



## ***ERF Guideline***

### **Election Regulations**

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## 1. Definitions

1.1 **ERF:** European Ranger Federation.

1.2 **Full Member:** An association that meets the requirements for full membership, is current with its obligations, and has voting rights.

1.3 **Candidate:** An individual eligible to run for a position in the European Ranger Federation (ERF) election who meets the following criteria: the candidate must be a current or former ranger, member of a full fledged association listed in the Final Electoral Register

1.4 **Electoral Committee:** Group designated to oversee and ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

1.5 **Electoral Register:** Official record of active full member associations with voting rights in the ERF.

1.6 **Conflict of interest:** A situation in which any individual involved in the election process has personal or professional interests that could compromise their impartiality or influence their decision-making, potentially affecting the fairness and transparency of the election.

## 2. General Principles

2.1 The electoral process will be transparent, fair, and accessible to all active Full Members.

2.2 Voting will be conducted exclusively through a secure electronic system that guarantees the integrity and confidentiality of the votes.

## 3. Electoral Register

3.1 **Verification Process for the Register:** To ensure that only active full member associations participate in the electoral process, the ERF Secretary will conduct an electoral register of these associations 120 days prior to the election day.

3.2 **Inclusion Criteria for the Electoral Register:**

A. **Compliance with Meetings and Office Renewals:** Associations must demonstrate that they have held regular meetings and officer renewals in accordance with the requirements of their statutes and the laws of the country in which they are incorporated. For this purpose,



meeting minutes and documentation proving the current status of their governing bodies will be requested.

B. Updating of Representatives: Associations must annually confirm the details of their authorized representative, including updated contact information and an official letter certifying their valid representation before the ERF.

3.3 Publication of the Preliminary Register: 90 days prior to the election day, the Secretary will publish the Preliminary Electoral Register on the ERF portal. Associations included must review and confirm their information. Any association that considers itself a full member but does not appear on the preliminary register may submit additional proof within 15 days.

3.4 Final Register: After reviewing any request or additional proof, the Electoral Committee will publish the Final Electoral Register at least 60 days before the elections. Only associations listed on the final register will have voting rights.

## 4. Election Call

4.1 The ERF Secretary will announce the election call at least 90 days before the election date.

4.2 The call will include available positions, instructions for submitting nominations, and important dates for the process.

## 5. Eligibility and Candidacies

5.1 Candidates may be nominated by representatives of full member associations included in the Final Register.

5.2 Those interested in running must submit their candidacies to the Electoral Committee within the first 30 days of the call, including a letter of motivation and the official endorsement of their association.

5.3 Distribution of Candidates' Programs: Candidates may send information about their programs to the Electoral Committee, which will distribute it among all full member associations. The Electoral Committee will set the format, maximum length and duration of the information presented, ensuring they are the same for all candidates.



## 6. Electoral Committee

6.1 A Chairperson of the Electoral Committee will be chosen by the ERF Board. The Chairperson and any additional committee members selected by the President of the Electoral Committee will be publicly announced. This announcement allows any member to raise an objection to a committee member's appointment due to a potential conflict of interest.

6.2 The Electoral Committee will be responsible for:

A-Verifying the eligibility of candidates.

B- Overseeing the electronic voting system.

C-Equitably distributing candidates' programs to all full member associations.

D-Conducting the vote count and announcing the results. This includes the number of votes each candidate received, percentage of voter participation, abstentions, and other relevant statistics.

E- Complaint and Dispute Resolution: Handle complaints or challenges related to the election process impartially and efficiently, providing resolutions according to established protocols.

6.3 Circumstances under which The Electoral Committee might annul the elections:

- A. Confirmed Electoral Fraud: If significant fraud is detected that compromises the integrity of the results, the Election Committee would be justified in annulling the election. Examples might include forged ballots, manipulation of results, or inclusion of ineligible voters.
- B. Violation of Electoral Procedure: If the established procedures are violated, such as abrupt changes to the rules without prior notice or tampering during the vote-counting phase, the Committee would have grounds to annul the election. This also includes interference with the voting system or breaches in vote-handling security protocols.
- C. Disqualification of Candidates: If one or more candidates are found ineligible after being admitted to the race, and this disqualification impacts the results, the Election Committee could decide to annul the election and conduct a new vote.
- D. External Interference or Intimidation: Any form of interference or coercion of voters or candidates that compromises freedom of choice could justify annulment. This includes verified threats, pressure, or any form of intimidation directed toward participants.



- E. **Technical Errors or System Failures in Voting:** If the voting system experiences significant technical issues, such as interruptions in the electronic voting platform or errors in ballot processing, the Election Committee may have grounds to annul the process and organize a new election.
- F. **Lack of Transparency or Ineffective Auditing:** If the Committee cannot ensure the transparency of the process, such as a lack of auditing or proper oversight of ballots, this could be grounds for annulment.
- G. **Extremely Close Results with Minor Irregularities:** In cases where the results are very close and minor irregularities are detected, the Committee might opt to annul and call for a new election to ensure an unambiguous outcome.

## 7. Electronic Voting Process

7.1 **Voting System:** A secure and audited electronic voting platform will be implemented, accessible only to Full Members registered in the final register.

7.2 **System Access:** Each association will receive a unique link and secure credentials to access the voting system. Credentials will be sent to the official email registered in the census.

7.3 **Electronic Ballot:** The ballot will include the names of the candidates, and the system will provide clear instructions on how to cast a vote.

7.4 **Voting Period:** Full Members will have a 7-day voting period, during which they can access and cast their vote at any time.

## 8. Transparency Guarantees

8.1 **Confidentiality of the Vote:** The electronic voting system will ensure that votes are anonymous and that only one vote per association is allowed.

8.2 **Identity Verification:** The Electoral Committee will verify that each vote is from an active full member association validated in the electoral register.

8.3 **Audit:** At the end of the voting period, an audit of the system will be conducted to ensure there were no irregularities.



## 9. Results and Runoff

9.1 The Electoral Committee will announce the results within 3 days of the close of the voting period.

9.2 In the event of a tie between candidates, a runoff will be called, in which only the tied candidates will participate.

9.3 The runoff will be held using the same electronic voting system within a maximum of 10 days from the announcement of the tie.

9.4 In this second vote, Full Members will once again have a 7-day voting period to cast their vote.

## 10. Objections and Review

10.1 Full member associations will have a period of 10 business days after the announcement of results to raise objections to the process.

10.2 The Electoral Committee will review any objections and issue a final decision within 10 business days of receiving the objections.

## 11. Final Provisions

11.1 These regulations are subject to review by the ERF Executive Committee and may be amended to meet future organizational or legal needs.



## Appendix: ERF Election Timeline

ED = Election Day

### **ED - 120 Days**

Electoral Register Verification Begins: ERF Secretary begins verifying the legal status and eligibility of full member associations to ensure they are active both in ERF records and in their country of registration.

### **ED - 90 Days**

Election Call Announcement: The ERF Secretary announces the election, detailing available positions, instructions for submitting nominations, and key dates.

### **ED - 90 Days**

Preliminary Electoral Register Published: The ERF Secretary publishes the preliminary list of eligible full member associations on the ERF portal. Associations have 15 days to review and confirm their information or provide additional proof if they believe they meet eligibility criteria.

### **ED - 75 Days**

Deadline for Electoral Register Confirmation and Proof: Associations must submit any necessary additional proof of eligibility by this date.

### **ED - 60 Days**

Final Electoral Register Published: The Electoral Committee publishes the finalized list of associations eligible to vote.



### **ED - 60 Days to ED - 30 Days**

Candidate Nomination Period: Candidates must submit their candidacies, including a letter of motivation and endorsement from their association, to the Electoral Committee within this window.

### **ED - 60 Days**

Electoral Committee Announcement: The ERF Board appoints the Electoral Committee Chairperson and publicly announces the Chairperson and additional members selected by the Committee. Any objections based on conflict of interest can be raised after this announcement.

### **ED - 20 Days**

Distribution of Candidates' Programs: Candidates submit information about their programs to the Electoral Committee, which distributes it to all full member associations. The Committee ensures that the format, length, and duration of candidate materials are uniform.

### **ED - 7 Days to ED**

Voting Period: The secure electronic voting system opens for full member associations to cast their votes. Voting remains open for a 7-day period until the end of Election Day.

### **ED + 3 Days**

Results Announcement: The Electoral Committee publicly announces the election results, including total votes for each candidate, voter turnout, abstentions, and other relevant statistics, while maintaining the confidentiality of each association's vote.

### **ED + 5 Days**

Objection Period Ends: Associations have until this date to raise any objections regarding the election process.





### **ED + 10 Days**

Resolution of Objections: The Electoral Committee reviews and resolves any objections submitted, issuing a final decision.

### **ED + 10 Days (if needed)**

Runoff Announcement: In the event of a tie, the Electoral Committee announces a runoff election between the tied candidates.

### **ED + 10 to ED + 17 Days (if needed)**

Runoff Voting Period: Voting reopens for a 7-day period for eligible associations to vote in the runoff election.

### **ED + 20 Days (if needed)**

Runoff Results Announcement: The Electoral Committee announces the results of the runoff election.