

To **National Federations**
Members of World Rafting Federation
Members of International Rafting Federation

Cc Continental Bodies

Subject: convocation of the First Elective Congress of United Rafting

Dear Presidents,
dear delegates,

pursuant to the Statutes of [United Rafting](#) and in accordance with the Transitional Provisions adopted for the purpose of convening the First Elective Congress following the unification of the International Rafting Federation and the World Rafting Federation, the First Elective Congress of United Rafting is hereby formally convened as follows:

Date: **21 April 2026**
11:00 CET

Venue: Parc Aquasports – Stade d’Eaux Vives
39 Avenue de l’Yser 64320 Bizanos, France
Pau, France

The Congress shall be held in person.

Upon explicit request, the right of participation shall also be guaranteed by electronic means to those members entitled to attend, in accordance with the applicable statutory and procedural provisions.

The Committee Responsible for Verification of Credentials shall commence its work at the Congress venue at 09:30 CET.

Agenda

The First Elective Congress is convened to discuss and deliberate upon the following Order of Business:

1. **Constitution of the Congress**
 - Opening of the Congress
 - Declaration of constitutive and deliberative quorum
2. **Establishment of Congress Bodies**
 - Appointment of the Chair of the Congress
 - Appointment of the Scrutineers (*coinciding with the Committee for Evaluation of Documentation, with one member acting as Chair*)
3. **Report on Membership and Voting Rights**
 - Presentation and confirmation of the final list of National Federations entitled to vote
4. **Elections of United Rafting Governing Bodies**
 - Election of the President
 - Election of four (4) Executive Members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the General Board, respectively as First Vice President and Second Vice President;

- Election of the Treasurer;
- Election of the Continental Representatives elected as follows:
 - up to one (1) representative per Continental Area having more than three (3) but not more than five (5) Member Federations;
 - up to two (2) representatives per Continental Area having more than five (5) but not more than ten (10) Member Federations;
 - up to three (3) representatives per Continental Area having more than ten (10) Member Federations.

5. Any other Business

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1. Voting Rights and Membership

As a general rule, voting rights at Congress are reserved to National Federations holding Full Membership status. For the First Elective Congress only, temporary voting eligibility may be granted in accordance with the transitional provisions set forth below.

Full Membership shall be open to National Federations without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, religion, political opinion, or any other status, provided that such federations meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. be duly established as a non-profit organization with nationwide scope, composed of grassroots sport entities—such as clubs, teams, organizations, or regional associations—actively engaged in rafting and/or of athletes and technical officials;
- b. operate exclusively on a non-commercial basis, with all financial and material resources reinvested in the development of the sport and the benefit of its members;
- c. be formally recognized by the relevant National Olympic Committee (NOC) or, in the absence of such recognition, by their National Sports Authority (NSA) as the official governing body for the sport of rafting at the national level.

National organizations not yet recognized by their respective NOC or, in the absence of such recognition by their NSA, shall be granted temporary voting eligibility for the first Elective Congress provided that they fully comply with the following criteria:

- a. be established as a non-profit association with nationwide scope, composed of grassroots sport entities - such as clubs, organizations, or regional associations - actively involved in rafting and/or of athletes and technical officials;
- b. adopt statutes and internal regulations that guarantee democratic governance, transparency, accountability and non-discrimination;
- c. apply public, transparent and objective criteria for the admission of members, clearly defined in official statutes or regulations and accessible to all relevant stakeholders;
- d. demonstrate structured and verifiable involvement in rafting-related sporting activities, including the promotion, regulation and development of the sport at the national level;
- e. operate exclusively for non-commercial purposes, ensuring that all resources are reinvested in the development of the sport and its members;
- f. maintain full autonomy from political, commercial or other non-sporting influences.

In countries where two or more IRF and/or WRF member organizations coexist, the general principle shall be to accord priority to the organization formally recognized by the National Olympic Committee (NOC) or, in the absence of such recognition, by National Sports Authority (NSA), in accordance with the principles of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). In such cases, only the NOC/NSA-recognized federation shall be entitled to exercise voting rights at the first Elective Congress, without prejudice to the right of the other organization to continue participating in sporting activities and events until the end of the current calendar year.

Where two or more unrecognized IRF/WRF member organizations, as defined in Article 45.4, exist within the same country, such organizations shall be required to cooperate with the aim of establishing a single, unified national governing body. A defined and reasonable timeframe, established by the elected General Board, shall be granted to complete the formation and formalization of the unified organization. Until such time as the unified organization, or one of the two organizations individually, satisfies the requirements for Full Membership, no voting rights shall be conferred upon any of the concerned organizations. The acceptance of any new unrecognized memberships by either party after 5 June 2025 (the date of signing of the Merger Letter of Intent by the WRF President and the IRF President) shall not affect the applicability of the rule referred to in paragraph 5 in any country in which at least one member of either party already existed prior to that date.

2. Pre-Accreditation of National Federations

National Federations shall be required to complete a pre-accreditation process by submitting the aforementioned required documentation through the dedicated online procedure, which shall be communicated separately and published at this [link](#).

A provisional list of members entitled to vote shall be established in accordance with the Transitional Provisions no later than 21 March.

The final list of members entitled to vote shall be published no later than ten (10) days prior to the Congress.

3. Committee for Evaluation of Documentation and Verification of Credentials

A single Committee composed of four (4) members (two appointed by IRF and two appointed by WRF) shall serve both as:

- Committee for Evaluation of Documentation; and
- Committee Responsible for Verification of Credentials.

One of its members shall act as Chair of the Committee.

This Committee shall evaluate documentation relating to membership status, voting rights and candidatures. Members of this Committee shall not be eligible to stand for elective positions at the First Elective Congress.

The members are:

- Matteo Benciolini
- Eric Boudreau
- Francesco Fiorini
- Adam Bass

4. Representation and Proxy Regulations at Congress

At any Congress, each Member shall be represented by one (1) delegate, who may be assisted by one or two advisors.

Every National Federation shall be represented at the Congress by its President. In the event that the President is unable to attend, the Vice-President or another duly designated representative may act as substitute, provided that he or she is formally delegated.

Where the proxy is not granted to an internal representative of the same National Federation, it may be granted to another National Federation holding voting rights. Each National Federation entitled to vote may hold no more than two (2) proxies.

The proxy must:

- be issued in writing on the official letterhead of the delegating Federation;
- include the full personal details of the legal representative of the delegating Federation;
- include the official name of the delegating Federation;
- be signed by the legal representative.

Proxies that do not comply with the above requirements shall be declared inadmissible.

Proxies may be submitted to the Commission by email (raftingcongress@gmail.com) no later than 19 April (23:59 CET).

5. Composition and election of the General Board

In accordance with the Statutes, the General Board of United Rafting shall be composed of:

- the President, elected by all Member Federations;
- four (4) Executive Members, two (2) of whom shall be appointed by the General Board, respectively as First Vice President and Second Vice President, elected by all Member Federations;
- the Treasurer, elected by all Member Federations;
- Continental Representatives, elected by the Federations of their respective continent, as follows:
 - up to one (1) representative per Continental Area having more than three (3) but not more than five (5) Member Federations;
 - up to two (2) representatives per Continental Area having more than five (5) but not more than ten (10) Member Federations;
 - up to three (3) representatives per Continental Area having more than ten (10) Member Federations;
- the Chair of by the Athletes' Commission¹;
- the Chair of the GTE Commission ².

Members of the General Board are elected in their personal capacity and shall act independently, not as representatives of their respective National Federations.

Member Federations entitled may cast preferences for up to the total number of positions to be filled within each respective component of the General Board.

6. Candidatures

Any candidature for the General Board must be presented no later than **22 March 2026 (23:59 CET)** using exclusively the official candidature form available on the IRF and WRF websites.

Applications must:

- be submitted by email to the designated Committee (raftingcongress@gmail.com);
- include a formal declaration of compliance with eligibility requirements;
- include a declaration of any potential conflict of interest in accordance with the IOC Code of Ethics.

Modifications to candidatures must be submitted within the same deadline. After the deadline, only renunciations shall be accepted.

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¹ Election be conducted during the Junior & U23 World Championships and World Cup competitions held in Pau, in accordance with the Statutes.

² To be held within six (6) months following the Elective Congress, after the organization of a qualification conversion workshop in accordance with the Statutes.

All relevant documentation and procedural guidelines for the conduct of the Congress shall be circulated in due course.

We look forward to your participation in this historic First Elective Congress of United Rafting.