



2023 IAU Athletes Commission Elections

Version 2.0

December 2022

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1. Introduction

For the Athlete - by the Athlete. IAU Athletes Commission remains independent. Members should be passionate, enthusiastic, and committed to roles and responsibilities as member of IAU Athletes Commission.

This IAU Athletes Commission election package summarises the steps and requirements for any athlete wishing to be considered for election as a member of the IAU Athletes Commission.

There are ten (10) positions available at the IAU Athletics Commission where six (6) will be elected, two (2) will be appointed by IAU Executive Council and remaining two (2) being IAU Executive Council representatives. The positions at IAU Athletes Commission will be represented as follow:

- Four (4) positions from regions define by IAU (Asia &Oceania, Africa, Americas and Europe), this mean 1 position for each region.
- Two (2) positions for para-athletes (globally)
- Two (2) positions appointed by IAU (globally) not taking part of the elections.

Among the eight (8) position at IAU Athletes Commission there has to be equal representation of the following modalities.

- Two (2) representing 24H races
- Two (2) representing 50/100 km
- Two (2) representing short and long trail

The election for the IAU Athletes Commission will take place during one of IAU World Championships in 2023 and the appointment is 4 years (2023-2027). If the election take place in the second half of 2023 (July – December) the appointment will cover period of 2023-2028 with election taking place during one of IAU World Championships in 2028.

All elected and appointed members of the IAU Athletes Commission have to be approved by IAU Executive Council Members.

Current members are:

Kathia Rached (Lebanon)	Asia and Oceania	100km
Thomas Combisen (Philippines)	Asia and Oceania	24hr
Anjali Saraogi (India)	Asia and Oceania	100km
Wayne Botha (New Zealand)	Asia and Oceania	24hr

Brendan Davies (Australia)	Asia and Oceania	100km/trail
Johan Steene (Sweden)	Europe	24hr/100km
Patrycja Bereznowska (Poland)	Europe	24hr
Alexandr Sorokin (Lithuania)	Europe	100km/24hr
Dan Lawson (Great Britain)	Europe	24hr
Virginia Oliveri (Italy)	Europe	24hr
Pablo Barnes (Argentina)	Americas	24hr/trail
Harvey Lewis (USA)	Americas	24hr

2. Roles, Responsibilities, Composition, Term

This section sets out important information about the role, responsibilities and expectations, composition and terms of appointment, and eligibility criteria of the IAU Athletes Commission.

2.1 Roles

The role of the IAU Athletes Commission is to advise the IAU Executive Council and other IAU Committees (if needed) within the IAU on matters related to Athletics from an athlete perspective including:

- a) providing an athlete's perspective and voice to the decision-making processes within the IAU;
- b) promoting and advocating for the rights and interests of athletes related to IAU competitions and events organised globally;
- c) promoting clean, inclusive, safe events and upholds the highest ethical standards;
- d) advising and educating athletes on matters related to ultrarunning;
- e) acting as the link between the athletes and the IAU to convey the athletes' views to the IAU and vice versa;
- f) promoting and supporting the establishment of Athletes' Commissions in Area Associations and Member Federations to provide an athlete's perspective into their respective decision-making processes.

2.2 Responsibilities and Expectations

As a member of the IAU Athletes Commission, there are at least two (2) meetings per year (if possible in person) or a matter of conference call and on-going online consultation in between meetings, as well as promotion and other events when possible.

All members are expected to participate in at least one (1) meeting, review all materials when circulated and provide meaningful feedback mainly in person (if possible), by email, by conference call and/or any way of available online communication on a variety of important subjects concerning athletes and the sport.

The Chairperson of the IAU Athletes Commission has further responsibilities, including:

- a) chair and prepare the agenda/papers for all meetings of the IAU Athletes Commission or appoint IAU Athletes Commission member to chair and prepare the meeting to maintain enthusiasm and meeting involvement.
- b) The Chair will appoint an IAU Athletes Commission member the responsibility to hold minutes of each meeting;
- c) be the spokesperson for the IAU Athletes Commission including to the media;
- d) liaise with the IAU President and IAU Executive Council as required or requested;
- e) prepare and present reports to IAU Executive Council at least once a year;
- f) be the IAU athlete representative at any forums, groups or presentations as requested by the IAU President or IAU Executive Council;
- g) communicate with the members of the IAU Athletes Commission and other athletes and persons including the IAU Member Federations;
- h) any other specific responsibilities as required by the IAU President or IAU Executive Council that are within the scope of the role and responsibilities of the Athletes' Commission.

The Vice-Chairperson is responsible for carrying out any of the responsibilities described above if the Chairperson is unable to do so. He or she may also have specific responsibilities delegated to him or her by the Chairperson or the IAU Athletes Commission.

Both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, who will be from amongst the elected members of the IAU Athletes Commission, are elected by the members of the IAU Athletes Commission. The term in these positions is 2 years, but these members may be elected to these positions for further terms, up to 4 terms in total (8 years) provided they remain members of the IAU Athletes Commission.

2.3 Composition and Term of Appointment

The IAU Athletes Commission is comprised of up to ten (10) members as follows:

- a) Six (6) members who are elected and then approved by the IAU Executive Council;
- b) up to four (4) other members where at least two (2) being IAU Executive Council representative and two (2) Athletes appointed by the IAU Executive Council.

From the IAU Athletes Commission members there has to be equal representation on of gender, IAU established regions and main competition (50 km, 100 km, 24 hours and trail).

Applications process will start 6 month prior elections and final list of candidates will be published at least two and a half (2,5) months prior to the elections. The list of appointed two commission members will be announced after election and will not take part of the election process. After elections final list of elected candidates will be presented to IAU Executive Council for approval on the next Council meeting. Once approved the 4-year term of appointment will start.

2.4 Eligibility

Every candidate for election or appointment to the IAU Athletes Commission must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- a) be a current member of the Member Federation (or a body affiliated to the Member Federation);
- b) be nominated by their Member Federation;
- c) be at least 20 years old;
- d) if seeking to be an Elected Member, have competed in at least one of the IAU Major event in last 4 calendar years
- e) not be under investigation, or convicted or otherwise sanctioned for:
 - i. a doping offence (whether or not they have served the sanction imposed on them); or
 - ii. any other offence or breach of any rules of the IAU or a Member Federation
- f) be good ambassadors for ultrarunning and have a good relationship with their Member Federation.

3. Steps To Be Elected

There are 5 steps to complete in order to be elected to the IAU Athletes Commission:

Step 1 - Nomination supported by a Member Federation

Step 2 – Vetting

Step 3 - Campaign

Step 4 - Election

Step 5 - Council Approval

3.1 Nomination supported by a Member Federation

Any athlete seeking to be a candidate must be nominated by a Member Federation. A Member Federation can nominate up to three (3) candidates. Athletes from Member Federations that are already members of the IAU Athletes Commission may be nominated as candidates to serve another term. All details on eligibility is provided in section 2.4.

3.2 Vetting

All candidates must be declared Eligible by the Vetting Panel. This process involves checking the edibility of candidates, equal representation and other aspects related to candidacy. The vetting committee will determine the elections lists to fulfill requirements provided in section 1.

3.3 Campaign

Candidates may only promote their campaign during the Campaign Period. The Campaign Periods will be communicated together with the final list of candidates. Candidates (or any person on their behalf) may not promote their candidacy at any other time or in any other way whatsoever, other than to state they are a candidate. During the Campaign Period, candidates may promote their candidacy in anyway of communication such social media but such promotion must be limited to candidate presentation and discussions among athletes.

Candidates must campaign with respect for every other candidate and the IAU Constitution, Rules and Regulations apply. All campaigning must be conducted with honesty, dignity, integrity and moderation in all spoken and written statements.

3.4 Election

The election will be undertaken at one of the IAU World Championships events and in accordance with the IAU constitution. It will be held in 2023. An IAU Athletes Commission Elections Committee will be appointed by the IAU General Secretary, which is responsible for overseeing the election process.

The AC Elections Committee will be comprised of 2 members (one appointed as Chairperson) both being independent scrutineers and appointed by IAU General Secretary. The members will be announced on the IAU website prior to the Elections together with final candidate list. In addition, the AC Elections Committee will organise and supervise the election, including determining the valid votes, counting the votes, certifying the results, and notifying the IAU Executive Council of the outcome.

Only one vote per accredited athlete is permitted. The vote must be made in person (if election hold during IAU World Championships) upon presentation of a valid accreditation or on the official voting platform provided by IAU.

Athlete eligible for voting must be nominated by a Member Federation with voting rights at the time of election.

The vote will be undertaken by secret ballot. After voting has closed, the Chairperson of the IAU Athletes Commission Elections Committee will inform the IAU President and Executive Council of the result. The outcome of the election will be certified by the Chairperson of the AC Elections Committee. The results are final and will be published at IAU website.

3.5 Council Approval

Following the election, the final list of elected IAU Athletes Commission members will be presented to IAU Executive Council for approval. Then IAU will appoint remaining four (4) members of the IAU Athletes Commission (two (2) Athletes and two (2) IAU representatives). This is expected to occur at the next IAU Executive Council meeting after the elections.

Council may, in its absolute discretion, decide not to confirm a person who has been elected as an Elected Member, or as the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, if in Council's opinion there are exceptional circumstances warranting such decision.

Approved list of IAU Athletes Commission Members will be announced and published on IAU website after IAU Executive Council approval take place. Finally the IAU Athletes Commission on their first meeting will elect the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

4. Conclusion

Any dispute will be presented to IAU Executive Council and reviewed based on IAU Constitution and related rules. The Final decision will be made by the IAU President and Executive Council and published on the IAU website.

Annex 1

Proposed timelines:

1. Nomination from June 1st till 31st August 2023
2. Vetting from 1st September till 14th September 2023
3. Campaign from 15th September till 30th November 2023
4. Elections on 1st December 2023
5. Council approval from 2nd December till 14th December
6. Publication of the final list of IAU Athletes Commission members on December 15th 2023
7. Appointment period 2024 – 2028
8. Next election 2028