Athletes Working Group (AWG)

Terms of Reference

2025 Edition

Terms of Reference for applying FAI Statute 5.4.4 as approved by the GC 2025.

The presented annexes in support of the Statute have been confirmed - during the GC 2025 - as establishing the details for this ToR.

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1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Athlete representation has become a fundamental principle of good governance in international sport. Many International Federations have established athlete bodies to provide structured input into governance, policy development, and competition matters.

The Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI) does not yet have an Athletes' Commission. While governance reforms may lead to the creation of such a body in the coming years, there is already a clear expectation that athletes should have a voice within FAI structures.

2 RATIONALE, KEY FEATURES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES

2.1 RATIONALE

- **Governance alignment -** Establishing an Athletes Working Group (AWG) demonstrates that FAI is aligned with best practice and international expectations for athlete representation.

- **Flexibility during transition**- An Athletes Working Group (AWG) provides an interim solution until wider governance reforms determine whether an Athletes' Commission should be created.

- **Direct benefit to FAI** - Ensures athlete perspectives are integrated into decision-making, enhancing credibility, fairness, and transparency across air sports.

2.2 KEY FEATURES OF THE PROPOSAL

- **Statutory basis** - Created under Statute 5.1.2.3 (Permanent Working Groups established by the General Conference).

- **Composition**- Athlete representatives nominated by each Air Sport Commission, except CASI; the Chair elected from among members.

- **Chair** - Will be reimbursed for expenses after prior approval by the Secretary General.

- **Definition of Athlete** - An individual who has competed in an FAI-event (1st category) and is familiar with FAI, its structures and functions – or willing to become familiar.

- **Mandate** - Advisory to the General Conference, Executive Board, and Commissions; unified voice on athlete-related issues.

- **Accountability**- Annual reporting to the General Conference.

- **Duration**- In force until a full Athletes' Commission is created or the General Conference decides otherwise.

2.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Strengthened athlete engagement and trust in FAI governance.
- Improved policy development, particularly in areas of competition conditions, anti-doping, safety, and integrity.
- Enhanced visibility and credibility of FAI in the wider international sports movement.

3 MISSION, DUTIES, AND POWERS OF THE AWG

3.1 MISSION DIRECTIVE

The Athletes Working Group (AWG) shall ensure that the perspectives, interests, and welfare of athletes across all Air Sports are appropriately represented in the governance, decision-making, and development of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI).

It shall serve as a consultative and advisory body to the FAI General Conference, the Executive Board, and the Air Sport Commissions, with the objective of strengthening athlete engagement, safeguarding integrity in sport, and contributing to the sustainable growth of air sports worldwide.

3.2 DUTIES AND POWERS

- **Representation**- Act as a unified voice for athletes in FAI activities, providing input on policies, rules, and programmes that affect them.

- **Consultation** - Advise the Executive Board, General Conference, and Commissions on matters directly impacting athletes, including competition conditions, anti-doping, safety, integrity, and fair play.

- **Engagement**
  - Facilitate structured dialogue between athletes, Commissions, and the Executive Board.
  - Collect feedback from athletes through Commissions and other appropriate channels.

- **Nominations & Composition**
  - Be composed of athlete representatives appointed by each Air Sport Commission, except CASI, for a period of two years, with a Chair elected annually from among the members.
  - Strive to achieve balanced representation across disciplines and gender.

- **Accountability**
  - Report annually to the General Conference on its activities, recommendations, and future priorities.
  - Maintain close cooperation with the Commission Presidents Group and the Executive Board.

- **Powers**
  - Submit recommendations to the Executive Board and Commissions.
  - Propose agenda items for discussion by the Executive Board and Commission Presidents Group and at the General Conference.
  - Establish ad-hoc task forces or sub-groups as necessary to address specific issues.

4 TIMELINE & IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Step 1 – General Conference approval (October 2025)

- Resolution is adopted, officially establishing the Athletes Working Group (AWG).
- Secretariat is mandated to coordinate the inaugural process.
- In accordance with the resolution, ASCs will nominate their athlete representatives at their next Plenary.

Step 2 – Notification to Air Sport Commissions (November 2025)

- Immediately after the GC, the Secretariat circulates a formal communication to all ASCs.
- This communication:
- Provides the appointed resolution and Terms of Reference.
    - Requests ASCs to include the nomination of their AWG representative on the agenda of their next Plenary (Nov 2025–Apr 2026).
    - Sets a clear deadline for notification of the nominee to the Secretariat.

Step 3 – Appointment of representatives (Nov 2025 – Apr 2026)

- Each ASC nominates its AWG member during its Plenary.
- The Secretariat tracks nominations and keeps a consolidated list of appointed representatives.
- If an ASC cannot nominate during its Plenary (exceptional case), it should be allowed to confirm by Bureau decision so that the group can start functioning without gaps.

Step 4 – Inaugural meeting of the AWG (mid-2026)

- Once most ASCs have appointed representatives, the Secretariat convenes the inaugural meeting (online meeting to minimise cost and facilitate participation).
- The Secretariat:
    - Chairs the meeting until the election of the AWG Chair.
    - Provides procedural rules for the election (simple, transparent).
    - Ensures minutes are recorded and outcomes are reported to the EB and GC.

Step 5 – Integration into governance

- AWG prepares its first report for the 2026 General Conference.
- Secretariat supports with logistics and ensures communication between the AWG, EB, and Commission Presidents Group.
- Over time, AWG develops its own internal working procedures.
- FAI Secretariat will provide administrative support (meeting management, agenda setting, document handling – all in agreement with the chair, production of minutes etc) and dedicated expertise (example: FAI Safeguarding Officer)

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