

worldwheelchair.rugby
info@worldwheelchair.rugby
+44 (0)114 257 3170

WWR Office
Canon Medical Arena
Worksop Road
Sheffield, England, S9 3TL



Councils - Bylaw 7

Seventeenth (17) July 2021

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Amendments

Date	Subject	Changes / summary
17 July 2021	Approved	Major review, Board composition, name change
4 December 2025	Updated	Change of address only

Adopted by the Members' meeting held on 17th July 2021.

1. Interpretation

- 1.1. In the event of any questions of interpretation between this Bylaw and the relevant Articles of the WWR Statutes, the wording in the Statutes shall take precedence.
- 1.2. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular number shall include the plural number; and words importing the neutral gender shall include the feminine gender, the masculine gender, and any other gender to which an individual identifies; as the case may be, and vice versa.

2. Councils

- 2.1. The WWR Board may recognise Councils whose members are elected to represent the views and interests of specific groups within the WWR.
- 2.2. Councils will be constituted by the WWR Board of Directors with terms of reference established by the Board, as provided for in Article 12 of the Statutes of WWR, and then published as appendixes to this Bylaw.

3. Role and composition

- 3.1. Councils are recognised by the WWR Board in order to provide a line of communication between the Board and the specific interest group the relevant Council represents.
- 3.2. The composition of each Council will be detailed in its terms of reference.

4. Administration

- 4.1. The requirements for meetings of WWR Councils shall be detailed in their terms of reference.
- 4.2. WWR Council members will receive administrative support as required from the WWR Secretary General and/or their staff.
- 4.3. WWR Council members will be reimbursed actual and reasonable expenses in accordance with WWR policies and procedures.

5. Councils

The following Councils, whose terms of reference are appended to this Bylaw, have been established as recognised Councils of WWR:

5.1. WWR Athletes' Council

- a) The WWR Athletes' Council is responsible for providing:
- b) a forum and a communications framework for athletes;
- c) advice and input to the WWR Board of Directors;
- d) athlete representatives to the Board and Working Groups of WWR;
- e) input on the International Rules and Classification Manual of the sport of Wheelchair Rugby and its disciplines; and
- f) an opportunity for leadership development among WWR athletes.

APPENDIX

6. Terms of Reference of the WWR Athletes' Council

6.1. The WWR Board has established the WWR Athletes' Council to act as the collective voice for all wheelchair rugby athletes within WWR.

6.2. Composition & Terms of Office

The Athletes' Council shall be composed of:

- a) one (1) Chair, elected as a Board Director by the WWR General Assembly;
- b) two (2) Representatives from each WWR Competition Zone; and
- c) one (1) additional Representative for each Competition Zone with ten (10) or more countries on the WWR World Ranking List.

6.2.1. With the agreement of the WWR Board, the Athletes' Council may co-opt one (1) Additional Representative member each from any non-Paralympic disciplines of the sport of Wheelchair Rugby.

6.2.2. Competition Zone Representatives on the Athletes' Council shall be recruited, through an open application process, on the basis of their relevant expertise and experience. The Chair of the Athletes' Council, in consultation with the Secretary General, shall recommend applicants for the positions of Competition Zone Representatives for consideration and appointment by the WWR Board.

6.2.3. If, in the opinion of the WWR Board, a representative is no longer able to fulfil their responsibilities for any reason, then the Board may require the representative concerned to stand down from their Athletes' Council position.

6.2.4. Representatives shall serve for a term of up to four (4) years, following their appointment, and may be re-appointed for up to two (2) further terms, provided that they continue to meet the eligibility requirements set out below in this Bylaw and that their period on the Athletes' Council does not exceed twelve (12) years.

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

6.2.6. Each member of the Athletes' Council shall have the right to one vote in meetings of the Council.

6.3. Council Chair

6.3.1. The Chair of the Council is the Athlete Representative, who is an Elected Director on the WWR Board.

6.3.2. The Council Chair is responsible for overseeing and leading the work of the Council.

6.3.3. The Athlete Representative shall be elected at the WWR General Assembly in accordance with the elections timetable set out in Bylaw 4.

6.4. Eligibility

6.4.1. In addition to any other requirements specified in the WWR Statutes and Bylaws, to be eligible to be elected as the Chair, or to be appointed as a Competition Zone

Representative Member, of the WWR Athletes' Council, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- 6.4.2. The individual must be an eligible wheelchair rugby athlete under the current WWR athlete classification rules for the Paralympic discipline of the sport; and
- 6.4.3. The individual must have participated as a team member of a national Wheelchair Rugby team in a WWR championship event, fully authorised event, or Paralympic Games:
 - a) in the four calendar years preceding the appointment, if they are not an incumbent member of the WWR Athletes' Council; or
 - b) in the eight calendar years preceding their appointment if they are an incumbent member of the WWR Athletes' Council.

6.5. 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 Working Groups on behalf of Wheelchair Rugby athletes;
- d) to provide athlete representatives for WWR Working Groups;
- e) to review and make recommendations on proposed changes to the International Rules for the sport of Wheelchair Rugby and its disciplines in accordance with the rule change procedure;
- f) to provide input and feedback to the WWR Classification Working Group on proposed changes to the WWR Classification Manual; and
- g) to provide an opportunity for leadership development among wheelchair rugby athletes.

6.6. Meetings

- 6.6.1. The Athletes' Council will meet by audio and/or video conference call, or face-to-face, at least two times per year. Additional conference calls and meetings may be scheduled as needed.
- 6.6.2. The Chair of the Athletes' Council and the WWR Secretary General shall ensure that agendas and minutes are provided for each Council conference call or meeting.
- 6.6.3. Fifty percent plus one of the current voting members of the Athletes' Council shall constitute a quorum for Council meetings.
- 6.6.4. The Council may invite additional individuals to participate in Council meetings as required. Such individuals shall have the right to speak, but not to vote, at Council meetings.
- 6.6.5. Council members will also be required to participate in meetings of the WWR Working Groups that they serve on.
- 6.6.6. The chair of the Athletes' Council or, in their absence, the WWR Secretary General shall report on the proceedings of the Athletes' Council to each meeting of the WWR Board.
- 6.6.7. Council members will be reimbursed actual and reasonable expenses in accordance with WWR policies and procedures.

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END OF BYLAW