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**Proposal to change the IrWWF Constitution**

**Appointment and Term of President**

1 February 2023

**Background**

The current Constitution gives the AGM the power to appoint a President but places no restrictions on who can be appointed President or for how long. As a result, a President could be appointed even though they have no connection with the IrWWF, do not ski or wakeboard, are not a member of a club, have no experience of running an organisation, have never been on the Management Committee, or any combination of these items.

Historically, Presidents have continued in that role for a considerable number of years. This acts as a disincentive to attracting a new President as historical experience is that it is very hard to find a willing successor.

To overcome these issues, this proposal is based on ensuring that the normal term of the President is two years and that the term of a President is restricted to a maximum of five years, thereby making it a more attractive possibility for any potential candidate. In addition, the proposal is that a President must have served as an Officer on the Management Committee for a minimum of one year before being appointed as President.

It is vital that the Management Committee continues to have access to the knowledge and expertise of the President after they step down. Therefore, this proposal suggests that in the year after a President completes their term as President, they would attend Management Committee meetings, but not as an appointed officer of the Management Committee, for a year after stepping down as President so as to pass their experience and knowledge to the new President and Management Committee.

It is also important that a potential candidate for the role of President have a period in which to prepare for their Presidential duties. Therefore, the proposal is that one year before a President is due to step down the AGM would nominate a Deputy President, essentially saying that the Deputy President would be appointed as President at the following AGM.

This proposal would not increase the size of the Management Committee. The Deputy President would be one of the Officers of the Management Committee as set out in the Constitution. The Immediate Past President would attend Management Committee meetings for a year, but they would not be an Officer of the Management Committee.

If, for example, a Deputy President were to resign between AGMs, it could end up that there would be no individual qualified to become President at the following AGM. To overcome this clause 2 below starts off by saying “unless otherwise agreed by the AGM”.

**Amendment to Constitution**

The proposal is that an additional clause would be added to the Constitution between clause 10(a) and 10(b) stating that:

1. The AGM will appoint a Deputy President and a President at each AGM.
2. Unless otherwise agreed by the AGM:
   1. To be appointed as Deputy President, an individual must be a member of the IrWWF and agree to become, or continue as, an Officer of the Management Committee of the IrWWF for a period of one year.
   2. To be appointed as President, an individual must be a member of the IrWWF and either be the existing President or have previously served as Deputy President for a minimum period of one year.
3. The Deputy President and the President shall retire automatically at the next AGM but may be re-elected by the meeting.
4. The positions of Deputy President shall not be an additional Officers over and above those set out in clause 10(a). The Deputy President should be one of the Officers of the Management Committee as set out in clause 10(a) of the Constitution.
5. A retiring President will be expected to attend Management Committee meetings for a period of one year following their period as President. They shall be referred to as the Immediate Past President. Their role as Immediate Past President is to pass their experience and knowledge to the new President and Management Committee. The Immediate Past President shall not be an Officer of the Management Committee.
6. All other Officers of the Management Committee shall be expected to attend the next two Committee Meetings immediately after the end of their term so as to pass their experience and knowledge to their successors.
7. A Deputy President or President who ceases to be a member of the IrWWF or an Officer of the Management Committee shall automatically vacate their role as Deputy President or President.
8. If there is a vacancy for a Deputy President or President between Annual General Meetings, the Management Committee may co-opt a member of the IrWWF or an Officer of the Management Committee to fill the vacancy.
9. The Board of Irish Waterski and Wakeboard Federation CLG shall have no role in the appointment of the Deputy President or Immediate Past President, but it shall continue to have the power to ratify the President’s appointment.