

MINUTES OF THE WMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN CAROLINA, PUERTO RICO,  
10TH JULY 2003

**PRESENT:**

WMA Council

Torsten Carlius (“Torsten”) (President – Chairman), Thomas Jordan (“Tom”) (Executive Vice-President), Rex Harvey (“Rex”) (Vice-President Stadia), Ron Bell (“Ron”) (Vice President Non-Stadia), Giuseppe Galfetti (“Peppo”) (Treasurer), César Moreno Bravo (“César”) (IAAF Representative), Marina Hoerneck-Gil (“Marina”) (Women’s Representative), Hannes Booysen (“Hannes”) (Africa Representative), Hari Chandra (“Hari”) (Asia Representative), Dieter Massin (Dieter) (Europe Representative), Stan Perkins (“Stan”) (Oceania Representative), Brian Oxley (“Brian”) (N. & C. American & Caribbean Representative), José Figueras (“José”) (South American Representative) and Monty Hacker (“Monty”) (General Secretary).

**Delegates:**

Representing the WMA Affiliates listed below by region with the number of Delegates in parenthesis:

- Africa (4):

South Africa (2), Mauritius (1), Cameroon (1);

- Asia (7):

Japan (3), Lebanon (1), Philippines (1), Singapore (1), Sri Lanka (1);

- Europe (44):

Austria (2), Belgium (2), Bulgaria (1), Czech Republic (1), Denmark (1), Estonia (1), Finland (2), France (4), Germany (3), G. Britain & N. Ireland (5), Greece (1), Hungary (1), Ireland (2), Italy (3), Norway (2), Poland (1), Portugal (2), Romania (1), Russia (1), Slovakia (1), Spain (2), Sweden (2), Switzerland (2), Ukraine (1);

- North and Central America & the Caribbean (15):

Canada (4), USA (5), Barbados (1), Costa Rica (1), Mexico (1), Puerto Rico (1), Trinidad & Tobago (1), U/S. Virgin Islands (1);

- Oceania (9):

New Zealand (5), Australia (4);

- South America (12):

Argentina (2), Colombia (2), Brazil (3), Aruba (1), Bolivia (1), Chile (1), Uruguay (1), Venezuela (1).

The Secretary announced the total number of delegates in attendance at 105 including 14 members of the Council. However, of this number only 66, including Council, were declared eligible to vote and the remainder were entitled to remain in attendance and participate in the meeting, but without voting rights.

Guests:

Organising Committees for Carolina, PUR, Sindelfingen, GER, Manukau/Auckland, NZL, Riccione, ITA, San Sebastian, ESP, and Vancouver, CAN.

## **1. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

The President welcomed the Delegates, Guests and Observers outlining the necessary steps/a business plan for WMA to take its place as a world organisation in masters sport. He also called for a moment of silence in memory of those who had passed away since our last General Assembly in Brisbane in 2001 and he then declared the General Assembly open.

## **2. CERTIFICATION OF THE PROPER CALLING OF THE ASSEMBLY:**

The Secretary informed the Assembly that the meeting had been properly convened, notice thereof having been given both by e-mail and by surface mail dated 24th December 2002. The Chairman declared the Assembly properly convened.

Ralph Romain, TRI, queried who amongst the Delegates could and who could not vote. The Secretary answered that only those seated in block "B" were eligible to vote and that those in blocks "A" and "C" were not. He pointed out that eligibility was based on the timely registration of Delegates in accordance with section 4(n) of the WMA Constitution. Only those seated in block "B" have been provided with ballot papers. However, noticing the great dissatisfaction concerning this arrangement, particularly amongst those in blocks "A" and "C," the Chairman then recommended that, unless there were any objections, the Assembly would vote on whether all Delegates should be given voting rights or only those in block "B". Bob Fine, USA, objected saying that the Constitution was clear and that only those Delegates who had been properly registered in terms of section 4(n) may vote and that it would be unconstitutional for the Assembly to allow those who had not re-registered in terms of 4(n) to become eligible to vote. The Secretary read section 4(n) of the Constitution to the Assembly and quoted from Robert's Rules that the Chairman's ruling was correct. He added that unless there was a unanimous vote allowing every Delegate to vote, it would be ultra vires the Constitution to permit voting by those Delegates who had not registered with the Secretary at least thirty days before the convening of this Assembly. Much dissatisfaction was expressed by the Delegates seated in blocks "A" and "C" with much sympathy for their predicament from within block "B".

## **3. ELECTION OF 2 SCRUTINEERS FOR THE MINUTES:**

Wilma Perkins and Brian Keaveney were elected as the Minutes Scrutineers.

## **4. ELECTION OF 2 PERSONS TO COUNT THE BALLOTS:**

Thanga Chandra, Leone Hacker and Joni Harvey were elected as ballot counters.

## **5. SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF REPORTS:**

The following reports numbered 5.1 to 5.6 hereunder, contained in the General Assembly Booklet were referred to by the persons mentioned. Not contained in the booklet was the report by the Vice-President Stadia, Rex Harvey, numbered 5.7 hereunder. which was given orally to the Assembly.

5.1 President, at pages 11 to 15;

5.2 Executive Vice-President, at pages 16 to 17;

5.3 Vice-President Non-Stadia, at pages 17 to 19;

5.4 Secretary, at pages 19 to 23;

5.5 Treasurer, at pages 24 to 28;  
5.6 Women's Representative, at pages 29 to 30;  
5.7 Vice-President Stadia read to the Assembly.  
All the reports were approved by the Assembly:

## **6 AMENDMENTS TO THE WMA CONSTITUTION/BYE-LAWS/ RULES OF COMPETITION:**

Council proposals

1. Constitution, section 2, Purpose  
Amendment of paragraph 2 (a)

The present wording "To organize, regulate and administer athletics for women of not less than thirty-five years of age and men of not less than forty years of age" shall be replaced by:

To organize, regulate and administer athletics for men and women of not less than thirty-five years of age, subject however to approval by the IAAF Congress as and by means of an amendment to the IAAF rules.

Votes: In favour 59  
Against 2  
Abstentions 4

Motion carried with required two thirds majority.

By this decision the same New Zealand proposal (B 1) is approved and the French proposal (B 2) to raise the women's year to forty years is rejected.

2. Constitution, section 5, Council  
Addition to paragraph 5 (k)

Addition of the following sentences:

The Council may, in exceptional circumstances, and if it deems it expedient to do so, award a World Championships without referral to or approval from the General Assembly. Exceptional circumstances shall be actual prejudice to the event if the award thereof were to await the approval of the next General Assembly.

Votes: In favour 40  
Against 21  
Abstentions 1

Motion failed to obtain required two thirds majority.

3. Constitution, section 6, Election of Officers  
Amendment of paragraph 6 (d)

Deletion of the second sentence:

Nominations of candidates for office may be made by the Council – Bye-Laws section 3.

If approved, section 3 in the Bye-Laws, Council Nomination Procedure, will be deleted and the first sentence of paragraph 6 (d) of the Constitution shall be replaced by the following:

Nomination of candidates for office may only be made by any Affiliate and must be in the hands of the WMA Secretary ninety (90) days before the opening date of the General Assembly. All nominations shall be accompanied by C.V.'s. The Secretary shall inform all Affiliates no later than 180 days before the opening date of the General Assembly of the Council members willing to stand as candidates for another term”.

Votes: Unanimously approved

Motion carried with required two thirds majority.

4. Constitution, section 9, Standing Committees/Bye-Laws, section 4, Committees  
Amendment of Constitution paragraph 9 (c) and Bye-Laws 4 (3)

Removal of the Discipline Committee, whose duties are transferred to the Law and Legislation Committee.

The following additional sentence is added at the end of present paragraph 9 (e) of the Constitution:

The Law & Legislation Committee shall have jurisdiction over all WMA activities relating to disciplinary matters and its decisions shall be subject to ratification by the WMA Council.

Bye-Law 4(3) is to be deleted in its entirety, subject to the inclusion of sub paragraphs (d) to (o) in 4(5) as provided for below:

In the Bye-Laws paragraph 4 (5) (b) and (c) are to be deleted and substituted by:

(b) There shall be four (4) members of the Committee plus the Chairman.

(c) The four (4) members of the Committee shall be appointed by the President based upon nominations submitted to him by the Chairman.

The provisions of Bye-Law 4(3), sub paragraphs (d) to (o) become sub paragraphs (f) to (q) inclusive of Bye-Law 4(5).

Votes: In favour 48

Against 11

Abstentions 0

Motion carried with required two thirds majority.

5. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships  
Addition to paragraph 1 (1)

The first sentence shall have the following wording:

WMA shall sanction WMA World Championships Stadia, normally in each odd-numbered year, WMA World Championships Non-Stadia, normally in each even-numbered year and WMA World Championships Indoor, normally in each even numbered year.

Votes: In favour 51

Against 5

Abstentions 4

#### 6. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships

##### Amendment of paragraph 1 (2)

The last sentence “Furthermore, following upon such inspection visits, it shall be the duty of the members visiting the Bid Cities to compile reports on these inspection visits, reflecting their grading of the Bid Cities and the details of such grading shall be placed before the General Assembly prior to the commencement of the formal bid proceedings thereat” is replaced by:

The WMA Delegates visiting the Bid Cities shall compile standard form reports following upon their inspection visits. These reports shall be sent to the Bid Cities for consideration, review and comments. When comments are received from the Bid Cities, the reports together with the comments are to be distributed amongst the Council Members for Council’s evaluation and grading of the Bid Cities. The Bid Cities present their bids to the Council the days before the Championships. The Council revises, if necessary, the grading and forwards the two highest graded Bid Cities to the General Assembly for presentation and decision. However the detailed technical and inspection reports (“the bid evaluations”) are to be circularised by the Secretary amongst the affiliates 45 days before the opening of the General Assembly.

Votes: Unanimously approved

#### 7. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships

##### Amendment of paragraph 1 (4)

The present suggested Non-Stadia programme shall be changed:

The 50K run (men and women) be removed and replaced by 10K run (men and women) – day to be decided by WMA/LOC.

Votes: In favour 50

Against 8

Abstentions 3

#### 8. Rules of Competition, section 8, The Competition-Running and Walking Events

##### Amendment of paragraph 8 (8)

The present wording “In road-races, cross-country races and road-walking races, an athlete may only score as a member of a team in his own age-group” shall be replaced by:

In road races, cross-country races and road-walking races every athlete competes individually in his/her own age-group. For team scoring athletes will only be permitted to drop to a lower age-group to complete the required number for a team, provided that the following requirements are met:

- (i) the lower age-group shall be in the same race as that in which the athlete competes individually
- (ii) the athlete's country does not have a sufficient number of athletes in that age-group to make up a full team in that age-group
- (iii) every team must submit a start list that shows the names and age-group of all their athletes competing in a particular age-group
- (iv) an athlete may only score in one team
- (v) athletes from an older age-group only may be included in a team not of their age-group, and
- (vi) however, no more than two athletes per team may move down.

Should it be found that an athlete has entered for the team scoring in a younger age-group wherein the Affiliate has already sufficient athletes within the team's age-group to make up a full team, the team will be disqualified.

Votes: In favour 57  
Against 0  
Abstentions 0

By this decision the British proposal (B 13) is also approved.

#### 9. Additions/clarifications to Constitution, section 4/Bye-Laws, section 3

##### a. Constitution, paragraph 4 (b)

The word "competitor" shall mean competitors registered as entered and fully paid up regardless of whether they start their events or not.

Unanimously adopted

##### b. Constitution, paragraph 4 (e)

On the agenda for the General Assembly there shall be one item for approval of each of the Council officers' reports and the auditors' report

Unanimously adopted

##### c. Constitution, paragraph 4 (j)

The Council officers' reports, including the bid evaluations, shall be included in the information sent out by the Secretary 45 days before the opening date of the General Assembly

Unanimously adopted

##### d. Bye-Laws, paragraph 3 (1)

Date March 1 be amended to February 1 as the Council meeting might be held in March.

Deleted as Council proposal 3 – Council nomination procedure was approved.

#### Proposals from WMA Affiliates

##### A. Proposals to amend the Constitution/Bye-Laws/Rules of Competition

A 1. Constitution, section 2, Purpose  
Amendment of paragraph 2 (a)

Dealt with under Council proposal A 1.

A 2. Constitution, section 2, Purpose  
Amendment of paragraph 2 (a)

Dealt with under Council proposal A 1.

A 3. Constitution, section 4 (e)  
Addition of paragraph 4 (e) vii

USA Track & Field proposes addition of paragraph 4 (e) vii:

The World Masters Games shall be a permanent item on the General Assembly agenda

Votes: Unanimously approved with 1 abstention

Motion carried with required two thirds majority.

A 4. Constitution, section 6, Election of Officers  
Amendment of paragraph 6 c

Fédération Francaise d' Athlétisme, Federazione Italiana di Atletica Leggera and Singapore Masters Athletics propose that the second sentence:

"No officer may hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms of fours years each"

be deleted.

Votes: In favour 20  
Against 39  
Abstentions 2

Motion failed to obtain required two thirds majority.

A 5. Constitution, section 7, Officers  
Addition to paragraph 7 (e)

USA Track & Field proposes addition of 7 (e) vii:

The Secretary shall submit the Council minutes within 30 days subsequent to the last day of the Council meeting to the WMA website.

The proposal was not approved but the Council will post its decisions on the WMA website.

A 6. Constitution, section 7, Officers  
Addition to paragraph 7 (f)

USA Track & Field proposes addition of 7 (f) viii:

The Treasurer shall submit a detailed report to the WMA website every three months, listing all income and expenditure and noting which party incurred the expenditure.

The proposal was not approved but the Treasurer will prepare a Profit and Loss Statement and a Balance Sheet every six months to be posted on the WMA website.

A 7. Bye-Laws, section 2, Council  
Addition to paragraph 2 – new paragraph 2 (16)

Withdrawn by USA Track & Field.

A 8. Bye-Laws, section 2, Council  
Addition to paragraph 2 – new paragraph 2 (17)

USA Track & Field proposes addition of paragraph 2 (17):

All proposed changes to the sanction fee must be submitted to the General Assembly for its determination.

Votes: In favour 5  
Against majority  
Abstentions 1

Motion failed to obtain required two thirds majority.

A 9. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships  
Addition to paragraph 2

The Finnish proposal is dealt with under Council proposal A 6 but the last sentence:

If there are only few bids which are regarded by Council as being not sufficiently competitive Council has the right to call for fresh bids.

is adopted unanimously.

A 10. Rules of Competition, section 1, Championships  
Addition to paragraph 1 – new paragraph 1 (11)

Withdrawn by German Athletic Federation.

A 11. Rules of Competition, section 5, Entries  
Amendment of paragraph 5 (1)

New Zealand Masters Athletics proposes that the present wording “Entries to all WMA World Championships shall be submitted through the national WMA Affiliate. Each such Affiliate shall inform the WMA Secretary of its method of validating entries” shall be replaced by:

Entries to all WMA World Championships may be submitted either through their national WMA Affiliate or electronically (e-mail) directly to the Organizing Committee. An



entry received electronically (e-mail) by the Organizing Committee must be validated by the entrant's WMA Affiliate. Each such Affiliate and the Host Organizing Committee shall inform the WMA Secretary of its method of validating entries.

Unanimously approved.

A 12. Rules of Competition, section 7, the Competition-General  
Addition of new paragraph 7 (11)

Australian Masters Athletics proposes addition of paragraph 7 (11):

The IAAF rule changes shall require WMA endorsement before introduction into WMA competitions.

Almost unanimously approved with 1 vote against and no abstentions.

A 13. Rules of Competition, section 8, the Competition – Running and Walking  
Events  
Amendment of paragraph 8 (8)

Dealt with under Council proposal A 6.

A 14. Rules of Competition, section 9, Hurdle Races  
Amendment of paragraph 9 (2)

Australian Masters Athletics proposes that present wording "At each hurdle, both feet must be off the ground for at least an instant" shall be replaced by:

"Competitors must hurdle with a continuous motion thus ensuring that both feet must be off the ground for at least an instant."

Almost unanimously approved with 2 votes against and 3 abstentions.

A 15. Rules of Competition, appendices  
Amendment of present weights

British Masters Athletic Federation proposes changes in implement weights for women.

The proposal is not approved but will be studied by the Women's Committee and the Stadia Committee.

## **B. Other proposals**

B 1. IMGAs changes World Masters Games to even-numbered years

Canadian Masters Athletic Association proposes:

1. This WMA General Assembly asks the WMA Council to negotiate with IMGAs immediately that WMA, if IMGAs does not move their event to even-numbered years, will withhold its sanction of the IMGAs track & field event, with the con-

sequences for WMA member athletes and WMA or IAAF accredited officials of this being a non-sanctioned event.

2. If IMG A agrees to revert to even-numbered years, there will still be some impact on other WMA regional and national events, therefore the WMA will require IMG A to pay a sanction fee of USD 100.000:- to WMA at least sixty (60) days prior to that event.

The Chairman informed that the WMA Council has already appointed a group to start negotiations with IMG A to avoid future date clashes and to secure that part of the IMG A profit on future World Masters Games is distributed among the sports taking part in the World Masters Games.

Adopted almost unanimously with no votes against and 6 abstentions.

## **B 2. Rule changes**

Australian Masters Athletics proposes:

1. WMA shall not adopt the current IAAF rule regarding one false start.

Almost unanimously adopted with 4 votes against and no abstentions.

2. WMA shall introduce the weight throw as an individual event at the WMA World Masters Athletics Championships Stadia commencing in 2005

Voting: Stadia: Almost unanimously adopted with 3 votes against and 6 abstentions;

Indoors: Almost unanimously adopted with 4 votes against and 5 abstentions

3. Lap counters in track distance events shall be allowed to provide this information to the athlete each lap or as required.

Proposal withdrawn by Australian Masters Athletics.

4. WMA shall reconsider the events constituting the men and women's outdoor pentathlon

Almost unanimously adopted with 2 votes against and 3 abstentions.

5. Field events qualifying rounds introduced in Puerto Rico shall be eliminated.

Votes: In favour 12

Against 36

Abstentions 7

6. Team medals for the weight pentathlon, as trialled in Brisbane 2001, are not introduced.

Proposal withdrawn by Australian Masters Athletics.

7 Only one competition number shall be required in throwing events

Votes: In Favour 34  
Against 17  
Abstentions 6

## **7. BID PRESENTATIONS FOR FUTURE WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

### **1. 2004 Inaugural World Championships Indoors**

The Assembly having already approved the holding of the Inaugural WMA Indoor Championships, received a presentation from Sindelfingen, GER, (recommended by the Council) for the hosting of this event. The presentation was well received by the Assembly that voted in favour of awarding the event to Sindelfingen, GER, with 44 votes in favour, 6 against and 8 abstentions.

### **2. 2006 WMA World Championships Indoors**

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 1(1) the General Assembly sanctions the awarding of the 2006 WMA Championships Indoors to a Special Assembly to be con-vened for the purpose of making that decision at the forthcoming 2004 Indoors WMA Championships in Sindelfingen, GER, in 2004. The number of Delegates per Affiliate will be the same as in Carolina and the names of the Delegates to attend and vote at this Special Assembly are to be submitted in terms of the provision of section 4 (n) of the WMA Constitution.

The Council will call for and evaluate bids for presentation at the Special Assembly with December 1, 2003, at the last day for bids..

Unanimously adopted.

### **3. 2004 WMA World Championships Non-Stadia**

A presentation was given by Manukau/Auckland, NZL, on their forthcoming WMA Championships Non-Stadia followed by a presentation on how they would be providing for on-line entries.

### **4. 2005 WMA World Championships Stadia**

No Delegate from San Sebastian, ESP, was present to give a presentation of preparations.

### **5. 2006 WMA World Championships Non-Stadia**

Vancouver, CAN, as the only bidder for the 2006 WMA Championships Non-Stadia, gave a very well received presentation and these Championships, planned for May 8-14, were awarded unanimously to Vancouver.

### **6. 2007 WMA World Championships Stadia**

A very fine presentation the Assembly awarded the 2007 WMA World Championships Stadia to of this event to Riccione, ITA.

## **8 CLOSING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

The chairman, following upon the last presentation, thanked all the Delegates for their attendance and their contributions to what he regarded as a most fruitful Assembly. He then declared the General Assembly closed.

Monty Hacker.  
WMA Secretary

Sandton, RSA.  
24th December 2003

(Sgd) Torsten Carlus (Sgd) Wilma Perkins (Sgd) Brian Keaveney  
WMA President Scrutineer Scrutineer  
Helsingborg, SWE Melbourne, AUS Toronto, CAN