

## SECTION 3: COMMITTEES & COUNCILS



### 3.19 ATHLETE COUNCIL

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#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Virtus strives to be an athlete-centered organisation. The needs, views and opinions of athletes should be foremost in our decision-making, and the Athlete Council provides a vital opportunity for Virtus athletes to discuss, comment upon and raise questions about any aspect of activities and help shape Virtus strategy.
- 1.2 The Chairperson of the Council will periodically attend Governing Board meetings (non-voting) to ensure views are represented.
- 1.3 Athletes should feel able to raise any issue or concern in an open and fair environment without fear of how the information will be used.

#### 2 Authority

- 2.1 The Athletes' Council is an advisory body to the Virtus Governing Board.
- 2.2 The Governing Board has the sole power to grant authority to the Council and the Council has no authority that does not come from the Governing Board.
- 2.3 The Athletes' Council may, however, carry out such tasks as delegated to it by the Governing Board.
- 2.4 The Athletes' Council has no authority to make decisions for or on behalf of Virtus, or to incur any expense or make other commitments.

#### 3 Role

- 3.1 The Athletes' Council is intended to be the collective voice of Virtus athletes. It shall be responsible for the following:
  - a) Providing advice to the Governing Board on behalf of and in the interests of Virtus athletes, including to ensure that the athletes' perspective is included in the decision-making processes of the Governing Board.
  - b) Making recommendations to the Governing Board, through the chairperson in relation to the content of the Virtus strategic plan.
  - c) Acting as the link between the athletes and the Governing Board, to convey the athletes' views to the Governing Board and vice versa.
  - d) Establishing and maintaining a method of communication with athletes to solicit input, identify issues, provide education, and disseminate information.
  - e) Advising on such other matters within its area of responsibility as the Governing Board may request.

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#### 4 Representation

- a) The Council will comprise the Chairperson + up to 6 athletes including a minimum of 3 males and 3 females.
- b) Eligible athletes are those that have competed within Virtus competition (and therefore hold an International Eligibility Number) within the last 5 years.
- c) Membership will be representative of both summer and winter sports.
- d) Members will normally be eligible to serve for up to 2 terms of 4 years, subject to 5.1c below.

#### 5 Appointment/Election

##### 5.1 In the period from the launch of the Council in 2025 to Global Games 2027:

- a) The Chairperson will be appointed by the Governing Board
- b) Athlete members will be appointed by the Governing Board after receiving nominations from Virtus Member Organisations
- c) Members appointed in 2025 will serve until the 2027 Global Games (1 term) and be eligible for election for 1 additional term of 4 years. For the avoidance of doubt this means those elected in 2025 will serve a maximum period of approximately 6.5 years.

##### 5.2 In the period from Global Games 2027 onwards:

###### a. Summer Sport Representatives

- i 6 members (representing summer sports) will be elected via a ballot of athletes competing (in full medal sports) at the Virtus Global Games.
- ii A call for nominations will be issued ahead of the Global Games. Virtus National Member Organisations (in good standing) will be eligible to nominate up to 1 male and 1 female nominee.
- iii The shortlist of eligible candidates will be published to the membership ahead of the Global Games.
- iv Each athlete participating at the Global Games (full medal sports) will receive up to 6 votes to be cast by secret ballot.
- v Where there are sufficient nominations, membership will include a maximum of 2 athletes from any one Virtus Region
- vi Where there are sufficient nominations, membership will include a maximum of 3 athletes from any one Virtus eligibility group.

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- vii The candidates will be ranked according to the number of votes received. Candidates will be offered a place on the Council (according to gender, eligibility group and regional representation etc) until all places are filled.
- viii Should there be a tie for an eligible place, then the winning candidate will be determined by a simple coin toss.
- ix The winning nominees will be announced at the Closing Ceremony.,
- x The Council members will assume their roles on completion of the Closing Ceremony.

#### b. Winter Sport Representatives

- xi 1 member (representing alpine and Nordic skiing) will be elected via a ballot of athletes competing at the first Virtus World Skiing Championships following the Global Games. Where alpine and Nordic events are held separately, two ballots will be held and the results aggregated to find the winning candidate.
- xii A call for nominations will be issued ahead of the Championships. Virtus National Member Organisations (in good standing) will be eligible to nominate up to 1 male and 1 female nominee.
- xiii The shortlist of eligible candidates will be published to the membership ahead of the Championships.
- xiv Each athlete participating at the Championships will receive one vote to be cast by secret ballot.
- xv The candidates will be ranked according to the number of votes received. The winning candidate will be offered a place on the Council.
- xvi Should there be a tie then the winning candidate will be determined by a simple coin toss.
- xvii The winning nominee will be announced at the Closing Ceremony.
- xviii The Council member will assume their role on completion of the Closing Ceremony.

- b) The Council may co-opt members to fill any vacancies that exist between elections, observing the provision in Section 4.
- c) The Council will elect the Chair from within its membership at the first meeting of the Council following the Global Games.

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#### 6 Meetings

- 6.1 The Council will meet up to 3 times per year by video call.
- 6.2 The Council will be supported by a member of the Virtus Governing Board, however this is a facilitating role including setting the agenda, assisting with managing the meeting and taking the minutes. The representative of the Board is not there to comment on the conversation or to give the views or opinions of the Governing Board (which should be done by the Chairperson).
- 6.3 The Council may request attendance of members of the staff team, Board or other officers to make presentations on relevant subjects.
- 6.4 Athletes' Council members must make reasonable efforts to attend and actively participate in all Athletes' Council meetings (failure to attend two consecutive meetings without valid justification, as determined by the Athletes' Council, may result in removal from office).
- 6.5 Athletes' Council members must also make reasonable efforts to actively participate in Athletes' Council discussions between meetings, including by email (failure to do so, as determined by the Athletes' Council, may result in removal from office).
- 6.6 All meetings of the Athletes' Council will be conducted in English. No translation services will be provided, arranged, or paid for by Virtus.
- 6.7 Decisions of the Athletes' Council will generally be made by consensus. If a consensus cannot be reached there will be a vote with each voting member having one vote. A majority of votes in favour of a decision by those voting members present at the meeting is required for it to be passed. In the event of a tie in votes the chairperson will have the right to a casting vote. The quorum for meetings and decisions of the Athletes' Council will be a majority of the total number of voting members on the Athletes' Council.
- 6.8 Minutes of Athletes' Council meetings will be produced and circulated to the Athletes' Council, and any amendments agreed by the Athletes' Council. The final minutes will then be archived by Virtus.

#### 7 Expenses

- 7.1 Whilst it is expected that any expenses will be minimised through the use of video calls etc, any costs or expenses arising from the nomination process, attendance at the Global Games/Virtus Skiing Championships or attendance at meetings should be met by the respective Virtus member organisation. Nomination to the Council is taken as acceptance of any costs arising.