

SRINATH SRIDEVAN
SENIOR ADVOCATE

No. 24, JUDGE JAMBULINGAM ROAD, JAGADAMBAL COLONY,
DURGAPURAM, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI, TAMILNADU 600 004

29th January, 2024

All the Affiliated Associations,
Rowing Federation of India

Dear All,

Elections for the Office Bearers of the Rowing Federation of India, 2024

WHEREAS I have been requested by the Federation, by the letter bearing RFI/Elections/2024-28/01 dated 14.12.2023 to act as the Returning Officer for the aforementioned elections, and I have accepted the said request.

AND WHEREAS I am a Senior Advocate in India, and am based in Chennai, with over 28 years of practice in the law.

AND WHEREAS I am not aware of any facts or circumstances which would present a conflict of interest in my acting as Returning Officer, and I do hereby declare that I have no interest or relationship with the Federation or its office bearers.

AND WHEREAS I have reviewed the National Sports Code (as well as the Model Election Guidelines contained therein) and the Articles of Association of the Federation and accordingly issue the present communication.

Now therefore, I give notice to all constituent members of the Federation that the Elections of Rowing Federation of India and its Executive Council will be held on Sunday, the 25th of February, 2024 between 11 A.M to 2 P.M at the Hotel Royal Reeve at Hyderabad, Telangana.

Be it also noted that the following will be the Guidelines applicable to the said Elections.



M : +91-98410-49950
E : srinath@sridevan.com

1. In the discharge of my duties, I will engage persons who will assist me in the ministerial duties attendant to the office of the Returning Officer. These persons ("**Assistants**") are named below:-

1. R. Vishnu Advocate : +91 9841067395
2. Aishwarya S Nathan Advocate. : +91 9790756776

2. The giving of all notices in relation to this election and the process therefor, shall be by electronic communication via e-mail, from the President of the Federation who will forward my communications to yourselves. It is imperative that you continually check your e-mail until the election process is complete, since this will be the only means of communication that I propose to follow.

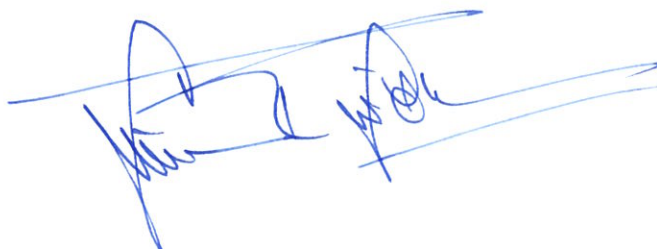
3. Mode of sending communications

Communications to be sent under these Guidelines, must be sent only in the following manner:-

Mode of Communication	Manner of Communication
Publication of any list or other communication.	Will be published by the Secretary-General of the RFI, on the website of the Federation. Scanned copy will also be circulated.
Physical Delivery of any communication to the Returning Officer.	To be delivered at: Srinath Sridevan Senior Advocate "Access House" – 2 nd Floor 24, Judge Jambulingam Street Off Dr. Radhakrishnan Road Mylapore Chennai – 600 004. [From Monday to Saturday : 10 am to 5 pm]
Electronic communication to the Returning Officer.	rfelectionofficer2024@gmail.com

Note #1: Please contact the Assistants of the undersigned at least three hours prior to any physical delivery of any communication, as it will be photographed.

Note #2: Please avoid large attachments in any electronic communication.



Note #3: In all electronic communications, please mark a cc to the following e-mail IDs, as a matter of good order, to ensure that no e-mail is missed.

- i. vishnu_lex@yahoo.com
- ii. aishwarya.nathan@gmail.com

Note #4: No direct telephonic or whatsapp communication with me, in relation to this election, is permitted. Any such communication will be disregarded.

4. Election Time Table

The time table for the elections will be as under:-

	Date	Day	Event	Relevant Forms
1	29.01.2024	Monday	Election notification to be issued by President/Secretary General RFI	
2	05.02.2024 (before 5 pm)	Monday	Receipt of names of nominated Electoral College Members from the affiliated eligible Associations by RFI President/Secretary	
3	6.02.2024.	Tuesday	Preparation/display/ circulation of Electoral College list by President and Secretary-General of RFI. Copy to be forwarded to Returning Officer.	Form 1
4	10.02.2024 And 12.02.2024	Saturday [From 10 am to 5pm] Monday [From 12 noon to 5 pm]	Submission of Nomination forms physically to Returning Officer [See Guideline 3 for location]	Form 2
5	13.02.2024	Tuesday	List of all nominations received will be compiled and sent to Secretary-General of RFI who will publish the	Form 3



			same.	
6	14.02.2024.	Wednesday	Scrutiny of Nominations by Returning Officers	
7	15.02.2024	Thursday	Preparation of list of validly nominated candidates after scrutiny. Returning Officer will send the List to Secretary-General of RFI, who will publish the same.	Form 4
8	16.02.2024 17.02.2024	Friday Saturday	Candidates desirous of withdrawing their nominations may do so in writing.	Form 5
9	19.02.2024	Monday	Final List of Candidates to be prepared by Returning Officer. Returning Officer will send the List to Secretary-General of RFI, who will publish the same.	Form 6
10	25.02.2024	Sunday	Polling Day from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm	Ballot Paper will be in Form 7-12
11	25.02.2024	Sunday	Counting of votes	Form 14
12	25.02.2024	Sunday	Returning Officer will declare all results	Form 15

5. Posts for which elections are held

The Election Meeting will be conducted for the following posts and will be conducted as per the National Sports Code, 2011 and the Articles of Association of the Rowing Federation of India which has been approved by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Posts for Office Bearers for which elections will be held

a. President: 01

- b. Secretary General: 01
- c. Treasurer: 01
- d. Vice President: 04
- e. Joint Secretary: 02
- f. Executive Members: 05

6. Eligible voters and Nomination of persons

6.1 All Members who are entitled to vote as per the **FORM 1** to be submitted to me by the President/Secretary General, as the case may be would alone form the Electoral College and they alone would be entitled to participate, vote and be nominated for various posts referred above.

6.2 Nomination of a candidate for election as Office Bearer and to the Executive Council shall be proposed and seconded only from amongst the persons included in the Electoral College list in **FORM -1**. No person other than the persons named in the Electoral College shall have any right to propose/object or second any candidate. Any such nomination not confirming to the above will be rejected.

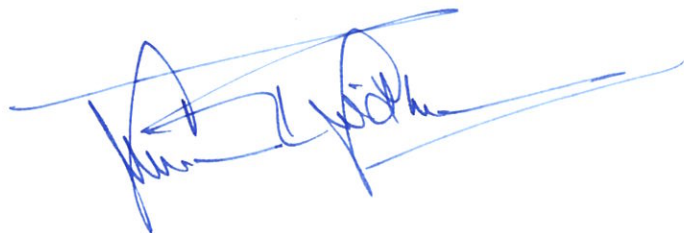
7. Each Nomination paper in **Form 2** shall be delivered personally to the Returning Officer in person by the candidate himself/herself from 10 AM to 5 PM on the 10th & 12 noon to 5 PM on 12th February, 2024 at the office of the Returning Officer.

8. No person shall be eligible to nominate more than one candidate for the same post, either as proposer or seconder; and if he/she does, his/her signature on the nomination papers delivered second in point of time to the returning officer shall be rejected.

9.1 Nomination Procedure

a. Nomination for election of Office Bearers and Members of the Managing Committee shall be strictly as per **FORM No.2** (Enclosed). It shall be duly filled up with no blanks.

b. Nomination for the election of the Office Bearers and the Managing Committee shall be received on 10.02.2024 and 12.02.2024 (Saturday and Monday). No nominations will be received under any circumstances, after 5 pm on 12.02.2024.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. P. Singh', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large 'A' and a long horizontal stroke.

9.2 Special provision for existing officer bearers seeking re-election [As per judgment of Hon'ble Delhi High Court dated 16.08.2022 made in WP.no.195 of 2010.

9.3 Any candidate who wishes to seek for re-election to the same post, he/she has to secure $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ votes polled. In the event of failure to obtain such majority, the said candidate shall be deemed to have lost the election. Resultantly, the person receiving the next most votes shall be declared to be elected to the post.

10. Bar for Nomination

The following persons shall not be eligible to be nominated:-

- (a) Any person who would have completed 70 years of age as of 25.02.2024.
- (b) Any person who has been charge sheeted in any criminal case, for an offence involving a punishment of imprisonment of two years or more.
- (c) Any person who has already completed three tenures of office with the Federation.
- (d) Any person who has held any position as an elected office bearer of the Federation for two consecutive terms, immediately before this notification viz., (2016-2020) (2020-2024) shall not be entitled to be nominated and or contest the election, as they are to undergo cooling off period for four years, as per the Judgment of Hon'ble Delhi high court.
- (e) Any person who is a government servant, except as set out in Guideline 11 below.

11. Government Servants

No Government Servants shall, except with the previous sanction of the Government stand for any post, or nominate anyone for any post, or canvass for any candidate. In cases where previous sanction has been obtained, the written copy of the same, issued by the appropriate person/authority under whom the relevant government servant is working shall be furnished along with the relevant Nomination Form.



12. Nomination in respect of the 'Five Executive Committee' Members shall be received only from "Prominent Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit". Hence Members who intend to stand for Executive Committee shall along with the Nomination Papers, also file proof of the fact that they are/were Prominent Sports Persons of Outstanding Merit. **Prominent sportspersons of Outstanding merit has been defined** in Annexure 8 to Article No. 11.3 contained in the Articles of Association of the Rowing Federation of India to be as under:

" they must be an Arjuna, Dronacharya, Khel Ratna Awardees of the Government of India, an International or finished an 8th position at the Senior National Rowing Championship of Rowing Federation of India"

13. The List of all Nominations will be prepared by me in **FORM -3** as per the National Sports Code, 2011 on 13.02.2024, and published on the same day.

14. Any Defective Nomination Paper which does not conform to the **FORM-2** or the instructions of the returning officer, shall be rejected.

15. Scrutiny of all Nomination papers shall be done at 5:00 PM at my office on 14.02.2024 and any candidate and or his authorised representatives shall be permitted to be present in relation to nomination of a candidate for the post for which he/she has filed his/her nomination.

16. The list of validly nominated candidates will be published in **FORM 4** on **15.02.2024**. Copy of **FORM 4** will also be sent to the President/Secretary General who shall publish it in the RFI Website immediately, and e-mail it.

17. Each nominated candidate whose nomination has been found valid under **FORM 4** shall be entitled to withdraw his/her candidature and intimate the same to me from **16.02.2024 to 18.02.2024 by 5.00 pm**.

18.1 The withdrawal of nomination shall be made as per **FORM 5** duly signed and given in person or through his/her authorised representative (With proof) and also by sending a scanned copy of the same from the registered email id of the affiliate whose association he/she represents to me in the address mentioned above.



18.2 Notice of withdrawal shall be final and shall not be permitted to be cancelled or taken back.

18.3 The Notice of withdrawal shall be accepted subject to my satisfaction as to genuineness of the same.

19. After the last date of withdrawal, the final list of candidates who are contesting the election will be published on **19.02.2024** in **FORM 6** and same will be sent to the President and the Secretary General of RFI by Email apart from marking the copy of the same to all the Affiliates official Email id. The copy of the same shall also be published in the website of the RFI by the Secretary General.

20. Where the number of contesting candidates for any of post or category of post, in **FORM 6** is equal to the number of posts to be filled. I shall decide whether it is necessary at all to take a poll for election to such posts. If not, I shall declare the contesting candidates as elected unopposed, and there shall be no need to wait until the final date for declaration of results in such cases.

21. Where the number of contesting candidates for any post or category of post in **FORM 6** is more than the number of posts to be filled, a poll shall be taken by secret ballot for those posts remaining unfilled on **25.02.2024** at the time and place mentioned hereinabove.

22. The Ballot papers for these posts remaining unfilled shall be in prepared in terms of **FORM 7** to **FORM 13**.

23. The election will be by secret ballot. The validly nominated members have to be personally present for voting. **Proxy is strictly prohibited.**

24. VOTING

The entire election process to be conducted at Royal Reeve Hotel, Hyderabad shall be fully video graphed. The voting shall commence from 11:00 AM on 25.02.2024 and shall end at 2:00 PM.

25.1 The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper in secrecy in the voting compartment specially provided for the purpose at the polling station.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ravi Kumar', is written over a horizontal line.

25.2 The voter shall record his/her vote on the ballot paper by placing a tick mark ☒ to indicate the vote, any other mark placed on the ballot paper shall render the ballot paper liable to rejection.

25.3 The ballot paper marked by the member/voter shall be deposited by him/her in a ballot box specifically provided for the purpose by the returning officer placed at such conspicuous place in the polling station.

25.4 Each nominated member whose name is found in the Electoral college in **FORM 1** shall be entitled to vote.

(i) Cast one vote for each of the posts remaining unfulfilled, where only one such post is to be filled.

(ii) Cast as many votes as are the number of posts to be fulfilled for any post, where more than one post is to be filled.

EXPLANATION: By way of illustration, if four posts of Vice Presidents, two Joint Secretary and Five Executive members are to be filled up by election, each voter can cast up to four, two and five votes for each of those posts respectively.

25.5 In case any voter casts more number of vote than he/she is entitled to vote for that particular post, his/her votes in relation to that post shall be invalid.

25.6 Each voter shall be required, before he is supplied with a ballot paper to give his/her signature on the authenticated copy of the electoral college list in **FORM-1** prepared by me.

25.7 Before commencement of voting, the Returning Officer shall inform the total number of eligible votes, after roll call by the Returning Officer.

25.8 In case of multiple candidates filing nomination for a particular post the candidates securing the highest number of votes for each post shall be declared elected on completion of vote counting process. Only in case of tie for any post, a second round of ballot for the said post alone will be held.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Rajendra Kumar', is written over a horizontal line.

26 Counting of Votes shall be undertaken on or after 2PM when the voting ends. In the event all the votes are polled before 2PM, it shall be open to the returning officer to commence the counting process even earlier.

27. Each contesting candidate can nominate one authorised representative to be present at the place of counting of votes.

28. The counting of votes would be taken post wise and category wise where applicable.

29. Each ballot paper on which a vote has been recorded in accordance with the rules mentioned hereinabove shall be treated as one vote for the candidate for whom it has been validly marked; If any ballot paper has been marked in violation of the aforesaid provisions, the same will be rejected.

29. The Votes validly cast for each of the contesting candidates shall be counted post wise and category wise where applicable, and will be recorded in descending order of the votes so case for each candidate in **FORM 14**

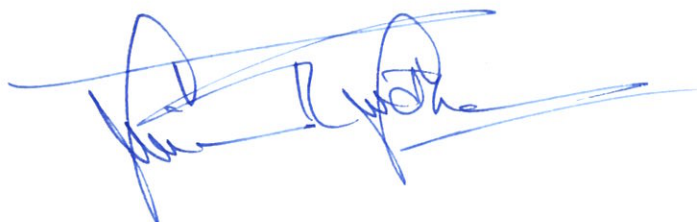
30. After ascertaining the result of counting the candidates who have secured the maximum number of votes in the descending order, post wise and category wise, where applicable equal to the number of posts to be filled for each post or category of posts where applicable, shall be deemed to have been duly elected to those posts and will be deemed to have been elected to their respective posts in **FORM 15**.

Miscellaneous

31. For the conduct of election, the same shall be only in the Forms enclosed herewith, which shall alone be followed and duly filled and signed with no blanks. Any other forms adopted shall be considered as defective and will stand rejected.

32. Use of cell phones inside the polling booth is strictly prohibited.

33. While the Returning Officer will videograph the entire election process, taking photograph and/or taking video by any others is strictly prohibited. Any violation of the same, will entail in the member being asked to leave the polling area.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. K. Singh', written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

34. Non-Members do not have any right or say in the entire election process and will not be allowed inside the Election hall.

35. All are requested to follow the above guidelines and timelines for smooth conduct of elections.

36. After the election process concludes, the Returning Officer will deliver to the President of the RFI, the entire video recording footage taken during the process, along with the all related papers.



RETURNING OFFICER

THE ROWING FEDERATION OF INDIA

FORM 2

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF MANAGING COMMITTEE 2024-2028

NOMINATION PAPER FOR

ELECTION AS _____ (NAME OF THE POST)

TO,
Sri Srinath Sridevan, BA, BL, LLM
(Sr Advocate/Returning Officer RFI)
No.24, Judge Jambulingam Road,
Jagadambal Colony, Durgapuram, Mylapore,
Chennai - 600004

We nominate Shri/Smt. /Ms:- _____

_____ (name and address), whose name
is entered at Sl. No _____ in the Electoral College list for the above mentioned post.

Our particulars are given below: -

	NAME OF CANDIDATE	Name of Member State/Union Territory/Board/ Institution	Sl. No in the Electoral college list	Signature
Proposer				
Seconder				

I, the Candidate above named, do hereby give my assent to my nomination for the above post.

Name of the Candidate _____. I hereby declare that I am not charge
sheeted in any criminal proceedings which entails imprisonment for two years or more.

(If there is any criminal proceedings are pending but for which imprisonment proposed is less than
two years, then proof of same may be furnished along with copy of relevant papers)

Name of Member State/ Union Territory/ Board/Institution _____

Sl. No in the Electoral College list _____

Signature _____

Place:

Date:

ROWING FEDERATION OF INDIA

FORM 5

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF MANAGING COMMITTEE 2024- 2028

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF CANDIDATURE FOR
ELECTION AS _____ (NAME OF THE POST)

To,

Sri Srinath Sridevan, BA, BL, LLM
(Sr Advocate/Returning Officer RFI)
No.24, Judge Jambulingam Road,
Jagadambal Colony, Durgapuram, Mylapore,
Chennai - 600004

I, the validly nominated candidate, do hereby give my notice of withdrawal of candidature for the above post.

Name of the Candidate _____

Name of Member State/Union Territory/Board/Institution _____

Sl. No. in the Electoral College list _____

Signature _____

Place:

Date: