

ATHLETES' COMMISSION 2023 ELECTIONS CANDIDATE PACK



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1. Introduction

The elections to the Athletes' Commission will be held during the first five (5) days of the 2023 World Athletics Championships due to be held in Budapest, Hungary (19-27 August 2023).

In this pack, you will find the requirements to be elected to the Athletes' Commission. There are six positions available for election.

The Terms of Reference for the Athletes' Commission and its 4-year Plan can be found in the Library [here](#).

The elections are organised by the World Athletics Election Oversight Panel, an independent body composed of five international experts on elections in sport.

The importance of athletes to decision-making within World Athletics has been recognised in its governance reforms.

Since 2019, the Chairperson and one other member of the Athletes' Commission are full voting members of the World Athletics Council.

2. Role, Composition, and Requirements

Read below for a description of what it means to be a member of the Athletes' Commission.

2.1 Role

The Athletes' Commission is part of World Athletics' decision-making process.

It advises the Council on the athletes' perspective(s) and serves as a link between the athletes and World Athletics.

2.2 Composition and Term of Appointment

The Athletes' Commission is comprised of up to 18 members as follows:

- 12 members who are elected by their peers;
- Up to 6 other members, who are nominated by Member Federations and appointed by the Council.

Of the 12 elected members, 6 are elected at each World Athletics Championships, so there is an election of 6 athletes every 2 years.

The term of appointment is generally 4 years, commencing on the appointment by the Council after the election at the World Athletics Championships and expiring 4 years later.

The maximum number of terms that an Athlete can serve is 3 (i.e., 12 years).

2.3 Eligibility

To be eligible to stand for the 2023 elections, every athlete must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Be a current member of their Member Federation (or a body affiliated to the Member Federation, such as a club);
- Be nominated by a Member Federation that is not currently represented on the Athletes' Commission;
- Be at least 18 years old;
- Have competed in at least one of the last two World Athletics Championships, or in the last Olympic Games, or be a competitor in the World Athletics Championships at which the election is being held;
- Be able to speak and understand English reasonably well; and
- Be eligible in accordance with the World Athletics Vetting Rules ([Book B: B3.2 - Vetting Rules](#)).

3. Steps To Be Elected

3.1 Overview

These are the steps to the 2023 Athletes' Commission elections:

What?	When?
Step 1 – Eligibility (vetting) of athletes seeking to run for election	16 March 2023* – Deadline** to submit Eligibility application
Step 2 – Nomination Form signed and sent by Candidate or Member Federation	16 May 2023* – Deadline** to submit Nomination Form for eligible Candidates
Step 3 – Publication of Candidates' list and start of Campaign Period	1 August 2023 – Candidates can campaign once the official List is published
Step 4 – Elections	19-23 August 2023 - Athletes vote at the World Championships and results are shared with the Council
Step 5 – Council approval and appointment	After election results are validated by the Election Oversight Panel, Council confirms the appointment of new Athletes' Commission members

*Athletes and Member Federations must contact compliance@worldathletics.org to apply for the Eligibility process and to submit Nominations.

**These deadlines will be strictly enforced – applications received after the deadlines will not be considered, in fairness to the Candidates who complied with the timeframe.

3.2 Detailed Steps

Step 1 – Prospective Candidates apply to be vetted

Anyone seeking elections at World Athletics must first be declared Eligible by the World Athletics Vetting Panel.

The Vetting Panel is the independent body in charge of verifying the track record, integrity and reputation of anyone seeking a role in World Athletics.

To take part in the process, prospective Candidates should contact the Compliance and Risk Officer by writing to compliance@worldathletics.org no later than **16 March 2023 (23:59 CET)**.

No application will be considered after the deadline.

Vetting consists of a verification of a person's background and personal information to ensure the Candidate:

- is able to meet the high standards of conduct and integrity required of the position;
- is of good character and reputation; and,
- has fully disclosed all Significant Interests and is free of any actual conflict of interest.

Relevant criteria for the Vetting Panel include if the Candidate:

- Is or has ever been the subject of an investigation or disciplinary action, (whether or not in any sporting context including within Athletics), resulting in adverse findings about the person's credibility, integrity, honesty or reputation; or,

- Has at any time not complied with the law; or has been the subject of any public controversy, that is likely to adversely affect the reputation or interests of the sport of Athletics or World Athletics; or,
- Is unwilling or unable to deal with any potential or actual Conflict of Interest.

The eligibility verification also applies to persons who have already been vetted, although in this case they will benefit from a "fast track" vetting process.

Candidates who pass the vetting will be sent a letter confirming their eligibility.

Step 2 - Nomination Supported by a Member Federation

Any athlete seeking to be a candidate must be nominated by a Member Federation.

A Member Federation can only nominate one candidate. The decision to nominate must be made by the appropriate Body in the Member Federation and in accordance with its Constitution or applicable Rules and Regulations.

Only Member Federations whose athletes are currently not members and whose athletes will end their mandate on the [Athletes' Commission](#) in 2023 can nominate Candidates to the 2023 election. The following Member Federations have athletes on the Commission for the 2022-2025 term and therefore, are not eligible to nominate a candidate in 2023: BUL, CAN, JPN, NED, SUI and UKR.

The Nomination Form must be signed by the Candidate and a senior Officer of the Candidate's Member Federation (i.e., the President, the Secretary General or the Chief Executive).

It must be received by World Athletics at compliance@worldathletics.org by no later than **16 May 2023 (23:59 CET)**.

The Candidate Nomination Form is available in the [Library](#) section of the World Athletics website. Only this form can be used.

Step 3 – Campaign

The Election Oversight Panel will confirm to each Candidate whether their nomination is compliant and has been approved. Once approved:

- The Candidates will be asked to record a video message under the guidance of the Election Oversight Panel to complement the short-written message provided in their Nomination Form.
- A list of all the approved candidates (with their campaign material) will be sent to the Member Federations and published on World Athletics' website, no later than 15 days before the election (i.e., around 1 August 2023).
- The publication of the list of Candidates will launch the "Campaign Period".
- During the Campaign Period, Candidates can promote their campaign in accordance with the Candidacy Rules ([Book B: B3.4 Candidacy Rules](#)) and any guidance issued by the Election Oversight Panel. This will include, for example, sharing a video message or campaign material on social media.

All campaigning must be done with honesty, dignity and moderation in all spoken and written statements.

Step 4 – Elections

The location of the World Athletics Voting Centres will be confirmed approximately one month before the 2023 World Athletics Championships:

- The elections will take place during the first 5 days of the Competition (between 19 and 23 August 2023).
- Signage and relevant information will be displayed within the Athletes' accommodation centres indicating the exact location and opening hours of the Voting Centres.
- All athletes holding a "TA" accreditation at the World Athletics Championships, Budapest 23 have the right to vote. Only one vote per accredited athlete is permitted. The vote must be made in person, via the official voting process, upon presentation of a valid accreditation card.

The vote will be undertaken by secret ballot and to be valid, the voting ballot must indicate six names, no more, no less.

After voting has closed, the Election Oversight Panel will validate the results and inform World Athletics. The outcome of the election is final and there is no right of appeal.

Step 5 - Council Approval

Following the elections, the World Athletics Council will review the election results and approve the appointments of the elected Candidates to the Athletes' Commission.

The Council may, in its absolute discretion, decide not to confirm a Candidate who has been elected, if in the Council's opinion there are exceptional circumstances warranting such decision.

The names of the elected athletes will be announced before the closing of World Athletics Championships Budapest 23 and published on World Athletics website. Member Federations will also be informed of the results via Circular.



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