

Submission 006-10 Working Party

Report to the Council from the Governance Working Party on Submission 006-10

Further to Submission 006 – 10 from the Federation Française de Voile – and to some extent Submission 005-10 from the Spanish Sailing Federation, the Council decided that the Executive Committee was to form a working party to consider the merits of a limited slate system for the election of the Executive Committee of the ISAF.

For this purpose the Executive Committee appointed a Working Party (WP) with the following members:

Göran Petersson, Chairman
Jacques Lehn
Bertrand de Speville
Balazs Hajdu
Scott Perry

The WP met on Monday 7th March at the offices of the ISAF in Southampton, In making its deliberations the WP considered, in addition to Submissions 005 -10 and 006 – 10, the following documents:

- a discussion paper prepared by the Secretary General, Jerome Pels entitled: ISAF Governance
- a document prepared by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) entitled: Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement, and
- the system of governance and constitutions of all 28 summer Olympic sports.

It rapidly became apparent to the WP that, although Submission 006 –10 was limited in its scope to the method used by the ISAF to elect its President and Vice-Presidents, the subject necessarily encompasses a far wider issue, namely the system of governance presently in place at the ISAF. Not only is this subject important because of the need to ensure proper governance at the ISAF but also because the IOC is concerned that all international sport federations affiliated to it should have adopted the principles of good governance outlined in their document referred to above.

However, given the time frame indicated in submission 006-10 the WP decided to concentrate on the election of the President and Vice Presidents in his report to Council and to transmit the other points raised to the Executive and Constitution Committees for further investigation at a later stage.

Election of President and Vice-Presidents

After careful consideration and a close look at both the election system in place at the ISAF today and the IOC recommendations on governance, the WP believes that the existing election has several shortcomings which would be addressed in part by a limited slate system as suggested in Submissions 005 – 10 and 006 - 10.

Some of the shortcomings of the present system are:

1. We have seen in recent elections a certain level of ‘co-ordination’ of the voting order by the members. The working party believes that this is because it is the desire of the members to

ensure a certain 'balance' in the composition of the Executive Committee in terms of geographical spread, skills, experience and perhaps other criteria. A limited slate system would certainly not do away with the geographic representation aspects inherent in today's system but would, in all likelihood, ensure a more balanced skill set amongst the candidates.

2. At present candidates are voted on individually with no regard for their performance as a team. In a limited slate system all future candidates for President of the ISAF would be forced to assemble a 4 person slate, themselves plus 3 Vice-Presidential candidates, who certainly would be aware of his or her work plan and vision for the ISAF and presumably agree with it.
- 3.
4. However, today's system does not guarantee a geographic spread of representation on the Executive Committee. One very large geographic area, in number of MNAs, could, in theory, elect all of the members of the Executive Committee from its area particularly as at present only about half of all MNAs are represented and vote at General Assemblies. The limited slate system would encourage a wider spread of geographic representation as a Presidential candidate would want his or her slate to be as attractive as possible to as many areas of the world as possible.
5. The Executive Committee resulting from a limited slate election system would, in all likelihood, carry out its business with a more cohesive approach.
6. The WP recognises the risk of a 'two camps' Executive Committee (the President slate and the 'others') or a perception of such situation. However the WP believes that on balance, the likelihood of problems of this kind in the day to day operation of the Executive is small and that the benefits of the limited slate system outweigh this potential problem.

Recommendation of the Working Party:

The Working Party recommends to the Council, that any candidate for President of the ISAF should have a slate of 3 Vice-Presidential candidates who would stand for election with him or her. The slate, President plus 3 Vice-Presidents, should include at least one woman. The remaining 4 Vice-Presidents would be elected from amongst those candidates for Vice-President who are not part of the elected President's slate. In the event that more than one individual stands for President the Vice-Presidential candidates on the losing slate or slates would be eligible to be elected to the office of Vice-President for one of the 4 remaining Vice-President positions not elected as part of the successful slate.

By way of example if there were 3 Presidential candidates A, B and C and Candidate A was successful the 6 Vice-Presidential candidates of the losing slates, B and C, would be available to be elected along with any "independent" Vice-Presidential candidates for the 4 remaining Vice-President positions on the Executive Committee. The limited slate system would have to ensure that two of the Vice-Presidents were women, at least one of whom would have been elected on the successful slate.

As Submission 006 – 10 requested that a slate system be put in place by the next General Assembly elections in November 2012 it is important to note that the WP believes the above changes to the election system would only require changes to the ISAF's Regulations, namely Regulation 4, something which is within the power of the Council to do. Had these suggested changes required alterations to the Articles of the Constitution it would have been hard to implement them

before November 2012 as changes to the Articles of the Constitution of the ISAF can only be approved by the Annual General Meeting / General Assembly.

From a timing standpoint if the Council, at its May 2011 meeting, agrees with the conclusions of this memo, a submission can be prepared by for the November 2011 meeting of the Council in order to have the new system in place by the time of the General Assembly and elections in November 2012.
