

Nationals Committee Structure and Regulations

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1. Committee

- a. The nationals committee for any given year shall consist of:
 - i. A nominated site operator or their nominated representative from each of the two upcoming Nationals sites
 - ii. One site operator, who has previously hosted the nationals, elected by the team captains at the conclusion of the previous years nationals. If no site operator who has previously hosted nationals nominates, then the position will be open to all site operators.
 - iii. Two (2) player representatives elected by the team captains at the conclusion of the previous years nationals

The third site operator position has been changed from the site operator that hosted nationals one year previous to an elected past host, to allow the operator to have a break after running nationals and prevent burn out.

- b. No person shall be entitled to hold more than one position on the Committee at once.
- c. All members of the Committee shall be eligible to vote. All voting shall be by show of hands or equivalent unless decided otherwise.
- d. A person who is not a member of the Committee shall not be entitled to be present at a meeting thereof without the invitation of the committee.
- e. The place of any member may become vacant if she/he should be absent and without communication for more than one (1) month without the leave of the General Committee.
- f. In the case of the resignation or removal of any elected representative, the Committee shall appoint the next successful candidate to hold office for the remainder of the term of that office.

2. Player Representatives

- a. The Players Representatives are expected to maintain regular (typically weekly) contact with other committee members via the designated communication channel and liaise with nationals players and represent their interests.
- b. People wishing to nominate for the player representative position must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Must not have been banned from a Nationals Event in the last five years.
 - ii. Must have played or refereed the last nationals.
 - iii. Must have played or refereed at least two nationals.
 - iv. Must at least 18 years of age.
 - v. Must be an Australian resident.
- c. The committee has no other powers of veto regarding a particular candidate.
- d. Two (2) Player Representatives shall be elected annually by the Team Captains at the Nationals Event.
- e. Player Representatives are allowed to run for re-election.

3. Hosting Nationals

- a. Site operators wishing to nominate their site to host nationals must meet the following criteria or provide a designated representative that will run the tournament at their site who meets the criteria:
 - i. Must have run successful leagues for at least one year or have equivalent experience to the satisfaction of the committee.
 - ii. Must be at least 18 years of age.

This is so that new site operators are not prevented from hosting Nationals. For example, a new site operator without the required experience can ask someone who has the experience (eg. Doug, Wombat etc) to run the event at their site.

- b. The site must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Must have at least 24 packs or access to at least 24 packs.
 - ii. Must have a public address system, megaphone or equivalent.
 - iii. Must run Infusion.
- c. The following regulations shall be enforced:
 - i. A state cannot host nationals more than once within a three year period, while other alternatives are available.
 - ii. A site cannot host nationals more than once within a five year period, while other alternatives are available.

These are intended as a way to provide diversity among the hosting sites. They are subject to change as Nationals grows and the regulations become impractical.

- d. The committee has no other powers of veto regarding a particular candidate site.

4. Team Captains

- a. All Team Captains who are Australian residents are eligible to vote for Player Representatives, Past Host and Hosting Site.
- b. Captains of guest teams visiting from other countries are not eligible to vote in any of the elections.
- c. Team Captains who meet the criteria in 2.b. are allowed to nominate for the Player Representative offices and are allowed to vote if they do so.
- d. Team Captains are allowed to be site operators and are allowed to nominate their site for Hosting Site, and themselves for Past Host, and are allowed to vote if they do so.
- e. A team captain who is unable to attend an election may nominate a proxy, in writing to the returning officer.
- f. Voting is compulsory.

5. Elections for Player Representatives

- a. The procedure for nominations and elections shall be as follows:
 - i. The person must register their intention to run for election on the first day of the Nationals Event with the competition coordinator or other designated person.
 - ii. The candidate can provide a brief description (maximum of one A4 page) of why they believe themselves to be suitable for the position and what they have to offer.
 - iii. These will be displayed prominently at the site for the duration of the competition along with the names of all candidates and their host sites.
 - iv. On the last day of the competition or another designated time the Team Captains will elect the Player Representatives
 - v. Voting for Player Representatives is full preferential: electors must indicate a complete order of preference among a list of candidates.
 - vi. Player Representatives are elected by a proportional representation system. To be elected, a candidate must win a proportion of the votes or quota. See Appendix A for more details on the election system.
 - vii. The results will be announced at the presentation dinner or another designated time.
 - viii. The results of the ballot will be kept so that in the event of a Player Representative resigning or being removed the next successful candidate can be installed.

6. Elections for Past Host

- a. The procedure for nominations and elections shall be as follows:
 - i. The person must register their intention to run for election on the first day of the Nationals Event with the competition coordinator or other designated person.
 - ii. The candidate can provide a brief description (maximum of one A4 page) of why they believe themselves to be suitable for the position and what they have to offer.
 - iii. These will be displayed prominently at the site for the duration of the competition along with the names of all candidates.
 - iv. On the last day of the competition or another designated time the Team Captains will vote for the Past Host for the next year.
 - v. The voting system shall be preferential.
 - vi. The results will be announced at the presentation dinner or another designated time.
 - vii. The results of the ballot will be kept so that in the event of Past Host resigning or being removed the next successful candidate can be installed.

7. Elections for Hosting Site

- a. The procedure for nominations and elections shall be as follows:
 - i. The site operator must register their intention with the Committee at least two (2) months before the Nationals Event.
 - ii. The candidate must indicate who will be running the Nationals Event, either the site operator or a designated representative.
 - iii. The candidate must provide a brief description (maximum of one A4 page) of why they believe their site to be suitable for the position and what they have to offer. This description must include the following: description of site, availability of accommodation and food outlets, and details of public transport.
 - iv. These will be displayed prominently at the site for the duration of the competition along with the names of all candidate sites and their site.
 - v. On the last day of the competition or another designated time the Team Captains will vote for the Hosting Site for the next year.
 - vi. The voting system shall be preferential.
 - vii. The results will be announced at the presentation. dinner or another designated time.
 - viii. The results of the ballot will be kept so that in the event of site having to withdraw the next successful candidate can be used.

8. Penalties

- a. The Committee may, without dissent expel any member or members proved to its satisfaction to have been guilty of:
 - i. Conduct likely to bring the Nationals Event into disrepute
 - ii. Anything detrimental to the interests of the Nationals Event or its members
- b. At least fourteen (14) days notice shall be given to any member against whom it is proposed to take any action under this clause and such person shall be entitled to:
 - i. be heard by the Committee at a meeting dealing with the matter
- c. The member in question is not allowed to vote on the matter of their termination.
- d. There is no right of appeal.

9. Alteration to the Regulations

- a. Motions to amend the regulations must be made by a committee member, and must be seconded by another committee member.
- b. The motion should include:
 - i. Identification of the Regulation or Regulations to be amended, by name and by number,
 - ii. The current reading of said Regulation or Regulations,
 - iii. The proposed change

Appendix A – Voting Procedures

Returning officer

The committee shall appoint a returning officer for each election. This may be the same person for multiple elections. The returning officer need not be a committee member or captain. The returning officer for the site selection election shall not be closely associated with any site bid. The returning officer for the committee positions election shall not be a candidate for a committee position, though they can be a current or outgoing committee member.

Scrutineers

Sites nominating as host may nominate a scrutineer for the site selection vote count. Candidates for committee election may nominate a scrutineer for the committee election vote counts. The returning officer is not obliged to accept all scrutineers but must accept at least some if nominated. Scrutineers may observe the vote counting process, but may not touch or otherwise interfere with the ballots.

Anonymity

The returning officer shall take reasonable steps to preserve the anonymity of ballots. Scrutineers shall not attempt to compromise the anonymity of any ballot.

Ballots

The returning officer shall be responsible for the creation, distribution and collection of ballots. The returning officer shall be responsible for storage of ballot papers against the possibility of a replacement committee member being required.

Site selection election and Past Host election

Voters are required to place the number 1 against the candidate of their first choice, and to place the numbers 2, 3 and so on against all the other candidates, so as to indicate an order of preference for all candidates on the ballot paper.

First, all the first preference (number '1') votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total formal first preference votes that candidate is immediately elected.

If however, no candidate has more than half the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded. This candidate's votes are transferred to the other candidates according to the second preferences shown by the voters on their ballot papers.

If still no candidate has more than half the votes, the candidate who now has the fewest votes is excluded and the votes are transferred according to the next preference shown. This process continues until one candidate has more than half the total votes and is declared elected.

Committee election

Voters are required to place the number 1 against the candidate of their first choice, and to place the numbers 2, 3 and so on against all the other candidates, so as to indicate an order of preference for all candidates on the ballot paper.

To be elected to the committee, a candidate needs to gain a quota of the formal votes. A candidate is elected on receiving a number of votes equal to or exceeding the quota. When a candidate is elected with surplus votes over and above the quota, those votes are not wasted, but are transferred on at a reduced rate. This process continues until the required number of candidates have obtained a quota and are elected.

The quota

The quota is calculated by dividing the total number of formal ballot papers by one more than the number of committee members to be elected and adding '1' to the result, disregarding any remainder.

For example, if there are 2 committee members to be elected from 20 formal votes:

The quota would be $(20 / (2+1)) + 1 = 7.667$

Therefore the quota, or number of votes required to be elected, is 7.

Counting the first preference votes

The ballot papers are sorted according to which candidate has received the number '1' preference on each ballot paper. Candidates who receive a quota, or more, of these first preference votes are elected immediately.

Transferring the surplus

Any surplus votes these elected candidates receive (i.e. votes in excess of the quota they needed) are transferred to the candidates who were the second choice of voters. Because it is not possible to determine which votes actually elected the candidate and which votes are surplus, all the elected candidate's ballot papers are transferred to continuing candidates at a reduced rate. The transfer value of these surplus ballot papers is calculated by dividing the successful candidate's total of surplus first preference votes by the total number of the candidate's first preference ballot papers.

For example, if Smith gains 10 votes when the quota is 7 there are 3 surplus votes.

Their transfer value is $3 \text{ (surplus votes)} / 10 \text{ (total first preference ballot papers)} = 0.3$

The result is taken to the eighth decimal point, without rounding. So, the transfer value is 0.30000000.

All ballot papers for the elected candidate are then re-examined and the number of next available preference votes for each of the continuing candidates is determined and multiplied by the transfer value. The resulting numbers are added to the continuing candidates' respective numbers of first preference votes.

For example, Smith's 10 ballot papers gave 5 ballot papers to Jones. Therefore the calculation is $5 \times 0.3 = 1.5$. The remainder is not ignored. (This is different to the Australian Senate process, which rounds down.)

Again, a candidate is elected when the number of votes obtained exceeds or equals the quota. When a candidate is elected by gaining a quota through a transfer of votes, a transfer value is then calculated for that candidate's surplus. This is done by dividing the surplus votes by the total number of ballot papers the candidate has received (first preferences plus transferred ballot papers).

For example, Jones received 6 first preference votes and 1.5 votes on transfer ($6 + 1.5 = 7.5$), so he reaches a quota (7) and is elected with 0.5 surplus votes.

The total number of ballot papers received by Jones is 11 (6 first preferences + 5 transferred from Smith)

Transfer value is $0.5 \text{ (surplus votes)} / 11 \text{ (total ballot papers received)} = 0.04545454$

This transfer value is applied to Jones's ballot papers which are then transferred to continuing candidates according to the next available preferences shown on the ballot papers.

As a result of this process of transferring surplus votes, other candidates may be elected. If, however, all surplus votes from elected candidates are transferred and there are still some unfilled positions, further counting is undertaken.

Exclusion of unsuccessful candidates

As a general rule when a candidate is elected with a surplus of votes, this surplus is transferred before any exclusions are undertaken.

When transfers have been completed in respect of all candidates who obtained a surplus above a quota as a result of the above procedures, the

candidate who has the fewest votes is excluded and that candidate's ballot papers are distributed to the remaining continuing candidates according to the next available preferences. All ballot papers received by the candidate at a particular transfer value are transferred together, beginning with those with a transfer value of 1. The above steps continue until either all vacancies are filled or all candidates except a number equal to the number of vacancies remaining have been elected or excluded. In the latter case, unexcluded candidates not already elected are declared elected. In certain circumstances, two or more candidates may be excluded simultaneously. This is called a bulk exclusion.

Details are taken (and slightly modified to suit) from Commonwealth Electoral Procedures Appendixes E and F, available from www.aec.gov.au as [comm_elect_procedures.pdf](#).