



## **RULEBOOK**

**on application and conditions for certification of political entities to  
participate in the 2022 General Elections**

Sarajevo, May 2022

Pursuant to Article 2.9, paragraph (1), item 2 and in conjunction with Article 4.4, 4.5, paragraph (2), 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.19 and 4.22, paragraph (1) and 4.24 of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, no. 23/01, 7/02, 9/02, 20/02, 25/02, 4/04, 20/04, 25/05, 52/05, 65/05, 77/05, 11/06, 24/06, 32/07, 33/08, 37/08, 32/10, 18/13, 7/14, 31/16 and 41/20) the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina, at its 17<sup>th</sup> session held on May 4, 2022 adopted

## **RULEBOOK**

### **on certification and conditions for certification of political entities to participate in the 2022 General Elections**

#### **Article 1 (Scope)**

The Rulebook on application and conditions for certification of political entities to participate in the 2022 General Elections (hereinafter: the Rulebook) shall regulate the modalities for submitting the certification application form and conditions for certification of political entities, the modalities for submitting signatures of support and conditions for exemption from the obligation to collect signatures of support, as well as the modalities for verification and confirmation of signatures of support, the amount of certification tax filed together with the application for certification of political entities and certification application forms, including the design and the contents of the candidates' lists and prescribed statements to participate in the 2022 General Elections.

#### **Article 2**

**(Modalities for submitting the certification application forms and communication between the BiH CEC and the parties to the proceeding - Article 4.4 paragraph (1), Article 4.10, Article 4.12, Article 4.15, Article 4.19, paragraph (4) and Article 4.24 of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) Applications for certification of political entities, as well as candidates' applications and candidates' lists shall be submitted on the forms referred to in Article 11 of this Rulebook. Applications shall be submitted directly to the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: the BiH Central Election Commission), within the prescribed deadline.

(2) The distribution of candidates of underrepresented gender on the candidates' lists shall be performed according to the Instruction which is an integral part of this Rulebook.

(3) The communication between the BiH Central Election Commission and political entities in the election period shall be done:

- a) directly at the main office,
- b) via e-mail;
- c) through the website of the BiH Central Election Commission [www.izbori.ba](http://www.izbori.ba),
- d) by fax,
- e) by phone.

(4) The election commission shall disclose detailed information on the method of operations, means of communication with political entities and the working hours.

(5) Political entities shall list the address of the registered office, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address in the certification application form.

### **Article 3**

#### **(Conditions for certification - Article 1.6, Article 1.13, Article 4.3 and Article 15.1 of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) In addition to signatures of support referred to in Article 4.4 of the BiH Election Law the political parties and independent candidates shall submit the following documents along with the application for participation in the 2022 General Elections:

- a) Decision on entry in the register with the competent authority; if the decision is older than 60 days, it shall be accompanied by an excerpt from the court register that is not older than 60 days, in accordance with Article 4.3 of the BiH Election Law (submitted only by political parties);
- b) statement as specified under articles 1.6 and 1.13 of the BiH Election Law signed by the president of a political entity, whose authenticity is certified by the competent body. This statement can be signed by the president of the political entity at the premises of the BiH Central Election Commission in presence of an authorized officer of the BiH Central Election Commission. If the statement is signed in the premises of the BiH Central Election Commission the authorized officer shall verify identity of the president of the political entity based on her/his valid personal document referred to in Article 5.12, paragraph (4) of the BiH Election Law;
- c) proof of payment of the certification tax in accordance with Article 4 of this Rulebook;
- d) a financial statement covering a period of three (3) months prior to the submission of the application, in accordance with Article 15.1 of the BiH Election Law
- e) certified statement that there are no outstanding unpaid fines resulting from final and binding decisions rendered by the Central Election Commission of BiH, except in cases where fines are paid in instalments, in line with a decision of the Central Election Commission of BiH, and
- f) number of the account used for campaign financing.

### **Article 4**

#### **(Certification fee amount – Article 4.16 paragraph (1) of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) Certification fee for a political entity to participate in the 2022 General Elections shall be determined in the amount as follows:

a) Political parties:

- 1) 25.000 KM for Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency elections;
- 2) 25.000 KM for elections of members to the House of Representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 3) 18.000 KM for elections of members to the House of Representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, president of Republika Srpska and members to the Republika Srpska National Assembly, and
- 4) 13.000 KM for elections of members to the cantonal assemblies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

b) Independent candidates:

- 1) 13.000 KM for Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidency elections;
- 2) 13.000 KM for elections of members to the House of Representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- 3) 9.000 KM for elections of members to the House of Representatives in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, president of Republika Srpska and members to the Republika Srpska National Assembly, and
- 4) 7.000 KM for elections of members to the cantonal assemblies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

(2) Political parties and independent candidates shall pay the amount of the certification fee referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article from their transaction account which will be used solely for the election campaigning purposes during the 2022 General Elections, to account JRT number: 0000030000000145 with the Central Bank of BiH, purpose of payment: payment of the certification fee to the sub-account of the Central Election Commission of BiH number 37111614.

(3) Political parties shall not pay the amount of the certification fee individually for each level of authority, but the paid amount of the certification fee for a higher authority shall also be valid for lower levels of authority, except in the case of candidacy for election of members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(4) The paid amount of the certification fee shall be refunded in the manner determined by Article 4.16 of the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(5) The Central Election Commission of BiH shall initiate the procedure of refunding money with the competent body within 15 days from the day of publishing the election results in the official gazettes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(6) Funds that are not refunded to political entities on the grounds specified in this Article shall become the revenue of the budget of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the international obligations of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### **Article 5**

#### **(The modalities for submission of signatures of support – Article 4.4 paragraphs (2), (3), (4) and (5) of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) Signatures of support of voters who are supporting application of a political party or an independent candidate (hereinafter: signatures of support) shall be collected on a form that is integral part of this Rulebook.

(2) The form must contain information on the person responsible for collecting signatures of support, who is obliged to take into account that the voter's signature must match the signature on the identification document, as prescribed by Article 5.13 paragraph (2) of the BiH Election Law.

#### **Article 6**

#### **(Collecting signatures of support – Article 4.4 of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) A political party and an independent candidate shall collect signatures of support for the election of members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Article 4.4 paragraph (5), item 1 of the BiH Election Law).

(2) A political party, i.e. a party in a coalition that has an elected member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shall not be exempted from collecting signatures of support for any body of authority for which it is applying.

(3) Signatures of support collected for the election of members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall not release the political party from the obligation to collect signatures of support for the election of member to the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, members to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, members to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, president and vice-president of Republika Srpska and members to cantonal assemblies;

(4) A political party that collects signatures of support for the election of members to the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall not be obliged to collect signatures of support for the election of members to the House of Representatives of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for the election of members to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, the President and Vice-President of Republika Srpska and members to the cantonal assemblies.

(5) Signatures of support collected for the election of members to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall not release the political party from the obligation to collect signatures of support for the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and vice versa.

(6) A political party that collects signatures for the election of the President and Vice President of Republika Srpska shall not be obligated to collect signatures in support of the election of members to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and vice versa.

(7) A political party that collects signatures of support for the election of members to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall not be obliged to collect signatures of support for the election of members to the cantonal assemblies.

(8) Signatures of support to the election of members to the cantonal assembly are collected individually for each cantonal assembly.

(9) After the last collected signature of support, the person in charge of collecting signatures must enter the total number of signatures on that page and sign each page of the form. If the data on the person who collected the signatures of support are not entered, the signatures on that page shall be rejected.

#### **Article 7**

#### **(Exemption from the obligation to collect signatures of support – Article 4.5 paragraph (2) of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) A political party holding a mandate of:

- a) A member in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shall be released from the obligation to collect signatures in support of the election of members to the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in any constituency, the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, members to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, president and vice-president of Republika Srpska and members to cantonal assemblies;
- b) A member in the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shall be released from the obligation to collect signatures in support of the election of members to the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and members to the cantonal assemblies,

c) A member in the National Assembly of Republika Srpska shall be released from the obligation to collect signatures of support for the election of members to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and the President and Vice-President of Republika Srpska and vice versa, a political party with the mandate of the President and Vice-President of Republika Srpska shall be released from the obligation to collect signatures in support of the election of the President and Vice-President of Republika Srpska and the election of members to the National Assembly.

d) A member in the cantonal assembly, shall be released of the obligation to collect signatures of support just for that cantonal assembly.

(2) The mandate of the deputy to the House of Peoples of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the House of Peoples of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Council of Peoples of Republika Srpska shall not release the political entity from the obligation to collect signatures of support for any of the bodies of authority.

### **Article 8**

#### **(Coalition as a mandate holder - Article 4.13 and Article 4.15 of the BiH Election Law)**

If a coalition won a mandate at the 2018 General Elections, the each political party, member of that coalition, shall be considered as a winner of the mandate and shall be exempt from the obligation to collect signatures of support.

### **Article 9**

#### **(Modalities for verification of signatures of support – Article 4.11 of the BiH Election Law)**

(1) Verification of the signatures of support referred to in Article 4.4, paragraph (5) of the BiH Election Law shall be performed by the method of statistical sampling. The size of the statistical sample is 10% (ten percent) of the total number of signatures of support submitted.

(2) A political party or independent candidate found to have submitted a smaller number of signatures of support than the number required by Article 4.4 paragraph (5) of the BiH Election Law shall not meet the certification requirement, and the verification of signatures of support shall be performed only for those bodies for which a sufficient number of signatures of support has been submitted.

(3) A certain sample of signatures of support shall be marked for political parties and independent candidates who meet the condition referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article, and it shall be verified, taking into account that the sample is evenly distributed among the submitted signatures of support. The BiH Central Election Commission shall form a database for verification that shall contain: the name of the political party or independent candidate, the name and last name of the signatory and the national identification number of the signatory.

(4) The first verification round shall determine if the voters have given their signature to two or more political parties or independent candidates. If such cases are identified, the signature shall be considered invalid for all political parties or independent candidates to whom it was given.

(5) Signatures of support shall be verified by comparing the entered data referred to in paragraph (3) of this Article and data from the Central Voters' Register (data on national identification number and the constituency for which the voter has the right to vote), as follows:

a) Signatures of voter support for the election of members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina or the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and

Herzegovina shall be verified by checking if the voter who gave the signature of support is entered in the Central Voters' Register;

b) Signatures of voter support for the election of a member of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be verified by checking if the voter, who gave the signature of support, is registered in the Central Voters' Register in one of the multi-member constituencies for the House of Representatives of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

c) Voters' signatures of support for the election of members to the National Assembly of Republika Srpska shall be verified by checking if the voter, who gave the signature of support, is registered in the Central Voters' Register for voting in one of the multi-member constituencies for the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, namely for the election of the president and vice-president of Republika Srpska if the voter, who gave the signature of support, is registered in the Central Voters' Register for voting in Republika Srpska;

d) Signatures of support of voters for the election of members to the cantonal assembly shall be verified by checking if the voter, who gave the signature of support, is registered in the Central Voters' Register for voting for that cantonal assembly.

(6) Signatures of support submitted by an independent candidate shall be verified by checking if voter, who gave the signature of support, is registered to vote in the constituency, i.e. in a multi-member constituency or to vote for the cantonal assembly for which the independent candidate is running.

(7) The signature shall be found invalid if it was determined that signatures of support had been given by a person who is not registered in the Central Voters' Register as a voter in accordance with paragraph (5), i.e. in the case of an independent candidate referred to in paragraph (6) of this Article or in case in that signature of support is not in accordance with the provision of Article 5.13 paragraph (2) of the BiH Election Law.

(8) After verification and the percentage of valid signatures obtained on the statistical sample, the latter will be applied to the total number of submitted signatures of support.

(9) If the number of accepted original signatures is equal to or greater than the number of original signatures of support required under the provisions of Article 4.4, paragraph (5) of the BiH Election Law, the BiH Central Election Commission shall accept and confirm signatures of support of a political party or an independent candidate.

(10) If the number of accepted original signatures of support based on the entered statistical sample is less than the number of signatures of support required by the provision of Article 4.4 paragraph (5) of the BiH Election Law, the BiH Central Election Commission shall enter all submitted signatures of support and verify validity of all submitted signatures of support.

(11) If, even after the procedure set forth in paragraph (8) of this Article, it is determined that a political party or an independent candidate do not have a sufficient number of signatures of support set forth in Article 4.4 paragraph (5) of the BiH Election Law, the political party or the independent candidate shall be obligated to remove the irregularity no later than two days following the day of the receipt of the BiH Central Election Commission's notification.

(12) A political party or an independent candidate that failed to supplement the number of missing signatures of support within the period specified in paragraph (11) of this Article or the amended number of signatures of support after the verification is less than the determined number prescribed by Article 4.4 paragraph (5) of the BiH Election Law shall not be certified to participate in the elections, i.e. they can be certified for a body for which a sufficient number of valid signatures of support have been submitted.

**Article 10**  
**(Determining a code – Article 4.22, paragraph (1) of the BiH Election Law)**

Aimed at keeping the records on applications filed by political entities to participate in the elections, the BiH Central Election Commission shall determine special codes for the purpose of information and statistical processing of the data for the political entities that file an application for certification to participate in the 2022 General Elections.

**Article 11**  
**(Annexes)**

(1) The integral parts of this Rulebook are:

- a) Application form for certification of political entities (political parties, independent candidates, coalitions, lists of independent candidates);
- b) Form for collection of signatures of support;
- c) Forms for registration of candidates' lists and candidates, and
- d) Table of gender representation on candidates' lists - instructions on the distribution of candidates of underrepresented gender on candidates' lists.

(2) Application forms for certification and forms for collecting signatures of support referred to in paragraph (1), items a), b) and c) of this Article shall be available at the BiH Central Election Commission within the deadline determined by the Central Election Commission of BiH in the Instruction on deadlines and sequence of electoral activities.

(3) The forms referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be printed in the languages and alphabets in official use in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(4) Records on all issued forms referred to in paragraph (1) of this Article shall be kept in the BiH Central Election Commission.

(5) Minutes shall be made during submission of the application of political entities, and signature of the political entity thereon shall be considered as acknowledgement by political entity of all possible shortcomings in the application.

**Article 12**  
**(Ineffectiveness)**

The Rulebook on certification and conditions for certification of political entities to participate in the 2020 Local Elections (Official Gazette of BiH, number 25/20) shall become ineffective on the day this Rulebook enters into force.



**Article 13**  
**(Entry into force and publication in Official Gazettes)**

This Rulebook shall enter into force on the day of its publication in Official Gazette of BiH, and it shall also be published in the Official Gazette of Federation BiH, Official Gazette of Republika Srpska, Official Gazette of the BiH District of Brčko and web page of the BiH Central Election Commission [www.izbori.ba](http://www.izbori.ba) .

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President  
Dr. Suad Arnautović