

**Olympic Federation of Ireland**  
**Nomination and Election Regulations for**  
**election of members of the Athletes'**  
**Commission**

**1. DEFINITIONS**

“Athletes’ Commission” means the Athletes’ Commission of the Olympic Federation of Ireland.

“Election” means an election of elected members of the Athletes’ Commission;

“Executive Committee” means the Executive Committee of the Federation;

“Federation” means the Olympic Federation of Ireland;

“Minimum Gender Representation” means that following an Election, at least 40% of the members of the Athletes’ Commission must be male, and at least 40% must be female;

“Minimum Number” shall have the meaning given to it in Regulation 2.3;

“Regulations” means these Regulations, which have been approved by the Executive Committee for the purposes of the conducting and making further provision for the nomination and election of the Athletes’ Commission

“Scrutineer” shall have the meaning given to it in Regulation 2.1 below;

“Terms of Reference” means the Terms of Reference for the OFI Athletes’ Commission as approved by the OFI Executive Committee.

“Voter” means all those athletes who have competed at an Olympic Games and are therefore deemed eligible to vote.

“Athlete Representative Body” means any committee or group within a sport that represents the athletes within that sport.

**2. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE - SCRUTINEER**

2.1 In the year of an Election, a Nominations Committee shall be appointed by the Board of the OFI and will act as Scrutineer (the “**Scrutineer**”) for the Elections.

2.2 The Nominations Committee shall comprise at a minimum of the President of the OFI, the CEO of the OFI, an elected Board member of the OFI and, on the assumption he/she is not standing for re-election, the outgoing Chair of the Athletes' Commission. Where the outgoing Chair is standing for re-election another outgoing member of the Athletes' Commission who is not standing for re-election will take his/her place on the Nominations Committee.

2.4 The Nominations Committee is responsible for the conduct of the Election and its decisions on all matters arising (including without limitation decisions about validity of a nomination, declaration of identity, or vote), or on any question (including without limitation in relation to the exclusion of any Candidate, or to any nomination or vote) which may arise in connection with any Election, are final and binding.

2.5 The Nominations Committee may require the Athletes' Commission to give it such information as deemed necessary for the purposes of an Election and the performance of the functions of the Scrutineer.

### 3. **3. SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS**

3.1 The OFI shall issue notice of upcoming elections to the Athletes' Commission members at the end of each AC cycle, will take place in the period from Quarter Four of the year of the Summer Olympic Games to Quarter Two of the following year.

3.2 Each National Federation, which has an eligible athlete(s), is encouraged to promote the nomination of eligible athletes.

3.3 Athletes shall submit an application if they have either the support of their National Federation or the support of three Olympians outside of their sport.

3.4 Athletes may specify in their application an interest in being a Chair of the Athletes' Commission. When indicating this interest they must include a CV.

3.5 Only athletes who specify an interest in being Chair and include a CV as part of their initial application will be eligible to stand for election as Chair should they be successfully elected to the Athletes' Commission. As the Chair shall be an ex officio member of the Executive Committee they shall become a Director of the Company and must be eligible to become a Director under Irish company law.

3.6 Athletes wishing to run for election to the Athletes' Commission must submit the following:

- A Nomination Form as issued by the OFI approved by three fellow Olympians from three separate Olympic sports OR a Nomination Form approved by their National Federation and signed by the CEO/President on its behalf.
- The Nomination Form should include the required short report setting out the reasons for seeking election and the main objectives for wishing to join the Athletes' Commission.
- For candidates to be considered for the role of Chair, a CV and confirmation that they are eligible to be appointed as an ex officio member of the OFI Executive Committee and a Director of the Company.

3.7 For a nomination to be valid, it must be submitted in accordance with these requirements before the stipulated deadline issued by the OFI.

3.8 National Federations and athletes supporting nominations should have regard to the requirement that the composition of the Athletes' Commission would comply with Minimum Gender Representation of 40%.

#### 4. POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

4.1 No less than five and no more than eight members will be elected to the Athletes' Commission in initial voting. A single ballot shall be taken, and candidates will be deemed elected:

- by order of number votes or
- by the requirement for Minimum Gender Balance where it needs to be imposed to achieve a minimum 40% representation for each Gender, and
- by the requirement for a minimum inclusion of athletes representing at least five different sports, and
- by inclusion of a minimum of one candidate who has expressed interest in being Chair

#### 5 SCRUTINY OF NOMINATION FORMS

5.1 All Nomination Forms shall be reviewed by the Nominations Committee.

5.2 The Nominations Committee shall examine all Nomination Forms received pursuant to Regulation 3 and the additional criteria as set out below.

5.3 The Nominations Committee will assess all applications prior to progressing to standing for election and will consider the following criteria:

- a. The OFI 40% Minimum Gender Balance and whether the field of candidates is such that it can provide at least two people of either gender to produce a minimum sized elected Athletes' Commission of five elected members.
- b. Where there are more than two athletes nominated per sport, the Nominations Committee will review applications and determine which two candidates should be put forward for election, on the assumption that there are more candidates than the maximum required (8) to constitute the Athletes' Commission.
- c. Eligibility and CV of any candidate seeking the role of Chair.

5.4 All Nomination Forms received pursuant to Regulation 3 shall be examined by the Nominations Committee whose decision as to the validity of each nomination shall be final.

5.5 The nomination of a person shall be invalid, and the person shall not go forward for Election if the Nominations Committee is of the view that:

- (a) the nomination form was not received by the date specified;
- (b) the candidate was not eligible pursuant to the Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference;
- (c) the nomination form is incomplete or inaccurate, such that the candidate should not be put forward at the Election; or
- (d) the candidate was one of more than two athletes nominated from a single sport where, on conclusion of the Nominations Committee review, two other candidates nominated by the same sport were selected instead, or
- (e) in the case of a nomination for Chair a CV has not been submitted as requested, or
- (f) other reasons apply such that it would be inappropriate for the candidate to be put forward at the Election.

5.6 If the Nominations Committee determines the list of valid candidates nominated to include at least the Minimum Number of males and of females, to produce an Athletes' Commission of at least five members,

in accordance with 40% minimum gender balance, then that list will be deemed complete. The Nominations Committee will draw up the lists of valid candidates, which will be published for the purposes of election.

5.7 If the Nominations Committee determines that the list of valid candidates does not include at least the Minimum Number of males and of females required to achieve 40% Minimum Gender Balance, the Nominations Committee shall proceed to the steps set out in Regulation 6.1.

5.8 If the Nominations Committee determines that the list of valid candidates does not include a sufficient number of candidates who have indicated an interest in holding the position of Chair the Nominations Committee shall proceed to the steps set out in Regulation 6.7.

## 6 **ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS TO ACHIEVE MINIMUM NUMBER**

6.1 In the circumstances set out in Regulation 5.3 (a) where there are fewer than two candidates eligible to run for election from either gender, the Nominations Committee shall serve notice on such Full Members of the OFI (if any) as have not nominated their maximum number of candidates (two) giving each such Full Member the option to nominate their full quota of candidates from the under-represented gender for election, and appending a nomination form.

6.2 The Nominations Committee may require that the notice referred to in Regulation 6.1 shall address such matters as it sees fit.

6.3 The documents referred to in Regulation 6.1 shall be sent by email to the address(es) notified to the Federation for that purpose and a copy of that email may be sent to such other persons within the Full Member organisation as the Nominations Committee thinks appropriate.

6.4 Nominations under this Regulation may only be made by way of the form referred to at Regulation 6.1.

6.5 For a nomination form referred to at Regulation 6.1 to be valid, it must be returned by email, fully complete, to such email address as is specified in the documents referred to in Regulation 6.1, by the date specified in those documents for receipt of such nominations.

6.6 In the circumstances described in this section 6, Full Members may only nominate persons who meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference and who are also from the under-represented gender.

6.7 Full Members may nominate persons who meet the eligibility requirements set out in the Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference and who may be suitable candidates for the role of Chair. This is subject to an invitation from the Nominations Committee to provide this and may be forthcoming in circumstances where no applicants in the initial field of candidates specified an interest in this position.

## 7 SCRUTINY OF ADDITIONAL NOMINATION FORMS

7.1 The Nominations Committee shall examine all nomination forms received pursuant to Regulation 6.5.

7.2 A nomination shall be invalid, and the person shall not go forward for Election if the Scrutineer is of the view that:

- (a) the nomination form was not received by the date referred to in Regulation 6.5;
- (b) the candidate was not eligible, pursuant to the Terms of Reference of the Athletes' Commission;
- (c) in the case of Regulation 6.1 if the candidate was not of the under-represented gender;
- (d) the nomination form is incomplete or inaccurate, such that the candidate should not be put forward at the Election; or
- (e) other reasons apply such that it would be inappropriate for the candidate to be put forward at the Election.

7.3 Candidates who have been deemed to have been validly nominated by the Nominations Committee pursuant to Regulation 5.2 and Regulation 7.2 shall together comprise the list of valid candidates, regardless of whether that list includes the Minimum Number of males and of females, it will be deemed complete.

7.4 The Nominations Committee will draw up the list of valid candidates for each ballot and will provide these lists for publication and voting.

Athletes shall be informed after the nominations process as to their eligibility.

## 8 SUBMISSION OF VOTES

8.1 All athletes who have competed at an Olympic Games will be eligible to vote.

8.2 For a vote to be deemed valid, each voter must select up to a maximum of eight candidates, selecting all candidates they wish to elect.

8.3 Voting will take place by means of an electronic platform and will be overseen by the Nominations Committee.

## 9 COUNTING OF VOTES AND ELECTION OF MEMBERS

9.1 The Nominations Committee shall determine the minimum number of males and of females needed to be elected as members of the Athletes' Commission to meet the Minimum Gender Representation of 40%. If that minimum number is greater than the number of actual nominations of candidates of either gender, the number of positions reflecting that excess shall be filled by OFI Executive Committee appointments, and the number of positions to be filled by election under this Regulation 9 shall be reduced accordingly to meet the requirements of an Athletes' Commission with no less than five members and no more than eight members unless the circumstances pursuant to Regulation 9.4 arise.

9.2 In the event that only five candidates are nominated for election, and within the five candidates each Gender is represented to the Minimum Gender representation of 40%, (i.e. minimum of two candidates from both Genders), then the candidates will be automatically selected without requirement for election. This may also apply if the Nominations Committee determines that the field of nominated candidates is such that a vote would not alter the outcome or composition of the Athletes' Commission.

9.3 Once voting has closed each candidate will have received a given number of votes. Each candidate will be selected first by order of votes in descending order from most votes to least votes until Minimum Gender Balance principles may or may not need to be applied to produce a 40% minimum gender representation on the Athletes' Commission. Consideration will also be made for the minimum inclusion of one candidate who has indicated their interest in holding the position of Chair. Consideration will also be made to include a minimum of five sports and where this can not be achieved from the list of eligible candidates, appointment will be made post-election by the OFI executive committee to achieve this minimum number.

9.4 In the event of an equality of votes to fill the last position or positions, the Nominations Committee may recommend to the OFI Executive Committee the constitution of a larger Athletes' Commission by including those candidates who received an equality of votes for the last position. The OFI Executive Committee will have the sole authority to determine this outcome and among options available to it may decide that a further ballot be taken which excludes the candidates who are deemed to have been elected and the candidates (if any) who received less votes than those candidates with an

equality of votes. The decision will be at the sole discretion of the OFI Executive Committee.

9.5 Having regard to the IOC guidelines relating to the creation of an NOC Athletes' Commission, once a final recommendation for the composition of the OFI Athletes' Commission, based on these regulations, has been completed by the Nominations Committee, it will then be submitted to the OFI Executive Committee for final review to consider compliance with the IOC guidelines. The OFI Executive Committee may decide at this juncture to nominate any additional members required to meet the IOC composition recommendations. This will be at the sole discretion of the OFI Executive Committee. Should the OFI Executive Committee decide that the composition requirements as set out in these regulations, and under IOC guidelines can not be met, it may, at its sole discretion, request that the election process be dissolved and re-run ex novo.

9.6 Accidental non-compliance with these Regulations shall not invalidate an Election.

## 10 **SELECTION TO MEET MINIMUM GENDER REPRESENTATION OR MINIMUM SIZE REQUIREMENTS**

10.1 In the circumstances set out in Regulations 5.4 and 5.5, the Nominations Committee will in the first instance follow regulation 6.1 and following that as set out in 7.3.

10.2 The Nominations Committee will, as soon as possible following the Election, instruct the OFI Executive Committee of the requirement to appoint a set number of Candidates who meet the requirements set out under the Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference from the under-represented gender and they will be added to the Athletes' Commission post-election to meet Minimum Gender Representation.

## 11 **SELECTION TO ENHANCE SKILL SET OF ATHLETES' COMMISSION**

11.1 Following election the OFI Athletes' Commission may ask the OFI Executive Committee to co-opt up to two additional athletes to the Commission, in addition to the members described under Regulation 9.1 to fulfil set requirements of the Athletes' Commission. The decision on whether to do so will sit entirely with the OFI Executive Committee.

## 12 **DISSEMINATION OF REGULATIONS**

12.1 These Regulations shall be published on the Athletes' Commission elections portal.



No election held under these regulations shall be invalidated by reason of any noncompliance with the provisions of these Regulations or by reason of any miscount or of the non-deliver, loss or miscarriage of any document required under these Regulations, if it appears to the Nominations Committee that the Election was conducted substantially in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, and the result of such noncompliance, miscount, non-delivery, loss or miscarriage did not substantially affect the result of the Election.

The final composition of the Athletes' Commission will not be deemed completed until a recommendation has been made by the Nominations Committee to the OFI Executive Committee based on the Athletes' Commission Nomination and Election Regulations and has been approved by the OFI Executive Committee.

ENDS