

World Science Fiction Society

Business Passed on from Chengdu 2023 to Glasgow 2024

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Item 1: Short Title: Marks Authorization

Moved, to [add](#) and ~~delete~~ material in Article II of the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Article 2 – Powers and Duties of ~~Worldcon~~ [Convention](#) Committees

Section 2.2: Marks.

[2.2.1: Selected Convention Committees are authorized to use the WSFS Marks to the extent necessary and customary to run their Convention. The Mark Protection Committee may provide more detailed guidance.](#)

[2.2.2:](#) Every ~~Worldcon and NASFiC~~ [selected Convention](#) Committee shall include a notice in each of its publications that clearly acknowledges the service marks of the Society. The Mark Protection Committee shall supply each ~~Worldcon~~ [selected Convention](#) committee with the correct form of such notice.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: This amendment to the WSFS Constitution strengthens and clarifies the traditional and essential but limited ability of Worldcons and NASFiCs to use the WSFS marks

by documenting it in the Constitution. It also provides an editorial wording and consistency update.

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 as per subsection 5.1.1 or 5.1.5.](#)

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

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

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.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

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.

Item 4: Short Title: Convention Time Bracket

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution by [adding](#) the following new section at the end of Article IV:

4.X Time Bracket. A selected convention must be held between 20 June and 20 December, and should consult with their successor if after 30 September, of the year for which it is selected, unless some deviation from this is authorized under Section 2.6 of the Constitution.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: The earliest Worldcons were held July 4th weekend. The latest a Worldcon has been held was Discon 3 which was held December 15th to December 19th. But the vast majority of Worldcons and NASFiCs have been held in August through early September. Looking at the record (and schedule for future Worldcons):

- 56 were Labor Day Weekend (the weekend before the first Monday in September).
- 21 were earlier but entirely within August.
- 4 were July 4th weekend (all very early in the series of Worldcons).
- 1 was on the July/August boundary.
- 1 was in October.
- 1 was in December.

The purpose of this amendment is to provide reasonable expectations and limits on the dates of a selected convention set so that a convention has adequate time to accomplish its required duties and will not impinge on the year of the following convention. The reference to Section 2.6 is to establish that a committee that cannot meet this requirement has failed under Section 2.6, and the provisions of that section apply.

Item 5: Short Title: Bid Committee Contactability

Moved, to [add](#) material in Article IV of the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Article IV Future Worldcon Selection

Section 4.4: Ballots.

[4.4.x: Site-selection ballots shall, with each bid qualifying to be on the ballot, include that bid's postal and email addresses.](#)

Section 4.6: Bid Eligibility.

4.6.1: To be eligible for site selection, a bidding committee must file the following documents with the Committee that will administer the voting:

(1) an announcement of intent to bid [along with the name of the bid committee and its postal and email addresses;](#)

(2) adequate evidence of an agreement with its proposed site's facilities, such as a conditional contract or a letter of agreement;

(3) the rules under which the Worldcon Committee will operate, including a specification of the term of office of their chief executive officer or officers and the conditions and procedures for the selection and replacement of such officer or officers.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: This amendment to the WSFS Constitution provides for improved ability to contact bid committees.

Item 6: Short Title: Ballot Completeness

Moved, to [add](#) material in Article IV of the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Article IV Future Worldcon Selection

Section 4.4: Ballots.

Site-selection ballots shall include name, signature, [postal](#) address, [email address](#), and membership-number spaces, [and may include a telephone number space](#). 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. [Ballots omitting name, signature, or postal address may only be counted as “No Preference”](#). 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 membership rate shall be listed on all site-selection ballots.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: The purposes of this amendment to the Constitution are to clarify and expand the voter information spaces provided on ballots and to clarify the effect of omitting some such information. The intent is to avoid the confusion that occurred around these issues in 2021. If ratified in 2024, the first Site Selection these ballot provisions would affect would be the one run by the 2025 Worldcon.

Item 7: Short Title: Independent Films

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution by adding the following two clauses:

3.3.X: Best Independent Short Film Award. Awarded to science fiction or fantasy productions presented in the short film format (under 45 minutes) for the first time in the previous calendar year. The films should NOT be funded by a Major studio or distribution label/platform/Streamer. Films can be funded by national film/arts grants like the BFI or TeleCanada. The award should not include broadcast or streaming television series episodes.

3.3.X+1: Best Independent Feature Film Award. Awarded to science fiction or fantasy productions presented in the long film format (over 61 minutes) for the first time in the previous calendar year. The films should NOT be funded by a Major studio or distribution label/platform/Streamer. Films can be funded by national film/arts grants like the BFI or TeleCanada.

Provided that unless the above section is re-ratified by the 2027 Business Meeting, this Section shall be repealed; and

Provided further that the question of re-ratification shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the 2027 Business Meeting.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: The Hugo Awards should encourage independent filmmakers in the science fiction/fantasy genre, as they often lean towards exploring new creative and narrative perspectives, unconstrained by commercial considerations. This enables them to showcase a richer diversity in themes, styles, and storytelling. Independent science fiction/fantasy films also serve as a launching pad for many aspiring directors, writers, actors, and producers.

Item 8: Short Title: Eligibility Criteria for Non-English Work

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution by adding a new clause after existing Section 3.2.8 as follows:

3.2.X: The Worldcon committee can establish a conversion ratio between the word count in a specific language and the number of English words. Nomination categories for written works shall be determined based on the converted English word count.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: As the popularity of the Hugo Awards increases, more works aspire to become finalists. Therefore, the current Worldcon committee needs to perform language conversion for the finalist works to ensure fair classification in the written works categories. This approach can address differences in word counts between works in different languages and ensure that each work has an equal opportunity in the selection process.

Item 9: Short Title: Best Fancast Not Paying Compensation

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

3.3.15: Best Fancast. Any generally available non-professional audio or video periodical devoted to science fiction, fantasy, or related subjects that by the close of the previous calendar year has released four (4) or more episodes, at least one (1) of which appeared in the previous calendar year, ~~and that does not qualify as a dramatic presentation.~~ [And that does not in the previous calendar year met neither of the following criteria:](#)

[\(1\) qualify as a dramatic presentation, or](#)

[\(2\) paid its contributors or staff monetarily.](#)

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: In the category of Best Fancast, there is no stipulation regarding whether compensation can be provided. According to the terms for Best Fanzine, it is suggested that no compensation be allowed for any program participant.

Item 10: Short Title: Language Requirement

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.4.1: A work originally appearing in a language other than ~~English~~ [the main languages of the countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons](#) shall also be eligible for the year in which it is first issued in ~~English~~ translation [to a main language of the countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons.](#)

3.4.2: Works originally published outside the ~~United States of America~~ [countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons](#) and first published in the ~~United States of America~~ [countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons](#) in the previous calendar year shall also be eligible for Hugo Awards.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: This amendment generalizes these language provisions in the Constitution so that they no longer reference English or the United States of America.

Item 11. Short Title: Convention Generalization

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Replace all occurrences of “Worldcon or NASFiC” and all occurrences of “Worldcon and NASFiC” with “selected convention”.

Change Section 2.8 as follows:

Section 2.8: Financial Openness. Any member of WSFS shall have the right, under reasonable conditions, to examine the financial records and books of account of the current ~~Worldcon or NASFiC Committee~~ selected conventions, all future selected ~~Worldcon or NASFiC Committees~~ conventions, ~~the two immediately preceding Worldcon Committees, and the Committees of any NASFiCs held in the~~ and all previous selected conventions back through the most recent two years.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: This change generalizes the Constitution so that it can accommodate the deletion of the NASFiC or the addition of an Asia Science Fiction Convention (ASFiC) or similar changes without further change.

Item 12. Short Title: Establishment of ASFiC

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Add text to Section 1.2 point 4 as follows:

Section 1.2: (4) To choose the locations and Committees for the occasional North American Science Fiction Conventions (hereinafter referred to as NASFiCs) and Asia Science Fiction Conventions (hereinafter referred to as ASFiCs).

Add a new section in Article IV as follows:

4.X: ASFiC. If the selected Worldcon site is not in Asia, there shall be an ASFiC in Asia that year. Selection of the ASFiC shall be by the identical procedure to the Worldcon selection except as provided below or elsewhere in this Constitution:

4.X.1: Voting shall be by written ballot administered by the following year's Worldcon, if there is no ASFiC in that year, or by the following year's ASFiC, if there is one, with ballots cast at the administering convention or by mail, and with only members of the administering convention allowed to vote.

4.X.2: ASFiC Committees shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid conflicts with Worldcon dates.

4.X.3: The proposed ASFiC supporting membership rate 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 fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.

4.X.4: If "None of the Above" wins, or if no eligible bid files by the deadline, then no ASFiC shall be held, and any supporting membership payments collected for the ASFiC site selection shall be refunded by the administering convention without undue delay.

4.X.5: For the purposes of this Constitution, Asia is defined as the area bounded to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the east by the Pacific Ocean, to the south by the Indian Ocean, and to the west by the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus Mountains, the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Sea.

Provided that unless this amendment is re-ratified by the 2029 Business Meeting, the above changes shall be repealed effective with the end of the 2029 Worldcon but any previously selected ASFiC will remain an ASFiC; and

Provided further that the question of re-ratification shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the 2029 Business Meeting.

Forwarded by the 2023 WSFS Business meeting for ratification in 2024.

Commentary: Due to the large population of science fiction and fantasy fans in Asia, the excellent works and writers from Asia that have emerged, and the science fiction conventions

held in Asia, we believe that there should be an Asian Science Fiction Convention (ASFiC). In addition, this is also an important step towards making Worldcon fandom more international. We should not ignore this region that accounts for 61% of the world's population.