



## Rationale for Constitutional Change

Please find below a rationale of proposed changes to the Constitution. These changes are being put forward to the membership following consultations with Sport Ireland. As per funding guidelines, National Governing Bodies are subject to external audit by Sport Ireland. The Irish Judo Association underwent a recent audit conducted by the KOSI Corporation on behalf of Sport Ireland. The changes proposed are designed to make the Constitution an easier read, to assist in understanding the document, to adhere to Governance Code principles and to allow more members to become involved in the administration of the Association.

### Structure of the Organisation

All members of the Board will also be Directors of the Association. The IJA have been operating this past number of years with the four (4) Officers as Directors. The Constitution reads that all members of the Board are Directors. The number of registered Directors will be increased from four (4) to nine (9).

Sport Ireland strongly encourage all Sport NGBs to have an Independent Member on the Board. The Executive Committee will appoint an Independent Board member who has no affiliation to any Judo Club. These appointments are usually made through Board Watch, an independent group of people who volunteer to work with Sport NGBs and have the backing of Sport Ireland. This appointment will result in the size of the Board increasing from eight (8) to nine (9).

### Term of the Board

The maximum a member can serve on the Board in any one position is increased from eight (8) years to twelve (12) years. Most NGB's have maximum board terms from eight (8) years to twelve (12) years to allow for succession planning. In the case of Irish Judo, this would equate to three (3) Olympic Cycles which follows the same path of the Olympic Federation of Ireland maximum board term.

Removal of a member from the Board by the Board, candidate cannot seek election for five (5) years. The rationale for this is to maintain the integrity of the Board should a member have to be removed.

### Nominations of Individuals for Election

A member seeking nomination to a position will be nominated by a fully compliant club and seconded by a different fully compliant club. This is a change from the current rule that allows a member to be nominated by a fully compliant member and seconded by a different fully compliant member. The rationale is that the Club nominates the individual, not an individual nominating an individual, this provides transparency regarding candidates put forward for election.

Currently a person seeking nomination to a position must be a current member of a club that is fully compliant. The proposed change will allow a fully compliant member of the association to be nominated to hold a position. They do not have to be a member of a fully compliant club but must be nominated and seconded by fully compliant clubs. This eliminates the possibility of an individual member being penalised and not able to go forward for election because their club is not fully compliant.



# IRISH JUDO ASSOCIATION

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## **Provincial Nominations**

There will be a change in the way the Provincial Representative is elected. Currently they are elected annually at the Provincial AGM which must be held before the 31<sup>st</sup> of March each year. The proposed change will have the Provincial Representative elected at the IJA AGM (Election Year) and will serve on the IJA Board for a period of four (4) years. The rationale for this is to bring the Provincial Representative into the same election cycle contained within the National Executive Structure.

At the IJA AGM the Provincial Representative must be proposed and seconded by fully compliant clubs from within their own Province and can only be voted on by clubs from within their own Province. A Provincial AGM will be held each year. Each Provincial Commission will have a secretary and treasurer elected by member clubs from within the province for a period of four (4) years. If the secretary or treasurer resigns or for whatever reason leaves the position the Provincial Commission can co-opt a fully compliant member from within their own province to serve in the role until the next provincial AGM. The elected officer will serve the remaining amount of time in the role until the next Provincial AGM that includes an election. The rationale for this proposed change is to bring autonomy to the Provinces, allow for a stronger working province, have clubs vote for their representatives from their own province and align the serving term to that of the National Executive Structure.

## **Document Structure**

Based on the proposed re-structure of the document, numerical clauses have decreased from thirty one (31) to twenty eight (28). The following names have been updated accordingly to correct the terminology:

Sport Ireland  
Olympic Federation of Ireland  
National Vetting Bureau  
Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland

The clauses on Indemnity & Data Protection are removed as they are deemed redundant for inclusion in the constitution when contained in separate policies of the Association.

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