

Rules governing the 2026 IWF Athletes Commission Election

In force as of 22 June 2026

1. Introduction

These Rules, issued by the IWF Executive Board pursuant to Section 2, Part F, Article 2.3(b) of the IWF By-Laws (the “**Election Rules**”), shall govern the IWF Athletes Commission election to be held during the 2026 IWF World Championships (Ningbo, China) (the “**Election**”) together with the applicable provisions of the IWF Constitution. In the event of any conflict between these Election Rules and the IWF By-Laws, these Election Rules shall prevail.

The Election Rules shall be applicable to all Member Federations, candidates, voters and other persons directly or indirectly involved in the Election (the “**Participants**”). All decisions taken by the IWF Executive Board, the Eligibility Determination Panel or the Electoral Committee in relation to the Election are final and binding.

2. Term – Eligibility Criteria and Disqualifying Circumstances

Ten (10) IWF Athletes Commission (the “**AC**”) members shall be elected at the Election for a term of four years beginning on the day following the announcement of the results of the Election and ending at the conclusion of the 2030 IWF Senior World Championships.

Eligibility Criteria – Section 2, Part F, Article 2.3(d) IWF By-Laws

- (d) Athletes Commission members shall be elected based on the following eligibility criteria:
- (i) Athlete must be at least eighteen (18) years of age at time of application.
 - (ii) The Commission should be composed of a majority of athletes who, at the time of their election/nomination, are participating at international level or have done so within the previous four years.
 - (iii) A person is ineligible for appointment if the person has at any time been found to have committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation.
 - (iv) The person must have represented their National Federation in at least one (1) of the following:
 - At least one (1) of the two (2) most-recent Olympic Games.
 - At least one (1) of the two (2) most-recent Youth Olympic Games.
 - At least one (1) of the two (2) most-recent Youth, Junior, or Senior World Championships.
 - The most-recent Continental Championships or Games.
 - (v) The working language of the Federation is English and the candidates must have a minimum of a conversational capability.

Disqualifying Circumstances – Articles 37.1 and 25 IWF Constitution

37.1 A person cannot be elected or appointed as an IWF Commission Member or an IWF Committee Member or, once elected or appointed, maintain that position, if any of the conditions listed under Article 25 (applicable *mutatis mutandis*) applies to that person.

25.1 A person cannot be eligible to be an Executive Board Member; and if already in office, then the position shall terminate immediately with a casual vacancy created accordingly, if any of the following circumstances applies to that person:

- (a) If the person is an employee, on whatever terms, of the Federation.
- (b) If the person has at any time been or is convicted of an offence which is punishable by a period of imprisonment of four (4) years or more by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (c) If the person has been charged, by a police or law enforcement authority having jurisdiction with, or convicted of any offence whatsoever relating to or concerning a child or a minor.
- (d) If the person is disqualified or is banned from being a director of a corporation or being involved with the management of a corporation, company or business, as a result of any final decision made by a tribunal or authority with competent jurisdiction.
- (e) 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 (without limitation corruption, manipulation of competitions and illegal gambling).

(f) (...).¹

(g) *If that person has been deprived of their civil rights.*

(h) *If the person has been found by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission not to be a fit and proper person to be, or remain appointed as an Executive Board Member.*

Nomination and Election Procedures – Article 26 IWF Constitution

26.1 *The nomination of a candidate to any elected position must be made in accordance with the Candidate Nomination Rules.*

26.2 *All candidates nominated for any elected position on the Executive Board, any elected position on any IWF Commission and any elected position on any IWF Committee shall be subjected to a determination by the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission acting as the Eligibility Determination Panel, which must be made and published on the Website no later than thirty (30) days before the Electoral Congress, as to whether or not any disqualifying circumstances apply in connection with this person. For the avoidance of doubt, the Eligibility Determination Panel shall also consider and decide as part of its determination whether the Member nominating the candidate in question has the right to nominate the nominated candidate or whether a candidate who presents him or herself meets the requirements set forth in this respect in the Constitution.*

26.3 *The Executive Board shall submit for vetting to the Ethics and Disciplinary Commission all appointees before the confirmation of their appointment.*

26.4 *The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate the application of the disqualifying criteria set forth in Article 25 to any persons, including Executive Board Members and IWF Commissions and Committees members (see Article 37), to which those criteria apply and/or to resolve any dispute in this respect. The EDC shall also adjudicate whether the appointment of a person shall be terminated as a consequence of the application of the disqualification criteria. In the exercise of their duties in accordance with Article 26, the Eligibility Determination Panel may decide to interview the future candidates or appointees.*

26.5 *The Election and Candidate Conduct Rules apply in relation to the conduct of candidates in all elections.*

3. Candidates

3.1 Athletes who satisfy the **Eligibility Criteria** and do not fall under the **Disqualifying Circumstances** set out above (Section 2, Part F, Article 2.3(d) IWF By-Laws; Articles 37.1 and 25 IWF Constitution) may stand for election as candidates. For the avoidance of doubt, (a) cases within the results management authority of national anti-doping organisations fall under the prohibition of Section 2, Part F, Article 2.3(d) (iii) IWF By-Laws, and (b) athletes who are, at any time up to the start of the Election, involved in an ongoing case (including without limitation where the athlete has received a Notice of Charge or equivalent for an Adverse Analytical Finding or a Filing Failure or a Failed Test) shall also be ineligible.

3.2 Candidacies must be endorsed by the candidate's respective Member Federation. For the purposes of these rules, if a candidate has represented more than two Members in an international weightlifting event, that candidate can be endorsed only by the Member Federation that he/she represented at his/her most recent participation in an international weightlifting event.

3.3 If a Member Federation wishes to endorse more than one candidates, it must do so for at least one candidate from each gender.

3.4 The candidacy form must be duly filled and signed by the candidate and by the President and the General Secretary (or equivalent) of the endorsing Member Federation.

3.5 A Member Federation cannot endorse any candidates if: **(i)** it is a Provisional or Associate Member or a suspended Member in accordance with Article 11 of the IWF Constitution, including when the Member Federation has any outstanding amounts due to IWF; **(ii)** it is, for any other reason, determined by the Eligibility Determination Panel not to be a Member Federation in good standing with IWF.

4. Verification of the Eligibility of Candidates

4.1 All candidates shall be subject to an eligibility check by the Eligibility Determination Panel (the “**EDP**”) in accordance with Articles 37.1 and 25 of the IWF Constitution and Section 2, Part F, Article 2.3(d) of the IWF By-Laws. The decision of the EDP must be made and published in the IWF website no later than thirty

¹ Note: Article 2.3(d) (iii) IWF By-Laws shall apply, as it imposes a stricter eligibility requirement

(30) days before the first day of the Election. Only eligible candidates shall be entitled to stand for election.

4.2 Any determination made by the EDP in relation to the eligibility of candidates may be solely appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, which shall have exclusive jurisdiction in this respect, including for a request for provisional measures, to the explicit exclusion of recourse to civil or other courts. The dispute shall be resolved definitively, in accordance with the Code of sports-related arbitration, and the CAS proceedings shall be conducted on an expedited basis. The time limit for appeal is ten (10) days from the publication of the EDP decision in the IWF website.

5. Timelines

5.1 These Rules together with the candidacy forms and the invitation to candidates shall be notified by IWF to the Member Federations no later than **27 June 2026** (4 months before the Elections).

5.2 Duly filled and signed candidature forms together with all supporting documents must be sent to IWF no later than **28 July 2026, 17:00 CET** by electronic means (Email) at: acelections2026@iwf.sport

5.3 The EDP decision on the determination of the eligibility of candidates will be published on the IWF website by **27 September 2026**.

5.4 The Election shall take place from **28 October 2026 until 6 November 2026** in Ningbo, China. The procedural details (including time and place) for the Election shall be determined in due time by the IWF and announced to all Member Federations.

6. Election Procedure

6.1 All athletes who are accredited and included in the final entries of the 2026 IWF World Championships shall be entitled to vote at the Election. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

6.2 Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. Voting may take place using ballot papers or by electronic or other technological means, as certified by the Election Manager and approved by the Electoral Commission. Where ballot papers are used, only those issued by the Electoral Commission shall be valid. It is prohibited to photograph, reproduce, or otherwise copy any ballot paper or voting interface, whether before, during, or after the Election.

6.3 Only a candidate can withdraw his/her candidacy. Withdrawals must be received by IWF in writing at: acelections2026@iwf.sport no later than 10:00 am CET on the day preceding the first day of the Election. After that time, candidates are not allowed to withdraw. 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. Untimely withdrawal and/or refusal of election constitute violations of such duty and may lead to disciplinary consequences.

6.4 To ensure fairness and equality among all candidates, the following rules shall apply within the election area, the venue, the warm-up and training areas of the 2026 IWF World Championships, as well as any other indoor or outdoor space at the competition and training venues and on transportation vehicles provided by the Organiser: no speeches, presentations, or other promotional activities by or on behalf of any candidate shall be permitted before or during the Election, and no campaign material may be displayed, distributed, or otherwise promoted.

6.5 Voters will have to provide their valid passport together with the 2026 IWF World Championships accreditation card to the representative of the Electoral Commission overseeing the Election. Following confirmation of their identity, they will collect the ballot paper and go to the voting booth. After voting, the paper should be folded twice and put into the voting box.

6.6 All matters relating to the conduct of the Election rest with the Electoral Manager.

7. Selection

7.1 The ten (10) members of the Athletes' Commission shall be elected at the Election in accordance with the rules set out in Section 7.4. The IWF Executive Board may appoint one (1) additional member to the Athletes' Commission with no restrictions of nationality, continent or sex, provided that such person

satisfies the Eligibility Criteria and does not fall under the Disqualifying Circumstances.

7.2 Each eligible voter may vote for a maximum of ten (10) candidates without any limit related to the selected candidates' nationality, continent or sex.

7.3 If voting is conducted by means of ballot papers, a blank ballot paper (no candidate selection) shall be null and void and shall not count to establish the majority of the votes cast. 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.

7.4 In order to ensure the broadest gender and continental representation within the AC, the following principles shall apply:

(i) Candidates shall be grouped by continent and gender, i.e. in ten (10) groups.

(ii) The highest ranked male and the highest ranked female candidate from each group (i.e. a total of 10) shall be elected.

(iii) If a group has no candidate, or if no candidate in a group receives at least one valid vote, the position allocated to that group shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board from a list of candidates of the relevant continent or gender, as such list is to be submitted by the Athletes' Commission within six (6) months after the Election.

(iv) Any tie shall be resolved by a drawing of lots conducted by the Election Manager.

7.5 The Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (the "**EDC**") is the exclusive and final dispute resolution chamber in respect of any dispute as to the results of the 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 election are announced.

8. Election Management

8.1 Election Manager

The IWF shall appoint an Election Manager, subject to the approval of the EDC, to conduct and manage the Election. The Election Manager shall have the sole and exclusive responsibility for the conduct of the Election, including the confidential tallying of votes, the determination of valid and invalid votes, the announcement of the results, and any related matters. The Election Manager may delegate specific tasks or functions to other persons, provided that such persons are independent from the IWF and that the Election Manager remains fully responsible for the proper performance of his/her duties. The Election Manager shall also be responsible for securely keeping and maintaining all records relating to the Election and shall retain such records for a period of three (3) months.

8.2 Electoral Commission

The responsibility for the proper conduct of the Election shall lie with three (3) nominees of the EDC, sitting together as the Electoral Commission. The Electoral Commission shall supervise and scrutinise the activities of the Election Manager and shall act as the sole point of contact between the IWF and the Election Manager. The Electoral Commission may delegate specific tasks or functions to other persons, provided that such persons are independent from the IWF and that the Electoral Commission retains overall responsibility for the discharge of its duties.

9. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy during the Term, the vacant seat shall be filled by the highest-ranked unelected candidate who is of the same gender and from the same continent as the member whose position has become vacant. If no such candidate exists, or if the existing candidate(s) decline to assume the vacant position, such position shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Board from a list of candidates of the continent or gender in question, as such list is to be submitted by the Athletes Commission.

These Rules enter into force immediately. The IWF Executive Board may amend or supplement these Rules any time prior or after the Election.