

# Election Rules

2024

Made by the World Sailing Election Committee to govern the conduct of the elections which take place in Singapore on 9 November 2024 under Article 76 of the World Sailing Constitution and under Article 43 of the New Constitution.

## 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 2024 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 his or her candidature subject to these Rules.
- 2.4 The promotion of a candidature 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 2020 issued by the Election Committee 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. The Candidate Statement, being a required section in the CAF, should detail the candidate's plans and views for the sport as a prospective World Sailing President or Vice President. The Candidate Statement will be uploaded on the World Sailing website and distributed via email by the Chief Executive Officer to Member National Authorities. The Chief Executive Officer shall publish all the Candidate Statements (received by the specified deadline ("the deadline")) on the same date, as he determines in conjunction with the Election Committee.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive Officer shall stipulate in the CAF, with the agreement of the Election Committee, 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 Chief Executive Officer may, with the agreement of the Election Committee, 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 he or she chooses, prepare and send to World Sailing a video promoting his or her candidacy which will be uploaded to the World Sailing website (and/or to a social media platform designated by the Chief Executive Officer). The Chief Executive Officer shall, with the agreement of the Election Committee, require that this video be provided by a certain date and time, be in specified format and not exceed a certain length. The Chief Executive Officer may, with the agreement of the Election Committee, decline to publish any video which in his opinion contravenes the Election Rules or which is otherwise inappropriate for World Sailing to publish. The Chief Executive Officer 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 1 June 2024 to the end of the General Assembly on the 9 November 2024.
- 4.2 During the Campaign Period each candidate will be required to
- (a) Advise the Chief Executive Officer 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 €25,000.
- 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 Election Committee.

#### **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 candidature 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 candidature, or reasonably held to be in connection with a candidature, shall be reported to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Rule 4. The Chief Executive Officer will inform the Election Committee of all travel notified to him.
- 5.2 During the Campaign Period all trips/visits between and among candidates and Member National Authorities shall be reported to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Rule 4. The Chief Executive Officer will inform the Election Committee of all such trips/visits notified to him.
- 5.3 During the Campaign Period current World Sailing Board Members who are standing for election may make trips/visits to attend meetings, events and functions as required, for the fulfilment of their existing duties as directors. Any such trips/visits should not be used to promote their candidature. Any such trips/visits and any expenditure shall be reported to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Rule 4. The Chief Executive Officer will inform the Election Committee of all such trips/visits notified to him.

#### **6. DEBATES AND MEETINGS**

- 6.1 During the Campaign Period, except with the permission of the Election Committee, no debate or public meeting (held virtually or in person) of any kind may be organised to promote a candidature.

#### **7. PROFESSIONAL MARKETING ASSISTANCE**

- 7.1 A candidate is permitted 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 Member National Authority:
- (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 2024 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 Member National Authority, 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 Chief Executive Officer and Election Committee in accordance with Rule 4.
- 7.4 The assistance referred to in Rules 7.1 and 7.2 falls within the limit of expenditure in clause 4.3 save only that the cost of the candidate's travel (airfare only) is excluded from the limit.

#### **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 candidature.
- 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 Chief Executive Officer within 14 days of either offer or receipt, together with an estimation of the value of the gift and/or hospitality. The Chief Executive Officer will inform the Election Committee 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 he or she should refuse to give and decline to receive or, alternatively, seek direction from the Election Committee.

## **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 Member National Authorities, 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 Member National Authorities, 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 candidature 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 candidature 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 Election Committee, Ethics Commission, Judicial Board (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 Member National Authorities 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 he 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 his or her candidature, respect the Election Committee, Member National Authorities, 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 candidature.

18. The Election Committee 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 Election Committee for guidance.

## **22. BREACHES AND SANCTIONS**

- 22.1 Interested Parties (World Sailing Council, committee or commission member, World Sailing Member National Authorities (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 Election Committee (in writing or by email addressed to the Chief Executive Officer) within 24 hours following discovery of the circumstances. The Election Committee may extend this time limit if there is good reason to do so.
- 22.2 The Election Committee 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 Committee considers appropriate. The Committee may determine its own procedures. Candidates are required to attend a meeting of Election Committee upon reasonable notice to do so.
- 22.3 If the Election Committee 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 Committee; or
  - (b) issue a Notice of Concern to the candidate, which shall be made public by the Committee.
- 22.4 In addition to Rule 22.3, if the Election Committee concludes there has been a breach of the Rules which is not minor nor technical, it may, in its discretion, refer the matter to the Judicial Board under the provisions of Regulations 35.

## **23. GUIDANCE AND DIRECTIONS**

- 23.1 Candidates may at any time during the Campaign Period request guidance from the Election Committee on the conduct of their candidatures with respect to the application of these Election Rules. Any such requests shall be made via the CEO.
- 23.2 The Election Committee may, as it deems appropriate, issue directions to candidates on any matter pertaining to the conduct of candidatures which shall be binding on candidates in accordance with these Rules.

Election Committee 20 May 2024



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