



PANAM SAILING FEDERATION Athletes Commission Regulations which may be referred to as the PANAM SAILING ATHLETES COMMISSION STATUTES

1 – MISSION OF THE PANAM SAILING ATHLETES COMMISSION

The Panam Sailing Athletes Commission (hereinafter ‘the **Commission**’) serves as a link between athletes of the Americas active in Olympic and Pan American sailing. It ensures that the athletes’ input is taken into consideration in Panam Sailing’s planning and decision-making process.

The Commission recognizes that Panam Sailing is an athlete-centered movement and aims to maximize support of athletes of the Americas through Olympic Solidarity and other programs to excel on and off the field of play.

Elected Commission members and appointed athlete representatives have an active role on all Panam Sailing Commissions or related bodies, including the Executive Committee of Panam Sailing.

The Athlete Commission members must have participated in a previous Pan American and/or Olympic Games. The primary role of the Commission is to provide concrete recommendations to Panam Sailing to meet the needs of the participating athletes across all Games in the Panam Region and continue to elevate the athlete experience.

The Commission makes its recommendations/proposals to the Panam Sailing Executive Committee, subject to their having been discussed within the Commission and approved by the majority of the Commission members present at the meeting at which the recommendations/proposals were considered.

2 – COMPOSITION OF THE PANAM SPORTS ATHLETES’ COMMISSION

The Commission is composed of eight (8) athletes, with a minimum of three (3) women and three (3) men, elected by their peers.

There may not be more than one (1) elected member from the same MNA on the Commission, to ensure a broad representation of countries.

At each election, no more than one (1) athlete per event discipline held in the Panam Games may be elected and no athlete from an event discipline that has an athlete on the Commission whose position is not up for election is eligible for election, to ensure a broad representation of event disciplines within the Commission.

The Commission must have representatives from each of the four Panam Sailing Regions; The four (4) Regions are as defined in the Panam Sailing Constitution, and the number of athletes from each region shall be the same as the number of Vice Presidents from that Region, the eighth athlete member shall be from the Host Nation of the upcoming Panam Games -

- a. 2 athletes from the Caribbean and Bermuda.
- b. 1 athlete from Central America, including Mexico.



- c. 2 athletes from South America.
- d. 2 athletes from North America.
- e. 1 athlete from the host nation of the next Panam Games

If there are no nominees or an insufficient number of nominees from a Region to meet the requirement, the Commission has the authority to appoint a participant from the last held Panam Sailing Athlete Forum, who must be from the Group that is lacking the required representatives. An athlete who is appointed because of insufficient nominees shall have a term of 4 years as provided below from the Games from which their appointment arises.

3 – ELECTED MEMBERS

3.1 Designation

Members of the Commission who are elected at a Games may be made up of any combination of athletes from the Olympic event disciplines that are on the program of the Olympic Games next following the election or from the Pan American event disciplines then on the program of the current Panam Games.

3.2 Election

On the occasion of the Games, Panam Sailing works with the Organizing Authority of the Games to organize the election of the eight (8) athletes.

Panam Sailing shall plan, provide and implement an electronic voting and tabulation of results system (the “voting system”) for the purposes of the Panam Sailing Athlete Election that takes place at the Games.

Athletes shall be elected to the Commission on a quadrennial basis

The Commission members may stand for reelection, subject to their being eligible under Article 3.5.1 below.

3.3 Length of Term of Office

Athletes are elected from a Games to the next Games following their election (*i.e.*, approximately four (4) years).

Their term of office begins upon the close of the Games at which they are elected.

Their term of office ends upon the close of the Games following the Games at which they were elected.

3.4 Inability to Perform the Function

In the event of a member’s death, resignation, impediment or any other cause of inability to perform his/her function as a member of the Commission, any elected member shall be replaced for the duration of his/her term.

The Commission shall decide by majority vote which method will be used to replace the member, for the duration of his/her term, from the following options:



- a) The replacement shall be the athlete who had the next highest number of votes in the election at which the member was elected, who does not practice the same event discipline as any of the remaining members of the Commission; or
- b) The Commission shall appoint a replacement from the participants at the previous Athlete Forum, who does not practice the same event discipline as any of the remaining members of the Commission.

If a member is found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation (World Anti-Doping Code and any anti-doping rules or regulations adopted under or pursuant to it) or to have otherwise committed a breach of the IOC, Panam Sports or World Sailing Code of Ethics or Code of Conduct, or to have engaged in conduct likely to bring the Commission into disrepute the Panam Sailing Executive Committee, subject to agreement of the Commission to do so, may remove such member from the Commission, and he/she shall then be replaced as described above.

3.4.1 Inactivity

In the event that a Commission member demonstrates a lack of activity or response to his/her duties as follows, the Commission has the authority to remove and replace the member for the duration of his/her term as per 3.4:

- a) The member does not attend 3 or more Commission in-person or online meetings without a valid reason or acknowledgement of his/her absence. The Commission will provide a reminder of the inactivity clause to the member following the first absence, followed by a warning of removal to the member and his/her MNA after the second; or
- b) The member has been inactive for one year.

Once removed from the Commission, the athlete will be ineligible for reelection at the next Games.

3.5 Organization of Elections

3.5.1 Eligibility criteria

Candidates must meet the following criteria:

- a) Must be a competitor in the Games during which the election takes place or must have participated in either or both of the immediately preceding Olympic Games (Games of the Olympiad) and immediately preceding Pan American Games;
- b) Must be eighteen (18) years of age at the close of the Games during which the election takes place;
- c) Must not have been sanctioned for a doping offence;
- d) Must have been nominated by his/her MNA;
- e) Must be able to speak English, the official working languages of Panam Sailing and the Commission.



The eligibility of each candidate is decided and confirmed by the Commission and approved by the Panam Sailing Executive Committee no later than at its last regular meeting prior to the commencement of the Games in question upon the proposal of the Panam Sailing Secretary General.

3.5.2 Presentation and Submission of Candidatures

No later than four (4) months before the Opening Ceremonies of each edition of the Games, Panam Sailing shall invite each MNA that is eligible to nominate an athlete for election to present a candidate for election to the Commission.

To be admissible, the candidature proposal must include the following documents and be received by Panam Sailing by the date set forth in the invitation:

- a) A candidature form, duly signed by the candidate and the President of the MNA concerned and, if applicable, the President or Chair of the Athletes Commission of the candidate's MNA;
- b) A completed 'biography' form;
- c) A short statement by the candidate explaining the reasons for his/her candidature for membership on the Commission (typed, maximum 200 words);
- d) A recent passport photo and an action photo of the candidate practicing his/her sport.

3.5.3 Election Process

- a) Electorate: All athletes accredited to compete at the Games in the Sport of Sailing during which the election is organized have the right to vote.
- b) Information: Panam Sailing will create and distribute an election package, which presents all candidates and gives general information on the election (dates, locations, voting procedure, *etc*). This package is available to the whole electorate in the Pan American Sailing venue.
- c) Voting procedure: For each edition of the Games, the voting procedure is described in the election package and shall in any case comply with the following principles:
 - Each athlete accredited to compete at the Games has one vote;
 - The vote must be exercised in person and by secret ballot;
 - Voting by proxy or by correspondence is not allowed;
 - Abstentions, blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority.
- d) Validity of the ballots: Any ballot that does not comply with the instructions contained in the election manual will be considered null and void.
- e) Elected athletes: The candidates who obtain the highest number of votes are elected to the Commission, in accordance to the Composition of the Commission outlined in section 2.0
- f) Tie: In the event of a tie, preference is given to the candidate who's MNA has the lower number of



athletes accredited to compete at the Games.

g) Announcement of results: The names of the elected athletes are announced in the Pan American Sailing Venue by the Election Committee before the closing of the Games.

h) Meeting: An inaugural meeting with the new Commission shall be held either prior to the Closing Ceremonies of the Games organized by Panam Sailing or within two (2) months of the closing of the Games.

3.5.4 Election Campaign

The election campaign shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Conduct.

3.5.5 Election Committee

The Election Committee is responsible to oversee the successful organization of the election by Panam Sailing as outlined in section 3.2, from the opening of the Pan American Sailing Equipment Inspection period until the public announcement of the results one (1) day before Closing Ceremonies.

The Election Committee is composed of three members, one of whom shall act as Chair. The members are designated as follows:

- a) The Panam Sailing Secretary General;
- b) The Panam Sailing President;
- c) The President of the Commission, or his/her representative, if the President is running for reelection. ;
- d) If the President of the Commission is running for reelection, or if for any reason there is no President of the Commission at the time of appointment of the Election Committee, a member of the Commission will be recommended by a majority vote between the members.

The Panam Secretary General shall be the Chairperson of the Committee and the other two members of the Committee shall be the two (2) election scrutineers.

The Election Committee shall be appointed no later than at the last regular meeting of the Panam Sailing Executive Committee prior to the commencement of the Games in question.

The role of the Election Committee includes:

- a) Supervising the election procedure, including the counting of ballot papers or confirming the electronic voting results, and certifying the results; and
- b) Ensuring compliance with the Rules of Conduct once the Pan American Sailing Equipment Inspection period opens and, if necessary, proposing measures and sanctions to the Panam Sailing Executive Committee for infringements.

The Panam Sailing administration provides administrative support to the Election Committee.

If any measure or sanction is envisaged, any members of the Election Committee who find themselves in a conflict of interest situation shall refrain from any involvement in the procedure.

4 – PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ATHLETES’ COMMISSION



4.1 Election Procedure

- a) To be eligible as candidate for President or Vice President of the Commission, the person must be an elected member of the Commission.
- b) The quorum required for a vote is five (5) voting members of the Commission.
- c) Each voting member has one vote, and voting shall be by secret ballot. Abstentions and blank or spoiled votes are not taken into consideration in the calculation of the required majority. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- d) The person who receives the highest number of votes resulting in a majority shall serve as President of the Commission.
- e) The person(s) of the opposite gender of the President who ran for President shall be considered nominated for Vice President and a secret ballot vote shall be conducted. The person receiving the most votes in the majority shall serve as the Vice President of the Commission.