

## Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee

The members of the Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee (“NP&FSC”) for 2022-2023 were Don Eastlake (Chair), Jared Dashoff, Linda Deneroff, Tim Illingworth, Jesi Lipp, Kevin Standlee, and Jo Van Ekeren. The authority of this committee stems from:

### Standing Rule 7.7: Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee

The Business Meeting shall appoint a Nitpicking & Flyspecking Committee. The Committee shall:

- (1) Maintain the list of Rulings and Resolutions of Continuing Effect;
- (2) Codify the Customs and Usages of WSFS and of the Business Meeting.

**Actions:** The committee reviewed the WSFS Constitution and Standing Rules before Chicon 8, the 2022 Worldcon, and found a number of potential problems or language that could be clarified. Motions to address many of these were deferred until after Chicon 8 due to the press of business there. See items 2 through 4 below.

At Chicon 8, the following motion was referred to the NP&FSC:

**Moved,** to add the following Rule to the Standing Rules:

**Rule 2.5: Business Not for Final Passage.** A Committee established by the Business Meeting may present business items for debate but with the express intent that the results of that debate shall be referred back to them. These shall be listed under New Business and treated as other main motions, but the result of the debate may only be Referred to Committee.

In response, the NP&FSC proposes Item 1 below.

### Item 1: Short Title: Discussion Items

**Moved,** to amend the Standing Rules for the WSFS Business Meeting by adding a rule to Group 2 as follows:

**Rule 2.X: Discussion Items.** Any committee report to the Business Meeting, including Business Meeting, WSFS, and Worldcon committee reports, may include a motion that a topic be discussed by the Business Meeting to provide feedback to the committee. Such discussion may include non-binding straw polls. If not specified in the motion, the default discussion time is 6 minutes, and the discussion item is scheduled as an item of New Business.

**Commentary:** Committees of all sorts that submit reports to the Business Meeting may wish to seek the opinion of the Business Meeting on some question. This rule provides a mechanism. While this can be accomplished now, it may require a motion to suspend the rules, which requires a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote. The time for discussion and/or straw ballot would only be allowed if the Business Meeting passed the motion in the report to provide such time.

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## Item 2: Short Title: Business Meeting Contingencies

**Moved**, to amend the WSFS Constitution by [adding](#) text as follows:

### **Section 1.8: Membership of the Mark Protection Committee.**

1.8.1: The Mark Protection Committee shall consist of:

(1) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected Worldcon Committee and each of the two (2) immediately preceding Worldcon Committees,

(2) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected NASFiC Committee and for each Committee of a NASFiC held in the previous two years, and

(3) Nine (9) members elected three (3) each year to staggered three-year terms by the Business Meeting. [However, if such an election is not held due to a Business Meeting not being held or not being quorate or any other reason, the term of office of all elected Mark Protection Committee members shall be extended by one Worldcon year.](#)

### **Section 5.1: WSFS Business Meetings.**

5.1.1: Business Meetings of WSFS shall be held at advertised times at each Worldcon. [However, if such a Business Meeting is not held, then any reports to be submitted to that Business Meeting shall be submitted to the next subsequent Business Meeting and the ratification vote on any constitutional amendment shall be similarly postponed.](#)

5.1.5: The quorum for the Business Meeting shall be twelve members of the Society physically present. [A Business Meeting that is not quorate may nevertheless receive reports, but the ratification vote on any constitutional amendment shall be postponed until the next subsequent Business Meeting.](#)

### **Section 6.6: Amendment.**

The WSFS Constitution may be amended by a motion passed by a simple majority at any Business Meeting but only to the extent that such motion is ratified by a simple majority at the Business Meeting of the [next](#) subsequent Worldcon [at which ratification is not postponed](#).

**Commentary:** There have been years in which a Worldcon was not held due to war. There have been years in which a Worldcon was delayed or almost cancelled by pestilence. There have been years in which it was difficult to obtain a quorum for the Business Meeting. Yet the Constitution makes no provisions for such contingencies.

In addition, there may be reasons why even a valid Business Meeting with a quorum would want to postpone the ratification of a Constitutional Amendment to the next Worldcon's Business Meeting. For example, a Worldcon outside of North America at which ratification of a constitutional amendment that only affected NASFiCs would normally be considered might wish to postpone such consideration to a following Worldcon that was to be held in North America.

While providing for all possible contingencies is impossible, this amendment to the Constitution provides for the contingencies discussed above.

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### **Item 3: Short Title: Consistent Change**

**Moved**, to amend the WSFS Constitution by adding and ~~deleting~~ text as follows:

#### **Section 1.5: Memberships.**

**1.5.4:** Members of WSFS who cast a site-selection ballot with the required fee shall be ~~supporting~~ WSFS members ~~of~~ for the selected Worldcon.

**1.5.6:** The Worldcon Committee shall make provision for persons to become ~~supporting~~ WSFS members for no more than one hundred and twenty-five percent (125%) of the site-selection fee, or such higher amount as has been approved by the Business Meeting, until a cutoff date no earlier than ninety (90) days before their Worldcon.

**1.5.8:** No convention committee shall sell a membership that includes any WSFS voting rights for less than the cost of the ~~Supporting~~ WSFS Membership required by Article 4 in the selection of that convention.

**1.5.10:** No convention shall terminate the sale of ~~supporting~~ WSFS memberships prior to the close of site selection.

#### **Section 4.2: Voter Eligibility.**

**4.2.1:** Voting shall be limited to WSFS members of the administering convention who have purchased at least a ~~supporting~~ WSFS membership in the Worldcon whose site ~~is~~ and committee are being selected.

**4.2.2:** The ~~supporting~~ WSFS membership rate for the convention being selected shall be set by unanimous agreement of the current Worldcon Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot deadline. If agreement is not reached, the default fee shall be the median (middle value) of the US dollar fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.

#### **Section 4.4: Ballots.**

**4.4.1:** Site-selection ballots shall include name, signature, address, and membership-number spaces. The ballot should be filled in by the voter; however, if the voter does not have their membership number, it may be supplied by the Site Selection Administrator or

their designated staff member. Each site-selection ballot shall list the options “None of the Above” and “No Preference” and provide for write-in votes, after the bidders and with equal prominence. The ~~supporting~~ [WSFS](#) membership rate shall be listed on all site-selection ballots.

#### **Section 4.8: NASFiC**

**4.8.3:** The proposed NASFiC ~~supporting membership rate~~ [advance voting fee](#) can be set by unanimous agreement of the administering Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot deadline. If agreement is not reached, the default fee shall be the median (middle value) of the US dollar fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.

**4.8.4:** If “None of the Above” wins, or if no eligible bid files by the deadline, then no NASFiC shall be held and any ~~supporting membership payments~~ [advance voting fees](#) collected for the NASFiC site selection shall be refunded by the administering convention without undue delay.

**Commentary:** The previous “supporting membership” and “attending membership” structure has been changed to “WSFS membership” and “attending supplement” in the key portions of the WSFS Constitution, but other parts were not updated consistently. These changes make the Constitution consistent.