

Olympic Events & Equipment

Prohibition on Electronic Voting

A submission from the Barbados Sailing Association, Hungarian Yachting Association, Romanian Yachting Federation, Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association, International 420 Class Association, and the International 470 Class Association

Purpose or Objective

The World Sailing 'Model Procedure for Electronic Voting' permits electronic voting, but that such voting shall not be used when making decisions on the events and equipment for the Olympic Games.

Proposal 1

That Council approves the policy that Council shall not undertake any voting for Olympic events and equipment by electronic voting.

Proposal 2

If this submission is approved, the Constitution Committee shall be requested to make any necessary changes to the Regulations and the 'Model Voting Procedure'.

Current Position

As above.

Reasons

1. In November 2017, as part of its "recommendations not based on submissions" the Constitution Committee recommended to Council approval of a Model Voting Procedure, as detailed in the extract from Constitution Committee Minute 11, below:

"11. Electronic Voting by Council, Committees and Commissions

The Committee discussed electronic voting by Council, Committees and Commissions, and the draft model procedure for electronic voting.

*The Committee considered **it was vital that electronic voting is not used for substantial matters that require proper discussion.** The Committee agreed that the chairman of the body must give reasons for suggesting that a matter is urgent, and therefore an electronic vote is required. It also agreed that participants should not be allowed to change their vote once it has been cast, and that the procedures should make clear that participants have an ongoing obligation to declare conflicts of interests during the course of all discussions.*

The Committee agreed that it would note in its recommendation to Council that it shares the concerns of several Council Members that electronic votes should not be used for substantial matters which ought to be decided by face-to-face meetings.

Decision

The Committee recommends to Council the model procedure for conducting electronic votes with the amendments in Appendix 2."

As explicitly detailed, the Constitution Committee recommendation to introduce electronic voting was that ***"... it was vital that electronic voting is not used for substantial matters that require proper discussion ..."*** and ***"....that electronic votes should not be used for substantial matters which ought to be decided by face-to-face meetings."***

2. Council approved the 'Voting Procedure' which is attached as Appendix C to the Council Minutes of November 2017, at:
[http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingCouncilMinutesNovember2017Final-\[23620\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingCouncilMinutesNovember2017Final-[23620].pdf)

Council had not had sight of this 'Voting Procedure' paper until it was presented as a "recommendation not based on submissions" in the 'green papers' circulated to Council members just prior to their meeting.

3. Prior to approving the 'Voting Procedure', and as part of the debate on the submissions regarding electronic voting (Submissions 32-17 and 33-17), there were very clear comments from Council Members and Constitution Committee members on restrictions to be put in place as to how such electronic voting shall be used. The video stream of the Council Meeting is at: <https://youtu.be/jW0okGYWzBQ?t=5h50m49s>
4. In his report to the Council in November 2017, the President himself noted electronic voting was not an ideal process, saying (page 5 of November 2017 Council Minutes):
"Electronic voting has been a topic throughout the year and in various submissions. It is not an ideal process"