

**CANADIAN MASTERS ATHLETICS**  
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Mr. Winston Thomas  
Chair of the WMA Law and Legislation Committee  
World Masters Athletics  
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Great Britain  
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Dear Winston:

I am writing to you on behalf of the board of Canadian Masters Athletics (CMA). We are writing in response to the invitation Mr. Perkins extended in Sacramento to all WMA members to comment on the proposed new WMA constitution circulated at or immediately before the 2011 General Assembly. We have several concerns about the proposed replacement of the Vice-President, Stadia and the Vice-President, Non-Stadia positions with a Competition Director.

Our first concern is that the change will impede the flow of the information required by Council and the General Assembly to make wise decisions in awarding WMA's Indoor and Outdoor Stadia Championships, including the Non-Stadia components of these Championships. Bid cities must show that, among other things, they have the required facilities and both the administrative and the officiating expertise to conduct these events. Verifying that is a task that has been performed effectively by the two existing Vice-Presidents. The requirements for the Stadia and Non-Stadia components of these Championships are quite different, and the expertise required by the two Vice-Presidents is correspondingly quite distinct. We believe that the burden carried to date by these two Vice-Presidents cannot be assumed by a single person. Therefore, the proposed consolidation of the two positions may require that the Competition Director appoint and rely on persons with the necessary expertise to perform the same reviews as are now being performed. The new Competition Director may have the expertise to fill one of the present roles at best, or may not and may have to report to Council and the General Assembly second-hand based on what are often very technical matters that he/she may not fully understand. The need for that person to collect the information from someone else also would create at best the possibility and more likely the near certainty, that there will be failures in communication.

Our second concern is that the proposed change may diminish WMA's ability to ensure that its requirements are met. At present, the bid cities deal directly with the Vice-Presidents who are members of Council reporting directly to Council and to the General Assembly. With the proposed change, those cities may deal with persons whose authority is entirely removed; and bid cities, knowing that, will inevitably go over their heads to the Competition Director, who again may not have the expertise to understand the significance of the issues involved. We would expect that, with the proposed change, both the quality of the facilities provided and the administration and officiating of WMA's Championships may deteriorate.

The concerns above regarding the ability of the Competition Director to be knowledgeable about both Stadia and Non-Stadia competitions apply equally to the other Non-Stadia events with which the WMA is involved, the World Mountain-Running Championships and the World Ultra-running Championships. The WMA must be able to ensure that these events which it sanctions are appropriately organized.

One motive behind the reduction in the size of Council may be to save costs. In that regard, we fear that this change may be counter-productive. A large part of the expenses incurred by the two Vice-Presidents is in visiting the bid cities, and those expenses are covered at least in part by those cities. We expect that, over time, the Competition Director as well as the individuals doing the reviews will visit those cities, and that the

reviewers will be called on to attend Council and/or General Assembly meetings, in each case adding to the costs to be borne by both WMA and the bid cities.

In summary, it appears to us that, without really substantial and measurable cost savings, there would be no advantage to this proposed change. The same work has to be done and we believe that it will require the dedicated efforts of two persons with the experience and expertise to carry it out. Removing their authority to ensure that what is needed gets done in a timely manner and placing someone between them and the bodies they need to communicate with, namely Council and the General Assembly, can only be detrimental to their effectiveness. In essence and to be colloquial, "if it ain't broke don't fix it".

We therefore urge reconsideration of this proposed change to the way WMA has so successfully conducted its affairs to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Osland".

Paul Osland,  
President

SP/CMA Board