

WMS Election Guidelines



1. Election of the Executive Board

The Executive Board is elected by WMS members. All members of the general assembly apart from industry members have an equal right to vote. The Executive Officers (President, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected by the Executive Board members.

The vote is secret and electronic through the membership system at least 7 days before the opening ceremony of the WMS Congress. The results are made public on the website as soon as they are known and will also be announced during the opening ceremony of the congress.

Members and existing board members are invited to put themselves forward as candidates for the new Executive Board by a deadline at least 6 weeks before the congress. The date will be published on the WMS website at least 3 months before the election. They will provide a short bio, their letter/pitch/CV, and an optional photo via an online sign-up form through the membership website to verify their active membership. These details are added to a dedicated page on the members website for members to view and vote anonymously. This will be accessible for at least two weeks, with a social media and email campaign and voting will close 7 days before the congress.

The new and former Executive Board will come together for an in-person board meeting on Tuesday 11th October 2022, before the congress to complete a handover and take a photo all together for the website and social media etc. The new roles and mandates would then start after that congress has ended.

The Executive Board is elected for a period of 3 years.

1.1. Conditions for running as an Executive Board member.

To be elected as an Executive Board member, candidates must:

1. Have more than 1 year's WMS membership history at the time of the election
2. Have WMS membership in place at the time of the election
3. Not be an industry member
4. Submit their nomination by the deadline
5. Provide a short bio, their letter/pitch/CV, optional photo, and conflict of interest declaration via the online nomination form. Candidates are asked to develop their vision/project for their role
6. Agree to take the function of Executive Officer if requested by the President in exceptional circumstances (see below)
7. Be registered to attend the WMS 2022 Congress in-person and be able to attend the Executive Board meeting on 11th October if successfully elected

1.2. Voting procedure

Members can vote for between 1 and 15 candidates.

Seats are awarded to the first 12 candidates who have received the largest number of votes. The last three seats are allocated to first-time candidates who have not been allocated to one of the first 12 seats by the number of votes received. If no first-time candidates are left without seat, the last three seats are attributed to other candidates by the number of votes they received.

2. Designation of Executive Officers

The old and the new board convene just before the WMS Congress on 11th October during which the process of election of the Executive Officers, i.e. President, Secretary and Treasurer is initiated. The previous Board remains in position until the end of the congress, until a formal hand-over takes place,

Members of the new board who wish to run for the position of President, Secretary or Treasurer must declare their intention during this meeting. The previous Executive Officers (starting from the President, Treasurer and Secretary) are first invited to declare if they wish to run again for their previous function or for another one. Then each member is invited to declare if they wish to candidate for a function.

Executive Board members who declare their interest for a role as an Executive Officer, will briefly explain their vision of the role during this meeting. Candidates must provide the Executive Board with their written project/vision and priority for the next three years before the end of the WMS Congress.

All elected Executive Board members may apply for an Executive Officer position if they have not been already Executive Officers for 5 full mandates, or a total of 15 years. If there are no other candidates declared, an officer who has already served for 15 years may serve an additional term.

Executive Board members serving for the first time on the Executive Board cannot run for President but can run for the role of Secretary or Treasurer.

The maximum number of complete terms for the President is 2.

The vote for the Executive Board members is electronic and secret and delivered to the Administrative Secretariat of the WMS. To be valid, it must be sent within 3 days after the Executive Board meeting so that new Executive Officers may be announced at the end of the Congress.

Elected members vote independently for each position. If they feel that no candidate is adequate for the role, they can choose not to vote for one of the positions.

To be elected, a candidate must receive at least 8 votes. If more than 2 candidates are running for a position, and none of them get 8 votes, a second vote is organised between the two candidates who have received the largest number of votes.

If two candidates receive the same number of votes, the candidate with the longest running membership gets an additional vote.

If a role does not get an Elected Officer, a new election procedure is initiated for that role. New procedures will be initiated until there is an elected candidate.

If at one point there is no candidate, the elected President will mediate the designation of one of the Executive Board members to take the role.

If there is no candidate for the role of President, the Elected Officer with the longest experience as Executive Board member must take the role.

2.1. Minimal experience scenario

If none of the Executive Officers has any previous experience as an Executive Officer, the Board member with the longest experience as an Executive Officer is invited to assist them for a minimum period of one year. This period can be extended by the elected President only.

2.2. Unable to fulfil role

If during the three years of their role, the President is in a situation when they cannot perform their role, the Executive Board must meet immediately to confirm that the President is indeed not in a position to perform their function.

The function of the President is then taken on by the Executive Officer who has the longest experience as an Executive Officer. If the Secretary and the Treasurer have the same experience as Executive Officer, whoever has the longest experience as a Board member fulfils the role of President.

The new President has the liberty to invite another Board member to take a role as Executive Officer, and to organise the function between the new Executive Officers.

The new Executive Officers will finish the 3-year term that has been initiated.

2.3. Resignation of an Executive Officer

Any Executive Board member may ask for the resignation of an Executive Officer. The request must be notified at least three days before a Board meeting. If there are at least 5 Board members who back the proposition, a Board meeting can be organised only for the purpose of discussing the resignation of the Executive Officer. If 8 Board members and at least 1 Executive Officer vote for the resignation, the Officer must resign.

If the Officer who resigns is the President, see point 2.2.

If the Officer is the Secretary or the Treasurer, the President may designate a Board member to fill the role.