

Women’s Representation in Council

Article 39

A submission from the Chairman of the Constitution Committee

Proposal:

That Council make a submission to the next General Assembly that the Constitution be altered as follows:

Amend Article 39.1, to delete existing 39.1(i) and insert a new 39.1(h)

THE COUNCIL

39.1 The Council of the Federation shall consist of:-

- (a) the President;
- (b) the seven Vice-Presidents;
- (c) not more than 30 members appointed by Full Members;
- (d) The Chairman of the ISAF Offshore Committee;
- (e) a member appointed by the International Classes Committee;
- (f) a woman member appointed by:
 - (i) Women Vice-Presidents
 - (ii) Women members of Council, and
 - (iii) The women of Committees or Sub-committees, the members of which are nominated by Member National Authorities;
- (g) the Treasurer who, unless already a member in some other capacity, shall be an ex-officio non-voting member and shall be appointed by the Council;
- ~~(h) The Council as determined by Articles (a) to (g) above will have not less than twenty (20) per cent women members as may be established by agreement by those entitled to appoint member or by Regulation.~~
- (h) The Council as determined by Articles (a) to (g) above will contain members of both genders and each gender shall be represented by not less than 20% of the total members of the Council. The method of selecting a sufficient number of each gender shall be provided by Regulation.**

Current Position:

As above.

Reasons:

1. While there is no formal requirement of the International Olympic Committee that the legislative body of International Federations controlling Olympic Sports

should include at least 20% women, there is an informal requirement to that effect and the current article 39(i) was made to comply with that requirement.

2. This submission is made pursuant to the recommendation of the Governance Working Group appointed to consider the Strategic Plan and pursuant to the proposal at the mid-year meeting of May 2006 by Joe Butterfield, seconded by Jane Moon, and recorded as Item 10(d) of the minutes of that meeting.
3. Current article 39 (i) does not provide a method of selecting the women members of Council and expresses little more than a pious hope that the figure will be achieved.
4. This proposal will ensure that a minimum of 20% of both genders will be elected to Council. There is no reason why any provision in this matter should not also protect the position of men to the same extent as women.
5. Amendments to articles of the Constitution have to be passed by the General Assembly. Council is empowered to make submissions to the General Assembly and this submission is phrased to provide that this is done.
6. The method of selection in this proposal will ensure that Council does not increase in size and that the balance of Council members nominated by Member National Authorities in relation to other members remains the same.
7. The method of selection of the necessary number of women is detailed in a separate submission containing a proposed new regulation.
8. This proposal requires Council to prepare a list of some of the Groups of Member National Authorities to ascertain which of those Groups are required to nominate one member of each gender in a particular year. A subsequent submission proposes a method of preparing that list.