

Charter of the World English Language Olympics (Working Title)

1. Purpose, Vision and Mission

The World English Language Olympics (working title) is an international initiative dedicated to celebrating excellence in language learning, promoting cross-cultural communication, and fostering creativity, confidence, and global citizenship among youth worldwide.

Vision

To become the leading global platform that celebrates and empowers learners of language as a second language, inspiring confidence, excellence, and cross-cultural understanding through the power of communication.

Mission

WELO empowers young learners from around the world to unlock their full potential in language learning through a dynamic and inclusive international competition. We aim to foster cross-cultural dialogue, promote critical thinking and public speaking skills, and set a new global standard for language learning through innovation and collaboration.

This Charter outlines the foundational principles, structure, and governance of the initiative, ensuring transparency, inclusivity, and sustainability as it evolves.

2. Organisational Structure

2.1 The initiative shall be governed by a Governing Committee, supported by National Representatives and Working Groups focused on key areas such as curriculum, judging, communications, and logistics.

2.2 Operational leadership is entrusted to the Founding Organisation (SUL Education) and strategic partners, including the Founding Assessment Organisation.

2.3 Each elected Vice-Chair shall lead a corresponding Subcommittee in their area of responsibility to support implementation, discussion, and reporting.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Committee shall be responsible for:

- Strategic planning and long-term vision
- Oversight of national and world-level events
- Approving structural and policy changes
- Ensuring inclusivity, fairness, and global representation

- Appointing subcommittees or working groups as needed

4. Governing Committee Elections

4.1 Election Frequency

The Governing Committee shall be elected every four (4) years, aligning with the strategic development cycle.

4.2 Composition

- 19 elected members, chosen via public vote
- 1 permanent seat for SUL Education (Founding Organisation)
- 1 permanent seat for the Founding Assessment Organisation

Total: 21 members

4.3 Voting Eligibility

Open to any International Education Organisation, including:

- Language schools
 - Educational travel agencies
 - Examination boards
 - EdTech companies and service providers
- Each organisation may nominate up to 5 official representatives to vote.

4.4 Voting Rules

- Each representative may vote for any number of candidates
- A maximum of 5 votes per organisation will be accepted
- No more than one elected member may represent the same organisation (excluding permanent seats)

4.5 Diversity & Balance Criteria

- At least 14 different countries must be represented
- Gender balance: minimum of 9 members of one gender

4.6 Voting Timeline & Procedure

- Elections every 4 years
- Public call for nominations
- Minimum 14 days of open voting
- Secure online voting monitored by an Electoral Officer

4.7 Announcement of Results

Results announced within 7 days of voting closure. Elected members assume their roles at the next official Committee meeting.

5. Election of the Chair

5.1 Eligibility

Only elected Governing Committee members may stand for election as Chair.

5.2 Nomination Process

Written nominations submitted before or during the first official meeting. Members may self-nominate or be nominated.

5.3 Voting Procedure

- Closed ballot
- Simple majority (50%+ of votes cast)

5.4 Two-Stage Voting System

- Stage 1: All nominees on ballot. If one has a majority, they are elected.
- Stage 2: If no majority, top two advance to final round.

5.5 Announcement and Term

The elected Chair is announced during the same meeting and serves a four-year term, unless removed by a majority vote.

6. Election of Vice-Chairs

6.1 Positions and Roles

Three Vice-Chairs shall be elected, each responsible for a strategic area and leading a corresponding subcommittee:

- **Vice-Chair for Academic and Assessment Affairs**
Designs and reviews challenge topics in collaboration with the Assessment Partner, ensures academic and judging consistency, age-appropriate content, and rubric development.
Leads the Academic & Assessment Committee.
- **Vice-Chair for Agencies & Public Tender Regulation**
Oversees national representative selection through public tender, manages eligibility and quota compliance, reviews applications, and establishes guidelines.
Leads the Agencies & Public Tender Regulation Committee.
- **Vice-Chair for Sponsorship, Brand & External Relations**
Coordinates sponsor and branding policies, supports national committees with partnerships, and ensures consistent external representation.
Leads the Sponsorship, Brand & External Relations Committee.

Each committee shall also oversee relevant aspects of the National Language Olympics.

6.2 Eligibility

Only elected Governing Committee members may stand for Vice-Chair roles.

6.3 Nomination Process

Nominations accepted in writing prior to or during the first meeting.

6.4 Voting Procedure

- Separate closed-ballot election for each role
- Simple majority required
- If no majority, final vote between top two candidates

6.5 Term

Four-year term, aligned with the Governing Committee cycle.

7. Appointment of the Secretary-General

7.1 Role Overview

- Oversees internal communications and documentation
- Ensures follow-up on decisions
- Supports Chair and Vice-Chairs in strategic coordination
- Facilitates subcommittees and working groups

7.2 Appointment Process

The position is nominated by SUL Education (Founding Organisation), and confirmed by a majority vote of the Governing Committee. The nomination must take place no later than 90 days after the Governing Committee is elected.

7.3 Term

Four-year term, renewable with committee approval.

8. Meetings and Decision-Making

- At least four (4) meetings per year
- Two meetings held in first two (2) months of new term
- May be held virtually or in person
- Quorum: 50% of members present
- Decisions by majority vote
- Emergency meetings may be called with 7 days' notice by Chair or 1/3 of the Committee
- Minutes and decisions will be documented and shared internally

9. Amendments and Reviews

- Any Governing Committee member may propose amendments
- Amendments require a two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass
- Charter reviewed every four (4) years

10. Dissolution or Restructuring

If dissolution or restructuring is required, a Transitional Task Force shall be appointed to ensure continuity, integrity, and proper handover.