



IWBF

International Wheelchair
Basketball Federation

IWBF PLAYERS' COMMISSION POLICY

Version 202110-1

THE IWBF PLAYERS' COMMISSION POLICY



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International Wheelchair
Basketball Federation

as approved by

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PREAMBLE

The IWBF Players' Commission is a democratically elected player representation body, with the chairperson being a full member of the IWBF Executive Council. The IWBF Players' Commission's mission is to act in the best interest of the international wheelchair basketball players community and to promote the values of integrity, inclusivity and equality. The IWBF Players' Commission shall represent international wheelchair basketball players from all IWBF Zones and be gender balanced.

All IWBF Zones and the National Organizations governing Wheelchair Basketball (NOWBs) are encouraged to establish similar regulations for player representation in their respective jurisdictions.

Article 1: Objectives & Responsibilities of the IWBF Players' Commission

- 1.1. The Players' Commission members shall:
 - 1.1.1. attend and take active part in all meetings, unless the absence is excused.
 - 1.1.2. observe and respect the IWBF General Statutes and Internal Regulations at all times, and exhibit the highest standards of ethical behaviour.
- 1.2. The Players' Commission as an official representation of IWBF shall:
 - 1.2.1. represent the interests of the international wheelchair basketball player community.
 - 1.2.2. promote the values of wheelchair basketball as equal, fair and inclusive sport.
 - 1.2.3. provide feedback on wheelchair basketball related matters and support the other permanent commissions of IWBF in specific matters - some of these include inter alia competitions, classification, the Official Wheelchair Basketball Rules and other matters.
 - 1.2.4. to investigate and propose improvements associated to player development, player welfare and post-career opportunities.
 - 1.2.5. carry out any other duty as mandated by the IWBF Secretary General and/ or the IWBF Executive Council.
- 1.3. The chairperson of the IWBF Players' Commission shall represent the commission within the IWBF Executive Council and be a full-voting member of the latter.

Article 2: Composition, terms & organization of the IWBF Players' Commission

- 2.1 The IWBF Players' Commission shall be composed of a total of eight (8) members.
 - 2.1.1 Each IWBF Zone shall be represented by two (2) representatives. The representatives shall be from different NOWBs and shall be representing both genders.
- 2.2. The term of office for members elected to the IWBF Players' Commission shall be four (4) years.
- 2.3. There are no limitations as to how many terms a member may serve on the IWBF Players' Commission.
- 2.4. Any limitation to a candidates (re-)election are subject to the other eligibility criteria defined in the present Article 3 (eligibility criteria for election).
- 2.5. The election of the members of the IWBF Players' Commission shall be staggered.
 - 2.5.1. Four (4) members of the Commission shall belong to Group 1 and four (4) shall belong to Group 2.
 - 2.5.1.1. The members of Group 1 shall be elected every four (4) years starting in 2023.
 - 2.5.1.2. The members of Group 2 shall be elected every four (4) years starting in 2025.
 - 2.5.1.3. Refer to the Transition Provisions in Article 9 (transition provision) for an overview of the initial composition of Group 1 and Group 2.
 - 2.5.2. To guarantee gender balance, only players of the same gender as the seat that becomes vacant are eligible to present themselves as candidates for the vacancy, respecting Article 2.1.1.
- 2.6. Election of the IWBF Players' Commission chairperson and vice-chairperson:
 - 2.6.1. During the first meeting of the newly elected and composed IWBF Players' Commission, the eight (8) IWBF Players' Commission members shall elect their chairperson and vice-chairperson.
 - 2.6.2. There shall be two (2) separate elections to determine the chairperson and vice-chairperson. The election of the chairperson shall be held first.
 - 2.6.2.1. The chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be of opposite genders (e.g., if the chairperson is female, the vice-chairperson shall be male).
 - 2.6.3. A simple majority is required to be elected chairperson or vice-chairperson.
 - 2.6.4. The election shall be held in secret ballot.

- 2.6.5. The IWBF Players' Commission may nominate an election scrutinizer to oversee and moderate the election.
 - 2.6.6. In case the initial vote for the chairperson and/ or vice-chairperson ends in a tie, a second and third election round shall be held. In between each voting round the candidates may be granted the opportunity to promote their candidacy.
 - 2.6.7. If following the third election round (see Article 2.6.6) no candidate has obtained a simple majority, the longest serving commission member(s) (counting consecutive terms within the commission) vote(s) shall count double.
- 2.7. Term of the IWBF Players' Commission chairperson and vice-chairperson
 - 2.7.1. The term of the IWBF Players' Commission chairperson & vice-chairperson shall be two (2) years.
 - 2.7.2. There are no limitations as to how many terms an IWBF Players' Commission member may serve as chairperson or vice-chairperson as long as they are elected in accordance with the applicable election provisions and remains an eligible member of the commission.
 - 2.8. The IWBF Players' Commission may decide to invite guests and observers to their meetings.

Article 3: IWBF Players' Commission candidates & eligibility criteria for election

- 3.1. Minimum eligibility criteria to present candidacy
 - 3.1.1. Players wishing to be present themselves as a candidate for the IWBF Players' Commission election must appear in the IWBF International Classification database.
- 3.2. Status of the candidate – eligible to be a candidate, inactive or retired
 - 3.2.1. Candidates must have competed in an official IWBF Competition (as defined in Article E4.3.1 to E4.3.9 of the IWBF Handbook) within the eight (8) years prior to the election date to be considered eligible to be a candidate.
 - 3.2.2. Any player who has not competed in an official IWBF Competition within the past eight (8) years will be deemed an inactive international player and is not eligible to present him-/ herself as a candidate for the IWBF Player Commission election.
 - 3.2.3. Players who have officially been declared retired by their NOWB may present themselves as candidates following the announcement of retirement. The activity criteria of Articles 3.2.1 also applies to retired athletes.

3.2.4. For the avoidance of doubt, Article 3.2 applies to new candidates and candidates running for re-election.

3.3. Presenting and submitting interest to run as Players' Commission member

3.3.1. NOWBs nominate the candidates.

3.3.2. Each NOWB may present a maximum of two (2) candidates for the respective election.

3.3.3. Players interested in becoming a member of the commission must inform the NOWB of which they hold the nationality that they intend to stand for the Players' Commission election. Players with two or more nationalities may seek the endorsement from any of the NOWBs' they hold the legal nationality.

3.3.4. Each NOWB has the responsibility to establish appropriate procedures to pre-screen candidates and to determine which candidates are officially presented for the Players' Commission election.

3.3.4.1. IWBF reserves the right to review procedures for national selection process and take further action in accordance with Section C of the IWBF Handbook.

3.3.5. In the event where a player had an interest to present him-/ herself for the IWBF Players' Commission election, but is not put forward as official NOWB candidate and is under the impression that the NOWB's selection process did not follow a process that has been carried out in good faith, said player may address his/ her concerns to the IWBF Secretariat.

3.3.6. The IWBF Secretariat shall review the matter and liaise with the player in question and his/ her respective NOWB.

3.3.7. If the player's request is determined to be justifiable, the IWBF Secretariat may consider accepting the candidate as independent candidate.

3.4. Age Limit for candidates

3.4.1. There is no maximum age limit for candidates to present themselves as candidates.

3.4.2. Candidate must be at least eighteen (18) years old on the day of the election.

3.5. Other limiting factors and conflict of interest

3.5.1. As part of the candidature registration process, the NOWB must submit a Candidature Registration Form for each candidate to the IWBF Secretariat. The Form shall declare any:

- 3.5.1.1. Disciplinary records (e.g. an Anti-Doping Rule Violation) on file with any relevant sporting body (e.g. NOWBs, the IWBF, the IPC, any National or Regional Anti-Doping Organization or WADA).
 - 3.5.1.2. Criminal record on file with official state authorities.
 - 3.5.1.3. Conflict of Interests that may be relevant to the role of IWBF Players' Commission Member.
 - 3.5.2. The IWBF Secretariat shall vet the candidates and take a final decision on the candidate's eligibility.
 - 3.5.3. In the event where a candidate has any records on file (as per Art. 3.5.1.1) the IWBF Secretariat may decide:
 - 3.5.3.1. To hear the candidate(s) in question and the respective NOWB or any other relevant party.
 - 3.5.3.2. The IWBF Secretariat shall render a decision on proportionality. Inter alia it shall consider whether the record on the candidate's file is relevant to the candidate carrying out an official office within IWBF, i.e. whether it is a result of dishonest behaviour and as such, in direct contradiction to IWBF's values and/ or to damage the reputation of IWBF.
- 3.6. Language requirements
- 3.6.1. Candidates shall possess the ability to attend and participate in meetings in English (any member may bring an interpreter to meetings at their own expenses).

Article 4: Right to vote in the election for IWBF Players' Commission membership

- 4.1. Minimum criteria to be eligible to vote at elections for the IWBF Players' Commission
 - 4.1.1. Players wishing to vote during the IWBF Players' Commission election must appear in the IWBF International Classification database.
- 4.2. Player status – eligible to vote, inactive or retired
 - 4.2.1. In order to register for the election and to be considered a player eligible to vote, players must have competed in an official IWBF Competition (as defined in Article E4.3.1 to E4.3.9) within the four (4) years prior to the election date.
 - 4.2.2. Players who have not competed in an official IWBF Competition within the four (4) years prior to the election date are deemed inactive and are not eligible to vote.

4.2.3. Players who have officially been declared retired by their NOWB may register for election + following the announcement of retirement. The eligibility criteria of Articles 4.2.1 and 4.2.2. also apply to retired players.

4.3. Registration to vote

4.3.1. Players who are eligible and willing to vote need to register with the IWBF Secretariat by a given deadline. The deadlines relevant to the elections are governed by Article 5 of the present Statutes. Election and registration information will be made publicly available and communicated to all NOWBs.

4.3.2. A dedicated election registration form will be provided by the IWBF Secretariat. The registration form may be provided in a digital format.

4.3.3. IWBF will inform all eligible players of the election date, the election process and the candidate list for each IWBF Zone.

4.3.4. Information will be distributed through IWBF's public channels and via the NOWB.

Article 5: Election process to determine the IWBF Players' Commission composition

5.1 The timelines associated to the Players' Commission elections and the actual voting dates shall be defined by IWBF in consultation with the outgoing IWBF Players' Commission.

5.2 All eligible voters as defined under Article 4 shall be entitled to cast one vote. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

5.3 Eligible voters may only vote for candidates from the Zone that their respective NOWB is affiliated to.

5.4 The election shall be conducted by secret ballot. The election will be conducted electronically through an internet voting system defined by the IWBF, in consultation with the outgoing IWBF Players' Commission.

5.5 The candidate from the respective IWBF Zone with the highest number of votes shall be the elected IWBF Players' Commission member from that Zone.

5.6 Campaigning of candidates:

5.6.1 From the date of the publication of the official candidates list through the closing of the elections, candidates may campaign on behalf of themselves provided that such campaign does not violate the relevant provisions of the IWBF Code of Ethics (Section C of the IWBF Handbook) or harm the image of IWBF or any other candidate.

5.6.2 If a candidate wishes to run a formal campaign at the site of an IWBF competition, he or she must first obtain permission to campaign from IWBF.

- 5.6.3 No formal campaigning shall be allowed at the wheelchair basketball competition site during other multi-sport events (like Paralympics, Parapan Games, Commonwealth Games) unless formally agreed upon by IWBF and the respective event owner.

Article 6: Replacement of Commission Members

- 6.1. The need for replacement may arise whenever:
- 6.1.1 A member decides to leave the commission for personal reasons or sickness.
 - 6.1.2 In the case of death of a member or otherwise becomes unfit to hold his/her office.
 - 6.1.3 A member is formally removed from the commission following a breach of the present Players' Commission Regulations, IWBF Code of Ethics as per Section C of the IWBF Handbook or other grave misconduct.
- 6.2 In the event where a position within the Players' Commission becomes vacant during a running term and regardless of the reason why the vacancy arose, the Players' Commission:
- 6.2.1 Shall discuss the vacancy during its next meeting and decide whether the vacancy should be filled before the next formal election.
 - 6.2.2 If the Players' Commission decides that the member needs to be replaced, they shall co-opt a member.
 - 6.2.2.1 The co-opted member shall come from the same Zone and be of the same gender as the previous Commission member. The election results of the previous Players' Commission election shall serve as reference. Where existing, the co-opted member should be member of the respective Zonal Players' Commission.
 - 6.1.2.2 The newly co-opted member shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term and may present her/ himself at the next formal elections.
- 6.3 If the Players' Commission member departing holds the position of chairperson or vice-chairperson, the Commission shall elect a new chairperson/ vice-chairperson during its next meeting in accordance with Article 2.6 of the present Players' Commission Policy.

Article 7: Final consideration

- 7.1. Any situation that is not governed in these provisions shall be referred to the IWBF Executive Council for review.

Article 8: Transition Period & initial set-up of the IWBF Players' Commission

- 8.1 In accordance with Article 7.2 of the IWBF General Statutes, the IWBF Executive Council will establish a provisional IWBF Players' Commission.
- 8.2 The temporary IWBF Players' Commission consists of:
- 8.2.1 Group 1: Four (4) members holding a two (2) years term, until 2023.
- 8.2.1.1 Group 1 consists of the four (4) members of the previously appointed to the IWBF Athlete Steering Group:
- IWBF Africa: Alhassan Sedky (Egypt, male)
- IWBF Americas: Erica Gavel (Canada, female)
- IWBF Asia/ Oceania: Ella Sabljak (Australia, female)
- IWBF Europe: Terry Bywater (Great Britain, male)
- 8.2.2 Group 2: Four (4) members holding a four (4) years term, until 2025.
- 8.2.2.1 Group 2 consist of four (4) members that will be elected during an online election between 1-14 February 2022. The vacant positions will be elected in accordance with the present Players' Commission Policy. The vacant positions for elections are:
- For IWBF Africa: a female member, not from Egypt.
- For IWBF Americas: a male member, not from Canada.
- For IWBF Asia/ Oceania: a male member, not from Australia.
- For IWBF Europe: a female member, not from Great Britain.
- 8.3 The provisional IWBF Players' Commission shall operate in accordance with the applicable provisions of the present IWBF General Statutes and the Players' Commission policy.
- 8.4 In accordance with Article 6.2 of the IWBF General Statutes the provisional IWBF Players' Commission shall exist until the Congress gives them the permanent status or until it ceases to exist.



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