BY LAWS CHANGES RELATED TO THE ATHLETES’ COMMITTEE REFORM

On 17 December 2020, the FINA Bureau approved the following changes in the FINA By Laws pertaining to the Athletes’ Committee reform, being however specified that these changes to the FINA By Laws will only come into force on the date and subject to the approval by the FINA General Congress of the amendments to the FINA Constitution related to the Athletes’ Committee reform:

BL 5 COMPOSITION SELECTION OF TECHNICAL AND SPECIALISED COMMITTEES

BL 5.1 Geographical representation within Technical Committees
The composition of the Technical Committees as listed in C 19.1.1 shall consist of at least one member from each geographical region: Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

Current BL 5.2 should be deleted:

Each Member shall have the right to make proposals for candidates for memberships on the Technical and Specialised Committees as described in C 19.5 to the FINA Office.

Nota bene: First, this provision refers to Rule C 19.5 whereas it should refer to Rule C 19.6. Second, this provision is not useful and redundant with Rule C 19.6.

BL 5.2 FINA Athletes’ Committee Composition and Eligibility

BL 5.2.1 The Athletes’ Committee shall consist of the following members:

a) Twenty (20) athletes from elections conducted at the FINA World Championships;

b) Six (6) athletes appointed by the FINA President, subject to the approval of the FINA Bureau;

c) Six (6) Honorary Members appointed by the FINA President, subject to the approval of the FINA Bureau; and

d) All athlete(s) from any of the Aquatics disciplines who are members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes Commission.

BL 5.2.2 The athletes elected to the FINA Athletes’ Committee shall be composed as follows:

a) Ten (10) Swimming athletes, including one male athlete and one female athlete from each Continent;

b) Two (2) Open Water Swimming athletes, including one male athlete and one female athlete;

c) Two (2) Diving athletes, including one male athlete and one female athlete;

d) Two (2) High Diving athletes, including one male athlete and one female athlete;
e) Two (2) Artistic Swimming athletes, including one male athlete and one female athlete; and

f) Two (2) Water Polo athletes, including one male athlete and one female athlete.

**BL 5.2.3** The athletes appointed to the FINA Athletes’ Committee and the athletes appointed to the Athletes’ Committee as Honorary Members shall be appointed with the following composition consideration:

a) One (1) athlete from each Aquatics discipline;

b) Equal number of male and female athletes; and

c) Respect for geographic diversity.

**BL 5.2.4** Members and Honorary Members elected or appointed to the Athletes’ Committee shall be from different Member National Federations, with the exception of the IOC Athletes Commission members who shall also be appointed as voting members of the Athletes’ Committee.

**BL 5.2.5** Eligibility for the Athletes’ Committee shall be determined as follows:

a) Elected athletes must have competed in one of the following events:

• Previous two FINA World Championships;
• Previous two Olympic Games; or
• FINA World Championships at which elections are conducted.

b) Appointed athletes must have achieved a Top 8 finish in their respective Aquatics discipline at a previous FINA World Championships or Olympic Games.

c) Appointed Honorary Members must have participated in a previous FINA World Championships or Olympic Games.

d) Elected athletes must be nominated by their National Federation, and each National Federation may nominate no more than one athlete.

e) Appointed athletes and Honorary Members must be endorsed by their National Federation.

f) Elected and appointed athletes and Honorary Members must not have been sanctioned for a violation of the FINA Rules.

**BL 5.2.6** Elections for the Athletes’ Committee shall be conducted as follows:

a) The first election of the FINA Athletes’ Committee will be at the FINA World Championships in 2022. Subsequently, the Athletes’ Committee is constituted on the occasion of the FINA World Championships held in parallel to an Ordinary Congress at which full Bureau elections are conducted, with a term of office of four years.
b) Each athlete competing at the FINA World Championships in which elections are conducted is entitled to one (1) vote.

c) Swimming athletes are elected by Continent, with the athletes from each respective Continent comprising the electorate in electing one (1) male and one (1) female athlete from each Continent.

d) Open Water Swimming athletes, Diving athletes, High Diving athletes, Artistic Swimming athletes, and Water Polo athletes are elected by discipline, with the athletes from each respective discipline comprising the electorate in electing one (1) male and one (1) female athlete from each of these Aquatics disciplines.

e) In cooperation with the Athletes’ Committee, FINA Executive shall establish the regulation related to the election procedure of the Athletes’ Committee. This regulation shall be approved by the FINA Bureau and FINA shall inform all National Federations about the election procedure as appropriate in advance of any election. This election procedure regulation, as approved, shall be published on FINA website.

BL 5.2.7 Organization of the Athletes’ Committee:

a) Members of the Athletes’ Committee shall elect three officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Honorary Secretary for a term of four years, or until their successors are duly elected. Honorary Members are not eligible to serve as an officer.

b) The Athletes’ Committee shall have an Executive Committee composed of nine (9) members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Honorary Secretary, and one member from each discipline, respecting gender and geographic diversity.

c) The Athletes’ Committee will elect delegates to the FINA General Congress, as per FINA Rule C 15.3.2.

d) Elected and appointed athletes within the Athletes’ Committee are entitled to one (1) vote on all committee matters, including elections. Honorary Members, however, shall have voice, but not voting rights.

e) The FINA Executive Director or his/her representative shall be invited to attend the meetings of the FINA Athletes’ Committee. The FINA Office shall provide appropriate and necessary administrative support to the FINA Athletes’ Committee.

f) The FINA Athletes’ Committee shall establish its own committee charter, subject to the approval of the FINA Bureau.

BL 5.2.8 Removal of Members and Vacancies

a) The removal of a member of the Athletes’ Committee shall be in accordance with established FINA procedures for technical and specialized committees.

b) In the event of a vacancy caused by a member’s death, resignation, incapacity, impediment, or any other cause of inability to perform his/her function as a member, the FINA Bureau shall
appoint a replacement member, respecting gender and geographic diversity. Any person appointed to fill such a vacancy shall serve until the next election, as specified in FINA Rule BL 5.2.6 (a).