



NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT
IFSC General Elections 2025
12 April 2025 – Larnaca, Cyprus

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the conclusion of the term 2021-2025, the next IFSC General Elections are scheduled to take place on 12 April 2025 at the XXII IFSC General Assembly. Pursuant to Article 10.10.1.2 of the IFSC Statutes, an impartial, ad hoc Nomination Committee has been constituted to oversee the electoral process and perform the evaluation of candidates in accordance with the Statutes, and the electoral regulatory framework in place.

This report outlines the evaluation process and findings of the Nomination Committee (NC) in relation to the candidacies submitted for the 2025 IFSC General Elections.

In accordance with the Statutes, the General Assembly will elect the following officers to sit on the Executive Board:

- President
- Four (4) Vice Presidents, 2 female and 2 male
- Five (5) Continental Board Members, 1 from each continent (Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, Pan America)

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The electoral process of the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) is governed by the IFSC Statutes, Electoral Regulations, and the procedures of the Nomination Committee (NC). The relevant legal provisions are summarised below:

1.1. Role and Authority of the Nomination Committee

- 1.1.1. The Nomination Committee (NC) is an ad hoc body responsible for overseeing the electoral process (Statutes, Art. 10.10.1.2).
- 1.1.2. The Nomination Committee has the ultimate decision-making power in all matters related to elections, including evaluating compliance with eligibility criteria (Electoral Regulations, Art. 3.3.2).
- 1.1.3. Any complaints regarding eligibility must be addressed before the elections and shall be finally decided by the Nomination Committee (Electoral Regulations, Art. 1.4.3).
- 1.1.4. The Nomination Committee operates independently from candidates and election campaigns, ensuring fairness and impartiality (Electoral Regulations, Art. 3.3.3).

1.2. Eligibility Criteria

- 1.2.1. Candidates for IFSC Executive Board must meet the Eligibility Criteria approved by the General Assembly.
- 1.2.2. The Nomination Committee is responsible for evaluating all applications and ensuring compliance with these criteria (Electoral Regulations, Art. 1.4.2).
- 1.2.3. All candidacies meeting the requested criteria and having been duly examined by the Nomination Committee shall be deemed qualified to proceed to election.

2. COMPOSITION

- 2.1. The Nomination Committee is composed of the following members:
 - Dagmawit Girmay Berhane, IOC Member and Chair of the IFSC Ethics Commission
 - Paola Virginia Gigliotti, IFSC Honorary Member appointed by the Executive Board on 5 December 2024
 - Frederick Yu, Continental Member appointed by the Continental Councils on 8 January 2025
- 2.2. Upon its first meeting on 22 January 2025, the Nomination Committee appointed Dagmawit Girmay Berhane as Chair of the Nomination Committee.

3. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

- 3.1. The Nomination Committee follows a structured process:
 - 3.1.1. The Executive Board establishes the eligibility criteria, and the General Assembly approves them.
 - 3.1.2. The IFSC Office collects nominations and circulates them to the Nomination Committee members.
 - 3.1.3. The Nomination Committee evaluates candidates for compliance with eligibility criteria. Evaluation may include follow up emails and meetings with candidates.
 - 3.1.4. The Nomination Committee reports its findings to the Executive Board, which may provide further information or request clarifications.
 - 3.1.5. The Nomination Committee takes the final decision, which is reported to the IFSC Office at least 10 days before the agenda deadline (Nomination Committee Procedure, Art. 2.6).
 - 3.1.6. Any appeal against Nomination Committee decisions would be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) (Statutes, Art. 17.1).



4. CANDIDATES' EVALUATION

- 4.1. The Nomination Committee used evaluation forms to assess the candidates' suitability and compliance with the eligibility criteria.
- 4.2. Each Nomination Committee member gives a score out of 5 points for each criterion. The individual score of each Nomination Committee member is the average of all scores, resulting as well in a score out of 5 points.
- 4.3. The final score of each candidate is the average of the sum of the individual score of each Nomination Committee member, out of 5 points.
- 4.4. The Nomination Committee considered candidates with a score of 3 and above as qualified to proceed to election.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR JUSTIFICATION IN CASE OF DISQUALIFICATION

- 5.1. If a candidature is disqualified for non-compliance with eligibility criteria, or incompleteness, the Nomination Committee shall provide a short reasoning for its decision to ensure transparency.

6. REPORT SUMMARY

- 6.1. The deadline for candidature submission has been set at 11 February 2025, 23:59 CET.
- 6.2. At the cut-off date, the IFSC received fifteen (15) candidatures.
- 6.3. Table 1 below reports the summary of the Nomination Committee deliberation in relation to the evaluation of candidates for the 2025 IFSC General Elections.
- 6.4. Candidates are listed by role, in alphabetical order by last name.
- 6.5. The reasoned detail explaining the outcome for each candidate is reported after the table.

Table 1

Name	Country	Remarks	Outcome
President			
Marco Sclaris	ITA	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. Follow up meeting with NC. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Tijl Smitz	BEL	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements, but inadmissible for its content – more details below. Electoral manifesto excluded from publication – more details below. Further inquiry made by NC. Three (3) irregularities noted.	Qualified
Vice President			
Jan Bloudek	CZE	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. NC follow up on conflict of interest. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Naomi Cleary	AUS	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. NC follow up on conflict of interest. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Joachim Driessen	NED	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. Further inquiry made by NC. One (1) irregularity noted.	Qualified
Toru Kobinata	JPN	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. NC follow up on conflict of interest. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Anne-Worley Moelter	USA	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Pierre You	FRA	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. NC follow up on conflict of interest. No irregularities noted.	Qualified



Name	Country	Remarks	Outcome
Continental Board Member			
Burghilda Beste	GER	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. NC follow up on conflict of interest. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Stéphane David	NZL	Nomination dossier is complete. No video included. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Cathy Foo Kune	MRI	Nomination dossier is incomplete.	Not Qualified
Guowei Li	CHN	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Christopher Naudé	RSA	Nomination dossier is complete. Includes video compliant with requirements. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
Anthony Seah	SGP	Nomination dossier is complete. No video included. No irregularities noted.	Qualified
René Sepúlveda	PUR	Nomination dossier is complete. No video included. NC follow up on conflict of interest. No irregularities noted.	Qualified

7. CANDIDATES FOR IFSC PRESIDENT

7.1. Marco Maria Sclaris (ITA)

- 7.1.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that presidential candidate Marco Maria Sclaris' nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 7.1.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 7.1.3. On 18 February 2025, the Nomination Committee met with the candidate to follow up on some items concerning his candidacy. Specifically, the candidate was made aware of three (3) issues concerning presidential candidate Tijl Smitz (BEL), detailed under points 7.2.3 *et seq.* below.
 - 7.1.3.1. Attempted interference with staff neutrality
 - 7.1.3.2. Use of IOC President quote in electoral campaign
 - 7.1.3.3. Use of unauthorised pictures featuring staff and athletes
- 7.1.4. In this meeting the Nomination Committee noted the candidate's conclusion that the issues listed above:
 - 7.1.4.1. Constitute damage to his campaign as candidate.
 - 7.1.4.2. Cause damage to the IFSC image and reputation.
 - 7.1.4.3. Negatively impact the electoral process as a whole.
- 7.1.5. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

7.2. Tijl Smitz (BEL)

- 7.2.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that presidential candidate Tijl Smitz' nomination dossier is complete, including a video.
- 7.2.2. Some formal and substantial irregularities have been noted throughout the conduct of the candidate's campaign and in the submitted documents.
- 7.2.3. The irregularities are described in detail in the summary below:
 - 7.2.3.1. In January 2025, the candidate approached the General Director for a bilateral conversation about the intention of standing for the presidency. Based on the topic, the General Director initially agreed and during their meeting, the candidate informed the General Director of his intention to speak to other staff as well.

Following the content of the email shared with other staff, explicitly citing the topic of elections, the General Director advised the candidate to refrain from making such contact. He made clear that staff neutrality is paramount in the context of an election, as also described in Art. 2.3.6 of the Electoral Regulations, which the candidate complied with. The matter was reported to the Executive Board on 5 February 2025.

- 7.2.3.2. In reviewing the nomination dossier, the Nomination Committee noted that the candidate's manifesto includes the use of unauthorised pictures featuring the General Director and athletes.

For the reason outlined under section 7.2.3.1, and to avoid undue perceived endorsements, the Nomination Committee excludes the candidate's manifesto from the published documents.

- 7.2.3.3. On 11 February 2025, the candidate informed the Nomination Committee that he received an email from the IOC Deputy Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer in relation to the use of a quote by IOC President Thomas Bach in the candidate's campaign material, thereby improperly associating the IOC with the IFSC elections.

The candidate informed that while the statement in question has been promptly removed from the material published on social media, the quote is in the video intended to be submitted with the nomination dossier. Based on the notice of the IOC Deputy Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, and noting that edited videos are not permitted, the Nomination Committee decided to exclude the candidate's video from the published documents.

- 7.2.4. The Nomination Committee held a videoconference meeting with the candidate on 18 February 2025 to address the above-mentioned issues and give the candidate the opportunity to provide his views and shed clarity on the facts.
- 7.2.5. The Nomination Committee noted the candidate's openness in addressing the issues and willingness to take corrective action. However, the Nomination Committee also noted that the issues presented were not fully acknowledged for their seriousness.
- 7.2.6. Following the meeting, the Nomination Committee determined that all three (3) situations stemmed from an underlying misunderstanding (or unawareness) of the rules governing electoral conduct, including the lack of awareness of ethical standards expected of a presidential candidate and to be upheld in such context.
- 7.2.7. On 20 February 2025, the Nomination Committee issued a letter to the candidate informing him of their deliberations and providing a list of corrective actions to be taken by the candidate:
 - 7.2.7.1. Apology to the General Director with copy to the Executive Board;
 - 7.2.7.2. Written statement of apology to the General Director, with a copy of the Statement to the Executive Board for their knowledge.
 - 7.2.7.3. Publish a written statement of apology to the IOC and to the IFSC on social media (LinkedIn, Instagram as a minimum) acknowledging the improper use of a statement from the IOC President.
 - 7.2.7.4. Send a written communication to all IFSC Member Federations and other bodies who received the announcement of the candidate's presidential candidature on 17 December 2024, acknowledging the improper use of a statement from the IOC President and damage caused.
 - 7.2.7.5. Send a written follow up message to the IOC Deputy Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer informing him of the action taken and verifying satisfaction with it.
 - 7.2.7.6. Inform the IFSC office and the Nomination Committee of all actions taken in accordance with the above; where appropriate the candidate shall copy them in the correspondence for the record.
- 7.2.8. All such corrective actions were to be taken by 12h00 noon (midday) CET on Thursday 27 February 2025.
- 7.2.9. By the set deadline, the candidate followed the Nomination Committee directives and summarised the actions in a letter. In the same letter, the candidate asked to accept a revised version of the manifesto without pictures featuring others.
- 7.2.10. At 15:00 CET on 27 February 2025, the Nomination Committee met to make its deliberations and concluded the following:
- 7.2.11. The candidate complied with the request of the Nomination Committee.
- 7.2.12. The candidate's request to publish the electoral manifesto without pictures featuring others is denied. This decision is taken on the basis that the Nomination Committee has the duty to guarantee a fair and equal process to all candidates. Consequently, allowing a revised document after the deadline compromises the fairness and equality of said process, negating the function of the Nomination Committee.
- 7.2.13. The Nomination Committee further maintains that, while the request of the Nomination Committee was complied with, it is noted that the candidate chose not to disclose the reason for such apology in the public statements, notably the **admonitions of the IOC and of the Nomination Committee**, giving the inaccurate impression of a spontaneous act and denoting lack of transparency and sincerity.
- 7.2.14. In conclusion, the Nomination Committee deems the candidate qualified to proceed to election, with reserve to closely monitor the candidate's conduct until the elections.

8. CANDIDATES FOR IFSC VICE PRESIDENT

8.1. Jan Bloudek (CZE)

- 8.1.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Jan Bloudek's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 8.1.2. The Nomination Committee noted one formal discrepancy in the nomination form, related to the declared conflicts of interests.
- 8.1.3. The candidate was informed of such discrepancy for clarification, and promptly responded meeting the Nomination Committee's expectations.
- 8.1.4. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

8.2. Naomi Cleary (AUS)

- 8.2.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Naomi Cleary's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 8.2.2. The Nomination Committee interprets that where the conflict-of-interest form is left blank instead of being marked as 'None' or 'N/A', the candidate intends to signal absence of conflict of interests. The candidate was informed of this via letter.
- 8.2.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

8.3. Joachim Driessen (NED)

- 8.3.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Joachim Driessen's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 8.3.2. The Nomination Committee noted one irregularity:
 - 8.3.2.1. The candidate contacted the Governance Commission (a body of which he is a member), for matters related to his candidature, notably an explicit request for support and feedback to improve the candidate's electoral plan.
 - 8.3.2.2. The Governance Commission is an internal structure of the IFSC, advisory to the Executive Board, composed of members very close to NF leadership and sometimes even voting members.
 - 8.3.2.3. The Nomination Committee recognises that, in the candidate's position of member of the Governance Commission, the interaction raised concerns about the use of internal resources in a way that may constitute unfair advantage as other candidates do not have the same level of access.
 - 8.3.2.4. The Nomination Committee recognises that it is within the candidate's rights to consult individuals bilaterally. However, the communication directed towards the Governance Commission may be perceived as leveraging IFSC resources, even if not done with intent, and therefore is considered inappropriate.
 - 8.3.2.5. The Nomination Committee issued a formal warning with the request to adhere to the established guidelines in order to maintain the integrity of the nomination and election process.
 - 8.3.2.6. The candidate duly took note of the matter.
- 8.3.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

8.4. Toru Kobinata (JPN)

- 8.4.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Toru Kobinata's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 8.4.2. The Nomination Committee interprets that where the conflict of interest form is left blank instead of being marked as 'None' or 'N/A', the candidate intends to signal absence of conflict of interests. The candidate was informed of this via letter.
- 8.4.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

8.5. Anne-Worley Moelter (USA)

- 8.5.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Anne-Worley Moelter's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 8.5.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 8.5.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

8.6. Pierre You (FRA)

- 8.6.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Pierre You's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 8.6.2. The Nomination Committee interprets that where the conflict of interest form is left blank instead of being marked as 'None' or 'N/A', the candidate intends to signal absence of conflict of interests. The candidate was informed of this via letter.
- 8.6.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

9. CANDIDATES FOR IFSC CONTINENTAL BOARD MEMBER**9.1. Burghilda Beste (GER)**

- 9.1.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Burghilda Beste's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 9.1.2. The Nomination Committee noted that, whereas the candidate declared holding the position of Vice President of the German Federation as well as the position of Board Member of IFSC Europe, the candidate did not declare these items as conflicts of interest.
- 9.1.3. A letter was sent to the candidate to take note of the oversight.
- 9.1.4. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

9.2. Stéphane David (NZL)

- 9.2.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Stéphane David's nomination dossier is complete.
- 9.2.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 9.2.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

9.3. Cathy Foo Kune (MRI)

- 9.3.1. The nomination dossier of candidate Cathy Foo Kune is incomplete of the majority of documents at the cut-off date set for Tuesday 11 February 2025, 23:59 CET.
- 9.3.2. The Nomination Committee is unable to perform its duties of evaluation and therefore the candidate is deemed disqualified and may not proceed to election.

9.4. Guowei Li (CHN)

- 9.4.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Guowei Li's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 9.4.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 9.4.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.



9.5. Christopher Naudé (RSA)

- 9.5.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Christopher Naudé's nomination dossier is complete, including a video compliant with the guidelines in place.
- 9.5.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 9.5.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

9.6. Anthony Seah (SGP)

- 9.6.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate Antony Seah's nomination dossier is complete.
- 9.6.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 9.6.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

9.7. René Sepúlveda

- 9.7.1. The Nomination Committee confirms that candidate René Sepúlveda nomination dossier is complete.
- 9.7.2. No formal or substantial irregularities and issues are noted in the candidate's submission, including declaration of conflicts of interests and their manageability.
- 9.7.3. The Nomination Committee is satisfied with the documents submitted and the candidate is deemed qualified to proceed to election.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 IFSC General Elections nomination process has been conducted in strict compliance with the IFSC Statutes, Electoral Regulations, and Nomination Committee procedures, ensuring a transparent, impartial, and procedurally sound evaluation of all candidatures. The Nomination Committee has exercised its mandated authority to assess eligibility, address procedural matters, and safeguard the integrity of the electoral process.

The Nomination Committee acknowledges the high level of engagement demonstrated by candidates and their commitment to upholding the principles of fair competition, ethical conduct, and regulatory adherence. Where procedural clarifications or corrective measures were required, the Nomination Committee has provided due process and equitable opportunity for candidates to respond, ensuring consistent and fair application of the eligibility criteria.

The Nomination Committee confirms that the list of qualified candidates reflects those who have met the established regulatory standards and are eligible to stand for election at the XXII IFSC General Assembly.

With this report, the Nomination Committee formally concludes its deliberations related to the phase of the evaluation of candidates, confident that the 2025 IFSC General Elections will proceed in an orderly, democratic, and legally sound manner, in full respect of IFSC statutory and regulatory framework.