



WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS

IN COOPERATION WITH WORLD ATHLETICS

BY-LAWS

Approved by Council 20 January 2025

Table of Contents

CHAPTER A: BY-LAWS ON GENERAL AFFAIRS 3
INTRODUCTION 3
1. Authority and Purpose 3
THE COUNCIL AND THE BOARD..... 3
2. Nominations for Election of Board Officers 3
3. Vacancies on the Council or the Board 3
4. General..... 4
5. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board..... 5
6. Roles and Responsibilities of the WA Representative..... 5
MEETINGS 5
7. General Assembly and Special General Assembly 5
8. Council Meetings 6
9. Board Meetings..... 7
10. Conduct of Meetings..... 7
COMMITTEES 8
11. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees..... 8
12. General Rules for Committees 8
13. Finance Committee 9
14. Competition Committee 10
15. Legal Committee 11
16. Organizational Committee..... 12
17. Marketing & Communication Committee 12
18. Women’s Committee..... 13
FINANCIAL 13
19. Auditors..... 13
MEMBERSHIP 14
20. Eligible Masters Organizations 14
21. Termination of Membership..... 14
22. Membership Fees 16

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

REGIONS AND MEMBERS	16
23. Regional Masters Associations	16
24. Regional Representatives	16
CHAPTER B: BY-LAWS ON WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS	19
APPLICABILITY	19
1. Purpose.....	19
PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS	19
2. WMA Championships	19
3. Identification of Potential Championships Bid Candidates	19
4. Applications to Host WMA Championships.....	20
5. Bidding Evaluation	20
6. Presentation and Selection	21
ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES FOR WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS	21
7. General Eligibility	21
8. Designation for Competition	22
CHAPTER C: BY-LAWS ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT	24
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT	24
1. Applicability.....	24
2. Office Bearers	24
3. Non-Office Bearers	25
4. Appeals	27

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

CHAPTER A: BY-LAWS ON GENERAL AFFAIRS

INTRODUCTION

- 1.** Authority and Purpose
 - 1.1 These By-Laws supplement the WMA Constitution by setting the standards, rules, and proceedings of WMA and implementing the principles of the Constitution. All defined terms in Section 5 of the Constitution shall apply to these By-Laws.
 - 1.2 In the event of any conflict between these By-Laws and the Constitution, the terms of the Constitution shall prevail.
 - 1.3 In the event of any conflicts in the wording of any translated By-Laws, the English version shall prevail.
 - 1.4 For purposes of clarity, all By-Laws references shall refer to both the chapter and section, e.g., this By-Law section shall be referred to as By-Law A-1.4.

THE COUNCIL AND THE BOARD

- 2.** Nominations for Election of the Board
 - 2.1 Subject to Section 33 of the Constitution, Members may nominate eligible individuals as candidates for election to the Board by submitting a written notice to the Secretary General within the time provided in Section 29 of the Constitution. Each nomination shall state the office for which the candidate is nominated and shall be accompanied by a curriculum vitae of the candidate, a statement attesting that the candidate meets the requirements set forth in Section 33 of the Constitution and supporting information addressing the requirements for the particular Board office.
- 3.** Vacancies on the Council or the Board
 - 3.1 A vacancy on the Council or the Board shall occur if such member:
 - (i) dies,
 - (ii) ceases to be a member in good standing of that member's Member,
 - (iii) resigns from office,
 - (iv) in the case of a Regional Representative, is removed from office by the member's Regional Council,
 - (v) in the case of the WA Representative, is removed from office by the WA,
 - (vi) obtains a criminal record,
 - (vii) suffers from mental incapacity that prevents such member from performing the duties of the position, as set forth in a letter from a licensed physician,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- (viii) is absent, without consent of the chair, for two successive meetings of the Council or the Board, as applicable, or
 - (ix) is removed from office pursuant to Chapter C of these By-Laws for prohibited conduct.
- 3.2 Should a vacancy in the position of the WA Representative occur, the President shall consult with WA within thirty (30) days of knowledge of such vacancy to request a replacement for such member to the Council.
- 3.3 Should a vacancy in the position of a Regional Representative occur, the President shall consult with that representative's Regional Council within thirty (30) days of knowledge of such vacancy to request a replacement for such member to the Council.
- 3.4 Should a vacancy as a Board member, other than the President, occur, the remaining members of the Board, in consultation with the Council, shall have thirty (30) days to co-opt a replacement. The Board shall first consider co-opting from among the remaining members of the Board and then from the Council. If the co-opted member is already a member of the Board, the Board shall continue the process of co-opting members until all Board positions are filled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, should a vacancy attributable to the President occur, the Executive Vice-President shall assume the office of President and the office of the Executive Vice-President shall be filled as set forth in this By-Law.
- 3.5 Any Board member who assumes a Board position pursuant to these By-Laws shall be subject to the Constitution and the By-Laws, as if that Board member had been elected to that office.

4. General

- 4.1 All members of the Board should attend all General Assembly, Council and Board meetings.
- 4.2 All Board members shall:
- (i) exercise care and diligence in undertaking their WMA duties and responsibilities,
 - (ii) act in good faith in the interest of WMA and all its Members, and shall put WMA's interests ahead of their own interest, or the interest of their Member or Regional Masters Association,
 - (iii) retain discretion and not disclose confidential information,
 - (iv) avoid conflicts of interest, and
 - (v) uphold the principles of the Constitution.
- 4.3 Any document or publication produced on behalf of WMA by a member of the Council or the Board shall become the intellectual property of WMA and may be used by WMA in whatever way it sees fit.

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

5. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

- 5.1 The President has primary responsibility to set WMA's priorities and to guide its business and activities, subject to Council approval, and has primary responsibility to set Council and Board meeting agendas.
- 5.2 The President shall have the power to assign the duty to speak on behalf of WMA in any forum or to the media to another member of the Board, where appropriate.
- 5.3 The President shall have the power to assign the duties of WMA representative to any external organisations or on any external committees, boards, or other bodies where WMA representation is required or appropriate, to another member of the Board, where appropriate.
- 5.4 All Board members shall be co-signatories to any contracts with a value greater than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000 USD).

6. Roles and Responsibilities of the WA Representative

- 6.1 WA shall appoint the WA Representative.
- 6.2 The WA Representative's key responsibility is liaison between WMA and WA, in particular to ensure that WA's interests are adequately represented to the WMA and that WMA's interests are adequately represented to WA.
- 6.3 The WA Representative's responsibilities shall include:
 - (i) promoting effective co-operation and exchange of information between WA and WMA,
 - (ii) timely communication to Council of all important WA developments that affect WMA or Masters Athletics, and
 - (iii) ensuring that WMA adheres to WA rules where appropriate.

MEETINGS

7. General Assembly and Special General Assembly

- 7.1 The business of the General Assembly shall be conducted in the following order, unless such order is amended upon a motion at the General Assembly approved by a majority of the votes cast:
 - (i) call the General Assembly to order and provide voting instructions to the Delegates,
 - (ii) elect two (2) notetakers to prepare minutes,
 - (iii) elect up to four (4) individuals, as requested by the Secretary General, to count votes,
 - (iv) approve, amend, or reject any standing orders issued by the Board relating to the

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

conduct of the General Assembly, and approve or amend the content and sequence of the agenda,

- (v) consider motions to approve or reject the minutes of the previous General Assembly,
- (vi) receive, and consider motions to adopt or reject the adoption of the reports of the President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President Competition and Secretary General,
- (vii) receive, and consider motions to approve or reject the audited financial statements,
- (viii) receive and consider motions to approve or reject the report of the Treasurer and the proposed budget,
- (ix) receive the report of the WA Representative,
- (x) confer honors on individuals as provided for in these By-Laws,
- (xi) elect the Officers,
- (xii) receive reports regarding host city bids for future WMA Championships, and consider motions to accept or reject proposed bids,
- (xiii) receive reports from LOCs for upcoming WMA Championships,
- (xiv) consider and vote on proposed changes to the Constitution,
- (xv) in the case of a Special General Assembly, deal with the matters for which it was called,
- (xvi) consider any outstanding old business,
- (xvii) consider any new business, and
- (xviii) set date for the next General Assembly.

7.2 On the recommendation of the Council, in recognition of valued services given to the WMA, and its Regional Masters Associations and its Members, the General Assembly may confer the following honours:

- (i) past Presidents as honorary life presidents,
- (ii) past Council members as honorary life members, and
- (iii) other persons as honorary members for long and meritorious service to the cause of Masters Athletics.

7.3 A suitable WMA diploma and/or pin will be presented to all recipients of any honorary awards. Pins granted shall be designated as gold for past Presidents, silver for past Council members, and bronze for other honored individuals. An honorary award shall carry with it no rights or powers within WMA, the Council, the Board or the General Assembly and shall be honorific only.

8. Council Meetings

8.1 Any three (3) members of the Board may jointly call for a Council meeting in addition to the two (2) annual meetings mandated by the Constitution, as deemed necessary.

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- 8.2 Any six (6) members of the Council may jointly call for a Council meeting for specified WMA matters in addition to the two (2) annual meetings mandated by the Constitution, as deemed necessary. Alternatively, any member of the Council may by electronic means submit a matter of concern via the Secretary General for consideration or decision by electronic means.
- 8.3 Formal Notice of a Council meeting may be given by the Secretary General by means of electronic communication and shall include the agenda.

9. Board Meetings

- 9.1 Any two (2) Board members may jointly call for a Board meeting in addition to the three (3) annual meetings mandated by the Constitution, as deemed necessary. Alternatively, any member of the Board may, by electronic means, submit a matter of concern to the Board for consideration, and for decision by a vote by electronic means.

10. Conduct of Meetings

- 10.1 Where both the President and Executive Vice-President are unavoidably absent from a meeting, those present and eligible to vote shall elect a Chair from among the remaining Board members for the duration of the absence.
- 10.2 During motions involving the President, if the Executive Vice-President is absent, the temporary Chair during such motion shall be appointed from among the remaining Board members, by those present and eligible to vote and such temporary Chair shall act only until the conclusion of such motion.
- 10.3 For purposes of determining a quorum for a General Assembly or Special General Assembly meeting both the Delegates and members of Council present at the meeting at any time shall be considered. A quorum shall be reached when two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total of the representatives of each Member plus the members of Council are present.
- 10.4 The Chair may, in the Chair's sole discretion, adjourn a meeting and no business shall be transacted at a resumed meeting other than the unfinished business of the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
- 10.5 For the General Assembly, the Chair shall nominate two (2) notetakers for the minutes and up to four (4) individuals for the counting of votes, but the General Assembly shall vote to elect such notetakers and scrutineers.
- 10.6 Council and Board meetings shall be conducted according to any standing orders attached to the agenda, or in their absence, the most recent edition of "Roberts Rules of Order."
- 10.7 All meetings may be conducted by means of telecommunication. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the General Assembly may only be conducted by means of telecommunication when a WMA Stadia Championships cannot be held.

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

COMMITTEES

11. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees

11.1 The Council shall establish the following standing Committees:

- (i) Finance Committee,
- (ii) Competition Committee,
- (iii) Legal Committee,
- (iv) Organizational Committee,
- (v) Marketing & Communication Committee, and
- (vi) Women's Committee.

12. General Rules for Committees

12.1 When determining the minimum five (5) members of each Committee, the Chair shall be considered one (1) of the five (5) members.

12.2 The President shall solicit applications for Committee members at least ninety (90) days prior to the start of a General Assembly. An applicant for a membership position on a Committee shall submit to the Secretary General, via the applicant's Member, a curriculum vitae focusing on the applicant's particular education, expertise, and skills applicable to the position. The Member shall include with such submission a short statement in support of the applicant.

12.3 After elections of the Board and the allocation of the chair positions for each Committee, the President shall present the new Committee chairs with the proposed Committee member selections and, after feedback from such chairs, the President shall present the Council with the proposed Committee member selections. The Council shall make such appointments by consensus. The Secretary General shall notify the members of each Committee of the appointments as soon as reasonably practicable following the conclusion of each General Assembly, but not later than two (2) months following such conclusion. Until notification and acceptance of Committee appointments, the existing Committee members may be asked to continue to serve, as needed.

12.4 Chairs and members of a Committee shall be appointed on the basis of the Committee's required expertise and experience and a willingness to work to achieve the purposes of each Committee. Ad hoc appointments to meet specific targeted requirements or expertise within a Committee may be proposed by the President in consultation with the Committee Chair and approved by the Council.

12.5 If there is a vacancy on a Committee, the President shall set a reasonable time to solicit applications and shall consult with the Committee Chair regarding any applications

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

received prior to proposing a candidate to the Council for approval.

- 12.6 The Chair of a Committee, with the permission of the Council, may invite an individual with specific expertise in relation to the responsibilities of a Committee, to assist members in their consideration of issues. Such expert shall not be a Committee member and shall have no formal role in decision making.
- 12.7 Committee business, particularly where critical time frames are involved, may be conducted through electronic means and, in such cases, the Chair shall coordinate the responses to the issues under consideration.
- 12.8 The Chair shall chair all formal meetings of a Committee. However, in the Chair's absence those present shall agree on a Chair.
- 12.9 All Committee meetings or deliberations should whenever possible be conducted informally and seek to achieve a consensus rather than a formal vote on issues.
- 12.10 Committee meetings may be held face-to-face at WMA Stadia Championships, but ad hoc meetings dealing with urgent matters may also be convened by the Chair on short term notice and may be held by electronic means.
- 12.11 Issues for Committee consideration may be proposed by the Chair, other Committee members, or by the President.
- 12.12 Prior to a meeting, the Chair shall appoint a Committee member to take minutes, and all formal records or outcomes shall be kept for Committee meetings and deliberations, with the outcomes shall be circulated to the Board.
- 12.13 Any document or publication produced on behalf of WMA by a member of a Committee shall become the intellectual property of WMA and can be used by WMA in whatever way it sees fit.

13. Finance Committee

- 13.1 The Finance Committee shall assist the Treasurer in the oversight of WMA's financial affairs, financial planning, and related matters to ensure balance, transparency and integrity, and WMA's ongoing financial viability.
- 13.2 The Finance Committee's responsibilities shall be to:
 - (i) periodically review WMA's expenditure, revenues, balance sheet, investments and other matters related to its financial wellbeing,
 - (ii) endorse an annual budget for submission to Council,
 - (iii) develop a financial planning and investment strategy, and set financial objectives and targets that will ensure WMA's ongoing financial viability,
 - (iv) develop strategies for the management and investment of WMA's assets,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- (v) review WMA's financial and other risks and potential liabilities, and develop strategies to address such risks and potential liabilities,
- (vi) review and advise in relation to any proposed commercial agreement or any business opportunity available to WMA,
- (vii) review and recommend internal financial procedures and policies,
- (viii) monitor and report upon performance in relation to WMA's financial objectives, targets, and budgets,
- (ix) undertake an economic assessment of policy proposals involving financial expenditure, and
- (x) report as may be requested by the Board.

14. Competition Committee

14.1 The Competition Committee shall have jurisdiction over all indoor and outdoor WMA Championships, subject to any decisions by the Council.

14.2 The Competition Committee shall consist of:

- (i) a Stadia subcommittee and a Non-Stadia subcommittee, each consisting of three (3) members, a Records subcommittee, consisting of at least one (1) member from every Region who is responsible for the records from that Region, and
- (ii) a Stadia and a Non-Stadia representative appointed by the Local Organizing Committee of the next outdoor WMA Championships.

14.3 The Stadia subcommittee shall be responsible for the following events as part of a WMA Championships:

- (i) all events held on a track except race walks,
- (ii) all field events, and
- (iii) all combined events competitions.

14.4 The Non-Stadia subcommittee shall be responsible for the following events as part of a WMA Championships:

- (i) all road-running events
- (ii) all mountain running events,
- (iii) all ultra-running events,
- (iv) all cross-country events, and
- (v) all race walks.

14.5 The Chair of the Competition Committee, in consultation with the President, shall select six individuals to serve as the WMA Championships Management Team, who shall work with the Local Organizing Committee as part of the WMA Championships team to ensure the

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

management of:

- (i) all events on the track and field,
- (ii) all non-stadia events,
- (iii) the technical information centre,
- (iv) the call room, and
- (v) safety.

- 14.6 The Committee members shall be selected in consultation with the Chair in relation to their specific experience.
- 14.7 Meetings of the Competition Committee at WMA Stadia Championships shall be “open” to attendance by any Masters Athletes.
- 14.8 The Competition Committee shall consider any proposal relating to the Competition and Technical Rules made by the Council, a Member, a Regional Masters Association, or the Vice-President Competition. After consulting with the Members regarding proposed changes to the Competition and Technical Rules, at either in-person meeting at a WMA Indoor or Outdoor Championships or via an electronic meeting scheduled by the Competition Committee, the Chair shall submit the Competition Committee’s recommendations relating thereto to Council for approval.
- 14.9 The Vice-President Competition together with the Competition Committee shall coordinate the periodic updating of Age-Graded Factors, both stadia and road.
- 14.10 The Records subcommittee shall oversee and administer all matters concerning WMA records and their validation.

15. Legal Committee

- 15.1 The Legal Committee shall be responsible for:
- (i) reviewing all proposed changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Competition and Technical Rules for clarity of language and for any inconsistency with the provisions elsewhere in the Constitution, By-Laws, and Competition and Technical Rules, but shall not modify the intention of any proposed change without the written permission of the author,
 - (ii) reviewing and editing contracts to be signed by Board members, limited to legal issues only, and
 - (iii) communicating with Members and Regional Masters Associations with respect to disagreements that have not reached the level of a dispute requiring adjudication by the Judicial Panel.
- 15.2 The Legal Committee members should, preferably, have some legal education or legal

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

experience.

- 15.3 The Legal Committee shall report back to the Board in a timely manner in relation to any proposed changes to the Constitution, By-Laws, and Competition and Technical Rules, as well as the outcome of any other matters on which it consults.

16. Organizational Committee

- 16.1 The Organizational Committee shall coordinate all organisational matters pertaining to the non-competition aspects of WMA Championships and shall act as liaison between the Board and the Local Organizing Committee in relation to such matters.

- 16.2 The non-competition aspects of the WMA Championships shall include, but not be limited to the entry booklet, pre-championship promotional material, accommodation, transportation, opening and closing ceremonies, competitor's handbook, results booklet, media services, award ceremonies and contractual compliance with the aforementioned aspects of the WMA Championships.

- 16.3 The Organizational Committee shall coordinate with the Local Organizing Committee regarding the non-competition aspects of accreditation and the technical information centre during a WMA Championships. The Organizational Committee shall submit to the Board for approval all proposed policy changes regarding the non-competition aspects of WMA Championships.

17. Marketing & Communication Committee

- 17.1 The Marketing & Communication Committee shall assist the President and the Board in the promotion and marketing of WMA and the identification of both Bid Candidates and potential sponsors.

- 17.2 The Marketing & Communication Committee shall:

- (i) develop global marketing and communication plans for WMA, strategy and tactics for WMA and Masters Athletics, prioritizing maximizing Championship registrations, by
 - (a) developing a promotion strategy that complements the LOCs,
 - (b) developing a strategy to attract quality LOCs,
 - (c) identifying and recommending specific activities or opportunities for the promotion of WMA,
 - (d) preparing regular media releases that address topical Masters Athletics issues and/or maintain WMA's media profile for consideration by the President and the Board, and
 - (e) assisting with the drafting of other promotional materials as directed by the President,
- (ii) explore and develop specific commercial and sponsorship opportunities for WMA,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- (iii) monitor WMA' s profile in the media and report to the Board thereon,
 - (iv) maintain and update the WMA website, and
 - (v) ensure that information regarding significant events is made available to Members by posting on the WMA website.
- 17.3 The President shall appoint a webmaster who may be supported by assistant webmasters appointed by the President in consultation with the webmaster, for the day-to-day management of the WMA website.
- 17.4 The WMA website shall provide news and technical, administrative and other information relating to Masters Athletics at the world level.

18. Women' s Committee

- 18.1 The Women's Committee shall represent the interests of female Masters Athletes.
- 18.2 Each Regional Masters Association shall have the right to propose one (1) member to the Women's Committee. In the event a Regional Masters Association does not appoint a member, the President may then propose a member on its behalf.
- 18.3 The Women's Committee shall develop strategies that encourage and facilitate the engagement and the retention of women in Masters Athletics as athletes, officials, and administrators, particularly for those Members where there is a significant imbalance between the number of male and female athletes, officials, and administrators.
- 18.4 The Women's Committee shall make suggestions to the Executive Vice-President regarding possible activities which promote the status of women's athletics and stimulate their participation at WMA and Regional Championships.
- 18.5 The Women's Committee will undertake surveys from time to time in various age groupings on involvement, event preference, and technical requirements for women's participation.
- 18.6 Meetings of the Women's Committee at WMA Stadia Championships shall be "open" to attendance by any athletes.

FINANCIAL

19. Auditors

- 19.1 The General Assembly, on the proposal of the Council, shall appoint independent financial auditors to audit the financial accounts.
- 19.2 The financial statements shall be audited prior to each General Assembly in compliance with the Constitution, these By-Laws, and the laws of the jurisdiction in which WMA is registered, for the period beginning January 1 of the year of the General Assembly in which the auditors are appointed and ending December 31 of the following calendar year.

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- 19.3 The Treasurer shall provide the auditors with all necessary access to the WMA accounts, financial reports and records upon their request and shall provide the auditors with any clarifications and explanations requested.
- 19.4 The auditors shall be engaged to provide a written audit report and shall be provided sufficient time to produce a final written report for presentation to the Council prior to presentation to the General Assembly.
- 19.5 The extent of the audit work performed shall be summarised and detailed in the auditors' report, which shall provide an opinion as to the financial statements.
- 19.6 The Treasurer shall present the auditors' written report to the General Assembly.

MEMBERSHIP

20. Eligible Masters Organizations

- 20.1 The Constitution permits only one properly constituted association or organization that represents Masters Athletes for each Country to be eligible for Membership of WMA.
 - (i) When an association or organization that is either: a) a part of a WA Member Federation for a Country; or b) 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, applies to be a Member representing a Country where there is already an existing Member, the Council shall, taking into account any advice from the Regional Masters Association to which that Member would belong, rule on the application, and decide which association or organization should be the Member and refuse or terminate the Membership of the other.
 - (ii) When an applicant is not accepted as a Member, such organization or association may appeal the decision to the Judicial Panel after providing to the Secretary General, in writing, the reasoning for such appeal within thirty (30) days from receipt of the decision of the Council.
 - (iii) After receiving a written appeal, the Secretary General shall submit such appeal to the Chair of the Judicial Panel within thirty (30) days of receipt.

21. Termination of Membership

- 21.1 Where the Council recommends suspension or termination of a Member's Membership, the Secretary General shall within thirty (30) days give written notice to the Member at the Member's last known contact address:
 - (i) setting out the notice of motion to the General Assembly and the grounds on which it is based,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- (ii) stating the date, place and time of the General Assembly which will hear such motion, and
 - (iii) informing the Member or its officers that their Delegate(s) may:
 - (a) attend and speak to the motion at that General Assembly, but if they speak in a language other than English, they must arrange for a translator to translate into English, and/ or
 - (b) submit to that General Assembly, through the Secretary General, written representations relating to the notice of motion.
- 21.2 The General Assembly shall:
- (i) give the Member an opportunity to make oral representations as set forth in these By-Laws,
 - (ii) consider any written representations submitted to the General Assembly by the Member, and
 - (iii) decide by a Special Majority, whether to terminate, suspend or continue that Member's Membership and, if to suspend, the terms of that suspension.
- 21.3 Where a General Assembly has voted to terminate or suspend a Member's Membership:
- (i) the Secretary General shall give the Member written notice within thirty (30) days of the passing of the motion of the decision of the General Assembly, stating that the decision will come into effect thirty (30) days from the date of the General Assembly, and advising the Member of its right of appeal to the Judicial Panel within the period set forth in these By-Laws,
 - (ii) the terminated or suspended Member may appeal the decision to the Judicial Panel after providing to the Secretary General, in writing, the reasoning for such appeal within thirty (30) days from receipt of the decision of the General Assembly, at which time such termination or suspension shall be stayed until there is a decision from the Judicial Panel, and
 - (iii) the Secretary General shall notify, as a courtesy, WA of the decision to terminate or suspend the Member within forty-five (45) days after the later of: a) the decision of the General Assembly, if the Member does not appeal such decision, or b) the decision of the Judicial Panel.
- 21.4 The decision of the Judicial Panel shall have immediate effect and shall be final and binding on the parties with no further right of appeal.
- 21.5 Any Member resigning their Membership in WMA or having that Membership terminated shall have no right to WMA's assets but shall be liable to pay any outstanding Membership fees or other monies outstanding to WMA.
- 21.6 A Member may resign from WMA by giving written notice to the Secretary General on that

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

Member's official letterhead and such resignation shall become effective immediately. The Secretary General shall have forty-five (45) days from the receipt of such resignation to notify, as a courtesy, the WA secretary of such resignation.

22. Membership Fees

- 22.1 Membership fees are currently set at zero.
- 22.2 Membership fees approved by a General Assembly shall not go into effect until after that General Assembly and the first Membership fee shall become due and payable by the end of the calendar year of such General Assembly. Subsequent Membership fees shall become due and payable by the end of each subsequent calendar year.

REGIONS AND MEMBERS

23. Regional Masters Associations

- 23.1 Regional Masters Associations may conduct Regional Championships.
- 23.2 Regional Championships shall be considered WMA sanctioned and shall be conducted in accordance with the WMA Competition and Technical Rules.
- 23.3 Masters Athletes who are members of Members shall be the only athletes permitted to participate in Regional Championships, subject to limitations placed on the number of participants from outside the Region by the hosting Regional Masters Association.
- 23.4 In the event the Regional Representative appointed by the Regional Masters Association isn't the President of the Regional Masters Association, such Regional Representative shall be a member in good standing of a Member of that Regional Masters Association.
- 23.5 Regional Masters Associations shall have the power to mediate and try to resolve issues and disputes involving the Members of such Region, upon the request of one (1) or more of such Members.

24. Regional Representatives

- 24.1 The duties of each Regional Representative are to:
 - (i) represent on the Council the Regional Masters Association and its interests and those of its members,
 - (ii) report to the Council on the status of the Region and Masters Athletics in the Region,
 - (iii) facilitate providing the Secretary General with updated information for the Region's contacts, and the Region's Members' contacts upon notice of a change in information, but not less frequently than 31 December of each calendar year,
 - (iv) report to the Regional Masters Association in relation to general and Region-specific

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- WMA matters and liaise with the Regional Masters Association and WMA, as required,
- (v) participate in all WMA Council meetings, and undertake any other WMA roles and responsibilities, as required,
 - (vi) facilitate the correct nomination and registration of Delegates representing Members in the Region to General Assemblies in compliance with requirements,
 - (vii) liaise with the Regional Masters Association's treasurer on the timely application for WMA Regional Masters Association grants, if any, and the reconciliation of such grants,
 - (viii) attend team manager meetings at WMA Stadia and Indoor Championships in order to represent the interests of those Members from the Region that have not appointed team managers, to ensure that their Masters Athletes are made aware of the business determined at each such meeting, and
 - (ix) undertake any other assigned tasks in furtherance of WMA's Purposes.

24.2 Each Regional Representative is encouraged to:

- (i) with the assistance of the relevant Member, provide a brief assessment to Council of the strength of a city's bid to host a WMA championship within their Region, along with the initial proposal from the bid city,
- (ii) liaise between the Council, the Regional Masters Association and the Local Organizing Committee in the event of a successful WMA Championship hosting bid from their Region, and
- (iii) assist the Member making a successful bid and Local Organizing Committee with the planning and conduct of such Championships.

25. Members

25.1 Members who are not an integrated part of a WA National Federation, must be sanctioned as the governing national masters association or organization by the WA National Federation and are encouraged to work in cooperation with the WA National Federation.

25.2 Members shall be responsible for:

- (i) maintaining effective communication with WMA, its Regional Masters Association, and Masters Athletes on all aspects of Masters Athletics, including conforming to WMA Competition and Technical Rules,
- (ii) ensuring all Masters Athletes' details are thoroughly checked through a certified birth certificate or an official government document issued at birth,
- (iii) validating the information on all Masters Athletes competing in all WMA and Regional Championships,
- (iv) upholding the rules and rulings of WA, WMA, the Member's Regional Masters Association and the Member's WA National Federation,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- (v) keeping accurate financial records and maintaining good reporting practices,
- (vi) providing guidance to Masters Athletes on the running of the WMA and Regional Championships in all aspects of competitions, rules, membership, ethics, medical and anti-doping, and
- (vii) taking and enforcing appropriate action on all applicable disciplinary matters.

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

CHAPTER B: BY-LAWS ON WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

APPLICABILITY

1. Purpose

- 1.1 These By-Laws on Championships are applicable to:
- (i) bidding procedures for WMA Championships, and
 - (ii) eligibility of Masters Athletes for WMA Championships.

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

2. WMA Championships

- 2.1 WMA conducts and/or sanctions WMA Championships in the following areas:
- (i) Stadia,
 - (ii) Indoor,
 - (iii) Non-Stadia,
 - (iv) Mountain Running,
 - (v) Marathon, and
 - (vi) Ultrarunning.
- 2.2 WMA sanctions World Stadia Championships which shall be held in each even-numbered year.
- 2.3 WMA sanctions World Indoor Championships which shall be held in each odd-numbered year.
- 2.4 Non-Stadia championship events may be included as part of WMA Stadia and Indoor Championships.
- 2.5 WMA Mountain Running Championships shall be conducted annually on behalf of WMA by the World Mountain Running Association ("WMRA").
- 2.6 WMA Marathon Championships shall be conducted biennially in coordination and cooperation with an established marathon event.
- 2.7 WMA Ultrarunning Championships shall be conducted annually on behalf of WMA by the International Association of Ultrarunners ("IAU").

3. Identification of Potential Championships Bid Candidates

- 3.1 Each Regional Representative is encouraged to periodically identify a potential Championships host ("Bid Candidate"), which may be a city, or nearby cities or municipalities, that can meet the venue, organizational, and financial requirements for hosting a WMA Stadia or Indoor Championships, so as to facilitate rotation of WMA

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

Championships among the Regions.

4. Applications to Host WMA Championships

- 4.1 Applications to stage WMA Stadia or Indoor Championships shall be submitted by the Bid Candidate with the written bid application form formally supported, in writing, by the relevant Member.
- 4.2 The Vice-President Competition may assist in initial assessments and meetings in determining the overall suitability of each potential Bid Candidate, including, but not limited to assessing the Bid Candidate's ability and willingness to provide adequate competition and non-competition facilities and to ensure proper anti-doping protocols.
- 4.3 A bid application, duly signed by the government representatives of the Bid Candidate, the Local Organizing Committee, the WA Member Federation, and the Member must be forwarded to the Secretary General not later than 28 February of the year of the General Assembly at which the bid is to be considered and four (4) years prior to the proposed Stadia Championships year or three (3) years prior to the proposed Indoor Championships.
- 4.4 The Regional Representative may send to the Secretary General a preliminary assessment of the potential Bid Candidate's strengths, prepared with the assistance of the relevant Member.
- 4.5 Should there be no bids which are regarded by the Board as being acceptable by 31 December; the Board, through a formal notice sent by the Secretary General to all Members, shall call for additional bids.
- 4.6 No more than one (1) Bid Candidate may be supported by a Member for a given Championship, although one or more nearby cities or municipalities may group together as a single Bid Candidate.
- 4.7 Applications to stage WMA Mountain Running Championships or WMA Ultrarunning Championships should be directed to WMRA or IAU respectively, who will be responsible for the selection and conduct of these WMA Championships.

5. Bidding Evaluation

- 5.1 Following the delivery of the written bid application as set forth in these By-Laws, and after the bid inspection visit, a signed memorandum of understanding ("MOU") must be entered into by WMA, the Bid Candidate's Local Organizing Committee, and the nominated government representative of the Bid Candidate or other financial guarantor of the Bid Candidate and must be formally supported, in writing, by the Member. The MOU must be signed within ten (10) days of the bid inspection visit and is required before a Bid Candidate will be eligible for presentation to the General Assembly.
- 5.2 Inspection visits to the sites of all Bid Candidates shall take place not less than ninety (90) days prior to the General Assembly.
- 5.3 The inspection shall be made by a WMA inspection team of not more than five (5) individuals for a Stadia Championships and four (4) individuals for an Indoor

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

Championships for whom airfares, food, and accommodation for four (4) nights each, shall be provided by the prospective Bid Candidate at its cost.

- 5.4 The WMA inspection team visiting the Bid Candidates shall compile a report following each inspection visit that shall be sent to the relevant Bid Candidate for its review and responses.
- 5.5 When responses have been received from each Bid Candidate, the inspection reports together with the Bid Candidate's comments shall be provided to the Council for evaluation and grading of the Bid Candidates.
- 5.6 The inspection reports referred to in these By-Laws together with any responses submitted by the Bid Candidates to the Council, as well as the Council evaluations, are to be circulated by the Secretary General to Members at least (45) days before the General Assembly.

6. Presentation and Selection

- 6.1 The Bid Candidates shall present their bids to the Board during the WMA Stadia Championships in advance of the General Assembly, after which the Board may recommend a Bid Candidate revise its presentation for delivery to the General Assembly for its decision.
- 6.2 Following the presentations by the Bid Candidates to the General Assembly, the Assembly shall vote, and the Bid Candidate who receives a majority of the vote shall be awarded the rights to stage the WMA Championships. In the event no Bid Candidate receives a majority on the first vote, the Bid Candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and another vote held, until a Bid Candidate receives a majority vote, after which such Bid Candidate shall be awarded the rights to stage the WMA Championships.
- 6.3 If there is only one (1) Bid Candidate, the Council shall have the right to accept or decline awarding the right to stage the WMA Championships to such Bid Candidate.
- 6.4 Voting shall be by secret ballot.
- 6.5 The successful Bid Candidate shall formalize the MOU into a contract with WMA with WMA, the Bid Candidate's Local Organizing Committee, and the nominated government representative of the Bid Candidate or other financial guarantor of the Bid Candidate as parties to the contract.

ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES FOR WMA CHAMPIONSHIPS

7. General Eligibility

- 7.1 All Masters Athletes registered with a Member shall be eligible to compete in any WMA or Regional Championships subject to compliance with entry requirements and subject to any outstanding imposed sanctions.
- 7.2 Subject to WA rules and decisions, no Masters Athlete shall be refused entry in any WMA or Regional Championships on grounds of age, gender, orientation, sexual preference, ability,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

race, religion, politics, nationality, or place of residence, unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws for safety reasons.

- 7.3 For safety reasons, and in consultation with the World Mountain Running Association, special age-category limitations may be set for WMA Championships in mountain running.
- 7.4 All Masters Athletes shall have their dates of birth verified through their registered Member by either providing an official birth certificate or an official government document issued at birth.
- 7.5 For Masters Athletes from Countries who do not have a WMA Member, such athlete shall make a written request to the Secretary General for permission to participate in a WMA Championships event. The Secretary General shall submit such request to the Board for decision. If the Board permits such athlete to compete in such event, the athlete shall have their date of birth verified by providing an official birth certificate or an official government document issued at birth to the Secretary General for verification upon registering for such event.

8. Designation for Competition

- 8.1 A Masters Athlete shall compete in WMA or Regional championships only for the Country of which he is a citizen or permanent resident unless otherwise permitted in these By-Laws. For purposes of these By-Laws the term "permanent resident" shall mean a Masters Athlete residing in a Country for at least three (3) years.
- 8.2 A Masters Athlete who is a citizen of two (2) Countries or who is a permanent resident of a Country of which such Masters Athlete is not a citizen, and who has not previously competed as a Master Athlete, may first compete for one (1) of the Countries and shall thereafter compete only for that Country unless otherwise permitted in these By-Laws.
- 8.3 A Masters Athlete who is a citizen or permanent resident of two (2) Countries and who has competed for one (1) of those Countries may thereafter compete for the other Country, only when changing citizenship or upon reaching permanent resident status in the new Country, and an official written request from the Masters Athlete to the two (2) Members has been agreed and confirmed in writing by the Secretary General.
 - (i) The request from the Masters Athlete shall be forwarded by the Master Athlete's present Member to the new Member, the Secretaries of the Regions of both Members, and the Secretary General for WMA. A written agreement by both Members must be sent to the Secretary General, who shall confirm or deny the request and notify the Members and the Regional Secretaries accordingly. A term of non-eligibility as per the WA rules may apply to any request and shall be communicated by the Secretary General to the affected Members and the Secretaries of the affected Regions.
 - (ii) A Masters Athlete granted a change in affiliation under this By-Law may subsequently request another change in affiliation, following the process set forth above. Such subsequent request shall be considered by the Council, on request from the Masters Athlete's present Member stating all reasons therefor, together with evidence from the

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

proposed Member. If approved by the Council, a term of non-eligibility as per the WA rules may apply to any such request and shall be communicated by the Secretary General to the affected Members and the Secretaries of the affected Regions. Absent extenuating circumstances, e.g., war, the Council shall not consider more than two (2) change of affiliation requests per Masters Athlete.

- 8.4 If a Masters Athlete lives or works temporarily in a Country that is not the Masters Athlete's Country of citizenship or permanent residency and has registered with a Member association for the purpose of competing in that Country, that Masters Athlete shall not be deemed to be registered with that Member or having changed citizenship for purposes of entry into WMA or Regional Championships. In such cases, such Masters Athlete must compete for the Country of which they are a citizen or permanent resident.

CHAPTER C: BY-LAWS ON STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

1. Applicability

- 1.1 All Office Bearers and Non-Office Bearers shall abide by Section 3, the "Integrity Standards," of the WA Integrity Code of Conduct. For purposes of these By-Laws, the term "Office Bearers" shall refer to any member of the Board and the Council and the term "Non-Office Bearers" shall refer to any athlete, coach, team manager, official, support staff, administrator, Manager, committee member, honorary member, and Delegate.

2. Office Bearers

2.1 No Office Bearer shall:

- (i) improperly exercise powers conferred upon him,
- (ii) fail to carry out duties properly delegated to him,
- (iii) act contrary to the Purposes of WMA,
- (iv) display conduct prejudicial to the good name of WMA or the sport of Masters Athletics,
- (v) promote, organise, conduct, or advertise any international masters athletic competition not sanctioned by WMA that is in direct competition with a WMA event, or
- (vi) breach the WA Integrity Code of Conduct.

- 2.2 Allegations of any breach of these By-Laws shall be made in writing to the Secretary General, who shall promptly report all such allegations to the Chair of the Judicial Panel, who shall determine whether the allegation warrants further action. Where such an allegation is found to warrant further action, it shall be referred to the Judicial Panel. Allegations of any breach of these By-Laws by the Secretary General shall be made in writing to the Executive Vice-President who shall follow the procedures set forth herein.

- 2.3 The Secretary General shall inform the individual accused of a breach in a formal written notice detailing the allegations made under these By-Laws, and the delivery of the matter to the Chair of the Judicial Panel. All subsequent communication with such individual, shall come directly from the Chair of the Judicial Panel.

- 2.4 The Judicial Panel shall set the rules for adjudicating any matter pertaining to a breach of these By-Laws, but should provide to the accused all documents, evidence and other material, favourable or unfavourable to the accused that may be used in any deliberation, together with the relevant parts of these By-Laws, before any consideration of the allegations by the Judicial Panel takes place.

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- 2.5 The Chair of the Judicial Panel shall not assign any members of the Judicial Panel to hear a matter in which such member is accused of a breach under these By-Laws.
- 2.6 Where allegations of a breach of these By-Laws are made against the President or the Secretary General, their duties shall be carried out by the Executive Vice-President until resolution of the allegations.
- 2.7 An Office Bearer adjudicated to have been in breach of these By-Laws may:
- (i) be removed from Office,
 - (ii) be suspended from any role in Masters Athletics for a period to be determined by the Judicial Panel,
 - (iii) be reprimanded in writing by the Chair of the Judicial Panel, and/ or
 - (iv) be subjected to any other sanction that the Judicial Panel determines, including without limitation, publication of particulars on the WMA website.
- 2.8 The Chair of the Judicial Panel shall promptly notify the Secretary General of the decision of the Judicial Panel.
- 2.9 Within 15 days of having received such notification from the Chair of the Judicial Panel the Secretary General shall:
- (i) inform the President and Council of the decision of the Judicial Panel,
 - (ii) advise the accused by e-mail and registered mail of the outcome of the allegation and of any sanctions imposed, and shall also outline any procedures and right to appeal the determination, and
 - (iii) where an allegation is upheld, advise all Members of the offending individual, the nature of the offence, the outcome of the Judicial Panel review, and any sanctions imposed.
- 2.10 Any Office Bearer removed or suspended shall automatically become ineligible to be or become a Member officer or Delegate which in the case of a suspension, shall be for the duration of such suspension.
- 2.11 A person ceasing to be an Office Bearer must within 30 days promptly hand over all material directly relevant to that office to the new incumbent or to the Secretary General and otherwise comply with any agreement signed on assumption of office.
- 3. Non-Office Bearers**
- 3.1 Allegations that a Non-Office Bearer has been in breach of the following shall be adjudicated by the Judicial Panel:
- (i) competing or attempting to compete in an incorrect age or gender category, or as another athlete,

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

- (ii) unsportsmanlike conduct,
- (iii) competing or seeking to compete under a Member other than that of the athlete's country of citizenship or permanent residency, or failing to register and compete via their Member as determined by citizenship or permanent residency,
- (iv) seeking to compete while under suspension,
- (v) inappropriate interpersonal conduct,
- (vi) displaying conduct prejudicial to the good name of WMA or conduct bringing the sport of Masters Athletics into disrepute,
- (vii) behavior that infringes, denigrates, or otherwise interferes with the rights of sponsors,
- (viii) improper use of prohibited substances as specified on the WADA Prohibited List,
- (ix) refusing to submit to drug testing when requested to do so,
- (x) tampering or other anti-doping matters, or
- (xi) any other conduct that violates the WA Integrity Code of Conduct.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, prior to adjudication by the Judicial Panel, items (viii), (ix), and (x), above shall first be considered by the Medical Panel who shall then determine whether a complaint should be filed with the Judicial Panel.

- 3.2 Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of an allegation of a breach, other than those related to prohibited substances, drug testing, tampering, or other anti-doping matters, the Secretary General shall send a copy of the allegation to the Chair of the Judicial Panel. Within fifteen (15) days of determination by the Chair of the Medical Panel of a breach related to prohibited substances, drug testing, tampering or other anti-doping matters, the Chair of the Medical Panel shall send a copy of the allegation to the Chair of the Judicial Panel. All subsequent communication with such individual, shall come directly from the Chair of the Judicial Panel.
- 3.3 A Non-Office Bearer adjudicated to have been in breach of these By-Laws may:
- (i) be suspended from any role in Masters Athletics for a period determined by the Judicial Panel,
 - (ii) be reprimanded in writing by the Chair of the Judicial Panel, and/or
 - (iii) be subjected to any other sanction that the Judicial Panel sees fit, including without limitation, publication of particulars on the WMA website.
- 3.4 Any suspension imposed upon a non-Office Bearer under these By-Laws shall be observed by the Member of which the individual is a member and by the relevant Regional Masters Association and shall apply to all athletics and all Masters Athletics competitions, management, administration and activities promoted or sanctioned by the Member, the

WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS BY-LAWS

Regional Masters Association or WMA.

- 3.5 Any individual suspended by their Member or WA Member Federation shall be ineligible to participate in any Member, WMA or Regional events during their suspension, and the individual's Member shall notify the WMA Secretary General within 15 days of the suspension, who shall notify all Members of the details of the individual and the suspension.
- 3.6 Masters Athletes convicted of a first offence relating to the improper use of prohibited substances shall not automatically be reinstated for competition at WMA or Regional Championships at the end of their suspension period until they have made themselves available for out-of-competition testing by the Medical Panel or other competent testing authority approved by the Medical Panel. Any testing shall be at the athlete's cost and the athlete shall provide information on their whereabouts to the Medical Panel or the testing authority for this purpose.
- 3.7 Upon a Masters Athlete complying with the out-of-competition testing and receiving a non-adverse result, the Chair of the Judicial Panel may authorize the lifting of a suspension relating to the improper use of prohibited substances, after consultation with the Chair of the Medical Panel, by notifying the athlete's Member and the Secretary General, who shall notify all other relevant persons.

4. Appeals

- 4.1 Any Member or individual sanctioned under these By-Laws shall have the right to appeal the determination and sanction imposed by the Judicial Panel, to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 4.2 Any appeal shall be conducted in English and the arbitration decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
- 4.3 WMA shall seek costs or contribution to costs incurred by it in any appeals to International Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 4.4 The place of any arbitration before the International Court of Arbitration for Sport may be in Lausanne, Switzerland; Sydney Australia; or New York, Unites States of America, as appropriate.