



EUROPEAN AQUATICS INTEGRITY UNIT

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE BUREAU AND THE CONGRESS

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EUROPEAN AQUATICS CONSTITUTIONAL RULES AND EUROPEAN AQUATICS INTEGRITY CODE

20/08/2026

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

EXPLANATORY NOTE TO THE BUREAU AND THE CONGRESS

Subject: Proposed amendments to the European Aquatics Constitutional Rules (EACR) and the European Aquatics Integrity Code (EAIC)

Date: 20 August 2026

1. Purpose of this Note

1.1 This Note is submitted to the Bureau for endorsement and, subject to the Bureau's decision, to the Congress for approval. It explains a coordinated set of amendments to:

(a) the European Aquatics Constitutional Rules (EACR), Article 16.8.3; and

(b) the European Aquatics Integrity Code (EAIC), Definitions section and Articles 31.1, 31.3, 34.4 and 37.8.

1.2 The amendments pursue two policy objectives:

- (i) to allow certain cases before the Adjudicatory Body to be decided by a single member, rather than always by a three-member Panel; and
- (ii) to clarify the rules governing the publication of adjudicatory decisions.

1.3 Consequential drafting refinements are also proposed to reinforce the requirement that proceedings be conducted expeditiously.

2. Constitutional / statutory basis

2.1 The Constitutional Rules are the statutory instrument of European Aquatics for the purposes of the composition of the Adjudicatory Body. The single-member mechanism must therefore be enabled at EACR level (Article 16.8.3).

2.2 Once that constitutional basis is in place, the corresponding operational rules can be reflected in the Integrity Code. No amendment to any other statutory instrument is required to give effect to this reform.

3. Overview of the proposed amendments

3.1 Single-member Panel formation

3.1.1 Under the current rules, an alleged Integrity Code Violation is adjudicated by a Panel composed of three members of the Adjudicatory Body, appointed on a case-by-case basis by the Chairperson. The proposal empowers the Chairperson, in his or her sole discretion, to constitute the Panel either as three members (the standard formation) or as a single member, where the nature of the case so warrants.

- 3.1.2 The three-member Panel is intended to remain the default formation. The single-member option is a tool, designed to enable, depending upon the nature and the complexity of the case, quicker and more efficient handling of the case, while preserving the collegiality of the three-member decision-making for more complex cases.
- 3.1.3 All members of the Panel – including the single member sitting alone – must be impartial, available and free from conflicts of interest. This safeguard is expressly restated in the revised Article 31.1 EAIC.

3.2 Chairperson sitting alone on specified procedural matters

- 3.2.1 New Articles 31.1.1 and 31.1.2 EAIC provide that the Chairperson of the Adjudicatory Body, sitting alone, shall decide upon:
 - (a) any request for the review of a provisional measure due to changed circumstances (Article 26.5 EIAC); and
 - (b) the ratification of settlement agreements (Article 25.7 EIAC).
- 3.2.2 These categories are procedural in nature and are appropriately entrusted to a single decision-maker.

3.3 Expeditious conduct of proceedings

- 3.3.1 The revised Article 31.3 EAIC requires the Panel to conduct proceedings as expeditiously and efficiently as possible and introduces an indicative four-month target for the issuance of the Panel's ruling, calculated from the filing of the Investigative Report by the Ethics Officer with the Adjudicatory Body.
- 3.3.2 The revised Article 34.4 EAIC complements this by making the Panel responsible for the proper and expeditious conduct of the hearing.

3.4 Publication of decisions

- 3.4.1 The revised Article 37.8 EAIC consolidates and clarifies the existing publication regime:
 - (a) European Aquatics may publish decisions on its website in full, summarised or redacted form;
 - (b) the Adjudicatory Body may, in consultation with the Integrity Council and on a reasoned request or where the circumstances so require, decide to redact specific parts of a decision prior to publication;
 - (c) any such redaction decision must give due regard to the principles of transparency, accountability, the educational and deterrent purposes of publication, and the public interest in the integrity of Aquatics, and must be limited to what is strictly necessary; and

(d) where no violation is found, the decision is published only with the Party's consent, but European Aquatics retains the ability to disclose that the charge was dismissed.

4. Rationale and impact

4.1 Efficiency and proportionality.

The single-member mechanism is intended to enable, depending upon the nature and the complexity of the case, quicker and more proportionate handling of cases, while preserving the three-member Panel as the standard formation. Discretion remains with the Chairperson of the Adjudicatory Body.

4.2 Procedural safeguards.

The impartiality, availability and conflict-of-interest requirements applicable to the three-member Panel continue to apply, without qualification, to any member sitting alone. Nothing in the proposed amendments diminishes the procedural rights of the Parties.

4.3 Timeliness.

The explicit requirement of expeditious conduct, together with the indicative four-month target for the issuance of Panel rulings, is intended to reinforce the credibility and effectiveness of the Integrity Code enforcement system.

4.4 Publication.

The revised publication regime consolidates existing practice into a clearer standard. Publication remains the default vehicle for transparency and deterrence. However, the Adjudicatory Body – acting in consultation with the Integrity Council – is given a principled framework to calibrate the form of publication (full, summarised or redacted) to the circumstances of each case, always subject to the overriding principles of transparency, accountability, education, deterrence and the public interest in the integrity of Aquatics.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Subject to the Bureau's determination of the drafting points identified at Section 3, it is respectfully recommended that:

(a) the Bureau endorse the amendments to Article 16.8.3 EACR and to the Definitions section and Articles 31.1, 31.3, 34.4 and 37.8 EAIC as set out in the comparative table at Section 4; and

(b) the Bureau submit the amendments to the Congress for approval.

On Behalf of European Aquatics Integrity Council

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