate has the duty to maintain it throughout the election and to accept the election if elected.

In the case of a candidate who applied for more than one positions, once elected to one position, the applications to be elected to the other positions shall be automatically deemed withdrawn.

If, notwithstanding the duty to maintain a candidature not timely withdrawn, a candidate nevertheless withdraws after the initiation of the voting process, the following shall apply without prejudice to disciplinary consequences against the concerned candidate:

- in the event the candidate withdraws during an election round (before all the votes have been collected), that round will be repeated without the retired candidate;
- in the event the candidate withdraws after a subsequent election round and none of the remaining candidate(s) has polled the required majority in that round, that round will be repeated without the withdrawing candidate.
- in the event the candidate withdraws after a subsequent election round has been completed (all votes collected) and one of the remaining candidate(s) has polled the required majority in that round, this candidate will be declared elected;

Important: Candidates have a duty to stand for their candidature. Untimely withdrawal and/or refusal of election constitute violations of such duty and may lead to disciplinary consequences.

Invalid or null votes will be determined by the Electoral Manager if either no mark is made on the ballot paper or too many marks are made than are required. It is important that all fields on the ballot paper are completed as per the instructions or else the ballot paper will be made null and void.

Only ballot papers provided by the Electoral Commission can be used. It is forbidden to photograph or copy the ballot paper.

These guidelines are issued by the IWF Electoral Manager and approved by the Electoral Commission on 20 May 2025 and may be updated if necessary.

**Electoral Manager: Mr. Jean-Pierre Morand**

**Electoral Commission is headed by Mr. Gabriel Nigon**

**Members: Ms. Ana Maria Montoya Ruales and Mr. Nasr El-Din Azzam**

**Assistant to the Electoral Commission: Ms. Stephanie Ruf**