

Election Rules

2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 It is in the interests of World Sailing and all candidates for election that, during an election campaign, there is an atmosphere of mutual respect and equality between the candidates.

2. GENERAL

- 2.1 The 2025 Election Rules ("Rules") apply from the date of publication until the conclusion of the General Assembly, whether or not a candidate has submitted their Candidate Application Forms (CAF) ("the Campaign Period"). Candidates will be required to certify in their CAF that they, have complied with, agree to comply with, and will continue for the duration of the Campaign Period to comply with the Election Rules from the date of publication.
- 2.2 The Election Rules apply to:
- (a) candidates (whether or not they have submitted their CAF) and, for the purposes of these Rules, "candidate" includes any person or body providing support to a candidate with that candidate's knowledge; and
 - (b) any other person or body subject to the jurisdiction of World Sailing's Constitution and Regulations.
- 2.3 A candidate shall promote her candidacy subject to these Rules.
- 2.4 The promotion of a candidacy shall be conducted with dignity, respect for other candidates, fairness, good sportsmanship and moderation in order to promote a level playing field between and amongst candidates. A candidate shall not do anything which may bring the sport of sailing, or the reputation of World Sailing, or the reputations of other candidates into disrepute.
- 2.5 A candidate shall comply with the provisions of these Rules, the World Sailing Code of Ethics, the World Sailing Constitution and Regulations and all relevant World Sailing Policies and Procedures, including but not limited to, the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, Anti-Bribery Policy and the Whistle Blowing Procedures.
- 2.6 These Rules replace the previous Election Rules 2024 issued by the Elections Panel and any other Rules pertaining to elections issued by World Sailing. In the event of a conflict between these Rules and the Constitution or Regulations, the provisions of the Constitution and the Regulations shall take precedence.

3. RELATIONS WITH WORLD SAILING MNAs, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DELEGATES

- 3.1 A candidate shall submit a Candidate Statement to Member National Authorities (MNAs). The Candidate Statement, being a required section in the CAF, should detail the candidate's plans and views for the sport's future. The Candidate Statement will be uploaded on the World Sailing website and distributed via email by the CEO to MNAs. The CEO shall publish all the Candidate Statements (received by the specified deadline ("the deadline") on the same date, as he determines in conjunction with the Elections Panel.
- 3.2 The CEO shall stipulate in the CAF, with the agreement of the Elections Panel, that this Candidate Statement be provided by the deadline, be in a specific format in standard English and not exceed the stated word and page count limits.
- 3.3 The Candidate Statement is to be submitted as part of and contemporaneously with the whole of the CAF, which includes Isle of Man compliance declarations, by the deadline and in the form specified.
- 3.4 The CEO may, with the agreement of the Elections Panel, decline to publish any Candidate Statement (or part of any Candidate Statement) which in his opinion contravenes the Election Rules or which is otherwise inappropriate for World Sailing to publish.
- 3.5 In addition, each candidate may, as she chooses, prepare and send to World Sailing a video promoting her candidacy which will be uploaded to the World Sailing website (and/or to a social media platform designated by the CEO). The CEO shall, with the agreement of the Elections Panel, require that this video be provided by a certain date and time, be in specified format and not exceed a certain length. The CEO may, with the agreement of the Elections Panel, decline to publish any video which in his opinion contravenes the Election Rules or which is otherwise inappropriate for World Sailing to publish. The CEO shall publish any candidate videos (received by the specified date) on the same date.
- 3.6 Except as permitted by these Rules, World Sailing will not provide or facilitate any further written or electronic promotional and/or communications campaigns. Ensuring compliance with these Rules, candidates are permitted to have their own social media presence but are not permitted to campaign or communicate using World Sailing email or social media accounts (directly or indirectly) nor may they use the World Sailing or IOC logos or other identifying marks.

4. CAMPAIGN PERIOD AND EXPENDITURE

- 4.1 The Campaign Period will commence on the 2 June 2025 to the end of the General Assembly on the 8 November 2025.
- 4.2 During the Campaign Period each candidate will be required to
- (a) Advise the CEO of their expenditure plans at the time of same being organised or booked including purpose, destination, anticipated costs; and
 - (b) declare their expenditure on their campaign within 7 days of the expenditure being incurred and submit a breakdown of that expenditure. A total sum without a breakdown will not be accepted.
- 4.3 The maximum amount a candidate can spend on their campaign shall be €30,000 (the expenditure cap).
- 4.4 The failure of a candidate to comply with this Rule 4 shall be deemed misconduct for the purposes of Rule 22.
- 4.5 The total expenditure of each candidate will be published by World Sailing following the General Assembly at a time determined by the Elections Panel.

5. TRIPS & VISITS

- 5.1 During the Campaign Period. The cost of travel (which includes but is not limited to airfares, accommodation, food/beverages and ground transportation) made by a candidate with a view to promoting a candidacy must not exceed the permitted maximum limit specified in Rule 4.3 in order to avoid excessive expenditure (a factor of inequality between candidates). Any such travel organised in connection with a candidacy, or reasonably held to be in connection with a candidacy, shall be reported to the CEO in accordance with Rule 4. The CEO will inform the Elections Panel of all travel notified to him.
- 5.2 During the Campaign Period all trips/visits between and among candidates and MNAs shall be reported to the CEO in accordance with Rule 4. CEO will inform the Elections Panel of all such trips/visits notified to him.

6. DEBATES AND MEETINGS

- 6.1 During the Campaign Period, except with the permission of the Elections Panel, no debate or public meeting (held virtually or in person) of any kind may be organised to promote a candidacy.
- 6.2 The Elections Panel reserves the right to request an invitation from the candidate to attend any such debate or public meeting as it sees fit and that one or more members of the Elections Panel may then attend.

7. PROFESSIONAL MARKETING ASSISTANCE

- 7.1 A candidate is permitted, subject to Rule 15.1, to receive marketing, public relations or professional campaign management assistance.
- 7.2 A candidate is permitted to receive reasonable financial support provided by a candidate's own MNA:
- (a) to support a candidate in the production of the items referred to in Rules 3.1 and 3.4;
 - (b) to cover the travel and accommodation costs of attending the 2025 Annual Conference if the candidate is a General Assembly delegate, member of Council or committee or commission member; or
 - (c) to the extent normally provided where the candidate is an existing officer or employee of their own MNA, and in that capacity only.
- 7.3 The amount of financial support, and an itemised breakdown of items provided by a candidate's MNA under Rule 7.2, must be notified to the CEO and Elections Panel in accordance with Rule 4.
- 7.4 The assistance referred to in Rules 7.1 and 7.2 falls within the expenditure cap in clause 4.3 save only that the cost of the candidate's travel (airfare only) is excluded from the cap.

8. GIFTS & BENEFITS

- 8.1 Save for nominal gifts of under €20 in value, a candidate shall not give cash, presents, offer donations or gifts, or grant advantages of whatever nature (or promises or inducements or incentives at any time) to procure support for their candidacy.
- 8.2 Candidates are required to declare gifts and hospitality, over the value of €100 which they (or their immediate family) have received or been offered during the Campaign Period from anyone involved in any way (directly or indirectly) in World Sailing. Any such gifts and/or hospitality received or offered shall be reported to the CEO within 14 days of either offer or receipt, together with an estimation of the value of the gift and/or hospitality. The CEO will inform the Elections Panel of all gifts/hospitality notified to him.
- 8.3 For the purposes of this Rule 8 any reference to "money" or "value" means and includes in kind gifts or benefits.
- 8.4 In the event that a candidate is unsure as to whether or not to offer a gift or receive a benefit she should refuse to give and decline to receive or, alternatively, seek direction from the Elections Panel.

9. PROMISES

- 9.1 A candidate shall not enter into, or make, any promise, agreement, or undertaking to be performed (regardless of the time and place of performance), for the direct or indirect benefit of MNAs, their representatives and delegates, Council Members, committee and commission members, other organisations (such as Continental Associations or World Sailing Class Associations), regions or other partners.

10. PUBLIC DECLARATIONS

- 10.1 This rule does not prevent private expressions of opinion or intentions.
- 10.2 MNAs, their representatives and delegates, Council Members, committee and commission members, other organisations (such as Continental Associations or World Sailing Classes), regions or other partners shall:
- (a) not announce to the public in any form whatsoever their intention to vote for a particular candidate; and
 - (b) shall refrain from making any public declaration, and shall not in any way, support or oppose a candidacy to the public.
- 10.3 Candidates shall not be endorsed by the International Olympic Committee, ASOIF or any other international sporting organisation (or one of their members) and are not permitted to use their logos or identifying marks on any campaign material.

11. MANIPULATION

- 11.1 Concealed promotion of a candidacy in the form of technical meetings or other events is not permitted.
- 11.2 Candidates shall not engage in any act, collaboration or collusion by or between Candidates with the intent to defraud, interfere with or manipulate the result of the vote, including but not limited to
- (a) bullying, intimidation or coercion of others (whether voters, other candidates, members of the Elections Panel, Disciplinary Tribunal or Investigations Panel (including its Independent Panels), and World Sailing staff); or
 - (b) being a part of, or a knowing beneficiary of, any order or instruction attempting to mandate the way one or more MNAs must vote (whether on a regional basis or otherwise);

12. UNDERTAKINGS AND MANDATORY INSTRUCTIONS

13. A candidate shall not enter into any form of undertaking with any third party which may affect or has the perception of affecting their ability to make decisions freely and/or would affect their actions as a future director of World Sailing.

14. A candidate shall not accept mandatory instructions from any third party which would affect their ability to make decisions freely and/or would affect their actions as a future director of World Sailing.

15. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES

- 15.1 Candidates are not permitted to use the services of a journalist, media company, public relations company or design company to promote their candidacy. For the avoidance of doubt a candidate is entitled to give an interview with a journalist provided she has not been paid to do so and/or they have not paid the journalist for the interview and/or to procure publication.

16. RELATIONS BETWEEN CANDIDATES

- 16.1 A candidate shall, during the course of promoting her candidacy, respect the Elections Panel, MNAs, their representatives and delegates, and World Sailing itself.
- 16.2 A candidate shall strictly respect the other candidates. A candidate shall not, by spoken word, written text or other representation, harm or do anything likely to harm the image of another candidate or cause any prejudice to them.

17. WORLD SAILING STAFF AND CANDIDATES

- 17.1 The World Sailing staff shall maintain a strict duty of neutrality at all times which shall be respected by all candidates at all times.
- 17.2 Candidates shall limit their relations and communication with World Sailing staff to the scope of the requirements of each staff member's duties which do not include the provision of support or service to any candidacy.

18. The Elections Panel may issue directions as to the nature and manner of relations and communications between candidates and staff. Conflicts

19. Candidates shall disclose any personal interests in their Candidate Application Form as required by the World Sailing Conflicts of Interest Policy.

20. Candidates shall comply with the World Sailing Conflict of Interest Policy.

21. If there is doubt in relation to an existing or potential conflict of interest or perception of conflict of interest the candidate may refer to the Elections Panel for guidance.

22. BREACHES AND SANCTIONS

- 22.1 Interested Parties (World Sailing Council, committee or commission member, World Sailing MNAs (including their delegates), World Sailing directors and officers, World Sailing staff, and candidates) have a positive duty to report and are required to bring any alleged breach of these Rules by persons named in clause 2.2 to the attention of the Elections Panel (in writing or by email addressed to the CEO) within 24 hours following discovery of the circumstances. The Elections Panel may extend this time limit if there is good reason to do so.
- 22.2 The Elections Panel may investigate an alleged breach of the Rules brought to its attention and will give the relevant candidate the opportunity to respond within such time frame as the Elections Panel considers appropriate. The Elections Panel may determine its own procedures. Candidates are required to attend a meeting of Elections Panel upon reasonable notice to do so.
- 22.3 If the Elections Panel concludes there has been a minor or technical breach of the Rules, it may in its discretion:
- (a) make written observations to the candidate, which may be made public by the Elections Panel; or
 - (b) issue a Notice of Concern to the candidate, which shall be made public by the Elections Panel.
- 22.4 In addition to Rule 22.3, if the Elections Panel concludes there has been a breach of the Rules, which is not minor nor technical, it may refer the matter to the Investigations Panel.

23. GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIONS

- 23.1 Candidates may at any time during the Campaign Period request guidance from the Elections Panel on the conduct of their candidacies with respect to the application of these Election Rules. Any such requests shall be made via the CEO.
- 23.2 The Elections Panel may, as it deems appropriate, issue directions to candidates on any matter pertaining to the conduct of candidacies which shall be binding on candidates in accordance with these Rules.
- 23.3 The Elections Panel may recount the votes and amend the declared result at any time in its sole discretion.
- 23.4 In the event there is a margin of five or fewer votes between a successful Candidate and an unsuccessful Candidate in the declared results, the unsuccessful Candidate may request a single recount within 5 minutes of the result being declared to the General Assembly. The request must be made in writing to the Chair of the Elections Panel. The Panel shall recount the votes if a valid request is received and may amend the declared result accordingly.

Elections Panel 2 June 2025.



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