

Terms of Reference - WWR Athletes Council

30 September 2014

World Wheelchair Rugby (“WWR”) has established the WWR Athletes Council to act as the collective voice for wheelchair rugby athletes within WWR.

The Athletes Council shall be composed of one Chair, elected by the WWR General Assembly, and additional representatives elected at each WWR Zone Assembly. Each Zone will elect two representatives. Zones with ten or more countries on the WWR World Ranking List shall be entitled to one additional representative.

The WWR Secretary General will sit as an *ex officio* member of the Athletes Council to provide administrative and governance support.

Representatives shall serve for a term of four years following their election.

Role

The role of the Athletes Council is:

- (a) To provide a forum for athletes to share their views on matters of interest and concern to athletes.
- (b) To communicate with athletes to solicit input, identify issues, provide education, and disseminate information.
- (c) To advise the WWR Board of Directors and Standing Committees on behalf of wheelchair rugby athletes.
- (d) To provide athlete representatives for WWR Standing Committees and Zone Committees.
- (e) To review and make recommendations on proposed changes to the *International Rules for the Sport of Wheelchair Rugby* in accordance with the rule change procedure.
- (f) To provide input and feedback to the WWR Classification Committee on proposed changes to the *WWR Classification Manual*.
- (g) To provide an opportunity for leadership development among wheelchair rugby athletes.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for overseeing and leading the work of the committee. The Chair shall serve as the Athlete Representative on the WWR Board of Directors.

The Athlete Representative shall be elected at the WWR General Assembly held in conjunction with the WWR World Championship.

Elections

With the exception of the Chair, elections for Athletes Council representatives shall be conducted every two years at the Zone Assemblies held in conjunction with WWR Zone Championships. One of the two Zone representative positions shall be elected every two years at each Assembly. Where a Zone is entitled to three representatives, the third representative shall be elected at the Zone Assembly in the year following the Paralympic Games.

Elections for Athletes Council representatives shall be conducted at the same time as the elections for Zone Committee representatives. Elections shall follow the procedures detailed in *WWR By-law 4, Elections*.

Representatives shall serve for a term of four years, until the Zone Assembly in the fourth year following their elections. Representatives may stand for re-election to additional terms as long as they meet the eligibility requirements detailed below.

Eligibility

In addition to any other requirements specified in the WWR Statutes and By-laws, to be eligible for election to the WWR Athletes Council an individual must meet the following requirements:

- (a) The individual must be an eligible wheelchair rugby athlete under the current WWR athlete classification rules; and
- (b) The individual must have participated as a team member of a national wheelchair rugby team in an WWR championship event, fully sanctioned event, or Paralympic Games:
 - (i) In the four calendar years preceding the election, if they are not an incumbent member of the WWR Athletes Council; or
 - (ii) In the eight calendar years preceding the election, if they are an incumbent member of the WWR Athletes Council.

Meetings

The Council will meet by conference call at least two times per year. Additional conference calls may be scheduled as needed. Council members will also be required to participate in meetings of the WWR Standing Committees and Zone Committees that they serve on.

The Council may invite additional individuals to participate in Council meetings as required.

The Chair of the Athletes Council will also be required to attend meetings of the WWR Board of Directors as the Athlete Representative.