

Constitutional Changes | Briefing Paper

Introduction

Following engagement with, and feedback from Member Clubs, the Board of Volleyball Ireland are proposing two changes to the constitution.

In summary:

Proposal 1: Amend voting rights for clubs, to include better recognise associate clubs that are developing youth programmes, and to better recognise the status of National League clubs, whilst simplifying voting right definitions and giving clarity to existing definitions.

Proposal 2: Standardise Board member term lengths thus adopting recommendations from Sport Ireland, and to align with FIVB regulations.

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Proposal 1: Amend voting rights for clubs (article 2.13)

The current constitution states:

2.13 All Members in good standing with Volleyball Ireland shall have the right to vote at a general or special meeting of the Company on the following basis.

- (a) **Junior Clubs** shall have one vote;
- (b) **Senior Clubs** shall have two votes (notwithstanding the number of delegates at the meeting); and
- (c) Volleyball Bodies shall have one vote,

Official definitions as per constitution:

“Junior Club” means a Club with volleyball team(s) competing in Volleyball Ireland competitions the majority of which shall be indoor competitions.

“Senior Club” means a Club with 4 or more volleyball teams at least one of which is a Juvenile team, and such teams competing in Volleyball Ireland competitions the majority of which shall be indoor competitions

New Proposal:

2.13 All Members in good standing with Volleyball Ireland shall have the right to vote at a general or special meeting of the Company on the following basis.

- (a) All affiliated “Competitive” clubs shall have one vote;
- (b) Clubs that are members of the Volleyball Ireland adult National League shall have two votes;

(c) Approved Volleyball Bodies shall have one vote,

An affiliated *Competitive* club are clubs that have teams competing in the Regional Leagues (currently known as Division 3), or the Youth National Leagues.

Proposal 2: Amend term limits and term lengths for Board Members

Currently there are varying term durations depending on the type of Board Member you are, e.g. 2 years for co-opted, 1 term of 3 years for Independents, 3 terms of 3 years for *officers and ordinary board members*. This can be confusing. It contravenes FIVB regulations.

Sport Ireland, as part of our routine external governance audit, have recommended that Board Member term lengths are standardised.

Current wording:

Elected Board Member:

4.2.1 The Officers shall be elected for a three-year term at the Company AGM.

Independent Board Member:

4.3.1 Their term shall be for three years, which is renewable once by election.

Co-Opted Board Members:

4.4.1 Co-opted persons shall be appointed by the Board and may serve on the Board for a period designated by the Board up to 2 years. The term is renewable once.

New proposal:

All Directors shall be elected for a four year term at the Company AGM.

4.2.2 All Directors may serve a maximum of two terms.

4.3.1 Their term shall be for four years, which is renewable once by election.

New Clause:

4.2.3 Directors who have served the maximum of two terms of four years on the Board, are eligible for election as President for one term of four years.

Transition Provision

To be actionable the previous transition provision from 2019 will be removed and a new version added:

10.1 Solely for the purposes of the Annual General Meeting, at which the revised constitution is approved, all Directors currently in place, shall have their terms extended from three (3) years to four (4) years.

10.2 All newly elected Directors will be appointed on a four (4) years term.

Tracked changed version of the constitution is enclosed.

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