



Proposed Bylaw Changes - IRF Congress 2019 13 and 15 May, Tully, Queensland, Australia

The following are the proposed changes to the IRF Bylaws submitted by President - Joe Willis Jones,
and Secretary General - Sue Liell-Cock

Article 2. Mission Statement

Explanation: Point 2 to be added to more fully state the IRF's commitment to Olympic values and IOC recommendations.

Proposed update – add 2 below:

1-2. The IRF purpose in sport is to promote Olympic values in order to place sport at the service of humanity for a better world. IRF competitions closely follow the Olympic model and International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommendations, while remaining true to the traditions and history of our sport. The IRF shall observe the general and fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter and the IOC Manual on sport and the environment.

Article 10. Headquarters and Contact

Explanation: Changed to reflect that the IRF maintains several websites, social media channels and distributes information through all of these outlets.

Proposed update – change as per below:

2. Official IRF information and contact details shall be distributed through the official IRF website, social media and email channels as appropriate at: <http://www.internationalrafting.com>
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Article 20. Function of Congress

Explanation: Correction as Congress is not every year

Proposed update – change as per below:

4. The IRF Congress shall each ~~year~~ Ordinary Congress session decide to ratify or reject:
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Article 23. Congress scheduling

Explanation: Change as it is not certain that R6 World Championships will be held every 4 years.

Proposed update – change as per below:

3. All elections to positions on the IRF Board of Directors will be held every four (4) years during the Ordinary IRF Congress in the year following the Summer Olympic Games ~~of the R6 World Rafting Championships~~.

Explanation: Include the Executive Committee in having the power to call an Extraordinary Congress.

Proposed update – change as per below:

4. An Extraordinary IRF Congress may be called at any time when at least one-third of IRF Full Members submit a request in writing to the IRF Board of Directors giving reasons thereof; or when the IRF Board of Directors or the Executive Committee considers that circumstances have arisen that warrant such a call.
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Article 24. Notice of Congress Meetings

Explanation: 1. Updated to reflect current communication channels.

Explanation: 2. Two months is not enough time.

Explanation: 3. & 4. Two sections deleted due to already being listed elsewhere in Bylaws. Doubling up could end up having different requirements in different sections.

Proposed update – change as per below:

1. Notices and information pertaining to meeting of the IRF Congress will be dispatched by the Secretary General to all IRF Member Organizations, members of the IRF Board of Directors, and Committee Heads via ~~registered letter, Official email communication, and through announcements over official IRF website and social media channels, or fax.~~
 2. At least ~~two (2)~~**four (4)** months before the IRF **Ordinary** Congress, notices will be dispatched to inform all participants ~~of the dates for~~**about** the ~~general~~ meeting.
 3. At least four (4) weeks before the IRF **Ordinary** Congress, notices will be dispatched about **any** IRF Board of Directors and Committee meetings ~~that are to be held; along with information detailing the agenda and any motions (with supporting documents) that are scheduled to be put before the Congress.~~
 4. ~~For the Ordinary IRF Congress, the agenda and motions shall be accompanied by current management and accounting reports, and a proposed budget for the next accounting period.~~
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Article 27. Submission of Proposals

Explanation: Eliminate this Article as the timeline for proposals is detailed in the Annex to this bylaw.

Proposed update – remove point 3 as below:

3. ~~All proposals must be in the hands of the IRF Secretary General no later than five (5) weeks prior to the date of the next Ordinary IRF Congress as per the timing set out in Annexes to Article 27.~~
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Article 31. Nomination of Directors

Explanation: Make it clear as to when nominations must be in and when the final list of candidates will be sent out to members

Proposed update – change as per below:

3. ~~During a session of the IRF Ordinary Congress where an election of IRF Directors takes place, t~~The name and details of all nominees must be:

a. ~~-given to~~Provided in writing to the IRF Secretary General at least four (4) weeks for publication at least two weeks before the ~~Ordinary IRF Congress~~session.

~~d.~~b. Sent by the Secretary General to the official email of all IRF Full Members at least three (3) weeks before the date of the session.:

Article 33. Conflict of Interest Policy

Explanation: 1. Update to include the 2017 Congress adoption of IRF Code of Ethical Conduct, IRF commitment to the IOC Code of Ethics, and better define who and what is affected by conflict of interest concerns.

Explanation: 2. Better define the responsibility of IRF decision makers to recuse themselves from voting on issues where they have a conflict of interest.

Proposed update – change as per below:

~~1.—~~ Members of the IRF Board of Directors, committees, staff, officials, employees, or IRF accredited associates must observe the IRF Code of Ethical Conduct and the IOC Code of Ethics as referred to in the Olympic Charter. In particular, they must declare any direct or indirect pecuniary interests ~~No member of the IRF Board of Directors, IRF Administrative Committee, or IRF staff shall derive any personal profit or gain, directly or indirectly, by reason of his or her participation in their~~ when engaged in official work for the ~~IRF.~~

~~2.1.~~ Members of the IRF Board of Directors, IRF Administrative Committees or staff shall disclose to the IRF Executive Committee any potential or real conflict of personal-interest that he or she ~~they~~ may have in any matter pending before the IRF and must recuse themselves ~~shall refrain~~ from participation in any vote or decision on such matters.

Article 47. Athlete’s Committee

Explanation: Move “Article 47.4” to “Annexes to Article 47”, so if the present format still needs improvement the BOD can update it on behalf of the Athlete’s Committee so they don’t have to wait two years until the next Congress.

Explanation: Adjust each of the points as follows:

For Point i. below – change Australasia to Asia/Oceania as that is the correct terminology. Remove “from respective regions” so that athletes can vote for candidates in all regions so they have a choice about who represents them.

For Point v. below - change it so it is more manageable.

Proposed update – change as per below:

Annexes to Article 47

6-a. The Athletes’ Committee is elected as follows:

- i. Three (3) representatives from the European Region, two (2) representatives from the Pan American Region and two (2) representatives from the ~~Australasia~~Asia/Oceania Region elected by the athletes ~~from their respective regions~~.
- ii. The election shall take place during the IRF World Championships.
- iii. The election process and the counting of the votes will be monitored by an independent individual.
- iv. The Athletes’ Committee Chair is elected from amongst its elected members.
- v.** IRF Member Organizations will be informed about the election ~~threetwo~~ (32) months prior to the World Championships, and the candidates must be ~~presented-submitted~~ to the IRF at least ~~30-days~~5 weeks prior to the World Championships.

Throughout Bylaws

Explanation: Change Athlete’s “Committee” to “Commission” throughout the Bylaws as it serves as an external review body rather than as an internal body.

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