

ATHLETES' COMMISSION 2022 ELECTIONS CANDIDATE PACK

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WORLD
ATHLETICS

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1. Message from the Chair

Over the many years I've spent at the top level of our sport, one of the biggest changes I have witnessed is how much more powerful the voice of the athlete has become – especially in helping shape the future of athletics.

Since I became the Chair of the World Athletics Athletes' Commission in 2019, I have seen first-hand how those in charge of our sport have increasingly listened and valued athletes' input on important subjects.

This development has also highlighted the reality that many athletes are not content to simply participate in the sport – they want to shape its future, which is what the Athletes' Commission is here to do.

Through amendments to the Constitution, we as athletes, now have more influence on a global level. And it is up to us to make use of the opportunity this presents.

As the democratically elected Athletes' Commission it is not only our duty to stand up for athletes globally, to promote and advocate for the rights and interests of athletes, to support the advancement of an even, inclusive, safe, and clean playing field, but also to advise and to educate athletes around the world and to use the power of the sport we love, to promote a healthier and fitter society.

Through the Athletes' Commission, we now have two seats at the table when decisions are made at the World Athletics Council – with two voting seats being held by the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair. We also form part of all other Commissions and Working Groups and can provide direct input in shaping the future of our sport – across all areas we care about. Be it competition, governance, integrity, safeguarding, development, or the promotion of our sport to the wider public.

As elite athletes, we have a powerful platform through which we can draw attention to issues in the sport and beyond. We can lend a voice to those who may not be heard otherwise. But the most effective way for us to lobby and bring about change, is by doing it together.

We need input from athletes all around the world and from events that span the full spectrum of our sport. We need athletes, who are dedicated, willing to speak up and make time to tackle issues that may not directly affect them – but do affect the wider athlete community.

As a Commission, we have grown in strength, but to make key differences in the evolution of our sport, we want to encourage more athletes to find their voice. We may be competitors on the track, in the field and on the roads, but away from that we are one powerful collective.

And ultimately, we all want the same thing: a better future for our sport.

If you want to make a difference for your fellow athletes, I encourage you to run for election to the Athletes' Commission in 2022.

Renaud Lavillenie,
World Athletics Athletes' Commission Chair

2. Introduction

In this pack you will find the requirement to be elected to the Athletes' Commission.

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

The elections are organised by the Election Oversight Panel, an independent body composed of 5 international experts on elections in sport.

There are six (6) positions available for election at the World Athletics Championships 2022 due to be held between 15 and 23 July 2022 in Eugene, Oregon (USA).

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. The Athletes currently holding these positions on the Council are Renaud Lavillenie (FRA, as Chair) and Dame Valerie Adams (NZL, as Deputy Chair).

3. Role, Composition, and Requirements

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

3.1 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.

3.2 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.

Exceptionally and since the WCH2022 were rescheduled from 2021, the term for this election will be 3 years, leading to the 2025 World Athletics Championships.

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

3.3 Eligibility

To be eligible to stand for the 2022 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 Commission¹;
- 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;
- Be eligible in accordance with the Vetting Rules.

¹ Member Federations whose Athletes were elected at the Athletes' Commission elections in Doha in September 2019, or appointed by Council in November 2019, cannot nominate Candidates to the 2022 Athletes' Commission elections: FRA ; NZL ; BEL ; USA ; JAM ; GRE ; KEN ; SYR ; KAZ ; RSA ; CHN ; CIV. This is because these Athletes' terms run until August 2023 and there can be no more than 1 Athlete per Member Federation on the Commission.

4. Steps To Be Elected

4.1 Overview

These are the steps to the 2022 Athletes' Commission elections:

What?	When?
Step 1 – Eligibility (vetting) of athletes seeking to run for election	25 March 2022* – Deadline** to submit Eligibility application
Step 2 – Nomination Form signed and sent by Member Federation	25 April 2022* – Deadline** to submit Nomination Form for eligible Candidates
Step 3 - Campaign Period	June 2022 - Starts around 1.5 months before the elections, after the list of Candidates is published
Step 4 – Elections	15- 20 July 2022 - Athletes vote at the World Championships
Step 5 – Council approval and appointment	After results are validated by the EOP, the Council confirms results and elections of new Members

*Athletes and MFs 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.

4.2 Detailed Steps

Step 1 – Prospective Candidates apply to be vetted

Anyone seeking election 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 Ethical Compliance Officer by writing to compliance@worldathletics.org no later than 25 March 2022 midnight 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;
- 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 of the Athletes' Commission can nominate Candidates to the 2022 election.

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 25 April 2022 (23:59 CEST).

The Candidate Nomination Form is available [here](#). 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 in June 2022 and by no later than 1 July 2022 (15 days before the election).
- 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](#) and any guidance issued by the Election Oversight Panel. This will include, for example, sharing their video message on social media.

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

Step 4 – Election

Voting at the elections will take place at the World Athletics Voting Centres located near the athletes' dining areas at the 2022 World Athletics Championships:

- It is expected that 2 Voting Centres will be set up during the first 5 days of the Competition (between 15 and 20 July 2022).
- 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, Oregon 2022 have the right to vote. Only one vote per accredited athlete is permitted. The vote must be made in person, on the official voting paper, 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 inform World Athletics of the result. The outcome of the election is final and there is no right of appeal.

Step 5 - Council Approval

Following the election, the World Athletics Council will review the election results and approve the elected Candidates as Members of the Athletes' Commission.

The Council may, in its absolute discretion, decide not to confirm a person who has been elected as an Elected Member, 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 the World Athletics Championships Oregon 2022 and published on World Athletics' website. Member Federations will also be informed of the results via Circular.

Athletes' Commission Terms of Reference

The terms of reference can be accessed via the World Athletics' website.





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