World Sailing Governance

Delay Approvals and Implementation and changes to Board Terms

A submission from Sail Canada and US Sailing

Purpose or Objective

To ensure appropriate opportunities for comprehensive and open discussions leading to a consensus in face to face meetings of WS, Council, MNAs and members of WS committees and sub-committees on all changes presented in the May 3, 2019, Governance Commission Proposal to reform the governance of World Sailing.

To ensure that staggered terms of the Board of Directors are put in place in time for the 2020 Election Cycle.

To add a second Athlete to the Board, and to ensure that one athlete is male and one athlete is female.

Proposal

To develop appropriate opportunities for greater face to face consultation, discussion and consensus building, the process should begin by reviewing the board terms and introducing the first staggered terms (sections 4.2.6 d and e) for 4 elected directors at the Annual Conference in 2019 for implementation at the Annual Conference (and elections) in late October/early November 2020.

It is therefore proposed to:

1. a. approve staggered terms for 4 board members at 2019 Annual Conference and hold elections for those 4 directors for a two year term at the 2020 Annual Conference.

b. elect 3 Board Members to have the same 4 year term as the President.

c. have the Athletes Commission appoint 2 athletes to the Board, one male and one female, one for a 4 year term and one for an initial 2 year term so that the slot goes into full 4 year term rotation beginning in 2022.

d. in order to implement this proposal for staggered terms for 4 directors, to draft changes to Article 32(a)(ii), 64, 65 and 73 of the Constitution that should be included on the agenda for the meeting of the General Assembly (AGM, November 2019):

Given that the Board will now have 10 members, the President will have a casting vote in the case of a tie;

The elected Board Members will continue to carry the title of Vice President, to enhance their recognition and outreach capabilities, that such a title provides;
Add a Recall Provision for any one of the Elected Members of the Board (President and Vice Presidents and Athletes), requiring a 75% majority vote of the Body that elected them.

2. continue discussions and consensus building on the proposed key changes set out on pages 12 – 40 of the Governance Proposal for the next 18 months (from August 1, 2019);

3. delay approvals of the revised Governance Proposal to the November Annual Conference 2021;

4. begin the process of implementation of the approved changes to the governance structure in 2022, with the aim of completing the process, or the approved first phase of the process, by the Annual Conference in November 2022;

Current Position

Page 41 of Proposal, section 5.3, Vote “(a) It is proposed to have one vote on a whole new constitution rather than to amend the existing constitution. It will require 75% majority of those present at a General Meeting to be adopted, which is intended to be the November 2019 AGM”.

Reasons

1. The Governance Commission Proposal to reform the governance of World Sailing, dated May 3, 2019, is a very comprehensive document recommending key changes in detail on pages 12 – 40 in 8 key areas. By providing structured opportunities for open face to face discussions and consensus building on improvements or further adjustments by WS, the Board, the expert committees, Council, and MNAs over the next 18 months, this delayed process of two years will better address the objectives of the Governance Review and enable a more studied resolution of the details at every level.

2. Instead of delaying the approvals and implementation to the next quad 2021 to 2024, proposing to approve the principles of staggered terms of 4 directors at the AGM 2019 and setting out a process of discussion (18 months), approvals (AGM 2021) and implementation in 2022, ensures significant reform in the next 3 years, not 5 years.

3. The addition of the second Athlete (of the opposite gender) furthers our sports leadership in the Olympic Family in recognizing the significance of the Athletes’ voice, and the importance of having both the male and female perspective, as driven by the concept of the IOC 2020 Plan.

4. The addition of the Recall capability furthers our sport’s commitment to democratic processes, and allows the electing body to correct errors in a timely manner, and not just every 4 years.

5. The Board, with the advice of the Governance Commission will propose the optimum process for full face to face discussions, approvals and implementation and any improvements to the timing set out above in this proposal items 1 to 4.