

**European Association  
of American Square Dancing Clubs e.V.**



# **EAASDC Election Policy**

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## **introduction**

Articles of association of the EAASDC (§§ 9.4/9.6) on the election of the board:

- The board of directors is elected by the ordinary general meeting.  
For this purpose, the ordinary general meeting elects an election committee consisting of three people in the year before a board election and determines, with a simple majority of the votes cast, the election mode in which the next board of directors will be elected. The possible voting modes are individual voting and block voting.
- The national representatives are selected by the member associations based in the respective state, which determine the procedure themselves.

## **I. Basics**

1. These regulations regulate the basic principles, provisions and procedures in the areas of election committees, election of the board and the election of auditors. It is therefore a supplementary requirement to the statutes.
2. The members decide about the election mode in the ordinary General meeting, which takes place one year before the elections. After the vote on the election mode, the election of the electoral committee takes place, which takes office after the election has been accepted.
3. The regulations stated in these regulations apply for both voting modes, unless they are they are not assigned to one election mode by being named accordingly..
4. For all elections specified in the electoral regulations, in which the relative majority is to be applied for the corresponding ballot and only one candidate is available, the following applies:  
To be elected, at least 15% of the participating eligible voters voted for the candidate. If the applicant does not reach this minimum hurdle or receives more no votes than yes votes, he or she is excluded from running for this office at this election meeting.
5. In the event that an office remains vacant during one of the elections specified in the electoral regulations (e.g. election is not accepted, existing candidates are not elected or the minimum threshold of 15% has not been reached), the application for this office can be submitted be reopened.
6. The term "election meeting" used below means the ordinary general meeting intended for the election.

## **II. Election Committee (WA)**

### **II.A Composition and choice of the WA**

1. The WA consists of 3 people.
2. any member of an EAASDC member association may stand as a candidate for the WA provided they have full legal capacity..
3. an application for the WA can be submitted in advance in text form to the current EAASDC Board or directly at the meeting at which the WA is elected.
4. Every applicant for the WA must have internet access and be available by email and telephone.
5. The election officer for the election of the WA is the chairman of the general meeting.
6. The election takes place individually for each of the 3 election committee members, i.e. in 3 voting processes.
  - Voting takes place by hand or the electronic equivalent, unless at least 15% of the participating voters demand a secret vote.
  - in all cases the person who receives the relative majority (most votes) of the votes cast is elected. If there is a tie, a runoff election will take place among the people who received the same number of votes, in which the relative majority of the votes cast is also decisive.. If there is a tie again, the draw will be decided.
7. After the election, the candidates must be asked whether they accept the election.
8. Voting in absentia is possible. However the application in text form and acceptance, in the event of an election, must be available to the chairman of the meeting and made available to members for inspection upon request.
9. If a member of the WA resigns during the term of office, the WA will propose a successor, who must be confirmed by resolution of the Board of the EAASDC. If the WA resigns completely, the EAASDC board will appoint the successor by resolution. The right of the general meeting to influence this decision is guaranteed by the following regulation (II.A 10.) on removal from office.
10. The general meeting decides on the removal from office and the resulting replacement of members of the WA upon request. It may exercise this right until the beginning of the election agenda. The validity of the subsequent election is not affected by this measure and the associated causes as long as the general meeting decides otherwise.

### **I.B Tasks, obligations and rights of the WA**

1. The members of the WA are obliged to remain neutral.
2. The members of the WA may neither run for board office nor hold a board position at the EAASDC.
3. The WA must familiarise itself with the statutes and electoral regulations of the EAASDC and is responsible for the proper conduct of the board election.

4. The WA elects a speaker who also takes on the role of election officer in the election to the board, unless the WA or the general meeting decides otherwise.
5. The WA works independently and is only bound to instructions from the general meeting. In his work he adheres to the law, as well as the EAASDC statutes and election regulations.
6. The WA publishes the election call, the candidate presentation, and more information related to the upcoming board election in the association's publications and on the EAASDC website.
7. The WA checks the incoming applications and confirms receipt of the application.
8. The WA is authorised to reject applicants who do not fully or partially meet the qualification requirements set out in these election regulations. The WA is also entitled to warn candidates or withdraw their candidacy if these electoral regulations are violated. These measures must be communicated to the applicant immediately in text form, stating the reasons. The WA will inform the executive board of this measure. the person affected reserves the right to raise an objection by submitting a motion at the next regular general meeting, but no later than the agenda item "Presentation of the candidates". The general meeting makes the final decision on the WA's measure.
9. The WA decides on questions and clarifications if they are not or not clearly regulated by law or the EAASDC statutes and electoral regulations.
- 10., The WA has the following tasks for the organisation of the election:
  - a) The WA prepare corresponding ballots that can be assigned to the respective ballots and/or the electronic equivalents of the ballot papers, hereinafter the word "ballot paper" also includes the electronic equivalents.
  - b) The WA collects the ballot papers and counts the votes.
  - c) c) The WA determines the number of votes cast, the number of valid votes, the number of invalid votes and the number of votes cast for each candidate or motion and the resulting election result.  
Votes and the resulting election or voting results as well as the announcement of the election results.
  - d) If necessary, the WA may appoint/call in the required number of election assistants.
  - e) The WA is authorized to give instructions to the election assistants.
  - f) The election assistants names are documented.

### **II.C Storage of the submitted ballot papers**

1. The ballot papers cast in secret elections must be kept until the minutes have been approved by the members. For this purpose, the ballot papers must be handed over to the WA spokesman for safekeeping in envelopes that can be assigned by name. After the end of this retention period, the ballot papers must be destroyed and the electronic equivalents deleted. The WA protocol the destruction or deletion and hands the minutes over to the executive board. This ends the WA's activity.

2. The ballot papers must be stored in such a way that a recount of the votes cast for an election is possible at any time within the retention period.
3. an election must be recounted if at least 10% of the members who took part in the General Assembly request this in writing within six weeks of the announcement of the "election protocol.
4. The recount requires at least 2 WA members, as well as a representative of the EAASDC Executive Board and a representative of a member who requested the recount. The event is open to a limited number of representatives of member clubs after registration. The time of the recount must be communicated to the incumbent board in advance.

### **III. board**

#### **III.A Basics**

1. EAASDC Articles of Association § 9.1 regulates the composition of the board.  
Only persons who are admitted as candidates at the beginning of the agenda item "elections" can be elected.
2. In the case of an individual election, but in the case of a candidate for president in a block election, voting in absentia is possible. The written application and acceptance, in the event of an election, must be submitted to the election officer and made available to members for inspection upon request.

#### **III.B qualification**

1. Board members must be members of a regular EAASDC member association at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their term of office.
2. Applicants should have the necessary time, commitment, and ability to work in a team for their position and must be fully competent to conduct business.. A careful and results-oriented way of working is required; specialist knowledge of the desired position is desirable. As part of the European orientation of the association, basic knowledge of the English language is required. PC knowledge is required for all board positions.
3. Internet access and being accessibility via email and telephone is a requirement for every board position.
4. For the purpose of orientation for applicants, in particular for the position of assessor, the WA may publish a job description in its election call which corresponds to the tasks given at the time of the election and published in the EAASDC association publications.

#### **III.C Application and presentation**

1. Applications must be submitted in text form using the published form to the election committee. The provisions of these election regulations and the published election call must be adhered with.

2. Application can be submitted until 42 days before the election meeting. Deadlines for the publication of applications in the association publications shall be communicated by the election committee in the election call.
3. In the case of block election, the president submits a list of the names of those people who will take over the other board positions with his application.
4. Each candidate is given the opportunity to present their goals in the EAASDC association publications. Further details can be found in the election call. Any other active election propaganda is prohibited may lead to disqualification from candidature.
5. At the beginning of the election meeting, each candidate may present their goals and ideas again. The election officer determines the time for this as well as for membership questions and further discussions.

#### **IV. Election procedure**

##### **IV.A Individual election**

The election of the board (except for the national representatives) takes place individual elections as follows:

The board of directors is elected by the election meeting in individual votes, consisting of: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, as well as the number of assessors provided for in the statutes specific tasks.

After voting is completed, the candidates are asked individually in the order given above asked whether they accept the election.

##### **IV.B Block voting (list voting)**

The election of the board (except for the national representatives) takes place in the following way in the case block election:

Only the President is elected by the election meeting, who announces the names of those persons who will take over the other Board offices with his application.

##### **IV.C Voting/majority ratios, valid for both election modes**

The election takes place by secret ballot, with only one candidate by yes/no vote, and with several candidates by name vote.

###### **1. First ballot**

Regardless of the number of candidates for an office up for election, a person is elected if he or she receives a simple (absolute) majority of the valid votes cast. If this majority is not achieved, the following procedure applies:

###### **2.1 In the event that more than one person is standing for election:**

If no person reaches this majority, a runoff election will be held between the two people who received the most votes in the first round, in which the relative majority of the votes cast decides. If there is a tie again, the election is decided by drawing lots.

###### **2.2 In the event that only one person is available for election:**

If this majority is not achieved, a second round of voting will take place, in which the relative majority of the votes cast will decide (the provisions of 1.4 also apply here).

### 2.3 In the event that there are more candidacies for assessors than there are intended as assessors

Among the candidates who individually achieve a simple majority (more yes votes than against votes), the candidates with the most yes votes are elected until the number of assessors is reached.

A notice: Munich Higher Regional Court on association law:

#### **Simple majority is absolute majority of valid votes!**

The Munich Higher Regional Court (OLG) has clarified what is meant by the terms “simple” and “relative” majority. An election proposal achieves a “simple” majority if it receives more than half of the valid votes. It is necessary that the number of valid yes votes exceeds the number of valid against votes by at least one. Abstentions and invalid votes are not counted. The simple majority therefore corresponds to the absolute majority of the valid votes cast. If there are more than two candidates to choose from in an election, the person elected must have more than half of the votes cast.

## V. Auditor

### VA basics

1. According to the statutes of the EAASDC the general meeting elects 2 Auditors.
2. The term of office of the auditors corresponds to that of the EAASDC board. Multiple re-election is possible.
3. In their duties, the auditors are only bound by instructions to the general meeting, but are obliged to comply with legal principles, as well as the EAASDC statutes, regulations and guidelines. This also applies to board regulations insofar as they relate to the principles of voluntary work in the EAASDC.
4. The same deadlines and criteria apply to the application as to application for a board position.
5. Each applicant must have internet access and be available by email and telephone.
6. If an auditor resigns during his term of office or is no longer able to continue in office, a successor shall be elected at the next ordinary general meeting. If the resignation or absence from office occurs at an inopportune time (at the time of the annual financial audit and before the ordinary general meeting can elect a successor), the EAASDC board shall appoint a successor by resolution.
7. The general meeting shall, upon request, decide on the removal from office and the resulting replacement of the auditors.

**VB Election of auditors**

The election of the auditors takes place analogously to the election of the board members, but as an open vote. Voting in absentia is regulated in III.A Basics Section 4.

**Final note**

These election regulations come into force upon resolution of the members and replace all previous membership resolutions and provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the EAASDC, in the areas covered by their provisions on the Election Committee, the elections to the Board of Directors and the election of the EAASDC auditors.