

World Sailing Regulations

Electronic Voting by Council – New Regulation

A submission from the Hungarian Yachting Association, Federação Portuguesa de Vela and the Russian Yachting Federation

Purpose or Objective

To establish the subjects and procedures that can be decided by Council through electronic voting.

Proposal

Add new Regulation:

Council may take decisions by electronic voting on matters that are uncontentious and straightforward, for which a discussion and debate is not essential. At least the majority of Council members must approve the electronic voting in advance by way of an electronic voting before the Board calls for it.

The system should enable Council to have the opportunity of at least an “email discussion” before a vote is taken in respect of the matter.

Current Position

None

Reasons

1. Electronic voting is a system that can accelerate Council decisions instead of waiting for any of the two formal meetings actually established. Urgent matters, saving costs and better efficiency can be efficiently handled by this system.
 2. However, the electronic voting replaces the live debate, the collaboration and the possibility of finding a consensus between members of the Council, and is far from the transparency we all advocate for. Those aspects are essential in a collegiate body work and when ignored the resulting decision have a high risk of being inadequate and no fit to their purposes. The indiscriminate use of electronic voting is far from the “best governance practices” that should govern our organization and adversely affect the exercise of the rights the WS constituents have.
 3. That situation becomes critical when the subjects to be discussed relate to fundamental issues World Sailing needs to address, therefore the electronic voting should be reduced to minor decisions.
 4. The proposal recognise that some matters might be decided by electronic voting, but only when the council agrees on it. That is the way to respect the individual rights of its members
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and to ensure that the body will adequately perform the duties and responsibilities the Constitution assigns to it.