

Discussion Paper on Submissions

From the Chairman of the Constitution Committee

1. Many Submissions which Council is asked to look at and debate are principally technical in nature, e.g. addressing some issue that is not presently covered by the Regulations or is otherwise correcting something which needs correcting.

Other forms of Submissions may be the first steps into debating and agreeing upon a new policy.

In between these two there are, as recognised, other Submissions which are highly relevant to individual MNA's and which Council Members would want to fully debate before they are passed, e.g. methods of selecting Olympic equipment or indeed receiving reports and recommendations on such equipment.

There is a consensus that too much time is taken up with the first group of these submissions leaving insufficient time for perhaps the more important responsibility of Council, namely determining policy.

I therefore suggest that technical submissions could be approved in a different manner that is that provided they have the support of the Executive Committee are recommended for approval by any relevant Committees (and, wherever they touch upon the Regulations, that they are also approved by the Constitution Committee), but they could be reported as "approved", at the beginning of any particular meeting of Council.

As a 'safety net' any member of Council could ask for Council to review any particular submission.

2. As we all travel more and communication becomes faster, it does seem bizarre that we should have to wait 12 months before addressing a particular issue or having done so have to wait another 6 months to "sign it off". If I may take the example of that relating including Kite Surfing at Events: It should be in the mind set of ISAF Council that, having indicated clearly its policy, the technical submission should be simply dealt with and signed off by the Constitution Committee and the Executive, and then notified to Council members.
3. We currently have a system of review which is reserved for the General Meetings, I would now suggest that any "Submissions" approved between Council meetings are open for review on prior notice by a Council Member at its next meeting, thus preserving the right and role of Council to have an oversight of the workings of Committees and matters dealt with by them.

Taken together, I believe that these proposals would both speed up the process of dealing with very necessary changes and, at the same time, free up time for Council to focus on bigger issues.