

IMMAF ATHLETES COMMISSION

Terms of Reference

1. Status and Role

1.1 The IMMAF Athletes Commission ("Athletes Commission") is appointed by, and reports to, the IMMAF Board of Directors ("Board of Directors") under Article 17 of the IMMAF Statutes.

Role

The IMMAF Athletes' Commission serves as a link between the athletes and IMMAF. The IMMAF Athletes' Commission ensures that the athletes' viewpoint remains at the heart of all decisions by IMMAF and encourages and empowers the Athletes' voice in all matters related to Amateur MMA globally.

2. Commencement

2.1 These Terms of Reference are effective from 1 December 2019.

3. Composition of Athletes Commission

3.1 Size: The Athletes Commission shall comprise up to five (5) experts including one (1) chairman, as designated by the President, and 1 member of IMMAF Staff to act as the Commission's Staff Liaison.

3.2 Eligibility: To be eligible for nomination, and to remain as an Athletes Commission Member the person must be an active or recently retired competitor;

- b. be at least 18 years old;
- c. be able to speak and understand English reasonably well;
- d. not be under investigation, or convicted or otherwise sanctioned for:
 - i. any other offence or breach of any rules of IMMAF, an Area Association or a Member Federation; or
 - ii. an offence under any applicable laws punishable by a term of imprisonment of 2 years or more (unless the person has served the sanction imposed on them);

4. Term and Vacancies

4.1 Term: The term of office for members of the Athletes Commission is two years:

4.2 Resignation and Removal

a. A member of the Athletes Commission may resign prior to the expiry of their term of office by giving not less than 1 months' notice in writing to the Athletes Commission Chair and the IMMAF President.

b. An Athletes Commission Member may be removed from the Commission prior to the expiry of their term of office, by decision of the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the Commission Chairman to IMMAF President, for:

i. breach of any duty under clause 8; or

ii. any other act or conduct that, in the opinion of Board of Directors, brings the Athletes Commission or IMMAF into disrepute.

c. In addition, a Athletes Commission Member shall be deemed to have vacated his or her position if, during their term, he or she:

i. is absent from two consecutive meetings of the Athletes Commission.

4.3 Changes and Vacancies: If any position on the Athletes Commission is vacant, whether by resignation, removal or otherwise at any time, the Board of Directors may (on the recommendation of the Commission Chair and IMMAF President) appoint a replacement member (who is eligible under clause 3.2) for the balance of the term of office of the vacated position.

5. Chair

5.1 Role and Responsibilities: The role of the Chair is to lead and be the spokesperson for the Athletes Commission. The Chair has the following responsibilities:

a. chair and prepare the agenda/papers for all meetings of the Commission;

b. be the spokesperson for the Commission;

c. liaise with the President and IMMAF CEO as required or requested;

d. prepare and present reports to the IMMAF Board of Directors;

e. attend meetings of the Board of Directors and any other Commissions or Working Groups as requested by the President or Board of Directors;

f. be IMMAF representative at any forums, groups or presentations related to Athletes as requested by the President or the Chief Executive;

- g. regularly communicate with the members of the Athletes Commission and other persons in order to identify issues for the Athletes Commission to consider; and,
- h. any other specific responsible as required by the Chief Executive, President or Board of Directors that are within the scope of the role and responsibilities of the Athletes Commission (set out in clauses 1.2 and 6).

5.3 Resignation or Removal: The Chair may be removed from their position, prior to the expiry of their term of office, by:

- a. resignation; or,
- b. decision of Board of Directors, in its absolute discretion; or
- c. resignation or removal from the Commission under clause 4.2.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 The Athletes Commission will fulfil its role by undertaking the following responsibilities:

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the IMMAF Athletes' Commission are to:

- Ensure that there is Athlete Representation in IMMAF decision-making;
 - Empower Athlete Representation in the IMMAF decision-making processes;
 - Ensure that Athletes are aware of, and fully support, IMMAF efforts to promote Safe MMA and the fight against doping;
 - Promote and advance an even playing field for athletes in MMA including one which is clean, inclusive, safe and upholds the highest ethical standards;
- Promote and advocate for the rights and interests of athletes within the sport of MMA globally;
- Support initiatives to involve Athletes in the promotion of IMMAF Activities;
 - Support Athlete Development in their sporting and non-sporting careers;
 - Promote Athlete Involvement in decision-making within National Federations of IMMAF and Area Associations;
 - Support and advance the inclusion of MMA Athletes in external Athlete Representative bodies and other forums;

7. Referral of matters

The IMMAF CEO may refer matters to this Commission as appropriate.

In exercising its responsibilities, this Commission may refer any item to the IMMAF Administration for discussion, consideration and/or action. This Commission may recommend relevant matters for action or noting to other IMMAF Commissions as appropriate.

8. Quorum

A quorum for the Commission meeting is defined as 50% of the membership, plus one. Where attention is drawn to a loss of quorum, the meeting may be adjourned until such time as the Chair may determine. This quorum also applies to remote decisions.

9. Conflict of Interest

Commission members are required to bring to the attention of the Chair any conflict of interest or potential conflict they may have with any item on the Commission's agenda. If a Commission member is deemed to have a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter that is being considered at a meeting, he/she will be excused from Commission discussions and deliberations on the issue where a conflict of interest exists.

10. Authority

10.1 The Athletes Commission has an advisory role to the IMMAF Board of Directors.

10.2 The Athletes Commission, and its members, may not represent IMMAF and engage with any person on behalf of IMMAF, without the prior approval of the President.

10.3 The Athletes Commission and its members will not make public statements about IMMAF, the Athletes Commission or any aspect of the Athletes Commission's work, without the prior approval of the President.

11. Duties of Athletes Commission Members

11.1 Members shall wholeheartedly champion IMMAF values and always act in the interests of IMMAF;

11.2 Share all communications and information amongst Athletes Commission members;

11.3 Make timely decisions to not hold up ongoing work;

11.4 Notify members of the IMMAF Athletes Commission, as soon as practical, of any matter which may affect the development of activities related to IMMAF Anti-doping and Clean MMA;

12. Rights of Athletes Commission Members

12.1 Members will be provided with complete, accurate and meaningful information in a timely manner by IMMAF Staff;

12.2 Members will be given reasonable time to formulate key recommendations;

12.3 Members will be alerted to potential risks and issues that could impact relevant project, as they arise;

12.4 Members can expect open and honest discussions, with the avoidance of misleading assertions;

13 Participation:

13.1 Members shall attend each scheduled meeting of the Commission (in person or using technology) unless excused by the Chair.

13.2 Each member shall participate in an active and energetic way in Commission meetings and in matters undertaken by the Commission between meetings.

13.3 Each Member must be adequately prepared for each Commission meeting in order to participate effectively and constructively.

14. Ethics Code:

14.1 Commission Members are IMMAF Officials and as such are bound by the IMMAF Anti-doping Code and other IMMAF Policy documents. This includes principles of conduct related to integrity, equality, dignity, good faith, conflicts of interest, improper benefits, improper association and neutrality.

14.2 IMMAF Rules: Athletes Commission Members are bound by all the rules and regulations of IMMAF together with any directions and decisions of the Board of Directors.

15. Reporting

15.1 Reports to Board of Directors: The Commission shall submit a report to the IMMAF CEO in writing within 1 month of each meeting of the Commission. This report shall be prepared by the Chair of the Athletes Commission in collaboration with the IMMAF Staff Liaison. All Athletes Commission Members shall receive a copy of this report.

15.2 Annual Summary Report: By a date specified by the Chief Executive, the Chair shall, in consultation with the Athletes Commission members, prepare an annual report with a summary of the Commission's work for inclusion in Board of Directors' annual report to the Member Federations. This report will also be published on the IMMAF website.

16. Athletes Commission Meetings and Procedure

16.1 Work: The Athletes Commission shall undertake its work at meetings of the Commission and in between meetings by telephone, email and other means of communication as is necessary to fulfil its responsibilities.

16.2 Meetings: The Athletes Commission shall meet in person once each year. The dates and venue are to be agreed by the Chair and the Chief Executive Officer. As much notice as possible, usually at least two months' notice, will be given to all Commission Members of the date, time and venue for any meeting.

16.3 Agenda and meeting documents: The Chair shall prepare an agenda for each meeting in consultation with the Staff Liaison. Commission Members may submit items for the agenda through the Chair.

All documents must be submitted to the Commission Secretary no later than eight working days working days prior to the forthcoming meeting.

The agenda, together with relevant papers, will be distributed to all Commission Members by IMMAF Staff Liaison prior to each Commission meeting (10 days prior).

16.4 Chair: The Chair will chair all meetings, unless he or she is unavailable in which case the Chief Executive Officer will designate a replacement.

16.5 Attendees: In addition to Commission Members:

- a. Other persons and experts may be invited by the Chair to attend meetings to provide information or advice on a specific item of business at a meeting, with the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer;

16.6 Meetings using Technology: Athletes Commission meetings may be held by telephone, through video or internet conference facilities or in combination with a meeting held in person provided that prior notice of the meeting is given to all Commission Members and all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear each other effectively and simultaneously.

Participation by any Commission Member in this manner at a meeting shall constitute the presence of that member at that meeting.

16.7 Remote Decisions: In addition to discussions and decisions made in meetings of the Athletes Commission, discussions may be held between members via email and other social media and messaging platforms, provided that any resolutions or decisions of the Commission which follows such discussion, shall only be valid if decided by email in the manner prescribed by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

16.8 Voting: Decisions of the Athletes Commission shall generally be made by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached and a vote is required, each Athletes Commission Member shall have one (1) vote.

Voting by proxy is not permitted. Where members are attending a meeting using technology, they may vote by email in accordance with the procedures prescribed by IMMAF. Except to the extent specified in these Terms of Reference, a majority in favour of an action by those Athletes Commission Members present at a meeting is required for it to be passed.

A member who attends a meeting via telephone or video or other conference facility shall be regarded as being present. In the event of an equality of votes, the Chair may cast a casting vote.

13.11 Minutes: Minutes of each meeting of the Athletes Commission shall be taken. The Chair will be responsible for designating whether the IMMAF Staff Liaison or another person takes minutes during the meeting.

The minutes will be finalised in consultation with the Chair and sent to the Athletes Commission members within a maximum of one (1) month of the meeting. Any amendments to the Minutes will be agreed at the next meeting of the Athletes Commission and noted accordingly.

13.12 Confidentiality: All meetings and the work of the Athletes Commission are confidential.

No documents, information, discussion, recommendations or decisions made at an Athletes Commission meeting or IMMAF Arbitration Panel Hearing, shall be disclosed unless:

- a. the President, Chief Executive Officer or Athletes Commission Chair authorises such disclosure;
- b. the Athletes Commission agrees that such disclosure is necessary or desirable to advance its work;
- c. the matter is in the public domain; or
- d. such disclosure is required by law or any applicable authority, including the IMMAF Athletes Commission, IMMAF Arbitration Panel or another Disciplinary Tribunal.

14. Administration

14.1 Expenses: Athletes Commission Members act as such in a voluntary capacity and will not be compensated for their work as a Commission Member. IMMAF will reimburse expenses and pay a per diem for each Athletes Commission Member in accordance with IMMAF policy.

14.2 Administration: IMMAF will arrange travel, accommodation and insurance for Athletes Commission meetings in accordance with IMMAF policy.

14.3 Documents: IMMAF will provide the Athletes Commission with all documents held by IMMAF relevant to the Athletes Commission's work. All records, minutes and notes will be stored in the IMMAF Head Office

15. Review

The Commission shall review its Terms of Reference every two years and provide a report, including any recommendations, to the IMMAF CEO.