

Stagger Terms of the World Sailing Board of Directors

A submission from the US Sailing and Sail Canada

Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this proposal is to improve continuity of the Board of Directors by ensuring that half of the members of the Board are elected at the end of a Quad, and the other half is elected at the time of the mid-term.

In addition to this Submission being presented to the Board and Council for discussion and support, the Legal Staff of World Sailing is requested to assist USA in drafting this Proposal as a Special Resolution for consideration by the Members National Authorities (Members) at an Extraordinary General Meeting as determined by the Board pursuant to Articles 23 and 24 of the Constitution in 2021.

Proposal

The proposal is to change the schedule of Board member elections as follows:

Elected at the Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly held after the regularly scheduled Olympic Games:

- President
- 2 Vice Presidents
- Chair of the Athlete's Commission (elected by the eligible athletes)

Elected at the Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly to be held 2 years after the President is elected:

- 5 Vice Presidents

To begin this stagger of Vice President Terms, an Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly will be scheduled for November 2022, and the Members will vote on the question to extend the first term of 5 of the current 7 Vice-Presidents to end in 2026. Notwithstanding Article 73 of the World Sailing Constitution, these 5 Vice-Presidents would be eligible to be elected to an additional 4-year term in 2026.

The above would require changes to Article 73 of the World Sailing Constitution.

In addition, Article 30 of the World Sailing Constitution would need to be changed as follows: "The Annual General Meeting in 2020 ~~2012~~ and in every second ~~fourth~~ year thereafter shall constitute and be known as a General Assembly."

Regulation 4.3 (a) would be changed to "...at least one Vice-President of each gender shall be elected in each election. ..."

Current Position

Article 73. "No person shall be eligible for nomination as a candidate for the office of President if he has held that office for the immediate preceding continuous period of eight years, nor for the office of Vice-President if he has held that office for the immediate preceding continuous period of eight years. If more than two Vice-Presidents would thereby become ineligible, this provision shall affect those two Vice-Presidents having the longest period of continuous service; if two or more have equal seniority, then in the absence of agreement between them, all of those having equal seniority

shall be eligible for nomination, and a vote of the General Assembly shall be taken before the votes for Vice-President to determine which of them shall stand for re-election as Vice-President."

Article 30. "The Annual General Meeting in 2012 and in every fourth year thereafter shall constitute and be known as a General Assembly."

Regulation 4.3 (a) "At least two Vice-Presidents of each gender shall be elected. However, if there are fewer than two candidates of one gender, the number of Vice-Presidents of the other gender shall be increased accordingly."

Reasons

1. Continuity in Leadership: By staggering the Terms of the 9 members of the Board so that 4 (including the President) are elected at the end of a Quad and 5 are elected 2 years later, World Sailing can ensure continuity and smoother transitions in its leadership.
 2. Experienced Board Members to Guide New Members: Having a new President stepping onto a Board with 5 members with 2-6 years of experience will provide the President with 5 seasoned members to lean on as she/he comes up to speed. Similarly, 2 years later, the President will have had at least 2 years of experience as the leader of World Sailing and will be in a great place to on-board the 5 new members of the Board.
 3. Discourage Voting on Slates: By splitting the Board into two election cycles, the temptation to consider campaigning as a "slate" of candidates is eliminated and the focus is on which candidates are best suited to address the issues facing World Sailing.
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