

WMA CONSTITUTION 2016-2018



WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS

IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF

WMA CONSTITUTION

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PART-A: DECLARATION, INTERPRETATION AND OBJECTS

1. Name, Identification and Registered Office

- 1.1 The name of the association of which this is the Constitution shall be “World Masters Athletics” (WMA).
- 1.2 WMA is a not-for-profit organisation that is neutral regarding politics, religion, ethnicity and gender. Its duration is unlimited.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 The WMA headquarters are located at 6 Quai Antoine 1er, Monaco, but may be transferred to any other place in the Principality by resolution of Council. It cannot be transferred outside the Monaco Principality.
- 1.5 WMA is the world-governing body for the sport of masters athletics, and operates in coordination with IAAF.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 In this Constitution of World Masters Athletics, and in the By-Laws and Rules the words and phrases set out below have the meanings given in this Clause, except where a different meaning is clearly intended, and when used in the plural have corresponding meanings.

Anti-Doping Rules	means anti-doping rules and policies adopted under the By-Laws.
Athletics	means the sport of track and field, road running, race walking, cross country running and mountain running.
By-Laws	mean the laws that have been adopted under this Constitution.
Committee	means a standing or ad hoc committee established under this Constitution or the By-Laws.
Council	means the body responsible for the administration of WMA consisting of the elected members of the Executive, the IAAF Representative and the Regional Representatives.
Country	means a self-governing geographical area of the world recognized as an independent state by international law and international governmental bodies.
Delegate	means a representative of a Member eligible to speak and vote at a General Assembly.
Executive	means the Officers plus the IAAF Representative.
Formal Notice	means official notification by personal delivery, mail, electronic mail, facsimile, telegram or any other means of written communication.
Formal Policies	means policies adopted by Council or the Executive to govern the activities of Council, the Executive and Committees.
General Assembly	means a meeting of Council and Delegates.
Honorary member	means an individual recognised by the General Assembly for meritorious services to WMA.
IAAF	means the International Association of Athletics Federations.
IAAF Representative	means the member of Council appointed by the IAAF.

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Majority	means a vote of more than 50 per cent of Valid Votes.
Masters Athlete	means any male or female participating in Athletics who has attained the age of 35 years who is currently registered or licenced by a Member. A masters athlete (all lower case) shall refer any male or female participating in Athletics who has attained the age of 35 years but who is not registered with a Member (such as some Masters Games competitors).
Member	means an athletics organisation affiliated with WMA which is responsible to represent all Masters Athletes of a Country or Territory; and Membership shall have a corresponding meaning.
National Governing Body	means the organisation in a Country or Territory which is responsible for Athletics and which is affiliated with IAAF.
Objects	means the purposes for which WMA is established as stated in this Constitution.
Office Bearer	means an individual elected or appointed to Council or to a Committee or to represent WMA on an external body.
Officer	means an individual elected or appointed to fill a vacancy as the President, the Executive Vice-President, the Vice-President Competition, the Secretary, the Treasurer or the Women's Representative; and Office has a corresponding meaning.
Original WMA	means the entity established in Sweden in 1977 under the name World Association of Veteran Athletes which now continues there under the name World Masters Athletics.
Quorum	means the minimum number of persons who need to be present to constitute a valid meeting.
Region	means each of the six geographical areas into which the world has been divided for the purposes of the administration of WMA and for the grouping of Members, being Africa; Asia; Europe; North and Central America & the Caribbean; Oceania; and South America; and Regional has a corresponding meaning.
Regional Association	means the organisation responsible for coordinating and fostering masters athletics in a Region.
Regional Representative	means the person appointed to Council by a Region.
Rules	mean the Rules of Competition for the conduct of masters athletics, the Championship Rules for the conduct of WMA Championships, and the Anti-Doping Rules.
Special Majority	means at least two-thirds of the Valid Votes.
Territory	means any semi-autonomous territory or dependency recognised by international law and international governmental bodies.
Valid Votes	means all votes cast except: (i) blank votes, or (ii) votes for more candidates than the number required.
WADA	means the World Anti-Doping Agency.
WMA	means World Masters Athletics, of which this is the Constitution.
WMA Meeting	means a General Assembly or a meeting of Council, of the Executive or of a Committee.

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- 2.2 The By-Laws, the Rules of Competition, the Championship Rules, the Anti-Doping Rules and Formal Policies made under this Constitution are not part of this Constitution but provide further detail or expand on elements of the Constitution or address matters not specifically dealt with in the Constitution.
- 2.3 In this Constitution, the By-Laws, the Rules and the Formal Policies the masculine gender includes the feminine gender. However specific reference to the feminine gender means only the feminine gender.

3. Objects

3.1 The Objects of WMA are:

- (i) to develop, regulate, promote and manage all aspects of the sport of masters athletics at the world level for the Members,
- (ii) to establish, coordinate, and foster masters athletics through Regional Associations,
- (iii) to safeguard, act in the interests of, and maintain the reputation and integrity of masters athletics,
- (iv) 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 or ability,
- (v) to sanction, promote and ensure the conduct of WMA championships and other competitions as determined from time to time,
- (vi) through the IAAF, to sanction or conduct, either by WMA or through its Regional Associations, any masters athletics competition scheduled by any non-IAAF/WMA affiliated organisation, in particular "Games organisations",
- (vii) to foster friendly and cooperative masters athletics competition at the national level and between Members at the Regional level,
- (viii) to work in co-operation with the IAAF, and to ratify and implement IAAF rules, regulations, directives and sanctions as they apply to masters athletics,
- (ix) to work in co-operation with other organisations that are engaged in the sport of masters athletics,
- (x) to implement WADA/IAAF anti-doping regulations as they are deemed to apply to masters athletics,
- (xi) to ratify and maintain World Masters Athletics records and best performances,
- (xii) to liaise with Members directly and through their Regional Associations in relation to masters athletics and the interests of athletics more generally,
- (xiii) to establish standards of conduct expected of Office Bearers, Masters Athletes, officials, support staff and administrators and disciplinary procedures for breaches of these standards,
- (xiv) to succeed to the position, authority, activities, affiliations, assets, obligations, and outcomes of Original WMA.

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PART-B: WMA MEMBERSHIP

4. Membership

- 4.1 Only one properly constituted association or organisation that represents Masters Athletes for each Country or Territory is eligible for Membership in WMA; this may be a National Governing Body or an independent national masters body that is approved by the National Governing Body.
- 4.2 Membership of WMA shall not be available to any prospective member whose constitution is inconsistent with the Objects or spirit of this Constitution.
- 4.3 Applications for Membership shall be sent to the Regional Association to which the applicant belongs, which will then provide its comments on the application and forward it to the WMA Secretary for a decision by the WMA Council.

5. Termination of Membership

- 5.1 Where the affiliation of a National Governing Body to IAAF is terminated (for whatever reason) in accordance with the IAAF constitution then WMA Membership of the Member from the corresponding Country or Territory is simultaneously terminated.
- 5.2 A Member may cease to be a Member of WMA by sending a resignation letter on its official letterhead to the WMA Secretary.
- 5.3 The Council may recommend suspension or termination of a Member or its officers, to a General Assembly if it is of the opinion that the Member has:
- (i) refused or neglected to comply with the provisions of this Constitution, the By-Laws, the Rules or other valid WMA resolutions or directives after being given notice to do so, or
 - (ii) 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, or
 - (iii) become inactive or is no longer a properly constituted national association or an organisation that represents Masters Athletes, or
 - (iv) fails to act in accordance with their own constitution, in the interest of their athletes and in accordance with good practice that befits the position of the office they are elected to.
- 5.4 The Council can recommend the suspension or the termination of a Member's Membership explaining the grounds of which it was based. By-Law 29 provides further detail regarding termination or suspension of Membership.
- 5.5 The Member will be given the possibility to attend and speak to the motion for suspension or termination at that General Assembly, or submit at or prior to the General Assembly written representations regarding the notice of motion.
- 5.6 Any General Assembly decision to suspend or terminate shall be by Special Majority.
- 5.7 Any decision to terminate the Membership of a Member shall be subject to an appeal to the Law & Legislation Committee whose decision shall have immediate effect and shall be final and binding on the parties with no further right of appeal.

6. Membership Fees

- 6.1 WMA may charge Members Membership fees, and the amount of the Membership fee and its method of determination shall be proposed by Council and must be approved by a General Assembly and specified in the WMA By-Laws.

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7. Rights and Obligations of Members

- 7.1 Members are entitled to propose motions and vote at General Assemblies.
- 7.2 Members are entitled to nominate eligible individuals to be Office Bearers.
- 7.3 Members are entitled to nominate host cities for WMA Championships.
- 7.4 Members shall regulate, administer and support masters athletics in their jurisdiction and otherwise operate in a manner that is consistent with the Objects.
- 7.5 Members shall promptly provide to the secretary of their Regional Association and the WMA Secretary the contact information for their organisation and any changes or updates to that information and should respond within 30 days to any reasonable request from the Secretary for information relating to the Member's organisation and activities relating to masters athletics.
- 7.6 Members shall, if requested, provide a biennial report to their National Governing Body and to the secretary of their Regional Association.
- 7.7 Members shall ensure the payment of their Membership fees, if any, as well as facilitating the payment of any other fees such as WMA championship fees or competitor levies collected on behalf of WMA by a championship hosting organisation in their jurisdiction.

8. Information

- 8.1 The Secretary shall promptly notify Members of any changes to this Constitution, the By-Laws, the Competition, Championship and Anti-Doping rules and Formal Policies, and of the availability of any new editions of WMA documents and of any changes to Council membership.
- 8.2 The Secretary shall provide timely administrative information to Members as required by this Constitution and the By-Laws.

PART-C: ADMINISTRATION

9. Management Structure

- 9.1 The affairs of WMA shall be the responsibility of the General Assembly, Council and the Executive. The General Assembly is the supreme decision making body of WMA. Council and the Executive are responsible for the day-to-day management of WMA's affairs.

9.2 Responsibility of the members

The Association is responsible for the assets used in its name and in no way can the members be personally liable for the Association's commitments.

10. General Assembly

- 10.1 The General Assembly shall consist of:
 - (i) the Council, and
 - (ii) Delegates.
- 10.2 The General Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with By-Laws 12 and 15.
- 10.3 At the General Assembly, each Delegate may speak in his own language but must arrange for the translation of his address into English if such service is not otherwise provided.
- 10.4 The number and eligibility of Delegates at a General Assembly shall be determined on the following basis:
 - (i) each Member shall be entitled to one Delegate,

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- (ii) each Member shall be entitled to one additional Delegate for each 100 of the total of its competitors at the last three outdoor WMA Stadia Championships, to a maximum of four additional Delegates,
 - (iii) the competitors referred to in **Clause 10.4 (ii)** shall mean eligible competitors registered as entered and fully paid up regardless of whether they start their events or not,
 - (iv) a Delegate must be a Masters Athlete who is a member in good standing of the Member which they represent or an office bearer of that Member. Proxies or delegating representation by a Member to any individual from another Member is not permitted, and
 - (v) each Delegate present is entitled to one vote on any motion.
- 10.5 The names of Delegates including any substitutes shall be provided in writing by Members to the Secretary at least 30 days before the General Assembly.
- 10.6 The nomination of substitute Delegates to replace previously nominated Delegates must be made in writing by Members on their official letterhead, and lodged with the WMA Secretary not less than 24 hours in advance of the opening of the General Assembly.
- 10.7 Each Council member present is entitled to one vote on any motion.
- 10.8 Non-voting observers, including Honourees, Bidding Delegations, members of the Press, athletes and members of the public may be permitted to attend a General Assembly, but shall be physically separated from Delegates, and may not participate in any manner unless specifically requested to do so by the Chair.
- 10.9 Where a special General Assembly is held, the number of Delegates for each Member shall be those of the preceding General Assembly, except that, if the special General Assembly is held less than 120 days before an upcoming General Assembly or concurrent with a General Assembly the number of each Member's Delegates for the upcoming or concurrent General Assembly shall be its entitlement for the special General Assembly.

11. Powers of the General Assembly

- 11.1 The powers of the General Assembly are:
- (i) to elect the Officers,
 - (ii) to receive and vote upon the reports submitted by the President, Secretary, Treasurer and IAAF Representative,
 - (iii) to receive and vote upon the audited financial report and the budget for the next accounting period,
 - (iv) to hear bid proposals and vote on the venues for the hosting of WMA championships in accordance with the Championship Rules,
 - (v) to approve the amount of any WMA membership fees,
 - (vi) in accordance with Formal Policies, to confer honours upon any individual for outstanding service to the administration of WMA and the Objects,
 - (vii) to approve amendments to the Constitution by Special Majority,
 - (viii) to adopt By-Laws and Rules and approve amendments thereto,
 - (ix) to dissolve or transform WMA into another legal form or to merge with another organisation by Special Majority,
 - (x) to adjudicate in accordance with natural justice in relation to any Council recommendation upon any disciplinary charge relating to a Region, Member or other masters associations, and

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- (xi) to suspend a Member or terminate a Member's Membership as provided in the By-Laws.

12. Council and Executive

12.1 Council shall consist of:

- (i) the Officers,
- (ii) the IAAF Representative, and
- (iii) six Regional Representatives, one from each Region.

12.2 The Executive shall consist of:

- (i) the Officers, and
- (ii) the IAAF Representative.

12.3 The 6 elected members of the Council are

- (i) the President,
- (ii) the Executive Vice-President,
- (iii) the Vice-President Competition,
- (iv) the Secretary,
- (v) the Treasurer, and
- (vi) the Women's Representative.

12.4 Roles and Responsibilities of the President

The President is the chief executive officer of WMA and shall carry the ultimate responsibility for the good management of its internal and external business. His duties comprise:

- convening the meetings of the Council and Executive of which he is setting the agendas,
- chairing all General Assembly, Council and Executive meetings,
- reporting formally on his and WMA's activities and business at General Assemblies and at Council and Executive meetings,
- chairing the Media-Marketing & Communications and the Finance committees,
- having the right to sit on any Committee or nominate a deputy to sit thereon,
- being a co-signatory with either the Secretary or Treasurer to all payments and contracts with a value greater than US\$10,000, and
- being the WMA representative to all external organisations and events where WMA representation is appropriate.

12.5 Roles and Responsibilities of the Executive Vice-President

The Executive Vice-President shall assist the President and deputise for him and undertake any co-signatory functions if the President, because of illness or other reason, is unable to perform his duties. His duties comprise:

- assuming the office of President if the President dies, resigns, or is removed from office between General Assembly meetings, and this until the next General Assembly where the position of President comes up for election, and
- undertaking pre-bid evaluations of venues and facilities and dealing with non-technical organisational matters for WMA championship bidding candidates.

12.6 Roles and Responsibilities of the Vice-President Competition

The Vice-President Competition's duties comprise:

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- being responsible of all aspects related to the WMA competitions, and shall make regular reports to Council on the progress of each WMA championship and on other competition matters, and
- being the Chair of the Competition Committee.

12.7 Roles and Responsibilities of the Secretary

The Secretary shall be directly responsible for the day-to-day workings and administration of WMA. His duties comprise:

- creating and maintaining full records including all incoming and outgoing correspondence and notices of motion, and undertake all administration on behalf of WMA, the Council and the Executive,
- convening meetings of the General Assembly, Council and Executive at the direction of the President and prepare its organization. This shall include producing and distributing an agenda, writing the minutes and keeping all Members informed of the decisions taken,
- submitting to each meeting of the Council or Executive a report on the WMA's activities for the period since the previous meeting, and
- maintaining a register of all Members including a database of all championship competitors as required to determine the number of Delegates to which each Member is entitled at a General Assembly.

12.8 Roles and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

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

- collecting all moneys due to WMA, and paying all accounts owed by it in a timely manner,
- keeping and maintaining true and orderly records and accounts of WMA's financial affairs,
- preparing a budget for the Executive for the next financial year in consultation with the President and the Secretary,
- submitting a detailed statement of income and expenditure for the preceding accounting period to Council, and
- presenting to the General Assembly an audited balance sheet and statement of income and expenditures for the preceding accounting period, and the proposed biennial budget.

12.9 Roles and Responsibilities of the Women's Representative

The position of the Women's Representative shall be filled by a woman. Her duties comprise:

- being the Chair of the Women's Committee,
- ensuring that due consideration is given at all times to the particular interests of female Masters Athletes, officials and administrators of the Members in all Regions, and
- co-ordinating the development and implementation of strategies that encourage and facilitate the engagement and the retention of women in masters athletics as athletes, officials and administrators.

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13. Powers of Council and Executive

13.1 The powers and responsibilities of Council and the Executive are:

- (i) to undertake the day-to-day management of WMA and implement General Assembly resolutions,
- (ii) to act in the interests of masters athletics consistent with this Constitution and to develop strategic directions for WMA,
- (iii) to represent WMA interests to the IAAF and other external organisations,
- (iv) to propose changes to the Constitution, the By-Laws, the Rules or any other matters for consideration by the General Assembly,
- (v) to acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, gift or donation property of any kind that in the opinion of the Council may be necessary or useful to carry out the Objects, and to dispose of such property,
- (vi) to seek donations, sponsorship, grants or financial loans and to engage in commercial activity by or on behalf of WMA for the development or support of world masters athletics and related activities,
- (vii) to invest and deal with the funds of WMA in such a manner as they think fit in the interests of WMA,
- (viii) to determine the amount of WMA championship fees and competitor levies,
- (ix) to establish standing and ad hoc Committees, and to appoint, co-opt, or invite members as needed to such Committees,
- (x) to make, amend and cancel Formal Policies, Anti-Doping Rules and TUE Regulations adapted from IAAF's regulations,
- (xi) to appoint independent auditors,
- (xii) to review and decide upon items referred to them by Office Bearers or Committees,
- (xiii) to take or ensure disciplinary or legal actions in relation to alleged offences by Masters Athletes and deal with un-sportsman-like conduct at WMA authorised championships so as to ensure fair play in masters athletics,
- (xiv) to adopt a Common Seal for use by WMA when required in the execution of documents and, subject to the provisions of this Constitution, to regulate such use,
- (xv) with the approval of IAAF, to modify the grouping of Members within the Regions, and
- (xvi) to act on other matters relating to masters athletics not reserved for the General Assembly.

PART-D: MEETINGS

14. Convening a General Assembly

14.1 A General Assembly shall be convened, normally biennially, in conjunction with the WMA Stadia Championships, and shall be conducted as specified in the By-Laws.

14.2 General Assemblies shall be convened in English, although French, Spanish and other translations may be provided

14.3 At least 180 days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, the Secretary shall give Formal Notice to the Members of any Officers whose term will be expiring at the time of the General Assembly and who is willing to stand for re-election.

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- 14.4 At least 120 days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, the Secretary shall give Formal Notice to the Members of the date and the venue of the General Assembly and of the deadlines specified in Clauses 14.6 and 14.8.
- 14.5 At least 90 days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, each Member shall give Formal Notice to the WMA Secretary:
- (i) of any resolutions to be considered at the General Assembly, and or
 - (ii) of candidates it nominates in accordance with the By-Laws for election to the Executive.
- 14.6 At least 45 days prior to the opening date of the General Assembly, the Secretary shall send out a Formal Notice to Members including:
- (i) the agenda and any standing orders proposed by Council,
 - (ii) any candidates for election to the Executive with their curriculum vitae and any supporting information addressing the requirements for the position they are seeking election to,
 - (iii) the inspection reports prepared with respect to Bid Cities under the Championship Rules,
 - (iv) all other documents to be received, approved and/or voted on, and
 - (v) the number of Delegates to which the Member is entitled.
- 14.7 At least 30 days prior to the opening date and venue of the General Assembly, each Member shall give Formal Notice to the WMA Secretary of the names of its delegates and substitutes.
- 14.8 The Secretary shall not later than 60 days after any General Assembly give Formal Notice of Minutes, signed by the President, Secretary and note takers, including any amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules, to all Members and members of Council.
- 15. Special General Assembly**
- 15.1 A Special General Assembly may be convened by a majority of Council or upon request of at least one fifth of WMA Members, or by at least 3 Regional Associations to deal with one or more specific items under the Constitution or By-Laws.
- 15.2 The President in consultation with Council shall determine the date of the Special General Assembly.
- 15.3 A Special General Assembly shall only deal with the specific items for which the meeting was called.
- 15.4 In the case of a special General Assembly, short notice may be given as early as possible but within 14 days after the opening date is set.
- 16. Conduct of General Assembly, Council and Executive Meetings**
- 16.1 Executive meetings should be at least held annually.
- 16.2 Council meetings should be at least held once every two years.
- 16.3 The meetings are convened by the Secretary at least 30 days before the meeting.
- 16.4 The meeting minutes shall be sent out within 45 days of the meeting.
- 16.5 The meetings may be held by electronic means, if the President accepts it.
- 16.6 A quorum for a meeting shall be two thirds of its members.
- 16.7 if within one hour of the time notified for a meeting it appears that it will not be possible to achieve a quorum, the Chair, in discussion with those present, shall:

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- (i) adjourn the meeting and attempt to re-convene the meeting later in the day or on the following day or, failing that, on another date, or
- (ii) dissolve the meeting.

17. Voting

- 17.1 At any WMA Meeting, resolutions and elections shall require a Majority unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or in the By-Laws.
- 17.2 Any motion or matter requiring decision at any WMA Meeting which is not held by electronic means shall take place openly determined by voice or by a show of hands, unless a formal count or a secret ballot is requested by two thirds of those present and eligible to vote.
- 17.3 Where a resolution concerns a member of Council, the member being considered shall not be present and shall have no vote. Where the President or Chair is involved, a temporary Chair shall be appointed for the duration of that matter.
- 17.4 In the case of a tied vote at any WMA Meeting, the Chair may use an additional vote to break the tie.
- 17.5 Elections to Council shall be by secret ballot, except for an Office for which there is only one candidate.
- 17.6 Where no candidate for election to Council gains a 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.

18. Eligibility and Election of Officers

- 18.1 To be eligible to be a member of the Council an individual must have attained the age of 35 and have full civil rights; any member of the Council no longer fulfilling these conditions is deemed to have resigned.

18.2 Election procedure

- (i) Proxies or delegating representation by a Member to any individual from another Member is not permitted.
 - (ii) To be elected, a candidate must obtain the Majority of valid votes cast.
 - (iii) Elections to Council shall be by secret ballot.
 - (iv) By exception to the above clause, if there is only one candidate for an Office they shall be considered as being elected.
 - (v) When there are two candidates or more for election to Council, and none gains a 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.
 - (vi) 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.
 - (vii) Elections will be conducted in order of the position listed under Clause 12.3.
 - (viii) Should a vacancy occur in any Office, the Executive may co-opt a replacement who will hold office until the end of the next General Assembly at which that specific position is due for re-election.
- 18.3 No more than two Officers may come from the same Member.

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- 18.4 An individual may only be nominated for election to Council by the Member country or Territory of which they are a citizen, or where they are a permanent resident in that country or Territory, and for which they are eligible to compete for that country or Territory. Any subsequent change in permanent residency and nomination for Council by another Member must first be reported to and confirmed in writing by the WMA Secretary. No individual shall hold more than one Office.
- 18.5 No Council member shall hold a management position in another organisation that promotes any international masters athletics event that is not specifically authorised by WMA or that are in direct competition with WMA championships.
- 18.6 The IAAF Representative shall be appointed by IAAF.
- 18.7 The detailed roles and responsibilities of the Officers are provided in the By-Laws.
- 18.8 The By-Laws provide circumstances in which and procedures by which persons may be removed from Office or disqualified from seeking Office.

19. Elections and Term of Office

- 19.1 The election of Officers shall be staged, with the Executive Vice President, Vice President Competition and Secretary being elected at General Assembly; and President, Treasurer and Women's Representative being elected at the following General Assembly.
- 19.2 Officers shall serve an initial term commencing at the close of the Stadia Championships at which they are elected and ending at the close of the second Stadia Championships following their election. They may be re-elected only once to the same office.
- 19.3 No person may serve more than a total of 16 years in any capacity on Council nor is any person eligible to be appointed or elected to Council if on completion of the term that person would have served a total of more than 16 years on Council.
- 19.4 A single partial term which was served or which is to be served to fill a vacancy on Council shall not be taken into account for the purposes of Clause 19.3.
- 19.5 No person may serve more than a total of 12 years in the capacity of a Regional Delegate on Council.
- 19.6 For the purposes of Clauses 19.3 and 19.5 all terms served on Council shall be deemed to commence on and include July 1 and to end on and include June 30, regardless of the day or month on which they actually commence or end. Terms spent on Original WMA's Council shall be taken into account in determining eligibility under Clauses 19.2, 19.3 and 19.5.

PART-E: FINANCIAL MATTERS

20. Finances

- 20.1 WMA is a not-for-profit organisation.
- 20.2 WMA's financial resources shall be derived from:
- (i) championship fees paid by WMA championship host organisations,
 - (ii) competitor levies at WMA championships and other sanctioned masters athletics competitions,
 - (iii) grants from other organisations,
 - (iv) interest and other income generated by WMA assets,
 - (v) donations from sponsors and others,
 - (vi) commercial activity consistent with and in support of the Objects, and

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- (ii) membership fees, if applicable.
- 20.3 The financial resources of WMA shall be used only to further the Objects.
- 20.4 No person who can materially influence the payment of income, benefit or advantage shall derive any income, benefit or advantage from WMA except where this is derived from professional services to WMA rendered in the course of business and is charged at no more than current market rates.

21. Accounts

- 21.1 The Executive, through the Treasurer, shall be responsible for the management of WMA finances, accounts, receipts and payments.
- 21.2 All funds received by WMA shall be deposited in approved bank instruments and accounts in the name of WMA.
- 21.3 The Treasurer and the President shall be registered signatories on WMA accounts and shall each be entitled to have access to the accounts.
- 21.4 The President shall be a co-signatory with the Secretary or Treasurer on all payments and contracts over US\$10,000.
- 21.5 WMA accounts shall be recorded in American currency, regardless of the currency in which the funds are held.
- 21.6 WMA's accounting period shall normally be of two years duration commencing on the first day of January preceding the date of holding a General Assembly, and ending on the last day of December preceding the next General Assembly.

22 Liability

- 22.1 The liability of WMA shall be limited to WMA's assets.
- 22.2 The liability of a Member to contribute to the payment of debts and liabilities of WMA, or the costs, charges and expenses in the dissolution of WMA is solely limited to the amount of outstanding membership fees if any, or other monies payable by that Member to WMA.
- 22.3 WMA shall maintain the following insurances to protect WMA and its Office Bearers against any claims resulting from its activities and their participation in those activities:
 - (i) travel and professional indemnity insurance for its Officers, and
 - (ii) professional indemnity insurance for its Office Bearers.

PART-F: GENERAL

23. Breaches of Standard of Conduct

- 23.1 The By-Laws provide procedures and adjudication processes to deal with allegations of breaches of the standard of conduct established in the By-laws, Rules and Formal Policies.
- 23.2 A person accused of a breach of such standard of conduct shall not be a member of the Committee considering the case.
- 23.3 Where more than one person is accused and the Committee is hearing the charges consecutively during the same meeting of the Committee, none of the accused persons shall be members of the Committee whether cleared of the charges or not.

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24. By-Laws, Rules and Formal Policies

- 24.1 The By-Laws, Rules and Formal Policies developed under this Constitution shall be subordinate to and not part of this Constitution.
- 24.2 Amendments to By-Laws and Rules of Competition shall be effective when approved by a General Assembly.
- 24.3 Amendments to Championship Rules and Anti-doping Rules shall be effective when approved by Council.
- 24.4 Formal Policies may be developed by Council or the Executive and shall be endorsed by Council.

25. Changes to this Constitution

- 25.1 This Constitution shall be amended only by Special Majority at a General Assembly.
- 25.2 Where an amendment to this Constitution, the By-Laws or Rules of Competition is defeated at a General Assembly a similar amendment cannot be raised until the second following General Assembly unless proposed by the Council.

26. Commencement and Dissolution

- 26.1 Members of Original WMA on the date this Constitution comes into effect shall automatically become Members of WMA.
- 26.2 The members of Original WMA's Council on the date this Constitution comes into effect shall automatically become members of Council holding the same Office or appointed in the same Representative capacity as on Original WMA's Council.
- 26.3 The first General Assembly of WMA will be held in Perth, Australia during the 2016 Championships scheduled by Original WMA.
- 26.4 The General Assembly may at any time by a Special Majority decide to dissolve WMA or to transform WMA into another legal form or to merge WMA with another organisation.
- 26.5 In the event of WMA being dissolved the dissolution shall be carried out and any assets remaining shall be transferred to the IAAF or other world organisation for use in support of masters athletics, in accordance with the directives of the General Assembly.
- 26.6 In case of a transformation of WMA into another legal form or a merger with another organisation, the General Assembly, upon proposal of the Council, shall by a Special Majority determine the modalities.

27. Language and Interpretation

- 27.1 The language of reference for this Constitution is the language of the jurisdiction where WMA is registered. For all other WMA documents and activities, the language of reference is English. In cases of a difference in interpretation of these documents, the English version shall apply.
- 27.2 If any question arises as to the meaning of any provisions in this Constitution, the By-Laws or the Rules of Competition, Championship Rules or Anti-Doping Rules, the Council shall rule on the matter.
- 27.3 If there is any conflict between the Constitution and the By-Laws created under the Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail.
- 27.4 In the event of a dispute concerning the meaning of any part of this Constitution that cannot be resolved, the laws of the jurisdiction where WMA is registered shall govern.

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- 27.5 Where a dispute remains unresolved under Clause 27.4 it shall be settled by arbitration through the Law & Legislation Committee. That arbitration shall be conducted in English and the arbitration decision shall be final and binding.