

To: All MNAs and Candidates
From: Elections Panel
Subject: Elections Panel Notice #1
Date: 9 September 2025

Dear MNAs and Candidates

The Rules

The Elections Panel reminds all candidates and MNAs of the need to comply with both the words and the requirements set out in the Election Rules which can be found [here](#), but also their spirit embodying fair play and good sportsmanship.

Thanks to those of you who have made enquires and clarifications on the election rules which are most welcome.

The Elections Panel has received inquiries from both candidates and MNAs which are addressed below.

Questions and Answers

Q: Does the Elections Panel intend to issue any subsequent formal guidance for candidates and MNAs promoting their nominated candidacies?

A: The Panel does not intend to issue further guidance other than what is set out in Election Rules. The Panel is however open to specific questions from candidates or MNAs and will endeavour to respond to all queries in a timely manner.

Q: In relation to Rules 3.5, 3.6 and 10, what is the acceptable treatment of posts by candidates where the MNAs are “tagged”, “mentioned” or in #hashtags?

A: There is no express rule prohibiting tagging or mentions, but the context is important. If the overall effect would be perceived to be public support from an MNA for a candidate, then it will breach Rule 10.

Q: How do the rules apply to content published on official social media accounts, channels, or profiles belonging to MNAs (including those nominating candidates)?

A: It would be risky for an MNA to comment publicly on a candidate(s) in a way which will not breach the Election Rules. If an MNA wishes to reference the elections generally and draw attention to all the candidates (for example, by way of a link to the World Sailing website), then that would be acceptable.

Q: Does Rule 10.2 apply to active or former athletes or non-official representatives / delegates, who are merely members of an MNA?

A: We do not read rule 10.2 as applying to athletes or other ‘mere’ members of MNAs. However, if a non-official representative made a comment, we would consider what was the overall perception of the public. If there was no suggestion of them representing the MNAs views, it is acceptable. But if they were taken to be an informal indication of MNA support that would breach the rule.

Q: Subject to Rule 5.2 and with reference to Rules 6.1 and 11.1, we would appreciate guidance on whether attendance by a candidate as an observer at an MNA or Group MNA meeting, where no presentation or promotion is to take place, will be regarded as concealed promotion of candidacy as per the Rules.

A: If a candidate attends or observes an MNA or group meeting, but there is no presentation or promotion of a candidacy (express or implied). There is no issue.

Q: We would appreciate your advice on what an MNA (and its representatives) can do to present their nominating candidates when interacting with other MNAs during the usual course of their international business affairs.

A: The permitted MNA support is set out in Rule 7.2. In addition, Rule 10.1 expressly says the MNA may indicate in private its views and support. There can be no objection to a MNA stating its position to another MNA in private. However, it must avoid any situation where it is publicly stating its position. This is to ensure a level playing field between and amongst MNAs which have differing levels of resourcing.

The Elections Rules can be found [here](#)

Should you have any queries during the campaign period please contact the Elections Panel via elections@sailing.org

Issued on behalf of the World Sailing Elections Panel