



Questions and Answers on Rules of Procedure

43rd World Scout Conference

Table of Contents

About the Rules of Procedure	2
Where can the Rules of Procedure documents be found?	2
Why can't the same Rules of Procedure be used for each Conference?	2
What are the Resolution Guidelines?	2
Will there be an option for virtual participation in the Conference?	3
About the Referendum	3
Why does the referendum have two separate votes?	3
Why can't all the proposed changes be voted on separately?	4
Why isn't the proposal on 1/3 young people in delegations being offered as a separate vote as well?	4
Can we submit amendments to the proposed Rules of Procedure?	4
How will the referendum work?.....	4
Why is the referendum being conducted through e-mail and not the eVoting system?.....	4
Youth Engagement in delegations	5
Is the proposal of having participants under the age of 30 aiming at delegates or observers?	5
What is the reason behind "under 30 years old"?	5
What will happen if a delegation doesn't meet this requirement for youth engagement in their delegation?	5
Nomination process for World Scout Committee candidates	6
Will candidates who do not meet the diversity criteria be removed from the candidate list?	6
Does this nomination process affect the election of the World Scout Committee?	6
Why is two-thirds of one gender ok? Why not gender equality?.....	6
If the first deadline was missed, can a candidate be nominated by the second deadline?.....	6
Will nominations be accepted after the second deadline if the diversity criteria are still not met?.....	7
Why is the final list of WSC candidates published only one month before the World Scout Conference?	7
Other changes to the Rules of Procedure	7
Why is a change proposed to the voting protocol for World Events? What if we only partially support one of the bids?.....	7
How will the proposed draw to break a tie in a World Event vote work?	8

About the Rules of Procedure

Where can the Rules of Procedure documents be found?

You can find all information related to the World Scout Conference on scoutconference.org, the information about the Rules of Procedure is [here](#). The website will be updated on a regular basis with more information as we get closer to the event.

The following documents related to the Rules of Procedure are now available online:

- Proposed Rules of Procedure
- Proposed World Scout Committee Nomination Process
- Proposed Terms of Reference of the Resolutions Committee
- Proposed Resolution and Amendment Guidelines

Please note they are proposed documents. All Member Organizations are asked to vote on the adoption of the Rules of Procedure through a referendum between 17 November and 17 December 2023. If Member Organizations have questions about the Rules of Procedure, they can email the [World Scout Bureau](#).

Why can't the same Rules of Procedure be used for each Conference?

The Rules of Procedure builds on those of the previous Conference, so they are similar.

For each event we learn what is working well and what can be improved. We also learn from similar processes in other international organisations or other structural levels within WOSM. The Rules of Procedures are reviewed to integrate these learnings.

For the 2017 Conference, key changes were made to the Rules of Procedure to strengthen the overall decision-making of World Scouting to make the processes more inclusive. For the 2021 Conference, the Rules of Procedure were adjusted to accommodate different modalities (in-person and virtually) of running the event.

This, and some lessons for improvement taken from Regional Conferences last year, helped in forming the basis for the 2024 version of the Rules of Procedure that the World Scout Committee is now proposing.

What are the Resolution Guidelines?

The Resolution and Amendment Guidelines are put in place to help National Scout Organizations (NSOs) develop Draft Resolutions being proposed to the Conference, and to make their proposals more streamlined and solid. The guidelines give perspective on what NSOs might want to include or consider when drafting the proposal, but also provide guidance on how to write in a clear and concise way that is easy to understand for others.

The guidelines also help the Resolutions Committee in their review of the Draft Resolutions. If the Resolutions Committee feels that there is room for further alignment of a Draft Resolution with the guidelines, they will work with the proposing NSO to do so.

If the Resolutions Committee identifies any Draft Resolution or amendment not in alignment with the guidelines, they will inform the Conference through their report and the Conference will decide if the proposal is to be considered or not.

In addition to the Resolution and Amendment Guidelines, the Resolutions Committee will also be available to NSOs to offer any support through the process of developing a proposal. They can be reached at resolutions@scout.org once they have been appointed in April 2024.

Will there be an option for virtual participation in the Conference?

The World Scout Conference is first and foremost an in-person event, taking place in Cairo, Egypt between 17-24 August 2024. To allow greater participation and engagement of Member Organizations in the decision-making processes, some aspects of the Conference will be available for participants to join virtually, such as:

- Streaming of plenary sessions
- Delegations, with no participants present in Cairo, will be able to vote online
- Virtual participation in workshops which focus on the topics for decision-making

The proposed Rules of Procedure have been adapted to accommodate a situation of voting by Member Organizations being done both in-person and virtually, to ensure that the decision-making process of the Conference remains accessible to as many Member Organizations as possible.

About the Referendum

Why does the referendum have two separate votes?

The World Scout Committee is conscious that the specific change being proposed to the World Scout Committee nomination process might be considered sensitive. To provide full transparency and the opportunity for all Member Organizations to vote on this specific item, it was decided to divide the referendum in two (2) votes.

- **Vote 1** will be to approve the proposed Rules of Procedure and its annexes, with all improvements and clarifications being proposed, **except** for the new World Scout Committee nomination process.
- **Vote 2** is on the **new** nomination process of the World Scout Committee candidates which is proposing to encourage Member Organizations to nominate a diverse pool of candidates.

If this proposal is approved in vote 2, it will replace the currently existing nomination process in the proposed Rules of Procedure (vote 1). If vote 2 is defeated, the nomination process will remain as it has been outlined in the proposed Rules of Procedure (vote 1), meaning we will have the same nomination process as in past World Scout Conferences.

Why can't all the proposed changes be voted on separately?

Firstly, it would be complex to run a referendum with around 30 votes. Moreover, the Rules of Procedure is created as a consistent package. If some areas are approved and others are not, it might create unintended consequences in other linked areas. We need a consistent Rules of Procedure to begin the institutional preparations for the Conference.

Why is the proposal on 1/3 young people in delegations not being offered as a separate vote as well?

This proposal comes from the World Scout Conference in 2021, and is not something the current World Scout Committee developed on its own. The 2021 World Scout Conference has already explicitly approved the principle through [Conference Resolution 2021-06](#): "*defining a realistic percentage of participants under a defined age in each delegation*".

On the other hand, the proposal of the nomination process of the World Scout Committee to strengthen the diversity of the candidate pool is something new as a result of work done in consequence of Conference Resolution 2021-06. Because of that, the World Scout Committee wanted National Scout Organizations to have a transparent option in the referendum to express their views on the new proposal for the nomination process.

Can we submit amendments to the proposed Rules of Procedure?

There is no amendment process for the referendum on the proposed Rules of Procedure. Member Organization can vote in favour or against the proposed Rules of Procedures, or abstain their vote. If you wish to share a reflection on the proposed Rules of Procedure with the World Scout Committee, you can do so in the comment box at the bottom of the ballot paper.

If a Member Organization wishes to discuss areas of the Rules of Procedure further, it can be tabled as an agenda item for the Conference.

How will the referendum work?

The World Scout Bureau releases a circular in mid-November through ScoutPak, which will announce the referendum and will have the voting ballot attached with the 2 votes on it. The referendum will be open for 1 month.

The **International Commissioner**, or the Official Contact as stated in the World Scouting Directory, will need to make sure their Member Organization:

1. Makes a decision on the 2 votes
2. Fills out and signs the ballot form accordingly
3. E-mails the ballot form back to the World Scout Bureau at vote@scout.org by the deadline of 23:59 UTC on 17 December 2023

Why is the referendum being conducted through e-mail and not the eVoting system?

Setting up World Scouting's eVoting system for 174 Member Organizations and authenticating the official contact of each Member Organization on the system before the votes are opened, takes a lot of

time and Helpdesk support. This is done for a Conference where multiple votes are conducted, but for a referendum it will require less work and time for both the World Scout Bureau and Member Organization to use e-mail. It is important that the Rules of Procedure are adopted in a timely manner for the institutional preparations of the event to proceed in early 2024.

Youth Engagement in delegations

Is the proposal of having participants under the age of 30 aiming at delegates or observers?

The proposal encourages Member Organizations to ensure **BOTH** their group of delegates and their group of observers are composed of at least one-third young people under the age of 30,

What is the reason behind "under 30 years old"?

"Under 30" is defined in the [World Scout Youth Involvement Policy](#), which states one third of young people in decision-making bodies be under the age of 30 as an indicator for meaningful youth engagement.

Besides the [Conference Resolution 2021-06](#) that calls for implementing a percentage of young people under a certain age for delegations, there are several other Conference Resolutions where Member Organizations have committed to ensuring meaningful youth engagement and representation within their Conference delegations. This proposal to the Rules of Procedure helps to strengthen this and to encourage Member Organizations to uphold this responsibility.

What will happen if a delegation doesn't meet this requirement for youth engagement in their delegation?

The Rules of Procedure states "Member Organizations are **encouraged** to ensure one-third of delegates/observers are under 30". The word "encouraged" was used since the Constitution of WOSM only states that Member Organizations can be represented by up to six delegates, and thus have the constitutional right to compose their delegation as they see fit. With this in mind, the make up of a delegation cannot be enforced through the Rules of Procedure.

The encouragement is put in the Rules of Procedure to draw the attention of Member Organizations to their responsibility of ensuring meaningful youth engagement within their delegations and the decision-making processes of WOSM. The responsibility has been expressed in many previous Conference Resolutions, most recently through 2021-06.

Nomination process for World Scout Committee candidates

Will candidates who do not meet the diversity criteria be removed from the candidate list?

No. Everybody who is nominated to be a candidate to the World Scout Committee in time of the first deadline (17 May 2024), and which meet the general nomination requirements, will be able to stand for election. Nominations by the first deadline will not be restricted according to the diversity criteria proposed in the new nomination process.

The process doesn't stop anyone from standing for election. It only opens an opportunity for Member Organizations to have around one extra month to add extra candidates to strengthen the diversity of the candidate pool.

If the nomination process is re-opened to give Member Organizations the opportunity to nominate further candidates because the diversity criteria had not been met, then nominations will only be accepted to meet the gap(s) in the diversity criteria by the time of the second deadline.

Does this nomination process affect the election of the World Scout Committee?

No. This proposed nomination process for candidates to the World Scout Committee is only promoting to Member Organizations to have a more diverse pool of candidates. The diversity criteria outlined for age, gender and geographical location are to help encourage a diverse candidate pool, but do not restrict or define in any way the election of the World Scout Committee.

Member Organizations still have the right to elect the World Scout Committee as outlined in the Constitution of WOSM. However, having a diverse pool of candidates is felt to be able to support the ability to have a diverse and balanced World Scout Committee.

Why is two-thirds of one gender ok? Why not gender equality?

We developed the proposal around having a second deadline to nominate candidates to the World Scout Committee with the help of diversity and inclusion experts, including guidance outlined from UN Women.

The proposal doesn't say that two-thirds of the World Scout Committee should be of one gender. WOSM stands for gender equality. What the World Scout Committee wants to make sure is that the candidate pool is sufficiently diverse to allow Member Organizations to make that choice towards gender equality when electing candidates.

So, the way you should read it is that if there is more than two-thirds of one identified gender, that's a trigger to give extra time for candidates of another gender to step forward. Exactly to allow Member Organizations to have the choice to elect a gender balanced World Scout Committee.

If the first deadline was missed, can a candidate be nominated by the second deadline?

The second deadline in the proposed nomination processes for the World Scout Committee will only be opened if the diversity criteria is not met. Once the first deadline is reached, the World Scout Bureau

will review the candidate pool to determine if the diversity criteria have been met or not. If there are gaps in the diversity criteria, then only then will the second deadline be opened. Member Organizations should not rely on the second deadline being opened and should nominate their desired candidate(s) by the first deadline.

However, if the second deadline is opened, then Member Organizations can nominate further candidates that meet the gaps in the diversity criteria. The World Scout Bureau will communicate to Member Organizations if the second deadline is opened.

Will nominations be accepted after the second deadline if the diversity criteria are still not met?

No further candidates will be accepted after the second deadline even if the diversity balance has still not been met in the candidate pool for the World Scout Committee. The additional time provided to Member Organizations is simply an opportunity to nominate further candidates meeting the gaps in the diversity criteria.

Why is the final list of WSC candidates published only one month before the World Scout Conference?

This is not a change, the timeline for communicating the list of World Scout Committee candidates was set at least one month before the Conference in previous Rules of Procedures and this has been the timeline we have applied in past Conferences as well.

It is of note that the World Scout Bureau does not enforce any timeline to candidates when they choose to disclose their candidature, but does remind all to strictly observe the [Code of Conduct for Elections](#) throughout their campaign.

Other changes to the Rules of Procedure

Why is a change proposed to the voting protocol for World Events? What if we only partially support one of the bidders?

The rule up until now has been that for a majority of the votes at the Conference, Member Organizations must use **all** their votes. Every Member Organization has 6 votes, and for each of the 6 votes the options of "in favour", "against" or "abstain" are available. In addition, for the election of the World Scout Committee, Member Organizations have 6 votes x 12 vacancies, resulting in a total of 72 votes which must ALL be cast. Member Organizations can divide these votes across the desired candidates, or abstain all their 72 votes.

However, the World Event votes were different for reasons lost in time. Member Organizations were allowed to use only SOME of their votes if they wished (ie only use 2, 3 or 5 votes), instead of having to cast all 6 of their votes.

This difference in the voting protocol created confusion, when the result was not a multitude of six. There were also reports from delegations saying they made errors in their ballots because they clicked too quickly and did not understand the different protocol for this particular vote.

To take away the confusion, the proposal is to make the voting protocol for the World Event votes the same as for all the other votes (Resolutions and Elections). Thus, the proposal is requiring that Member Organizations must cast **ALL** 6 of their votes. How the votes can be cast would depend on if the World Event vote was for a single bidder or multiple bidders.

How will the proposed draw to break a tie in a World Event vote work?

All event bidders, who wish to host a certain World Event are listed on the ballot. In case there is two or more bidders the voting works as follows:

- The bidder with the most votes "in favour" will be declared the Host of the event.
- In case there is a tie between the bidders with the most votes (i.e., get the exact same number), the bidder with the least votes is removed from the ballot and a re-vote will be conducted. If the tie is broken the bidder with the most votes "in favour" will be declared the Host of the event.
- In case there is still a tie (i.e., get the exact same number) after the re-vote, instead of another re-vote, there will be a draw. This means that random chance will decide who becomes the Host of the event. The method of the draw will be determined by the World Scout Bureau and executed by the Chairperson of the Conference.
- In case there is only one (1) bidder for a World Event, they need to get a simple majority of the votes cast (more in favour than against) to be declared the Host of the event.