

# **WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS (WMA)**

(formerly World Association of Veteran Athletes)

(Founded in Gothenburg, SWE, August 9, 1977)

Registration in Sweden, No. 802413-3434

## **CONSTITUTION**

[Adopted in Gothenburg, SWE, August 9, 1977, with latest amendments in Durban, RSA, in 1997, in Gateshead, GBR, in 1999, in Brisbane, AUS, in 2001, in Carolina, PUR, in 2003, and in San Sebastian, ESP, in 2005]

### **1. NAME**

The name of the Association shall be WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS (hereinafter referred to as WMA).

### **2. PURPOSE**

- (a) To organise, regulate, and administer athletics for men and women of not less than thirty five years of age (hereinafter referred to as masters).
- (b) To sanction WMA and other international masters athletic competitions.
- (c) To ratify and register world masters five-year age-group records and maintain data on other outstanding athletic performances by masters.
- (d) To foster international friendship, understanding and co-operation through masters athletics.

### **3. AFFILIATION**

- (a) Only one organisation in each country may be an Affiliate.
- (b) An application for affiliation from a National Governing Body affiliated to the IAAF (hereinafter referred as NGB), in a country where there is no existing WMA Affiliate, shall be approved by the Council.
- (c) An application for affiliation from a masters/veterans athletic organisation approved in writing by the NGB, in a country where there is no existing WMA Affiliate, shall be approved by the Council.
- (d) An application for affiliation from a masters/veterans athletic organisation in a country where there is no existing WMA Affiliate and where no approval has been given by the NGB, shall be firstly referred by the WMA Secretariat to the NGB of that country. Thereafter:
  - i an application for affiliation received from the NGB within 60 days shall be approved by the Council.
  - ii an application for affiliation received within 60 days from a masters/veterans athletic organisation, approved in writing by the NGB, shall be approved by the Council.
  - iii if the NGB takes no action within 60 days, the WMA Council shall either approve the application or refer it to the General Assembly with recommendation for rejection.
- (e) An application for affiliation from a NGB, or from a masters/veterans athletic organisation authorised in writing by the NGB, in a country where there is an existing WMA Affiliate shall be subject to the procedure contained in the Bye-Laws.
- (f) An application for affiliation from a masters/veterans athletic organisation not authorised in writing by the NGB, in a country where there is an existing WMA Affiliate, which is not affiliated with the NGB or not approved in writing by the NGB, will be firstly referred by the WMA Secretariat to the NGB of that country. Thereafter:
  - i If the NGB presents an application for affiliation within 60 days or validates in writing the application already presented by the masters/veterans organisation, said application shall be subject to the procedure contained in the Bye-Laws.
  - ii If the NGB takes no action within 60 days, the Council will determine which Organisation shall be the Affiliate.
- (g) An application for affiliation from a masters/veterans athletic organisation in a country where the WMA Affiliate already is the NGB or a masters/veterans athletic organisation approved in writing by the NGB, shall not be considered.
- (h) The Council shall determine whether there will be any affiliation fee, as applied to Affiliates, the amount and the procedure for payment of fees, if any.
- (i) Each Affiliate shall provide the WMA Secretary with such information regarding the Affiliate and its officers as he may require and shall inform him immediately of any amendments thereto.
- (j) An Affiliate may be expelled only by the General Assembly, except as provided in sub-sections 3(e), 3(f) and 3(k). The Council has the right to suspend an Affiliate temporarily with the obligation to account for the question to the next General Assembly where a final decision must be taken.
- (k) WMA will not accept, or continue to recognise as an Affiliate, any Organisation whose NGB is suspended by the IAAF.

### **4. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- (a) The General Assembly shall meet in conjunction with each biennial WMA World Championships Stadia and shall consist of the Council and the delegates appointed by Affiliates.
- (b) At the General Assembly, each Affiliate shall be entitled to one delegate and also one additional delegate for each 100 of its competitors in the last three WMA World Championships Stadia (excluding the current Championships), but no Affiliate shall be entitled to more than five delegates. The word "competitor" shall mean competitors registered as entered and fully paid up regardless of whether they start their events or not.
- (c) Members of the Council and aforesaid delegates shall have each only one vote and may not vote on behalf of absentees. The Presiding Officer shall also have an additional vote to break a tied vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
- (d) Decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken on the basis of simple majority vote, except for amendments to the Constitution for which a 2/3 majority shall be required, and shall be valid regardless of the number present.
- (e) The General Assembly shall:
  - i Receive and, if thought fit, approve of each of the Council Officer's report and the auditors' report
  - ii Elect the officers for the period until the next quadrennial meeting of the General Assembly (from 1997 onwards):
    - a) President
    - b) Executive Vice-President
    - c) Vice-President Stadia
    - d) Vice-President Non-Stadia
    - e) Secretary
    - f) Treasurer
    - g) Women's Representative
  - iii Note the appointment of the Regional Delegates
  - iv Decide on all proposed amendments to the Constitution.
  - v Sanction each WMA World Championship, with due regard to the claims of each Region and thus authorise the Council to sign the contract relative thereto
  - vi Decide on all matters of policy
  - vii Receive report on World Masters Games
  - viii Elect WMA Honorary Members :
    - On proposals from the Council, the General Assembly may appoint as WMA Honorary Members:
      - (i) Honorary Life Presidents for which only former WMA Presidents shall be eligible and/or;
      - (ii) Honorary Life Members consisting of former WMA office bearers.
- (f) The General Assembly may:
  - i Decide on a proposed amendment to the Bye-Laws and/or the Rules of Competition.
  - ii Instruct the Council to decide on a specific matter, including a proposed amendment to the Bye-Laws and/or the Rules of Competition.
  - iii Delegate contingency powers on a specific matter to the Council.
- (g) The General Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in "Robert's Rules of order" except as may be otherwise prescribed in this Constitution.
- (h) The Secretary shall notify the Affiliates of the opening date of each meeting of the General Assembly not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days in advance thereof.
- (i) An amendment to the Constitution, Bye-Laws or the Rules of Competition may be proposed by an Affiliate or by the Council and must be in the hands of the Secretary ninety (90) days before the opening date of the General Assembly. If a constitutional amendment is defeated at a General Assembly, a similar amendment cannot be raised at the next General Assembly unless suggested by the Council.
- (j) The Secretary, not later than forty-five (45) days before the opening date of the General Assembly, shall send to the Affiliates and to the Council the Agenda of each meeting of the General Assembly together with the Council officers' reports, any proposed amendments to the Constitution, Bye-Laws and the Rules of Competition and the nominations of the candidates for office.
- (k) Anyone found guilty of any offence under the disciplinary sub-section in the Law and Legislation Bye-Laws 3 (4) (f) i-iii and v may not be a delegate at a WMA General Assembly during the suspension period.
- (l) Substitutes for Regional Delegates will be permitted upon written verification from the Regional President submitted to the WMA Secretary at least 24 hours in advance of the opening of General Assemblies and/or Council meetings.
- (m) Each delegate of an Affiliate shall be a member of that Affiliate. Substitutes may be named for any delegate with the exception of a WMA Officer. A substitute may vote in the place of an absent delegate provided the substitute meets all required qualifications of a voting delegate. Substitutes shall be stated by written verification from the President of the respective Governing Body on the stationery of that National Body submitted to the WMA Secretary at least 24 hours in advance of the opening of the General Assembly.
- (n) The names of Delegates to the General Assembly (including any alternates/substitutes) shall be given in writing by the affiliates to the WMA Secretary not later than 30 days before the opening date of the General Assembly.

## 5. COUNCIL

- (a) The Council shall consist of the following Officers:
  - i The President
  - ii The Executive Vice-President
  - iii The Vice-President Stadia
  - iv The Vice-President Non-Stadia
  - v The Secretary
  - vi The Treasurer
  - vii The Women's Representative
  - viii The Regional Delegates, one appointed by each Regional Association
  - ix The IAAF Delegate appointed by the IAAF
  - x The immediate past-President, limited to a period of two years after the election of a new President.
- (b) The Council shall administer the affairs of WMA, subject to the decisions of the General Assembly.
- (c) The Council shall comply with the instructions of the General Assembly on specific matters, including amendments to the Bye-Laws and/or the Rules of Competition. The Council may amend the Bye-Laws and the Rules of Competition on its own initiative provided that, in so doing, it does not negate a decision of the General Assembly.
- (d) The Council shall consider and decide upon any specific matter remitted to the Council by the General Assembly.
- (e) WMA independent, professional auditors shall be appointed by the Council and shall report to the General Assembly.
- (f) Meetings of the Council shall observe such rules of procedures as are acceptable to a majority of those present.
- (g) Decisions of the Council shall be taken on the basis of simple majority vote and the Presiding Officer shall also have an additional vote to break a tied vote. A quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of the Council members.
- (h) The Secretary shall notify the members of the Council of the time and location of each meeting of the Council.
- (i) The Council shall ratify world masters five-year age-group records and best performances.
- (j) The Council shall negotiate the terms of any contract to be entered into by WMA and may delegate that or any other function to one or more of its members.
- (k) The Council shall call for bids for the WMA World Championships from Affiliates in sufficient time for a decision to be reached by the General Assembly two General Assemblies in advance of the proposed date of such Championships.
- (l) Should an Affiliate default on its obligations less than two years before the Championships, the Council shall offer the Championships concerned to an Affiliate which has recently been unsuccessful in an application for the Championships. Should the matter then remain undecided, the Council shall immediately call for applications and shall have the power to make a decision, unless a meeting of the General Assembly can deal with the matter with adequate time to allow the applicant to prepare for holding the Championships.
- (m) The Council shall have the power to award WMA Bronze Pins to persons who have rendered outstanding services to WMA and who are not eligible for Honorary Life Membership as provided for in Section 4 (e) viii..
- (n) Not more than two members of the Council or of any single WMA Committee may come from the same affiliate.

## **6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- (a) The President, the Executive Vice-President, the Vice-President Stadia, the Vice-President Non-Stadia, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Women's Representative shall be elected at each quadrennial meeting of the General Assembly in a secret ballot.  
Where there are more than two candidates for an office and none gains a simple majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be excluded and a further vote taken. The voting shall continue in this manner until one candidate receives a simple majority of the votes cast.
- (b) The office of Women's Representative shall be filled, regardless of any other office being held, by a woman.
- (c) No officer shall hold more than one office at any one time but, in the event of an officer failing for any reason to complete his term of office, the remaining Council's members shall appoint a replacement to fulfil his duties until the next General Assembly.  
The term of office of any Officer shall be for an initial term of four years, and that Officer shall thereafter be subject to re-election to the same office at the General Assembly at two year intervals. No Officer may hold any specific office to which he/she is elected for more than a maximum of ten years in total.
- (d) Nomination of candidates for office may only be made by any Affiliate and must be in the hands of the WMA Secretary ninety (90) days before the opening date of the General Assembly. All nominations shall be accompanied by C.V.'s. The Secretary shall inform all Affiliates no later than 180 days before the opening date of the General Assembly of the Council members willing to stand as candidates for another term.  
A nomination may be accepted from the floor at a meeting of the General Assembly only if the Presiding Officer is satisfied that there is sufficient reason why the nomination was not made in the proper manner.  
Nomination of a candidate for an office may be made by any WMA Affiliate but, if not made by the nominee's Affiliate, that nomination must, to be valid, be supported or endorsed in writing by the nominee's Affiliate.
- (e) All elected officers shall take office at the close of the Championships at which they were elected by the General Assembly.

## 7. OFFICERS

- (a) President
  - i The President shall be the principal executive officer of WMA and shall be the Presiding Officer at all meetings of the General Assembly and at all meetings of the Council.
  - ii The President shall submit to each meeting of the General Assembly a written report on WMA's activities and business since the most recent meeting of the General Assembly.
  - iii The President, with the approval of the Council, shall appoint the members of all WMA Committees.
  - iv The President shall have the right to sit on any WMA Committee or nominate a deputy to sit thereon.
  - v The President shall be one of the signatories to each contract or other agreement to which WMA is party.
- (b) Executive Vice-President
  - i The Executive Vice-President shall assist the President and, when necessary, deputise for him.
  - ii In the event of the President failing for any reason to complete his term of office the Executive Vice-President shall fulfil the President's duties until the next General Assembly.
  - iii The Executive Vice-President shall be the Chairperson of the Organisational Advisory Committee.
- (c) Vice-President Stadia
  - i The Vice-President Stadia shall be the Chairman of the Stadia Committee.
  - ii The Vice-President Stadia shall be responsible for all track and field matters and, subject to instruction from the Council, shall co-operate as necessary with Organising Committees of all WMA World Championships Stadia, Outdoors and Indoors, to ensure the proper organisation and conduct of all events within his area of responsibility.
- (d) Vice-President Non-Stadia
  - i The Vice-President Non-Stadia shall be the Chairman of the Non-Stadia Committee.
  - ii The Vice-President Non-Stadia shall be responsible for all road-running, road-walking and cross-country matters and, subject to instruction from the Council, shall co-operate as necessary with Organising Committees of WMA World Championships to ensure the proper organisation and conduct of all events within his area of responsibility.
- (e) Secretary
  - i The Secretary shall take minutes of all meetings of the General Assembly and of all meetings of the Council.
  - ii The Secretary shall effect each amendment to the Constitution as approved by the General Assembly and each amendment to the Bye-Laws or the Rules of Competition as approved by the General Assembly or by the Council.
  - iii The Secretary, not later than sixty (60) days after the closing of each meeting of the General Assembly, shall send the minutes of that meeting of the General Assembly and the revised Constitution, Bye-Laws and the Rules of Competition to all Affiliates and members of the Council.
  - iv The Secretary shall send the minutes of all meetings of the Council to the Council members.
  - v The Secretary shall maintain a register of Affiliates.
  - vi The Secretary shall keep all Affiliates informed of WMA business.
- (f) Treasurer
  - i The Treasurer, prior to the Stadia Championships, shall submit a proposed budget to the Council and to the Affiliates for the next accounting period. Prior to the General Assembly, the Council shall review and approve the budget and notify the General Assembly.
  - ii The Treasurer shall operate a bank account in the name of WMA.
  - iii The Treasurer shall collect funds due to WMA and shall make payments in accordance with the budget approved by the Council.
  - iv The Treasurer shall submit interim financial reports annually to the Council.
  - v The Treasurer shall prepare a Profit & Loss Statement and a Balance Sheet every six months to be posted on the WMA website.
  - vi The Treasurer shall maintain all financial records.
  - vii The Treasurer shall be one of the signatories to each cheque.
  - viii The Treasurer shall be one of the signatories to each contract.
- (g) Women's Representative
  - i The Women's Representative shall be the Chairman of the Women's Committee.
  - ii The Women's Representative shall be an ex-officio member of the WMA Anti-Doping and Medical Committee.
  - iii The Women's Representative shall ensure that due consideration is given at all times to the particular interests of female masters/veterans athletes.
  - iv The Women's Representative, subject to the instruction from the Council, shall co-operate as necessary with Organising Committees of WMA World Championships to ensure that due consideration is given to the particular interests of female competitors.

## 8. STANDING COMMITTEES

As soon as practicable after each quadrennial meeting of the General Assembly, the President, with the approval of the Council, shall appoint the members of the following Standing Committees to serve until the next election of the General Assembly except as specifically indicated by the Constitution and/or Bye-Laws:

- (a) Stadia Committee

The Stadia Committee shall have jurisdiction over all WMA Stadia, Outdoor and Indoor, events subject to the decisions of the WMA Council. These shall include, but are not limited to:

  - i all running and walking events held on a track as part of a track meet
  - ii all field events
  - iii all combined events competitions

- (b) **Non-Stadia Committee**  
The Non-Stadia Committee shall have jurisdiction over all WMA Non-Stadia events subject to the decisions of the WMA Council. These shall include, but are not limited to:
  - i Road-Running (including a 100K World Championship Road Race)
  - ii Cross-Country
  - iii Road Race-Walking
- (c) **Anti-Doping and Medical Committee**  
The Anti-Doping and Medical Committee shall have jurisdiction over all WMA activities relating to doping and medical matters including sex clarification and ageing effects subject to decisions of the WMA Council. The committee is supposed to work in close co-operation with the IAAF Medical Committee.
- (d) **Law and Legislation Committee**  
The Law and Legislation Committee shall review all proposed Constitutional and/or By-Law changes received by the Secretary for clarity of language and for any inconsistency with existing Constitution and/or Bye-Laws provisions subject to decisions of the WMA Council.  
The Law & Legislation Committee shall have jurisdiction over all WMA activities relating to disciplinary matters and its decisions shall be subject to ratification by the WMA Council.
- (e) **Records Committee**  
The Records Committee shall check and recognise applications for world masters five-year age group records and "best" performances. It, on the instructions of the WMA Council, maintains data and a register on outstanding athletic performances by masters/veteran athletes.
- (f) **Organisational Advisory Committee**  
The Organisational Advisory Committee shall act as liaison between WMA and the Local Organising Committee regarding all matters pertaining to the non-competition areas of the organisation of the Championships.
- (g) **Women's Committee**  
The Women's Committee shall represent the interests of Women Athletes. Meetings of the Stadia, the Non-Stadia and the Women's Committees are to be held as "open" meetings (to be attended by any athletes wishing to do so) during each of the WMA World Championships Stadia.

## **9. REGIONS**

- (a) WMA shall recognise the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, North & Central America and the Caribbean, Oceania and South America.  
Unless specifically exempted following the procedure under paragraph 9 (c), the IAAF groupings shall be used for WMA Regions.  
The WMA Regions can only accept the participation of WMA Affiliated Masters/ Veterans National Bodies, under section 3 of the WMA Constitution.
- (b) The Affiliates in each region shall constitute a Regional Association of WMA and each Regional Association shall elect its own Regional Council, hold Regional Assemblies and adopt its own Constitution and Bye-Laws, which may not conflict in any sense with the Constitution and Bye-Laws of WMA. Copies of such Constitutions and Bye-Laws shall be submitted to the WMA Secretary.
- (c) If a Masters/Veterans Organisation wishes to transfer to another Region, that Affiliate must apply to the Region to which it is affiliated. That Region shall consider the application at the next meeting of its Regional Council: if the transfer is approved, that Region shall apply, on behalf of its Affiliate, to the Region to which it wishes to transfer. That Region must consider the application at the next meeting of its Regional Council. If it approves the transfer, the Regional Council shall send the application to the WMA Secretary, who shall send it to the IAAF, with a recommendation for approval. If either Region or IAAF disapproves the transfer, it shall not take place.
- (d) Each Regional Association, at each meeting of its Regional General Assembly, shall appoint one Regional Delegate to the WMA Council to represent Affiliates within that Region.
- (e) Where a Regional Association fails to appoint a Regional Delegate, the WMA President, with the approval of the WMA Council, shall appoint a Regional Delegate to serve until the next meeting of the WMA General Assembly.
- (f) Where a Regional Delegate fails for any reason to complete his term of office, the Regional Council shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next meeting of its Regional General Assembly. If the Regional Council does not appoint a replacement within sixty (60) days, the WMA President, with the approval of the WMA Council, shall do so.
- (g) Regional Associations may conduct inter-regional competitions.

## **10. IMPEACHMENT**

- (a) A member of the Council may be impeached on the ground that he has exercised his power improperly or that he has failed to carry out his duty satisfactorily.
- (b) Any eight (8) members of the Council or any twelve (12) Affiliates representing a minimum of twenty-five (25) voting delegates, may institute impeachment proceedings against a member of the Council by notifying the WMA Secretary in writing of the charges and sending a copy to the accused. Where impeachment proceedings are instituted by twelve (12) Affiliates, their notification to the Secretary shall be signed by the President or the Secretary of each Affiliate.
- (c) Not later than seven (7) days after receiving the charges, the Secretary shall inform all members of the Council in writing and the President may suspend the accused from office until proceedings are concluded.
- (d) If the charges reach the Secretary less than one year before the opening date of the next WMA World Championships Stadia, the charges and the reply of the accused thereto shall be considered by the next meeting of the WMA General Assembly where a formal vote shall decide the matter.

- (e) If the charges reach the Secretary one year or more before the opening date of the next WMA World Championships Stadia, the Secretary shall inform the accused immediately that his reply to the charges must reach the Secretary not later than forty-five (45) days after the date of mailing of the Secretary's letter.  
The Secretary shall send copies of the charges and of the reply of the accused thereto to each Affiliate with a voting paper enabling each Affiliate to cast the same number of votes as the number of delegates to which it was entitled at the most recent meeting of the General Assembly. The Secretary shall inform each Affiliate that its votes must reach the Secretary not later than thirty (30) days after the date of mailing of the Secretary's letter. The Secretary shall tabulate the result of the voting and, within twenty-one (21) days of the closing date thereof, shall advise all Affiliates and members of the Council accordingly. If the impeachment is carried, the President shall remove the impeached member from the Council.
- (f) If impeachment proceedings are instituted against the President or the Secretary, his duties in such proceedings shall be carried out by the Executive Vice- President.

#### **11. ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) All masters/veterans shall be eligible to compete in any masters athletics competition. No master/veteran shall be refused entry on ground of race, religion, politics, nationality or place of residence.
- (b) Athletes holding dual nationality/citizenship may be permitted to change nationality/citizenship and thereby permitted to compete solely for another country (to the exclusion of the country of his/her nationality/citizenship) only when a change in the athlete's permanent physical address has occurred. Such change must be reported to the WMA Regional Association Secretary and the WMA Secretary and shall only become effective once confirmed in writing by the WMA Secretary.
- (c) Only masters/veterans who are members of Affiliates shall be eligible for appointment as delegates to the General Assembly or for membership of the WMA Council or any WMA Committee.

#### **12. DEFINITION**

Throughout the Constitution, the Bye-Laws and the Rules of Competition, the masculine gender shall include the feminine, any reference to masters shall include veterans and the singular shall include the plural – all vice versa.

#### **13. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution of WMA, its assets shall be distributed among the Affiliates in proportion of the number of delegates to which each was entitled at the most recent meeting of the General Assembly.

#### **14. STATUS**

WMA is an independent body, totally independent from its members and it thereby incurs separate liability for its acts or omissions, totally unrelated to its members, or members of its Council. Accordingly, none of them shall incur any personal liability for any such acts or omissions by WMA or by its Council, unless any individual incurs a personal liability and thereby renders himself/herself personally liable to any other person/s by operation of law.