

Alignment of Regional EVP and Other Executive Board Election Processes

Presented by Constitution and Administration Committee (CAC)

Consequent changes required to finalise conduct of Regional EVP elections at Regional Meetings

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Regional Executive Vice President (REVP) Elections were conducted at Regional Meetings for the first time, in 2023 prior to Annual Conference 2024 pursuant to changes agreed by Directors at Annual Conference 2023.
- 1.2. The paper seeks to clarify procedural requirements for REVP elections.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1. IFATCA ratified IFATCA Constitution and Administrative Manual (IAM) amendments to allow conduct of meetings, elections, and ratified decisions either in person, or via electronic means, as a result of identified shortfalls in the rules following the advent of COVID-19.
- 2.2. Concurrent work by Taskforce 2030+ provided recommendations that Regional Executive Vice Presidents (REVPs) be elected by their Region, at their respective Regional Meeting. Constitutional and policy amendments to the IAM were recommended and accepted by Directors to facilitate required variations on election procedures at Annual Conference 2023 in Montego Bay. It should be noted that ratification of REVP elections is not required at Annual Conference Final Plenary, and is simply reported. (insert ref)
- 2.3. The first round of election of REVPs at their respective Regional Meetings, in accordance with the election schedule, occurred in late 2023 and was reported to Conference 2024. Subsequent elections have occurred at Regional Meetings in 2024.
- 2.4. In review of these elections, it was discovered that, whilst the election processes are well articulated in the IAM, the general provisions for

establishing a quorum, and management of proxies are not specifically stated for Regional Meetings

- 2.5. The IAM provides significant detail of voting processes in general, and specific processes applicable to Executive Board position elections
- 2.6. IAM Part 2 Administrative Policy and Bye-Laws, Chapter 1 General, Section 2 Definitions para 2.1.7 (pp47) defines “Plenary”:

“2.1.7 Plenary: a session or sessions of the Federation requiring a quorum of all Directors required to vote upon, or ratify a decision of the Federation. Plenary sessions include, those identified as Plenary sessions at Annual Conference (including closed sessions), Special Conference, or Regional Meeting of IFATCA at which elections are conducted, or policy, procedure and guidelines of the Federation are determined by Directors. (Singapore 24.A.1)”

- 2.7. It follows that any election or decision on behalf of the Federation conducted at a Regional Meeting requires a quorum to be valid.

- 2.8. The IAM states that:

- Nominees may be nominated by any Member Association (MA) but must have direct approval of their own MA (*Article V, 2.2 pp36*)
- A quorum is required for valid election
 - Not more than 25% proxies from the region can be used to establish the quorum (*Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 6, para 5.1 pp93*)
 - Proxies are not acceptable for voting for Executive Board Elections in Plenary sessions (*Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 6, para 6.2.5 pp98*)

- 2.9. The IAM provides guidance for required publication of valid nominees (*Part 2, Chapter 5, Section 2, para 2.2.6 pp107*):

“2.2.6 At least thirty days before the Annual Conference, or Regional Meeting in respect of election of Regional Executive Vice-Presidents, and as early as possible prior to a Special Conference, the IFATCA Office shall notify the Member Associations of the list of nominees who have accepted nomination. (Lyon 76.A.22)”

- 2.10. In the case of EB elections at Annual Conference, all elections conducted in Committee A are referred to Final Plenary for ratification. (*Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 6, paras 6.1.7 pp96 and 6.2.6 pp99*) This provides opportunity for Directors that may not have been able to attend Committee A due to concurrent sessions.

- 2.11. For REVP election to the EB, only Directors from the relevant region are eligible to vote, and results of the Election are reported to Annual Conference without requirement for ratification. (*Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 6, para 6.1.7 pp95*)

- 2.12. If there is no quorum at a Regional Meeting then voting should be referred to Annual Conference at which a vote of eligible Directors for the respective region will vote and report to Final Plenary.
- 2.13. If there is only 1 nominee for a position, a ballot (election) is not necessary and the nominee is elected unopposed. The IAM requires that such an election should be recommended to Annual Conference. *(Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 6, para 6.1.7 pp96)*
- “Should there be only one candidate nominated for a position on the Executive Board, then a ballot is not necessary and that candidate shall automatically be recommended to the Final Plenary session of Conference. (Montego Bay 23.A.14)”*
- 2.14. This provision does not align with the general principle that REVP elections will only be voted by Directors from their respective regions.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1. The IAM provides sufficient guidance to cover elective processes for all EB positions, including those of REVP.
- 3.2. IAM Part 2, Chapter 2, Section 6, para 6.1.7 pp96 does not align with the general principle that REVP are elected solely by their constituency and requires amendment.
- 3.3. As a result of this research, it has become apparent that a number of other possible permutations are not clearly articulated within the IAM and should be subject to further study and recommendations:
- An EB position becoming vacant after nominations have closed
 - Covered for late nominations
 - An REVP position becoming vacant after the Regional Meeting but before nominations close for Annual Conference

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. That the IFATCA Constitution and Administrative Manual V69 Aug 2024, Part 2 Administrative Policy and Bye-Laws, Chapter 2, Section 6 Voting, Sub-section 6.1 General, para 6.1.7 pp96 be amended as indicated in **red**:
- 6.1.7. When a Committee or Plenary recommendation has been properly referred to a secret ballot, or in the case of an election for a Standing Committee, each Director will identify themselves to the appropriate balloting officer and will thereupon be issued with the same number of ballot papers as votes they have earlier been identified as having assigned to them in accordance with Part 2, Chapter 4, paras 5.6 to 5.10. (Toronto 17.A.5)

For voting in on Regional Executive Vice-President positions, ballot papers shall only be issued to Directors from Member Associations belonging to the Region concerned at the respective Regional Meeting. The result of these elections will be referred to final Plenary at the following Annual Conference for information. It shall not be subject to ratification by other than the regional Member Associations eligible to vote. (Montego Bay 23.A.14)

Proxy votes shall not be valid for any vote for the election of Officers of the Executive Board. (Montego Bay 23.A.14)

Should there be only one candidate nominated for a position on the Executive Board, then a ballot is not necessary. ~~and that candidate shall automatically be recommended to the Final Plenary session of Conference.~~

- For Regional Executive Vice President elections, that candidate's election shall be reported to Annual Conference and is not subject to further ratification
- For remaining Executive Board positions, that candidate shall automatically be recommended to the Final Plenary session of Conference for ratification. (Montego Bay 23.A.14)

Should there be only one candidate nominated for the position of Chair of a Standing Committee, then a ballot is not necessary in the relevant Conference Committee and that candidate shall be deemed elected as Chair. This will be confirmed upon acceptance of that Committee's report to the Final Plenary session of Conference. (Toronto 17.A.5)

Should there be fewer, or the same number, of Member Associations nominated for the number of positions allowed on a particular Standing Committee, then a ballot is not necessary, and all nominated Member Associations shall be deemed elected to that Standing Committee. (Arusha 08.A.16)

- 4.2. That the Constitution and Administrative Committee develop a table for inclusion within the IFATCA Constitution and Administrative Manual detailing processes for nomination in the event of late vacancies

5. REFERENCES

- 5.1. IFATCA Constitution and Administrative Manual Version 69, 2024 per included references above

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