



File: Proposal to amend motion 1 GA 2016 from IRSA EC (final).doc

Proposal to Amend "Motion 1 GA 2016" from IRSA EC

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Current situation/Background

The DNM for GBR has proposed Motion 1 GA 2016 that a General Assembly be held annually. The DNM for GER has proposed an amendment to Motion 1 GA 2016 that, in summary, requires an AGM every year and a General Assembly every four years. Both motions seek a shorter reporting and feedback period between the EC and the DNMs.

The IRSA Executive Committee is entirely in favour of improved reporting and feedback, and welcomes the intent of the motions to seek greater transparency and consultation.

The IRSA constitution remains grounded in the pre-Internet period where meetings, to be effective, were invariably face to face meetings of a group of people physically located in the same room for a period of time. Where the people who needed to be involved in such meetings were geographically dispersed around the globe, careful and extensive planning was required over extended time-periods using written documentation and international postal services (and, rarely, telephones for matters of emergency). Such meetings were very expensive for the people who needed to travel, and it was customary for General Assemblies to be held at the time and venue of a World Championship to ensure adequate attendance from delegates and proxies.

The IRSA constitution thus makes a wide variety of provisions to suit the circumstances of physical meetings of globally-distributed delegates. The constitution provides an extended time period for notification and distribution of documentation. There is a very limited ability to debate and amend motions or bring new motions as may be required by any discussion. There is no requirement that delegates consult their constituencies before voting, nor is there any requirement for evidence that a delegate vote aligns with the wishes of the delegate's constituency. There is an exceptionally flexible time scale for meetings. There are requirements relating to Executive Committee meetings that are relevant only for physical meetings of the EC. The Regional Officer positions established on the EC are due to the problems of global communication in a pre-Internet period.

Problem

In seeking a shorter reporting and feedback period by having DNM delegates meet annually under the existing constitutional provisions, the proposed Motion and Amendment to the Motion face two major difficulties which need to be addressed in order for either motion to work in practice if successfully approved.

First, the current constitutional arrangements for a meeting of DNM delegates are not suited to an annual meeting held electronically by asynchronous communications.

Second, the other current unchanged constitutional obligations for EC meetings are inconsistent with the proposal for annual meetings of DNM delegates.

Because of these difficulties, we believe that improved reporting and feedback between the EC and the DMNs is not a likely outcome of either of the proposed constitutional amendments.

Proposal

The constitution is changed as follows:

~~Meetings of the General Assembly~~

- 6.1 → ~~Except as in Article 2.2, 8.3 and 10.1, a General Assembly acts as the final authority of the Association on all matters relating to International Radio Sailing. The business of the Association General Assembly shall be conducted electronically.~~
- 6.3 → A General Assembly shall be held ~~biennially~~ annually and not later than 30th April at a date nominated by the Executive Committee.
- 6.4 → The Agenda for a General Assembly shall include the following items:
- (i) → Approval of the Agenda.
 - (ii) → Review of the minutes of the last General Assembly, subject to the requirements of Article 6.11.
 - (iii) → Matters arising therefrom.
 - (iv) → To receive the Officers' Reports.
 - (v) → To receive the Accounts.
 - (vi) → To set the Subscriptions.
 - ~~(vii) → Election of the Officers as set out in Article 7.1.~~
 - (viii) → Motions and amendments.
 - ~~(viii)~~ → Any other urgent business at the discretion of the Chairman.
- ~~At every fourth General Assembly, the agenda shall in addition include the following item as the last agenda item:~~
- ~~(ix) → Election of the Officers set out in Article 7.1.~~
- 6.6 → Notice of the General Assembly, inviting the submission of motions ~~(and, if relevant, nominations for the Executive Committee)~~ shall be sent to all Members not later than 20 (twenty) weeks prior to the date of the General Assembly.

- 7.2 → ~~The Executive Committee shall retire at each fourth General Assembly, but Officers shall be eligible for re-election except that no individual shall be eligible for nomination as a candidate for election to one of the positions listed in Article 7.1 if they have held that position for the immediate preceding continuous period of eight years or more subject to being re-nominated. ¶~~
- 7.7 → ~~There shall be a meeting of the Executive Committee at the conclusion of every General Assembly. There shall be an annual Executive Committee meeting and at such other time or times as a meeting may be convened. Discussion Forums may be ongoing throughout the year but decisions from those Forums shall be ratified at a formal meeting of the Executive Committee.~~ ¶
- 7.23 → ~~Officers co-opted shall hold office until the next General Assembly following their co-option but shall be eligible for re-election subject to Article 7.2.~~ ¶