



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

Olympic and Pan American sports Defined: For the purpose of these Statutes and all Regulations in respect of the Panam Sports Athletes Commission, an Olympic sport is one that is on the program of the next following Olympic Games and a Pan American sport is one that is not on the program of the next following Olympic Games but that has been recognized by Panam Sports as eligible to be included on the program of the Pan American Games. In the case of an election of athletes to the Panam Sports Athletes Commission, an athlete shall be determined to be from an Olympic sport or a Pan American sport as of the time of the Pan American Games at which the election is taking place, and this determination shall apply for the term of the athletes then elected.

1 – MISSION OF THE PANAM SPORTS ATHLETES COMMISSION

The Panam Sports Athletes Commission (hereinafter 'the **Commission**') serves as a link between athletes of the Americas active in Olympic and Pan American sports and Panam Sports. It ensures that the athletes' input is taken into consideration in Panam Sports' decisions and overall strategic vision.

The Commission recognizes that Panam Sports 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 Sports Commissions or related bodies, including the Technical and Coordination Commissions for the Pan American Games.

The Commission works with each Organizing Committee for the Pan American Games (hereinafter called '**the Games**') to help them create an internal Athlete Commission, with one member present on the Executive Board. The Athlete Commission members must have participated in a previous Pan American and/or Olympic Games. The objective of the Commission is to provide concrete recommendations to the Organizing Committee to meet the needs of the participating athletes across all Games operations and continue to elevate the athlete experience.

At the Games, the Commission shall be present and accredited for the duration of the Games. The Commission members will be at the participating athletes' disposal in a designated area within the Main Athlete Village.

The Commission makes its recommendations/proposals to the Panam Sports 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 nine (9) athletes, with a minimum of three (3) women and three (3) men, elected by their peers and, in addition as *ex officio* members, the current members from the Americas and the Caribbean countries of the IOC Athletes’ Commission. Only the elected and appointed members of the Commission have the right to vote.

There may not be more than one (1) elected member from the same NOC on the Commission, to ensure a broad representation of countries (in this respect the *ex officio* members are not counted).

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

The Commission must have three (3) representatives from each Panam Sports Group; Groups One, Two, and Three as defined in the Panam Sports Constitution. If there are no nominees or an insufficient number of nominees from a Group to meet the requirement, the Commission has the authority to appoint a participant from the last held Panam Sports Athlete Forum, who must be from the Group that is lacking the required three (3) representatives. An athlete who is appointed because of insufficient nominees shall have a term of 8 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 sports that are on the programme of the Olympic Games next following the election or from the Pan American sports.

3.2 Election

On the occasion of the Games, Panam Sports works with the Organizing Committee of the Games to organize the election of four (4) Commission members.

The Organizing Committee shall plan, provide and implement an electronic voting and tabulation of results system (the “voting system”) for the purposes of the Panam Sports Athlete Election that takes place at the Games. The voting system shall include voting terminals located in the Pan American Village (at an appropriate strategic location in the main cafeteria or elsewhere as the Panam Sports Athlete Commission approves) and at each sub-Village and any other location for the lodging of athletes. The Organizing Committee shall submit its system and plan for implementation, including adequate volunteer support, to Panam Sports and the Commission for approval no later than six (6) months before the Opening Ceremony of the Games.



Athletes shall be elected to the Commission on a staggered term basis such that at each Games 4 or 5 athletes, on an alternating basis, shall be elected to the Commission who shall serve an 8 year term.

For the 2015 to 2019 term the following athletes who were elected to the Commission for a 4 year term in 2011 shall have and do hereby have their respective 4 year terms extended an additional 4 years to 8 year terms ending at the close of the Games in 2019:

Alexandra Orlando (CAN)	Gymnastics
Andrea Estrada (GUA)	Table Tennis
Guillermo Perez (MEX)	Taekwondo
Mijain Lopez (CUB)	Wrestling

The 4 athletes elected at the 2015 Games for an 8 year term ending at the close of the Games in 2023:

Adriana Escobar (ESA)	Rowing
Carlos Santiago (PUR)	Judo
Aliann Pompey (GUY)	Athletics
Thiago Pereria (BRA)	Swimming

There shall be 5 athletes elected at the 2019 Games whose 8 year term will end at the close of the Games in 2027.

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 second Games following their election (*i.e.*, approximately eight (8) 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 second Games next following the Games at which they were elected.

The term of office of the *ex officio* members of the Commission continues as long as the *ex officio* member remains a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission.

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 will decide based on a 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 practise the same sport as any of the remaining members of the Commission (in this respect the *ex officio* members are not counted); or
- b) The Commission shall appoint a replacement from the participants at the previous Athlete Forum, who does not practice the same sport 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 or Panam Sports Code of Ethics, or to have engaged in conduct likely to bring the Commission into disrepute the Panam Sports 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 digital 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 NOC 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 NOC;
- e) Must be able to speak Spanish or English, the two official working languages of Panam Sports and the Commission.

The eligibility of each candidate is decided and confirmed by the Commission and approved by the Panam Sports 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 Sports Secretary General.

3.5.2 Presentation and Submission of Candidatures

No later than six (6) months before the Opening Ceremonies of each edition of the Games, Panam Sports shall invite each NOC 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 Sports by the date set forth in the invitation:

- a) A candidature form, duly signed by the candidate and the President of the NOC concerned and, if applicable, the President or Chair of the Athletes Commission of the candidate's NOC;
- 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 practising his/her sport.

3.5.3 Election Process

- a) Electorate: All athletes accredited to compete at the Games during which the election is organized have the right to vote.
- b) Information: Panam Sports 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 Village.
- 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 NOC 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 Village by the Election Committee before the closing of the Games, as well as an official Press Conference with all members.
- h) Meeting: An inaugural meeting with the new Commission shall be held either prior to the Closing Ceremonies of the Games organized by Panam Sports 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 the Organizing Committee of the Games as outlined in section 3.2, from the opening of the Pan American Village(s) until the public announcement of the results one (1) day before Closing Ceremonies.

The Election Committee is composed of one (1) Chairperson and two (2) members, all appointed by the Panam Sports Executive Committee for each edition of the Games. The members are designated as follows:

- a) The President of the Legislative Commission, or his/her representative;
- b) The Panam Sports President or Secretary General;



- c) The President of the Commission, or his/her representative, if the President is not 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.

Among the three (3) members of the Committee, the President of the Legislative Commission, or his/her representative, 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 Sports 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 Village opens and, if necessary, proposing measures and sanctions to the Panam Sports Executive Committee for infringements.

The Panam Sports 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 OF THE ATHLETES' COMMISSION

4.1 Election Procedure

- a) To be eligible as candidate for President of the Commission, the person must be an elected member of the Commission who was elected at the immediately preceding Games to ensure transfer of knowledge.
- 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) A person will need a majority of the votes cast in order to be elected the President of the Commission. If there are more than two candidates and if no majority is reached, the person with the lowest number of votes will be excluded. A new vote will be taken until a majority of the votes cast is reached.
- e) The length of term of office of the President shall be for the duration of his/her term on the Commission.
- f) The vote will take place at the first meeting of the Commission after its election.
- g) Any vote may be held in whole or in part by means of a telephonic, electronic or other communication facility, if Panam Sports makes available such a communication facility.
- h) The outgoing President of the Commission commits to participating as a guest in one (1) in-person Commission meeting following the end of his/her term to ensure a smooth transition to the next President.