

WAKO IF ATHLETES' COMMITTEE ELECTION PROCEDURE 2023



GENERAL PROVISIONS

The WAKO IF AC Election Procedure („**Election Procedure**”) was formed and established based on the IOC Athletes’ Commission Election Procedure.

The Election Procedure regulates and governs the election process of the member of the WAKO IF Athletes’ Committee. It includes 2 successive stages, the „**Preliminary Phase**” and the „**Election Phase**”.

The Election Procedure shall be applicable to all „**Participants**” in any phase of the election. Within the meaning of this Election Procedure, Participants include not only the candidates for the election but also all WAKO National Federations (WAKO NFs) directly or indirectly involved in the election, as well as any other individuals or legal entities supporting, acting in favour of or opposing any candidate, including WAKO staff, coaches, trainers, agents, sponsors, relatives or friends of any candidate.

All decisions taken by the WAKO IF, the WAKO Board of Directors (WAKO BD), the WAKO IF AC, or the AC Election Committee (as defined in Article 11) in relation to the election are final and binding, subject to Article 13.2.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Candidate criteria

To be eligible for election, a candidate must meet the following criteria:

1. The candidate must be an active athlete who ever registered to participate as an athlete in a WAKO World or Continental Championships (WAKO WC or CC) or a former athlete who registered to participate as an athlete in a WAKO WC or CC in the past 10 years.
2. The candidate must have reached the age of 18 by the first competition day of the WAKO WC before which the election takes place.
3. The candidate must at all times act in compliance with the WAKO Code of Ethics, meet high standards of conduct and integrity, and be of good character and reputation. The candidate must not have incurred any measure or sanction in relation to any violation of the WAKO Code of Ethics and the World Anti-Doping Code (WADA Code).
4. The candidate must be an active member of the WAKO Membership System at least from the time of submission of candidature nomination.
5. The candidate is expected to have active & doer attitude in terms of athlete representation and be able to speak and understand English reasonably well.
6. The candidate must be endorsed and presented by his or her WAKO National Federation (WAKO NF).
7. The candidate must belong to a WAKO NF that is eligible to present a candidate as Full Member of WAKO IF.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2. WAKO NF criteria

1. WAKO NFs can nominate 1 male and 1 female as candidates.
2. The candidate's WAKO NF must confirm that the candidate has no criminal record and has not acted in violation of the WAKO Code of Ethics. In addition, the candidate's WAKO NF must determine whether has incurred any measure or sanction in relation to any violation of the WADA Code within the past 10 years prior to the nomination of the candidature.



PRELIMINARY PHASE

3. Duration

The Preliminary Phase of the election begins with the mailing of the WAKO IF, of an invitation to the WAKO NFs to nominate their candidates for election to the WAKO IF AC and ends on the day of the nomination deadline.

4. Submission of candidature nomination

WAKO NFs intending to present a candidate shall submit, upon invitation and by a deadline established by the WAKO IF, a candidature nomination for election to the WAKO IF AC in the format and the content and within the timeframe communicated by the WAKO IF.

5. Validation and admissibility of candidatures

All candidatures meeting the criteria set out in Articles 1, 2 and 4 and having been duly examined by the WAKO IF Administration & the AC Election Committee, will be declared valid and admissible (approved) at least 2 weeks before the election. In case of a late submission of a candidature after the deadline indicated by WAKO IF, WAKO Administration will notify in writing by email, to the candidate and to the nominating NF, the invalidity of the candidature without the need of a WAKO IF Board decision as provided in Article 13 below.



ELECTION PHASE

6. Duration

The Election Phase will begin on the first day after the nomination deadline and end on the day of the voting deadline.



PROMOTION OF CANDIDATURES

7. Promotion during the Preliminary and Election Phases

1. Promotion of candidatures is allowed only to the extent permitted under the Election Procedure. Promotion means any act or action that may enhance the level of awareness of a particular candidature. It includes advertising, campaigns or any organised or planned action for the election of a candidate.
2. All acts of promotion in favour of any candidature must be carried out with dignity, moderation and respect towards the other candidates as well as all athletes.
3. Once the list of candidates for the election has been approved, candidates may accept interviews from the media and take part in or hold press or media conferences.
4. Candidates may use social media to promote their candidatures, subject to the following conditions:
 - 4.1. Promotion via social media is permitted only from the date that the list of candidates for the election is approved until the end of the Election Phase
 - 4.2. Candidate using social media to promote their candidatures must comply with the Election Procedure and any other relevant regulations or rules that may apply, including the WAKO Code of Ethics.



PROMOTION OF CANDIDATURES

- 4.3. Candidates may post only the following on social media:
- digital promotion material provided by the WAKO IF;
 - content related to the promotion of their own candidature created by themselves, without the assistance of third parties.
5. The following acts and forms of promotion are prohibited in all circumstances:
- the use of any promotional material other than the material in accordance with the Election Procedure, in particular, the use of any document, video or prop such as tablet, display, sign, panel, mascot, T-shirt, cap, picture, national symbol or any form of advertising or other promotion in favour of the athlete;
 - the distribution of any form of gift, memorabilia, souvenir or token;
 - the use of any form of incentive or inducement, whether financial or otherwise, to vote for a candidate.
6. Any acts and forms of promotion, including promotion via social media, by NFs, sponsors and/or other third-party organisations linked to the candidate, as well as individuals employed by them, are prohibited, except as otherwise provided in Article 8.2.
7. Candidates are prohibited from requesting others to endorse or support their candidature, in any form.



PROMOTION OF CANDIDATURES

8. Candidates, their nominating NFs and any other persons or entities acting in their favour or for their benefit shall be considered as individually and jointly responsible for any act of promotion that is prohibited under the Election Procedure or other relevant regulations. In the event of any infringement of the Election Procedure or other applicable regulations by the candidate, their nominating NF and any other third party, the WAKO IF BD may, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 13, decide to withdraw a candidate regardless of who is the author of the infringements.

8. Promotion during the Preliminary Phase

1. Except as otherwise provided in Articles 7 and 8.2, any form of promotion is prohibited during the Preliminary Phase.
2. Following the WAKO IF Administration release confirming the candidates approved by the WAKO IF BD:
 - Each nominating NF with an approved candidate will be allowed to issue and publish through its usual channels one short official media release announcing its candidate(s). Such official media release must be submitted to the WAKO IF Media Committee for approval before publication.



PROMOTION OF CANDIDATURES

9. Promotion during the Election Phase

In addition to the permitted promotion as per Article 7, each candidate may promote his/her candidacy as follows:

- the candidate may wear any promotional material provided by the WAKO IF;
- the candidate may take the initiative of approaching and talking with athletes and their entourage.



ELECTION BEFORE THE WAKO WC

10. Electorate and voting

1. Each Participant who officially registered as an athlete for the WAKO WC during which the election takes place will have the right to vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
2. Voting shall only be exercised online by Sportdata.
3. The WAKO IF will prepare a document entitled the „List of Candidates“, which will not only present all the candidates, but also provide information on the upcoming election, including the exact dates of the election, link for voting, and voting and election instructions. The Election Manual will be made available to the entire electorate during the election.



AC ELECTION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

11. Composition of the AC Election Committee

The AC Election Committee will be composed of one Chairperson and two members, all appointed by the WAKO IF President for each edition of the WAKO WC. The members of the AC Election Committee will be:

- The Chairperson of the WAKO IF AC, or his or her representative
- The Chairperson of the WAKO IF Disciplinary and Ethical Committee, or his or her representative
- The Chairperson of the WAKO IF Legal Committee, or his or her representative

A secretary to the AC Election Committee will be appointed by the WAKO IF BD from the members of the WAKO IF Administration for the duration of the Preliminary and Election Phases; such secretary will be authorised to respond to queries and make administrative decisions relating to the Election Procedure and to the election process in general.

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



AC ELECTION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

12. Role of the AC Election Committee

The role of the AC Election Committee is to ensure compliance with this Election Procedure. The powers of the AC Election Committee include the following:

1. Subject to Article 13, to take all measures which the Election Committee deems appropriate, at its sole discretion, to ensure full compliance with this Election Procedure, except the withdrawal of any candidature, which may be decided only by the WAKO IF BD, in accordance with Article 13.
2. To supervise the entire election process and procedure, including the counting of the votes.
3. To declare elected those maximum 10 athletes (1 male and 1 female athletes from all the five Continents) who have obtained the highest numbers of valid votes. In the event of a tie between candidates, the WAKO IF AC will break the tie, after analysing the situation and taking into consideration criteria to ensure a fair and balanced representation within the Committee, including but not limited to geographical, gender, discipline, or age balance.



AC ELECTION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

13. Infringement of the election procedure

1. Anyone may file or email a report of an alleged infringement of the Election Procedure, it must be sent to the WAKO IF no later than 24 hours after the time of knowing about the alleged violation and in no case later than 12 hours after the voting deadline. They should clearly describe all circumstances of the alleged violation and must be dated and signed by the person(s) filing the report. Any supporting evidence shall be shared with the WAKO IF simultaneously. The personal information included in the report will be processed in accordance with the laws protecting such personal information applicable to the WAKO IF.
2. If the AC Election Committee considers that there has been infringement of this Election Procedure, it may take whatever action it considers appropriate. If it considers the infringement to be of little importance, the AC Election Committee will invite the candidate concerned to submit a written explanation of the candidate's position. The withdrawal decision may not be taken before the candidate has been offered a reasonable opportunity (in written or oral way) to be heard by the AC Election Committee. The AC Election Committee will submit a proposal to the WAKO IF President who will bring the matter to the Board of Directors in order to take the final decision. The withdrawal decision will be notified in writing by email, to the candidate and to the nominating NF.
3. The withdrawal of a candidate shall be considered an administrative and not a disciplinary measure. If the AC Election Committee considers that the infringement which caused a withdrawal might constitute a violation of the WAKO Rules or of any regulation issued by the WAKO IF, the WAKO IF AC Election Committee may take disciplinary action.



FINAL PROVISIONS

The Election Procedure was adopted by the WAKO IF BD on 28 August 2023 and enters into force immediately.



