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|  | **International Correspondence Chess Federation** **ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures****(effective from 1.1.2014)** |

**1. General Provisions**

1.1 Each voting member has one vote. A simple majority vote is required to decide any resolution unless it is defined or agreed otherwise (e.g., 2/3 majority, unanimous)

1.2 Voting normally is by show of hands but a secret ballot will be held if this is requested by at least two thirds of voting Delegates.

1.3 For the purposes of voting, the following definitions will be used:

* Abstention - The phrase “abstention votes” is an oxymoron, an abstention being a refusal to vote. To abstain means to refrain from voting and therefore, there can be no such thing as an “abstention vote.” In the usual situation, where either a majority vote or a two-thirds vote is required, abstentions have absolutely no effect on the outcome of the vote since what is required is either a majority or two thirds of the votes cast.
* Majority - The word “majority” in this context means, simply, *more than half*. Example: 43 voting delegates. Voting was 17 FOR, 16 AGAINST, and 10 ABSTENTIONS. To calculate, 33 votes were cast; therefore, 17 votes are required to pass – motion passed.
* Two-Thirds Vote and Rounding - The requirement of a two-thirds vote means more than two-thirds. Consequently, exactly two-thirds will not suffice. Example: 43 voting delegates. Voting was 22 FOR, 11 AGAINST, and 10 ABSTENTIONS. To calculate, 33 votes were cast and 23 votes were needed to achieve more than two-thirds – motion denied.

Congress participants not counted as voting Delegates:

* Delegates who are not present at Congress and have not sent their vote in written form to the General Secretary.
* Delegates not represented by a proxy.
* Delegates present at Congress but not voting (either absent or abstention).

1.4 Elections of persons will be exclusively by secret ballot. Where an e-mail ballot is necessary, the voting procedure will be according to agreed established practice and will be announced by the Executive Board.

1.5 In the event of equal votes on any matter other than for the election of persons, the President will have a casting vote. In the event of a tie in an election of persons, a further ballot will be arranged after which, if still producing an equal result, the President will have a casting vote.

1.6 Voting members and proxy’s eligibility are defined in the ICCF Statutes, article 28.

1.7 All Delegates, Honorary Presidents, and Honorary Members must register as voting members with the ICCF General Secretary at least **6-weeks before the start date of Congress**. No voting member will be accepted after this deadline.

1.8 The ICCF General Secretary will distribute to the Member Federation Delegates the list of voting members attending Congress, **4-weeks before the start date of the Congress**.

1.9. Member Federations wishing to assign a proxy must send their written declaration to the ICCF General Secretary, at least **2-weeks before the start date of Congress**. No new proxy nominations or change in a proxy nomination will be accepted after this deadline.

1.10 The list of voting members and proxy will be distributed by the ICCF General Secretary 1-week before the start date of Congress.

1.11 A Member Federation applying for membership may provisionally register as a voting member with the ICCF General Secretary at least 6-weeks before the start date of the Congress or assign a provisional proxy at least 2-weeks before the start of Congress. No Member Federation may hold proxy for another Member Federation at the Congress in which they were elected as a member.

**2. Executive Board and Auditor elections – Normal 4-year election procedures**

2.1 Nominations for the office of:

* President
* General Secretary
* Finance Director
* World Tournament Director
* Marketing Director
* Services Director
* Auditor

must reach the ICCF General Secretary at least 2-months before the opening of Congress where the elections are to take place.

2.2 To be elected, each candidate shall be nominated by his or her Member Federations.

2.3 It is the right of each Member Federation to nominate candidates for any of the above seven positions, providing:

a) the nominee is a current member of their Federation, and

b) the nominee has confirmed his / her willingness to be nominated.

2.4. The Member Federation of the candidate shall send the letter of nomination to the ICCF General Secretary by e-mail, with a copy to the ICCF Auditor. The ICCF General Secretary shall confirm receipt of this letter by e-mail, with a copy to the ICCF Auditor.

Each nomination shall include a written declaration from the candidate indicating his/her willingness to be nominated, along with a personal statement (if wished) giving information in support of his/her candidature.

2.5 When all nominations have been received, the information shall be issued by the ICCF General Secretary to all Member Federations at least 1-month before the start of Congress where the elections take place, to enable them to consider all the candidates and decide upon voting preferences, prior to the respective ICCF Congress.

**3. Electoral Procedures**

3.1 Marked ballot papers shall be prepared for elections, with names of the candidate(s) nominated for each office. Ballot papers shall be distributed to all voting members by the ICCF General Secretary at Congress, before the respective elections.

3.2 It is allowed that the same candidate can run for more than one position in the Executive Board.

3.3 If the same person puts his / her candidacy for more than one office in the Executive Board, the order of elections shall be:

* President
* General Secretary
* Finance Director
* World Tournament Director
* Marketing Director
* Services Director
* Auditor

As soon as a candidate is elected to one office, his/her candidacy for other office(s) becomes cancelled.

3.4 To secure a fair and impartial electoral process, three scrutineers, a chair and two members, shall be appointed for elections. Normally the ICCF Auditor (as chair) and two nonvoting ICCF Honorary Members shall act as these scrutineers.

No scrutineer can be, at the same time, a candidate for an office in the Executive Board or Auditor.

3.5 Completed ballot papers will be returned to the scrutineers, for secret scrutiny and declaration of the result announced by the ICCF Auditor.

Should the ICCF Auditor not be present at Congress or unable to act as scrutineer (see section 3.4), then an ICCF Honorary President will act on his behalf as chair. In his absence or if he is unable to act as scrutineer, the Executive Board will propose other present and respectable person who will be approved by vote of Congress.

Should only one or no Honorary Member is present at the Congress, the Executive Board will propose other suitable person(s) who will be approved by Congress.

3.6 If three or more persons are nominated for the same offices or office, any candidate who receives more than 50% of the votes cast, is elected on the first ballot.

Thereafter, the candidate receiving most votes on the second ballot is elected. In case of a tie, a new ballot is held between the candidates who tied, as described in 1.5.

3.7 Delegates not present at Congress may send their votes by e-mail to the ICCF Auditor with copy to the ICCF General Secretary.

3.8. If no nomination is received from the Member Federations for any Executive Board or Auditor position, the Executive Board will be empowered to appoint an Official.

**4. Zonal Directors Elections**

The election of Zonal Directors is arranged within each Zone, normally, immediately following the respective Congress. Procedures for Zonal Director elections shall be agreed within each Zone, with advice available from the ICCF President and/or General Secretary, as required.

**5. Executive Board elections – Midterm vacancy election procedures**

5.1 Where a vacancy occurs in the Executive Board during the normal 4-year cycle, then a midterm election will be arranged by e-mail with Member Federations, to be completed within 3-months, with the exception that where a vacancy occurs within 3-months of the start date of a Congress, when the election procedure will be according to normal procedure and the election will take place at the Congress.

5.2 For midterm elections to be completed within 3-months nominations should be required within 2-months of the date of the notice to Member Federations and 2-weeks should be allowed for registering of votes for each ballot.

5.3 For midterm elections, nominations should be made according to paragraphs 2.2 to 2.4.

5.4 The voting procedures for midterm elections will be arranged to ensure validation of voting eligibility and secrecy of voting. Elections will be scrutinised by the ICCF Auditor.

5.5. If no nomination is received from the Member Federations for any Executive Board or Auditor position, the Executive Board will be empowered to appoint an Official.

**6. Final Provisions**

6.1 Personal statements of candidates shall not be published in commercial magazines / internet sites, etc. until after they have all been circulated by the ICCF General Secretary to the official delegates of Member Federations. These statements will also be published on a special election page on [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com/).

6.2 Election campaigning/soliciting for votes, etc. shall not take place until after the complete list of candidates, accompanied by their personal statements, has been officially released by the ICCF General Secretary, as indicated in 2.5.