



## International Correspondence Chess Federation

### ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures

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**Any change to this document requires a 2/3 majority vote of the Congress.**

#### 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.

- 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) For President – the newly elected General Secretary will decide.
  - b) For all other positions – once the President is named and elected, he or she is now the tiebreaker (if needed) for all other EB/Auditor positions.
- 1.6 When a member federation cannot be represented by its delegate at a Congress, that organization shall be entitled to exercise its voting rights:
  - a) by voting online through the ICCF online voting system,
  - b) by presenting an appropriate written declaration, stating clearly its voting intention,
  - c) through a substitute delegate (who must be a member of the same federation), having written authority from the official delegate,
  - d) by conferring in writing its voting right (proxy) on another voting member, honorary president or honorary member.

Substitute delegates under c) are eligible to accept proxies from other member federations. However, no person may register more than 3 votes in total.
- 1.7 All delegates, honorary presidents, and honorary members must register as voting members with the ICCF General Secretary at least **six 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, at least **four 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 **two weeks before the start date of Congress**. No new proxy nominations or change in a proxy nomination will be accepted after this deadline.

The procedure for pre-Congress voting is described below:

- A. All proposals to Congress will be presented on the ICCF website and will be available to anyone who has an ICCF ID and password. The proposal will remain open for comments during two weeks after the deadline for submitting proposals; at this point, all the comments by ICCF officials will be shown alongside the proposals.
- B. As soon as proposals are closed for comment, they will become open for online voting; all ICCF delegates will be able to see the following five options under each proposal:
1. I have not yet discussed this proposal with my federation and I do not yet have an opinion.
  2. I have discussed this proposal with my federation and I vote in favour of the proposal.
  3. I have discussed this proposal with my federation and I vote against the proposal.
  4. I would like to participate in the Congress discussion about this proposal, and I will decide how to vote following this discussion
  5. My proxy (or delegate designee) will participate in the Congress discussion about this proposal, and I trust him or her to vote in the best interests of my federation.
- C. Option 1 will be selected by default.

If option 1 is selected, there will be no vote cast for this proposal by the federation during online voting. If the federation is represented by its official delegate, then he or she will retain the right to vote at Congress, however delegate designees, or proxies may not vote on behalf of a federation delegate.

If either option 2 or 3 is selected, then the vote will be automatically cast. If the federation is represented by its official delegate, then he or she will retain the right to change this vote at Congress, however delegate designees, or proxies may not change the vote of a federation delegate.

If either option 4 or 5 is selected, the delegate, delegate designee, or proxy will have the opportunity to vote in person at Congress. Which of these people will be allowed to vote at Congress is only as stated in the specific option selected.

- D. Online voting will be closed 7-days before the opening of Congress. Votes cast will be secret until the completion of live voting for that proposal. A spreadsheet will be generated of the voting for each proposal to facilitate the work of the General Secretary at Congress.
- 1.10 The list of voting members will be distributed by the ICCF General Secretary at least one 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.
- 1.12 Conflicting proposals will be clearly indicated on the Congress agenda by the General Secretary. If two or more proposals which are in conflict are passed by a majority of delegates (either a simple majority, or by a two thirds majority), the precedence will be:
- The proposal with the most votes in favour will take precedence.
  - If two or more conflicting proposals have the same number of votes in favour, the proposal with the fewest number of votes against will take precedence.
- 1.13 Special Provision for Online Congress if a congress is held online:
- Congress discussions will take place at time to be announced in advance using video conferencing technology; this date will be “the start date of Congress”. An agenda will be circulated in advance by the General Secretary.
  - No voting will take place during the meeting.
  - Online voting will be kept open until two weeks following the date of the online meeting.
  - Votes of 5 (My proxy (or delegate designee) will participate in the Congress discussion about this proposal, and I trust him or her to vote in the best interests of my federation) will be counted as abstentions.
  - Federation delegates and EB/MC officials may be active participants of the meeting.
  - Arrangements should be made if possible, to make a live stream of the meeting available for all players and officials to watch.
  - A video recording of the meeting will be made available to all players and officials.

## **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 It is the right of each member federation to nominate candidates for any of the above seven positions, providing the nominee has confirmed his/her willingness to be nominated.

### 2.3 The letter of nomination shall be sent 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.

### 2.4 When all nominations have been received, the information shall be issued by the ICCF General Secretary to all member federations at least one 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 Scrutineer Chair.

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 persons 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 two or more persons are nominated for the same offices or office, the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. In the event of a tie, the procedures in Section 1.5 will be followed.
- 3.7 Delegates not present at Congress may send their votes by e-mail to the ICCF General Secretary with copy to the ICCF Auditor.
- 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. Executive Board elections – Midterm vacancy election procedures**

- 4.1 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, the election procedure will be according to normal procedure and the election will take place at the Congress.

- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 For midterm elections, nominations should be made according to paragraphs 2.2 to 2.4.
- 4.4 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.

## **5. Final Provisions**

- 5.1 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 delegates of member federations. These statements will also be published on a special election page on [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com).
- 5.2 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.