

Election of Officers

Representation; Effective Executive Management; Methods of Appointment to the Executive.

Background:

When, in 2008, the Constitution Committee Working Party first addressed their review of the Constitution of ISAF it looked at the effective governance structures of other sports federations and noted that a number of them have some form of regional representation on their Executive Board.

The Working Party also noted the concerns of certain groups of Member National Authorities (“MNAs”) who felt that they were not being properly represented and further that this concern applied equally to those with large numbers of sailors as to those with only small numbers.

The groupings of MNAs in Council are intended to try and address the same issue and although there are notable imbalances, nevertheless these groupings do provide a proportionate representative platform, and one which could also be used to establish appointments to the Executive by regions of the world.

The compelling criteria for determining the extent of a particular Region should, for the same reason, not be exclusively geographic, but rather representative both of the number of sailors in each Region and their respective levels of sailing activity.

Issues & Proposals:

A. Size of Executive:

We are currently limited to a total of eight members of the Executive Committee, but previously it was even smaller and was enlarged partly to try and address better representation. Nevertheless our Executive remains one of, if not the smallest by comparison with other sports federations, although it should be noted that some of those federations which have large executives, then also have a ‘Super Executive’ of a smaller number. We do not think that is a satisfactory form of governance for Sailing and indeed could lead to a lot of difficult problems.

By taking the critically important decision about ‘Directors’ and our representation through Council in November 2010 we ensured that we have a large representative group of MNAs responsible for setting policy, and a much smaller and manageable group for ensuring the proper and effective delivery of those policies, namely the Executive.

It remains however a matter of fact that inevitably the Executive in discharging their obligation to implement the policies, also bring forward proposals for modifying those policies for Council to debate and determine.

It is therefore important that on the Executive that there is representation of sailors from around the world.

Further the world of Sailing has both grown numerically, and also in complexity with, unlike most if not all other sports, a huge variety of both disciplines, and equipment – e.g.: Optimists to Super Yachts. 15 minute races to around the Globe, Cruising to America's Cup.

The number of Executive members arguably should be increased to ensure that the every element of this diverse sailing community is properly represented both at policy making level as well as the executive tasked with delivering the sport.

B. Proposal:

This proposal is therefore in four parts, namely:

1. To increase the Executive from its current eight to eleven, comprising:
 - (i) The President;
 - (ii) Three Vice Presidents;
 - (iii) Five regionally appointed members of the Executive board; and
 - (iv) Two "at large" members (see below)

2. To retain the existing voting system for the President and Vice Presidents.(but see the note below¹)

- 3.1 To establish Regional Groups of MNAs for the election of regional representatives to the Executive as follows:
 - Region 1: Northern Europe – comprising MNAs in groups A, F and G;
 - Region 2: Southern Europe – groups B C D and E;
 - Region 3: Asia and Oceania – groups H J K and L;
 - Region 4: Africa and South America – groups I M N and Q; and
 - Region 5: North America, including the Caribbean – groups O and P.

- 3.2. The procedure for appointment from each of the five regions above will be that any nominee must be supported by at least three countries within each regional group with the exception of group 5, where the nomination should be by two countries. Nominations must be made as present for VPs, and also be vetted by the Election committee..

- 3.3 All countries within a regional group shall vote twenty-one days before the date of the AGM by electronic means and shall nominate the candidate for which they are voting. If there are more than two candidates nominated to represent any regional group, then each country shall indicate its first preference as well as its second preference. If upon the first vote no candidate has, within that regional group, an overall majority then the candidate with the least votes shall be deleted and those countries that voted for those candidates shall have their second preference votes applied and added to the votes for the

candidates remaining. This process can be repeated until one candidate secures an overall majority.

3.4 In the unlikely event of an unbreakable tie, then the countries in that region shall be asked to vote again, but only in respect for the two candidates with the most votes in the first ballot.

3.5 The outcome of these ballots will be published by the Election committee on the Monday preceding the General Assembly

4. With regard to the two members at large these could either be:

- (i) Nominated in advance of the meeting by the candidates for election; or
- (ii) Nominated by the Executive following the AGM.(Council still has to approve them)
- (iii) Nominated by particular interest groups eg Offshore, Classes, Athletes

The purpose is that these “at large” members should be selected for particular roles.

C. Implementation and Transitional

1. There should be a target for full implementation by November 2016
2. To achieve this, the necessary changes should be made to the Articles if possible by November 2014 or at the latest 2015. Changes will also need to be made to the Regulations at the same time.
3. As to transitional arrangements, depending on the representative make up of the 2012-16 Executive, certain regions could now be allocated to individual Vice Presidents. Then those regions which are not so represented should be asked to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the Executive. (Until they become Directors they could not however have a vote).
4. Similarly, having identified any particular roles then existing Vice Presidents could be allotted those particular responsibilities, or if needed an additional “at large” member could be appointed.
5. Thus from say the autumn of 2014 onwards, the new arrangements could be effectively in place.

ⁱ **NOTE:** During the 2012 Conference the suggestion was put that all Vice Presidents should be elected by electronic vote in advance of the 2016 conference. Thus the only Election issue would be the President, but MNAs would already know who were the “members elect” for the new, 2016-2020, Executive, by the time they vote for the new President.

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