

IFATCA Administrative Manual (IAM) Overhaul – Article 9

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SUMMARY

The IAM is most probably the most important document of our Federation. Yet, it has never benefited of a comprehensive overhaul since its creation in 1961. This working paper presents the proposed changes to Article 9 of the IAM.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This working paper presents the proposed changes to Article 9 of the IAM, “UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES”. It is to be noted that changes proposed here are, for the most part, editorials. The balance of the proposed changes is either modifications to align the text with current practice and modern times, or remove text that is no longer relevant, redundant, or inaccurate.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1. At present, Part 1, Article 9 is composed of two sub-sections. Part 2, Section 9 is composed of two sub-sections. The only proposed change to this Article is to retain, for the second sub-section, the title from the bye laws instead of the one in the Constitution (details in the paper below). The current structure of Article 9 and Section 9 is as follows:

ARTICLE 9	UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES
1	MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
2	SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
1	MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 1.1. Casual Vacancies
2	CHAIR OF STANDING COMMITTEES 2.1. Casual Vacancies 2.2. Subsequent Term of Election

2.2. The proposed new structure of Article 9 is as follows:

ARTICLE 9 UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES	
1	Members of the Executive Board
1.1.	Casual Vacancies
1.2.	Subsequent Term of Election
2	Chairs of Standing Committees
2.1.	Casual Vacancies
2.2.	Subsequent Term of Election

2.3. Proposed Modifications – Sub-section 1

2.3.1. As mentioned above, it is proposed to keep, for the second sub-section of this Article, the title (and content) of the second sub-section of the bye laws. In other words, Instead of “Special Newsletter”, that second section would become “Chairs of Standing Committees. The only paragraph in the Constitution would be moved as new 1.1 in the first sub-section. The result would be as follow:

1.1. In all cases when it becomes necessary to invoke the provisions of this Article, the Executive Board shall notify all Member Associations by Special Newsletter.

1.2. In the event that any elective officer of the Executive Board is unable, for whatever reason, to fulfil the term for which they were elected, the provisions of this Section shall prevail.

[...]

2.3.2. In bye laws paragraph 1.1.2, point c) would be more logically housed between a) and b). The result would look as follows:

1.1.2. The Executive Board may appoint a candidate to any vacant elective office on the Board, other than that of President and Chief Executive, subject to:

a) the Executive Board must obtain the written approval of the candidate’s Member Association before making the appointment.

b) the office holder shall be termed “Acting (office name)”.

b) the office shall be considered to be vacant at the next Conference and an election shall be held. The appointee may then stand for election under the normal procedures.

c) the office holder shall be termed “Acting (office name)”.

2.3.3. In paragraph 1.1.3, the reference to postal mail should be removed:

1.1.3. When, due to unforeseen circumstances, a casual vacancy occurs within the Executive Board, the Executive Board will inform Member Associations as soon as possible by a Special Newsletter distributed by both postal and electronic mail.

2.3.4. Paragraph 1.1.4 should be shortened to remove the postal mail reference and remove the last part of the sentence (Directors do not

need to be informed of what happens at Conference, since they are already there, and there will be a Conference report):

1.1.4. Once a vacancy is filled, the Executive Board will inform Member Associations ~~by a Special Newsletter distributed by both postal and electronic mail~~, with details of the new Board Officer, ~~unless the vacancy was filled by a ballot held at Conference~~. (Buenos Aires 03.A.18)

2.3.5. To be consistent and clear, there should be a new 1.2 added and titled “Subsequent Term of Election”, with the same text as sub-section 2.2 on the following page (Chairs of Standing Committees):

1.2. Subsequent Term of Election

1.2.1. When at the next Conference a candidate to any vacant elective office on the Executive Board is elected, it will be for the term that remains for the vacancy in order to maintain the sequence prescribed in Article 5, Section 2.

2.4. Proposed Modifications – Sub-section 2

2.4.1. As mentioned above, this sub-section (previously “Special Newsletter”) should be renamed “Chairs of Standing Committees”. Since the only Constitution element for this sub-section was moved to sub-section 1 (see 2.3.1 of this paper), it is proposed to use similar text as what is now 1.2 of the Constitution in sub-section 1:

2.1. In the event that any Standing Committee Chair is unable, for whatever reason, to fulfil the term for which they were elected, the provisions of this Section shall prevail.

2.4.2. The bye laws for this sub-section (“Casual Vacancies” and “Subsequent Term of Election”) would be housed here without any change.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. This working paper presented the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bye Laws related to Article 9 and invites the Directors of IFATCA to welcome these changes favourably.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. It is recommended that the IFATCA Administrative Manual (IAM) be amended as per the discussion above.

5. REFERENCES

5.1. International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers’ Associations. (2025). *IFATCA Administrative Manual (IAM)* (Version 70) Montréal, Canada: IFATCA.

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