



CONSTITUTION

2024

Explanatory Statement

In keeping with worldwide trends, Masters Athletics has developed and diverged from the way in which the organization operates under its current Constitution. New challenges have arisen for its administration. The fundamental framework set by the Constitution should reflect this process.

Instead of introducing bits and pieces at every General Assembly, a global review has been undertaken with the following principles in mind:

- (i) To allow for a more flexible reaction to current matters, the Executive branch is to be reorganized and empowered.
- (ii) The legislative foundation of the Membership and the General Assembly remain largely untouched, but the Regions are given a constitutional status, with rights and duties.
- (iii) A third branch, which is judicial in nature, is created as a fundamentally autonomous body.
- (iv) A separate body is set up to distinguish medical authority from the executive branch.

Pursuant to these principles:

- (i) All rules, regulations, and operational processes of WMA shall be contained in the By-Laws and fall under the authority of the Council and the, rather vague, category of Formal Policy is institutionalized as Decrees-in-Council.
- (ii) Therefore, the provisions of the Constitution may be restricted to the fundamentals and conceivably valid for at least a decade.
- (iii) Within the Council, a Board of the five elected individuals is formally introduced to undertake day-to-day management.
- (iv) The Board is assisted by Committees, the role of which is defined in the Constitution.
- (v) The Board is further assisted by Managers, who are in charge of implementing policies.
- (vi) The power to sanction is transferred from the executive branch to a Judicial Panel, staffed with members who shall act as judges and shall have a degree in law or equivalent. The Panel shall hear cases along strict guidelines while respecting the rights of the parties involved.
- (vii) A Medical Panel will have its proceedings conducted in strict medical confidence, by members having a degree in medicine, biology, or equivalent.
- (viii) The Chair of each Panel are to be appointed by the Council with the remaining members co-opted by current Panel members, which was a midway solution between an election by the General Assembly and an appointment by the Council.
- (ix) The Council still has the ability to conciliate a claim during the pendency of a matter before the Judicial Panel.
- (x) A number of editorial and minor substantial modifications are introduced.

- (xi) The structure of the Constitution is reordered to better show its structure within parliamentary democracy.

Commentary of Articles

Art 2 Purposes: the former paragraph (vi) is deleted on the ground that it is legally not permitted; its substance is contained in the new paragraph (d).

Art 3 Structure: the new structure of the Constitution requires a summary without a change in substance.

Art 4 Regulatory Framework: is a compilation of provisions from various former articles.

Art 6 Membership: WMA will follow the political decision by WA of recognizing a Country.

Former Art 7.5 and 8 Information: are deleted as administrative matters are no longer handled under the Constitution.

Art 10-12 Regions: the Articles are self-explanatory regarding the status of the Regions under the authority of WMA.

Art 13 General Assembly: the General Assembly no longer adopts By-Laws but, upon the proposal of Council, shall appoint financial auditors.

Art 17 Powers of the Board: largely reflecting today's reality, part of the Powers currently listed for the Council are shifted to the Board.

Art 18 Committees: due to the creation of the Judicial Panel, the Law & Legislation Committee (now the Legal Committee) will no longer have judicial power. Its role will be to suggest and prepare By-Laws and Decrees-in-Council and enforce their compliance.

Art 22-27 Medical Panel and Judicial Panel. The power, composition and proceedings of the Medical Panel and Judicial Panel are set out in detail and are guided by professionalism and strict confidentiality.

The Council appoints the Chair. From there on, both Panels are autonomous in their decisions. They co-opt their members.

The scope of the Judicial Panel is designed to be separate from WMA itself. Any case involving Masters Athletics regarding breaches of the legal framework governing Masters Athletics is heard and ruled by the Judicial Panel, unifying the jurisdiction around the world, and setting a place for all the bodies within the realm of Masters Athletics to solve disputes.

Art 28-33 Conducting the General Assembly: apart from minor adaptations, nothing changes in the way a General Assembly is convened and conducted. It was determined that the members of the Board shall reflect diversity with respect to gender.

Art 34 Conducting other Meetings: to allow for more flexibility, the rules for conducting Board and Council meetings are set apart from the formal rules for the General Assembly.

Art 36-40 The Assignments of the Board Members: the Board assignments listed in the Constitution are reduced to the core tasks to leave more space for self-determination.

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A: DECLARATION

1. Identification

The name of the association of which this is the Constitution shall be "World Masters Athletics" (WMA).

WMA is a not-for-profit organization that is neutral regarding politics, religion, ethnicity, and gender. Its duration is unlimited.

WMA is registered in the Principality of Monaco as an association under the laws of Monaco (Act No. 1.355 of December 23, 2008) and is subject to the requirements of that Act.

The WMA headquarters are located at 6 Quai Antoine 1er, Monaco, but may be transferred to any other place in the Principality of Monaco by resolution of the Council.

WMA is the world-governing body for the sport of Masters Athletics and operates in coordination and association with World Athletics.

2. Purposes

The Purposes of WMA are:

- (a) to develop, regulate, promote, and manage all aspects of the sport of Masters Athletics at the world level,
- (b) to safeguard, act in the interests of, and maintain the reputation and integrity of Masters Athletics,
- (c) to foster a supportive and non-discriminatory environment for athletes, officials, support staff and administrators involved in Masters Athletics throughout the world, regardless of age, gender, sexual preference, race, religious, political, or other orientation and ability,
- (d) to sanction, promote and ensure the conduct of WMA Championships and other competitions,
- (e) to foster friendly and cooperative Masters Athletics competition at the national and regional level,
- (f) to work in co-operation with WA, and to ratify and implement WA rules, regulations, directives, and sanctions as they apply to Masters Athletics,
- (g) to work in co-operation with other organizations that are engaged in Masters Athletics,
- (h) to implement World Anti-Doping Agency's regulations as they are deemed to apply to Masters Athletics,
- (i) to ratify and maintain World Masters Athletics records and best performances, and
- (j) to liaise with Members directly and through the Regional Masters Associations in relation to Masters Athletics.

3. Regulatory Framework

- (a) WMA is governed by this Constitution, as supplemented through By-Laws and Decrees-in-Council.
- (b) By-laws set the standards, rules, and proceedings, implementing the principles of this Constitution in the various areas. Decrees-in-Council are decisions taken, ruling on specific matters.
- (c) By-Laws and Decrees-in-Council are edited by the Council.
- (d) This Constitution shall be amended only by a Special Majority vote cast at a General Assembly.

4. Structure

- (a) The Members of WMA are national associations, representing Masters Athletics in their respective Countries.
- (b) Members are grouped in Regions.
- (c) Members convene in the General Assembly.
- (d) The executive duties are carried out by:
 - an elected Board, assisted by Committees and Managers, and
 - a Council consisting of the Board, Regional Representatives, and a WA Representative.
- (e) A Medical Panel and a Judicial Panel are autonomous structures.
- (f) This Constitution sets the standards for each of these bodies.

B: INTERPRETIVE PROVISIONS

5. Definitions

The following definitions shall apply to the terms listed in this section wherever those terms are used in this Constitution and wherever reference is made to those terms in this Constitution.

- (a) **Board:** the body consisting of the elected officers of WMA.
- (b) **By-Laws:** the laws which implement the principles and processes described in this Constitution.
- (c) **Chair:** an individual who presides over the General Assembly, Medical Panel, Judicial Panel, or a Committee.
- (d) **Committee:** a standing or ad hoc committee established under this Constitution.
- (e) **Constitution:** this governing document comprising the fundamental principles of WMA.
- (f) **Council:** the body responsible for the administration of WMA.
- (g) **Country:** a self-governed area as it is recognized by WA.
- (h) **Decrees-in-Council:** formal public notice of substantial decisions taken in the Council.
- (i) **Delegates:** representatives of Members to the General Assembly.

- (j) **General Assembly:** a meeting of the Council and Delegates.
- (k) **Judicial Panel:** the body responsible for hearing complaints involving WMA and/or related organizations.
- (l) **Local Organizing Committee:** the organization responsible for hosting a WMA Championships.
- (m) **Managers:** individuals authorized to implement decisions taken by the Board.
- (n) **Masters Athletes:** athletes aged thirty-five years and older who participate in the sport of athletics.
- (o) **Masters Athletics:** athletics events for participants aged thirty-five years and over.
- (p) **Medical Delegate:** the individual appointed by a Regional Council to act as liaison with the Medical Panel.
- (q) **Medical Panel:** the body responsible for handling WMA medical matters.
- (r) **Member:** a national association representing Masters Athletics in its Country.
- (s) **Membership:** the belonging of a Member to WMA.
- (t) **Purposes:** the purposes of WMA as described in this Constitution.
- (u) **Region:** each of six geographic areas into which the world has been divided for the purposes of administration by WMA and for the grouping of Members.
- (v) **Regional Championships:** a Masters athletic championships promoted by a Region.
- (w) **Regional Council:** a group consisting of five to seven individuals with executive responsibility for each Regional Masters Association.
- (x) **Regional Masters Association:** a legal entity representing each Region which is responsible for coordinating and fostering Masters Athletics in their respective Region.
- (y) **Regional Representative:** the person appointed to the Council by a Region.
- (z) **Regulatory Documents:** the Constitution, By-Laws, and Decrees-in-Council of WMA.
- (aa) **Special General Assembly:** a meeting of the Council and Delegates at a time other than that which is scheduled during the WMA Stadia Championships.
- (bb) **Special Majority:** two-thirds of the votes cast at a General Assembly.
- (cc) **World Anti-Doping Agency or WADA:** the Swiss foundation established to develop and coordinate anti-doping rules across all sports and countries.
- (dd) **World Athletics or WA:** the international governing body for the sport of athletics.
- (ee) **WA Member Federation:** the association in a Country, as approved by World Athletics, which has the authority to be the national governing body for the sport of athletics.
- (ff) **WA Representative:** the person appointed to the Council by WA.
- (gg) **WMA Championships:** the athletics championships events promoted by WMA.
- (hh) **WMA Stadia Championships:** the biannual athletics stadia championships event promoted by WMA.
- (ii) **WMA Standards of Conduct:** standards governing the conduct of office bearers, officials, athletes, volunteers, and team support staff.
- (jj) **World Masters Athletics or WMA:** the Monaco registered not-for-profit organization responsible for promoting athletics events for participants aged thirty-five and over.

6. Rules of Construction

The following rules of construction shall apply throughout this Constitution:

- (a) **And/Or:** The word "or" used in any list of more than two (2) items shall be construed to include the conjunctive as well as the disjunctive.
- (b) **Days:** Any reference to days shall be to calendar days.
- (c) **Language:** The language of reference for the interpretation of this Constitution is English. A French version is filed for the sake of registration with the authorities in Monaco.
- (d) **Number:** the singular or plural number shall each be deemed to include the others whenever the context so indicates.

C: THE MEMBERS

7. Membership

- (a) WMA shall accept for Membership only one properly constituted association or organization that represents Masters Athletes for each Country. This association or organization shall either be: i) a part of a WA Member Federation for the Country; or ii) an independent national masters association or organization that is approved as the governing national masters association or organization by the WA Member Federation for that Country.
- (b) A Country is a self-governed area as it is recognized by World Athletics.
- (c) Membership of WMA shall not be available to any prospective Member whose constitution is inconsistent with this Constitution.
- (d) Applications for Membership shall be decided upon by the Council, after considering any recommendations issued by the Regional Masters Association, to which the prospective Member would be assigned.

8. Termination of Membership

- (a) Where the affiliation of a WA Member Federation is terminated, for whatever reason, the WMA Membership of the Member from the corresponding Country is simultaneously terminated, unless overridden by two-thirds vote of the General Assembly.
- (b) A Member may cease to be a Member of WMA by sending an official resignation letter to WMA.
- (c) The Council may recommend suspension or termination of a Member, to a General Assembly if it is of the opinion that the Member has:
 - refused to comply with the provisions of the Regulatory Documents, after being given notice to do so,
 - continued to act in a manner prejudicial to the interests or reputation of WMA and Masters Athletics after being given notice to desist from any such act,
 - become inactive or be no longer a properly constituted national association or an organization that represents Masters Athletes, or

- failed to act in accordance with its own constitution or failed to act in the interest of its athletes or fails to have an officer act in accordance with good practice that befits the position of the office to which such officer is elected.
- (d) The Member will be given the ability to attend and speak to the motion for suspension or termination at that General Assembly and to submit written representations regarding the motion.
 - (e) Any General Assembly decision to suspend or terminate shall be by Special Majority.
 - (f) Any decision to terminate the Membership of a Member shall be subject to an appeal to the Judicial Panel.

9. Membership Fees

WMA may charge Membership fees to its Members. The amount of the fee and its method of determination shall be proposed by the Council and approved by the General Assembly.

10. Rights and Obligations of Members

- (a) Members are entitled to propose motions and vote at a General Assembly.
- (b) Members are entitled to nominate host cities for WMA Championships.
- (c) Members shall regulate, administer, and support Masters Athletics in their jurisdiction and otherwise operate in a manner that is consistent with the Purposes.
- (d) Members shall, if requested, provide a biennial report to their Regional Masters Association.
- (e) Members shall ensure the payment of any fees such as WMA championship fees or competitor levies collected on behalf of WMA by a championship hosting organization in their jurisdiction.
- (f) Members may not be held liable for the commitments of WMA.

D: REGIONS

11. Organization

Members are allocated to one of six Regions, i.e., Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Central America and Caribbean, Oceania, South America. Unless otherwise decided by the General Assembly the allocation respects the World Athletics alignment.

In each Region, the Members shall create a Regional Masters Association, duly registered as a legal entity in one of the Member Countries.

12. Authority

The president of the Regional Masters Association shall be a member of the Council unless another Regional Representative is nominated by the Regional Council.

WMA entrusts the Regional Masters Association with the mission:

- to promote Masters Athletics in the Region,
- to organize Regional Championships,
- to oversee Masters Athletics competitions in the Region, and
- to ensure respect of WMA Standards of Conduct under any circumstances.

13. Compliance

The constitution of each Regional Masters Association shall comply with the following principles:

- have a general assembly as the ultimate decision maker,
- have an elected Regional Council of five to seven members with executive responsibilities,
- comply with the Regulatory Documents, and
- have accounts audited, internally or externally, at least every second year.

The decisions taken by the Medical Panel bind the Regional Masters Association. The Regional Masters Association may nominate a Medical Delegate, acting under the authority of the Chair of the Medical Panel, during events held in the Region.

The Regional Masters Associations acknowledge the Judicial Panel as the only judicial authority for disputes described in section 26.

E: GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14. Status

The affairs of WMA shall be the responsibility of the General Assembly. The General Assembly is the supreme decision making body of WMA.

15. Composition

The General Assembly shall consist of Delegates and the members of the Council, created hereinafter.

16. Powers

The powers of the General Assembly are:

- (a) to elect the members of the Board,
- (b) to receive and vote upon the reports submitted by the Board and the WA Representative,
- (c) to receive and vote upon the audited financial report and the budget for the

- next accounting period,
- (d) to appoint financial auditors as proposed by the Council,
 - (e) to receive bid proposals and vote on the venues for the hosting of WMA Championships, unless there is only one bid,
 - (f) to approve the amount of any WMA Membership fees,
 - (g) to grant honors to any individual for outstanding service to WMA,
 - (h) to suspend a Member or terminate a Member's Membership,
 - (i) to approve amendments to the Constitution by Special Majority, and
 - (j) to dissolve or transform WMA into another legal form or to merge with another organization by Special Majority.

F: THE BOARD

17. Composition

The Board consists of five members, elected by the General Assembly. They hold the positions of:

- President,
- Executive Vice-President,
- Vice-President Competition,
- Secretary General, and
- Treasurer.

Their respective responsibilities are defined hereinafter.

18. Powers

The Board undertakes the day-to-day management of WMA and implements General Assembly and Council resolutions, including:

- (a) submitting draft Regulatory Documents to the Council,
- (b) dealing with the funds of WMA,
- (c) seeking financial resources for the development of Masters Athletics, and
- (d) reviewing items referred by the Committees.

19. Managers

The Board is assisted by Managers whose positions are created by a Council decision. Managers are appointed by the President without a term, until further notice.

20. Committees

Committees assist the Board, in a consultative capacity, in designing WMA policy. There are six

standing Committees:

- Finance Committee,
- Competition Committee,
- Legal Committee,
- Organizational Committee,
- Marketing & Communication Committee, and
- Women's Committee.

The Council may add *ad hoc* Committees or set up task forces to deal with specific matters.

- (a) Committee members are appointed by the Council as proposed by the President. Each Committee has at least five members. They serve a renewable two year term, starting with the end of each General Assembly. If a vacancy occurs, a substitute shall finish the mandate of its predecessor.
- (b) The Board shall select from amongst themselves, the Chair of each Committee.
- (c) Managers may not be appointed to a Committee; they may, however, be heard as experts.
- (d) Written recommendations shall include minority positions.

G: THE COUNCIL

21. Organization

The Council consists of:

- (a) the Board members,
- (b) the WA Representative, and
- (c) the Regional Representatives, one from each Region.

22. Powers

The responsibility of the Council is:

- (a) to develop strategic directions for WMA,
- (b) to propose amendments to the Constitution and other matters for consideration by the General Assembly,
- (c) to adopt By-Laws and Decrees-in-Council,
- (d) to acquire, lease, exchange or accept donations, consistent with the Purposes of WMA,
- (e) to determine the fees for WMA Championships as well as competitor levies,
- (f) to agree on the venue for the hosting of WMA Championships, if there is only one bid,
- (g) to act on other matters relating to Masters Athletics, not reserved for the General Assembly, and
- (h) to foster research on the relationships between health and sports in Masters

Athletes.

H: THE MEDICAL PANEL

23. Powers

- (a) The Medical Panel shall handle all medical matters, including anti-doping rules and procedures.
- (b) The Medical Panel may submit policy recommendations to the Council.

24. Composition

- (a) The Panel shall have six members, including a Chair and a secretary. Apart from the secretary, the members are required to have a degree in medicine, biology, or an equivalent qualification. The secretary shall have expertise in Masters Athletics.
- (b) The Chair shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the appointment of the Council. The remaining members shall be co-opted to the Medical Panel. Medical Panel members shall serve a renewable four-year term ending with the second General Assembly following their appointment.
- (c) A member of the Medical Panel may not be a member of the Council, a Manager, or a member of a Committee.
- (d) The Medical Panel may set up task forces for specific missions and staff them from within or outside the Medical Panel.

25. Proceedings

- (a) The proceedings of the Panel are confidential, and its members are bound by strict medical confidence.
- (b) The secretary and three out of five members must attend any session.
- (c) Decisions shall be made by majority vote. The secretary shall not have a vote.
- (d) The Medical Panel has the power to file a complaint with the Judicial Panel if it becomes aware of a breach of WA or WMA codes, rules, and regulations.

I: THE JUDICIAL PANEL

26. Powers

- (a) The Judicial Panel hears complaints regarding breaches of the legal framework governing Masters Athletics involving, as a plaintiff or as a defendant:
 - the Board and Council,
 - the Regional Councils,
 - the Members,

- the Medical Panel,
- the Local Organizing Committee of WMA Championships, and
- individuals affiliated with a Member.

27. Composition

- (a) The Judicial Panel shall have six members including a Chair and a secretary. Apart from the secretary, all members shall hold a degree in law or an equivalent qualification. The secretary shall have expertise in Masters Athletics.
- (b) The Chair of the Judicial Panel shall be appointed by the General Assembly on the proposal of the Council. Members shall be co-opted to the Judicial Panel. Judicial Panel members shall serve a renewable four-year term ending with the second General Assembly following their appointment.
- (c) A member of the Judicial Panel may not be a member of the Council, a Manager, a member of a Committee, nor hold an executive position on the governing body of a Member.
- (d) The Judicial Panel is only authorized to hear complaints involving Members and individuals associated with a Member after first seeking resolution through the judicial body of the Member, if available.

28. Proceedings

- (a) Upon receiving a complaint, the Chair shall decide, within fifteen days, whether there is sufficient substance to the case to be admitted and heard by the Judicial Panel or to dismiss the claim.
- (b) If the case is admitted, the Chair shall appoint a member of the Judicial Panel as the investigating judge who will deliver conclusions to the Judicial Panel. The investigating judge may order any precautionary injunction. The Judicial Panel shall then have ten days in which to hear the parties by videoconference. Subsequently, the parties have ten days to submit their observations in a memorandum to the Judicial Panel. The Judicial Panel may take up to thirty days to pronounce a sentence or grant remission.
- (c) The secretary and three out of five members must attend any session. Decisions shall be made by majority vote. The secretary shall not have a vote.
- (d) The Panel may sanction an athlete or an appointed, accredited, or elected official, who is convicted of breaching a rule under this Constitution, with a blame, a two to six year suspension, or a ban for life, from any activity governed by WMA and its Members. In the event a rule is breached by a representative body, its members shall be sentenced personally, unless such member has opposed in due time. A sentence of the Judicial Panel may be appealed before the Court of Arbitration for Sports.

J: CONDUCTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29. Convening the General Assembly

- (a) A General Assembly shall be convened biennially, in conjunction with the WMA Stadia Championships. Should the WMA Stadia Championships be postponed or cancelled, the General Assembly shall convene by way of virtual technology, at a date as close as possible to the date at which the WMA Stadia Championships were scheduled.
- (b) General Assemblies shall be convened in English.
- (c) At least one hundred and eighty days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, the Secretary General shall give notice to the Members of any member of the Board, whose term will expire at the General Assembly and who is willing to stand for re-election.
- (d) At least one hundred and eighty days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, the Secretary General shall give notice to the Members of the date and the venue of the General Assembly and of the deadlines specified herein.
- (e) At least ninety days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, each Member shall give notice to the Secretary General:
 - of any motions to be considered at the General Assembly, and
 - of candidates it nominates for election to the Board.
- (f) At least forty-five days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, the Secretary General shall send out a notice to Members including:
 - the agenda and any standing orders proposed by the Council,
 - any candidates for election to the Board with their curriculum vitae and any supporting information addressing the requirements for the position to which they are seeking election, and
 - all other documents to be received, approved, or voted on and the number of Delegates to which the Member is entitled.
- (g) The Secretary General shall, no later than sixty days after any General Assembly, issue minutes, signed by the Secretary General and notetakers, to all Members and members of the Council.

30. Special General Assembly

- (a) A Special General Assembly may be convened by a majority of the Council or upon request of at least one-fifth of Members, or by at least three Regional Masters Associations to deal with one or more specific items.
- (b) The Council shall determine the date of the Special General Assembly.
- (c) The Special General Assembly is convened and conducted under the same procedures as a regular General Assembly. If the Council convenes a Special General Assembly by virtual technology, notice of such meeting shall be sent at least twenty-one days prior to such Special General Assembly. All other deadlines applying to the General Assembly are shortened to fourteen days.
- (d) A Special General Assembly shall only deal with the specific items for which the meeting is called.

31. Entitlements

- (a) The number and eligibility of Delegates at a General Assembly shall be determined on the following basis:
 - each Member shall be entitled to one Delegate,
 - each Member shall be entitled to one additional Delegate for each one hundred of its registered competitors at the last three outdoor WMA Stadia Championships, to a maximum of four additional Delegates, and
 - a Delegate shall be a member in good standing of the Member which they represent. Proxies or delegating representation by a Member to any individual from another Member shall not be permitted.
- (b) Each Delegate present is entitled to one vote on any motion.
- (c) Where a Special General Assembly is held, the number of Delegates for each Member shall be those of the preceding General Assembly. If, however, the Special General Assembly is concurrent with a General Assembly the number of each Member's Delegates shall be its entitlement for the General Assembly.
- (d) Members shall give notice of the names of their Delegates to the Secretary General, at least thirty days ahead of the General Assembly. The nomination of substitute Delegates to replace previously nominated Delegates shall be given to the Secretary General, no less than twenty-four hours in advance of the opening of the General Assembly.
- (e) Each Council member is entitled to one vote on any motion.
- (f) At the General Assembly, each Delegate may speak in his own language, but must arrange for the translation of his address into English.
- (g) Observers, honorees, bidding delegations, members of the press, and special guests may be invited by the President to attend a General Assembly. Such individuals shall be physically separated from Delegates and may not participate in any manner.

32. Voting

- (a) Motions and elections shall require a majority vote unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.
- (b) At General Assemblies held by virtual technology, a motion or matter requiring decision shall take place by voice or by show of hands, unless a formal count or a secret ballot is requested by two-thirds of those eligible to vote.
- (c) In the case of a tied vote, the Chair's vote breaks the tie.
- (d) Where a motion concerns a Council member, the member being considered shall not be present and no Council member shall have a vote. Where the President is involved, the Executive Vice President, if available, and if not, then another Board member shall be appointed as temporary Chair for the duration of that matter.

33. Election of Board Members

- (a) To be eligible to the Board a candidate must have attained the age of thirty-five

- and be void of a criminal record.
- (b) Persons shall be nominated for election to the Board by the Member of which they are a citizen, or of which they are a permanent resident.
 - (c) No Board member may hold more than one office.
 - (d) No Board member may hold a management position in another organization that promotes an international Masters Athletics event that is not specifically authorized by WMA.
 - (e) No more than two Board members may come from the same Member.
 - (f) The Board shall be gender diverse.
 - (g) The election of Board members shall be staged, with the Executive Vice-President, the Vice-President Competition and the Secretary General being elected at one General Assembly; the President and the Treasurer being elected at the following General Assembly. Elections shall be conducted in the aforementioned order of the positions.
 - (h) To be elected, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority of votes cast. Elections to the Board shall be by secret ballot. When there is more than one candidate for any position on the Board, and none gains the majority, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be excluded and a further vote taken. This voting process shall continue until one candidate receives a majority.
 - (i) In the case of a tied vote between two candidates, there shall be a second vote between them. If the tie remains, there shall be a ballot draw to determine the successful candidate.
 - (j) Should a vacancy occur in any position, the Board may co-opt a replacement who will hold office until the end of the next General Assembly.

34. Term of Office

- (a) Board members serve a term of four years. The term ends in the fourth year at the close of the WMA Stadia Championships during which the elective General Assembly is held.
- (b) Board members may be re-elected only once to the same office.
- (c) No person may serve more than sixteen years in any capacity on the Board.
- (d) No person may serve more than twelve years in the capacity of a Regional Representative to the Council.
- (e) No person is eligible to be appointed to the Council or elected to the Board if, on completion of the term of office, that person exceeds the aforementioned limits.
- (f) If a member is elected, following a vacancy, the mandate is restricted to the term at which the position was up for election.

K: CONDUCT OF OTHER MEETINGS

35. Convening

- (a) Board meetings shall be held at least three times per year.

- (b) Council meetings shall be held at least twice per year.
- (c) Meetings are convened by the Secretary General:
 - at least fourteen days before Council meetings, and
 - at least seven days before the Board meetings.
- (d) The meetings may be held by virtual technology.
- (e) The minutes of the meetings shall be sent out within thirty days.
- (f) The working language of all meetings shall be English.

36. Quorum

The quorum for meetings shall be two-thirds of its members. If, within half an hour of the notified time, a quorum is not reached, the Chair shall adjourn the meeting and reconvene it at the earliest date possible.

L: ASSIGNMENTS OF THE BOARD MEMBERS

37. Functions of the President

The President is the lead representative of WMA.

The President shall:

- represent WMA with all organizations and events,
- be the main spokesperson for WMA,
- chair meetings of the General Assembly, the Council, and the Board,
- lead the work of the Board and the Council, and
- ensure that decisions of the General Assembly, the Council, and the Board are implemented.

38. Functions of the Executive Vice-President

The Executive Vice-President shall assist the President and deputize for the President.

The Executive Vice-President shall:

- assume the office of President if the President dies, resigns, or is removed from office, until the next General Assembly,
- evaluate the organizational matters in the WMA Championships bids, and
- deal with non-technical, organizational matters for WMA Championships.

39. Functions of the Vice-President Competition

The Vice-President Competition shall be responsible for all aspects related to WMA competitions.

The Vice-President Competition shall:

- report to the Council on all competition matters, and
- evaluate the competition matters in the WMA Championship bids.

40. Functions of the Secretary General

The Secretary General shall be directly responsible for the day-to-day work and administration of WMA.

The Secretary General shall:

- undertake administration on behalf of WMA, the Council, and the Board,
- convene meetings of the General Assembly, the Council and the Board and prepare their organization,
- submit written reports on WMA activities to the Council and the Board, and
- liaise with Members and Regional Masters Associations.

41. Functions of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the management of WMA's finances and accounting.

The Treasurer shall:

- collect receivables and pay expenses,
- keep record of WMA's financial affairs,
- submit statements of income and expenditures to the Council,
- submit to the Council, a budget for the next financial period, and
- present, to the General Assembly, an audited balance sheet and statement of income and expenditures for the preceding period.

M: FINANCIAL MATTERS

42. Resources

(a) WMA's financial resources shall be derived from:

- championship fees paid by WMA championship host organizations,
- competitor levies at WMA Championships and other sanctioned Masters Athletics competitions,
- grants from other organizations,
- interest and other income generated by WMA assets,
- contributions from sponsors and others,
- commercial activity in support of the Purposes, and
- Membership fees.

- (b) The financial resources of WMA shall be used only to further the Purposes.
- (c) No member of the Council may have any financial benefit, or advantage from WMA.

43. Accounts

- (a) The Board, through the Treasurer, shall be responsible for the management of finances.
- (b) All funds received shall be deposited in bank accounts, held in the name of WMA.
- (c) The President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary General shall be registered signatories on the accounts and shall have access to them.
- (d) The President shall be a co-signatory with the Secretary General or Treasurer on all payments and contracts over Ten Thousand U.S. Dollars.
- (e) The accounts shall be recorded in U.S. currency, regardless of the currency in which the funds are held.
- (f) The accounting period shall be two years, commencing on the first day of January preceding the date of a General Assembly, and ending on the last day of December preceding the next General Assembly.

44. Liability

- (a) The liability of WMA shall be limited to its assets.
- (b) WMA shall purchase travel and professional indemnity insurance policies to protect WMA and its office bearers.

N: GENERAL MATTERS

45. WMA Standards of Conduct

Office bearers, officials, athletes, volunteers, and team support staff are expected to comply with WMA Standards of Conduct.

46. WMA Competition and Technical Rules

Changes to Competition and Technical Rules may be submitted by Members to the Competition Committee for consideration. Changes proposed by the Committee shall be submitted to the Members. In both cases, the Committee shall consult the Members either during an in-person meeting at a WMA Indoor or Outdoor Championships or via an electronic meeting scheduled by the Competition Committee.

47. Dissolution

- (a) The General Assembly may at any time, by a Special Majority, decide to dissolve

- WMA, to transform it into another legal form, or to merge it with another organization.
- (b) In the event of dissolution, any assets remaining shall be transferred to WA for use in support of Masters Athletics.

48. Transitional Provisions

The appointment of the Chairs of the Judicial and Medical Panel as well as the auditors, shall be delegated to the Council for a first term finishing with the next General Assembly.

49. Commencement

This Constitution shall come into force on 26 August 2024.