

WMS Election Guidelines



1. Election of the Executive Board

The Executive Board is elected by WMS members. All members of the World Muscle Society, with the exception of 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 seven 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.

WMS Members and existing Board members are invited to put themselves forward as candidates for the new Executive Board by a deadline at least six weeks before the Congress. The date will be published on the WMS website three months before the election. Each candidate is asked to submit a photo and complete a short questionnaire, which will form the basis of their candidate profile. Sign-up will be through the WMS website so we can verify their active membership. These details will be 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 seven days before the Congress.

The new and former Executive Board will come together for an in-person Board meeting on Tuesday 7th October 2025, before the Congress, to complete a handover and take a group photo for the website and social media etc. The new roles and mandates will start after that Congress has ended.

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

1.1. Conditions for running as an Executive Board member

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

1. Have been a member of the WMS for the 12 months preceding the election. This makes the deadline for joining the WMS 1st October 2024 for a member to qualify for standing in the 2025 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 photo, complete the online questionnaire including their vision/project for their role. Candidates must also complete a 'conflict of interest' declaration via the online nomination form.

6. Agree to take the function of Executive Officer if requested by the President in exceptional circumstances (see below).
7. All successful candidates must be registered to attend WMS 2025 in person.

1.2. Voting procedure

Members can vote for between 1 and 15 candidates.

Seats are awarded to the first 11 candidates who have received the largest number of votes. One seat is reserved for an Early Career member (within five years after their last relevant qualification in the field) and the last three seats are allocated to first-time candidates who have not been allocated to one of the first 11 seats by the number of votes received. A first-time candidate has never been elected as a member of the Board. If no first-time candidates are left without a 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 before WMS 2025 on 7th 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.

All newly elected Executive Board members may apply for an Executive Officer position if they have not already been Executive Officers for five 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. The maximum number of complete terms for the President is two.

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.

Executive Board members serving their first term on the Executive Board are eligible to run for President, Secretary, or Treasurer.

The vote for the Executive Officers is electronic and secret and delivered to the Administrative Secretariat of the WMS during the board meeting. The most senior colleague on the board who is not running for one of the three positions is supervising the election.

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.

If there is only one candidate for one of the Executive Officer positions, members of the Executive Board must choose between that candidate and “reopen nominations”. The candidate must receive at least eight votes to be elected. If they do not receive eight votes, board members will be invited to self-nominate again.

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

If there is no candidate for any of the Executive Officer roles the Board Member with the longest experience as an Executive Board member must take the role.

2.1. 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 can 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 three-year term that has been initiated.

2.2. 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 five 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 eight Board members and at least one Executive Officer vote for the resignation, the Officer must resign.

If the Officer who resigns is the President, see point 2.1.

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