



# WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS

IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF

## WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

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## **A INTRODUCTION**

### **1. Authority and Purpose**

- 1.1 These Championship Rules are established under the Constitution of World Masters Athletics (WMA).
- 1.2 These Championship Rules are applicable to:
  - (i) bidding procedure for championship competitions,
  - (ii) eligibility for competitions, and
  - (iii) conduct of athletes, coaches, officials, support staff and administrators.

## **B PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **2. World Championships**

- 2.1 WMA conducts world championships (WMA Championships) in the following areas:
  - Stadia,
  - Indoor,
  - Non-Stadia,
  - Mountain running, and
  - Ultra running.
- 2.2 WMA through the General Assembly will sanction World Stadia Championships normally held in each even-numbered year starting in 2016.
- 2.3 WMA through the General Assembly will sanction World Indoor Championships normally held in each odd-numbered year starting in 2017.
- 2.4 Non-Stadia championship events are allocated to both Stadia and Indoor WMA Championships.
- 2.5 WMA mountain running championships are conducted annually on behalf of WMA by the World Mountain Running Association (WMRA).
- 2.6 WMA ultra-running championships are conducted annually on behalf of WMA by the International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU).

### **3. Identification of Potential Championship Bid Candidates**

- 3.1 Each Regional Representative should try to identify at least one potential Championship host (Bid Candidate), which may be a city, or nearby cities or municipalities, that can meet the venue, organisational, and financial requirements for hosting a WMA stadia or indoor championship, so as to facilitate rotation of WMA Championships among the Regions.
- 3.2 The Regional Representative should include in its notification to Council a preliminary assessment of the potential Bid Candidate's strengths, prepared with the assistance of the relevant Member.

**Adopted from the General Assembly Perth 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

#### **4. Applications to Host WMA Championships**

- 4.1 Applications to stage stadia or indoor WMA Championships shall be submitted with the agreement of the relevant WMA Member.
- 4.2 The Vice-President Competition may assist in initial assessments and meetings in determining the overall suitability of each potential Bid Candidate.
- 4.3 A bid application, duly signed by the government representatives of the Bid Candidate, the Local Organising Committee, the National Governing Body and the Member must forward to the Secretary not later than 1 September in the year prior to the General Assembly at which the bid is to be considered.
- 4.4 Should there be no bids which are regarded by Council as being acceptable by 1 September; Council shall call for additional bids.
- 4.5 No more than one 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 Bid Candidate.
- 4.6 Applications to stage WMA mountain running championships or WMA ultra-running championships should be directed to WMRA or IAU respectively, who will be wholly responsible for the selection and conduct of these championships.

#### **5. Bidding Evaluation**

- 5.1 Following the delivery of the written bid application as per Rule 4.3, a contract must be signed by the Member; the Bid Candidate's Local Organising Committee; the nominated government representative of the Bid Candidate; and the country's National Governing Body. The contract must be delivered to the Secretary at least 60 days before the General Assembly in order for the bid to be considered.
- 5.2 Inspection visits to the sites of all prospective bidders shall take place not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days prior to the General Assembly.
- 5.3 The inspection shall be made by a WMA inspection team of not more than 4 Council members for whom airfares, food and accommodation for 3 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 comment.
- 5.5 When comments have been received from each Bid Candidate, the inspection reports together with the comments shall be provided to Council members for Council's evaluation and grading of the Bid Candidates.

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- 5.6 The inspection reports referred to in Rule 5.5 together with any amendments approved by Council as well as an evaluation are to be circulated by the Secretary 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 Council during the Championships in advance of the General Assembly, at which the Council may recommend a Bid Candidate revise its presentation 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 where there are two Bid Candidates only, the Bid Candidate with the highest number of votes cast shall be awarded the rights to stage the Championship.
- 6.3 Where there are more than two Bid Candidates an elimination voting process shall be undertaken with the Bid Candidate with the lowest number of votes eliminated until only two Bid Candidates remain after which Rule 6.2 applies. However, should a Bid Candidate in the elimination voting process achieve an absolute majority of votes, that Candidate shall be declared the winner and no further voting shall be undertaken.
- 6.4 Voting shall be by secret ballot unless there is only one bidder, in which case a show of hands may be made. Should there be less than a 50% vote for a sole Bid Candidate, Council shall seek further bids, and shall as soon as practicable make a decision through an electronic vote of Members.

## **C ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES FOR CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITIONS**

### **7. General Eligibility**

- 7.1 All Masters Athletes registered with a Member shall be eligible to compete in any WMA or Regional Championship subject to compliance with entry requirements and subject to any imposed sanctions.
- 7.2 No Masters Athlete shall be refused entry on grounds of race, religion, politics, nationality or place of residence.
- 7.3 On the grounds of safety, and in consultation with the World Mountain Running Association, special age-category limitations may be set for mountain running events.
- 7.4 All Masters Athletes date of births shall be verified through their registered Member from an official birth certificate. This requirement is applicable to all athletes registering with a Member. For athletes competing in WMA, Regional and National competitions, and for all Masters Records, this proof of birth shall be the only accepted practice.

**Adopted from the General Assembly Perth 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016.**

**8. Designation for Competition (IAAF Rule 5 exception)**

- 8.1 An individual shall compete in WMA or Regional championships only for a Country or Territory of which he is a citizen or permanent resident (3 years) unless permitted under Rule 8.3.
- 8.2 An individual who is a citizen of two Countries or Territories or who has a permanent place of residence (3 years or more) in a Country or Territory of which he is not a citizen, and having not previously competed as a Master Athlete may first compete for the Country or Territory of his choice and shall thereafter compete only for that Country or Territory unless otherwise allowed under Rule 8.3.
- 8.3 An individual who is a citizen or permanent resident of two Countries or Territories and who has competed for one of those Countries or Territories may thereafter compete for the other Country or Territory, only when changing their citizenship or permanently residing (3 years or more in either case) in the new Country or Territory, and an official written request from the individual to the two Members has been agreed and confirmed in writing by the WMA Secretary.
- 8.4 The request from the individual shall be forwarded by his present Member to the new Member, the Regional Secretary and WMA. A written agreement by both Members must be sent to the WMA Secretary, who shall confirm or deny the request and notify the Members and the Regional Secretary accordingly. A term of non-eligibility as per the IAAF rules 5.4d (I, ii, iii) may possibly apply to any request.
- 8.5 An individual granted dispensation under Rule 8.3 requesting a subsequent change in Member status, shall be considered by the WMA Council, on request from their present Member stating all reasons therefor together with evidence from the proposed Member concerned. A term of non-eligibility as per the IAAF rule 5.4e may apply to any such request.
- 8.6 Where an individual lives temporarily or temporarily works in a country or territory that is not their country or territory of citizenship or permanent residency, and has registered with a Member association for the purpose of competing in that country or territory, they shall not be deemed to be a permanent member of that Member or having changed citizenship, for the purposes of entry into WMA or Regional championships, but must compete for the Country of which they are a citizen or permanent resident.

**D DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

**9. Misconduct**

- 9.1 Athletes, coaches, officials, support staff and administrators at WMA sanctioned championships shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings, adjudication and sanctions for any of the following prohibited conduct:

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- (i) an incorrect statement of age or competing or attempting to compete in an incorrect age group,
  - (ii) competing or attempting to compete as a member of the opposite sex, or as another athlete,
  - (iii) unsportsmanlike conduct,
  - (iv) 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 or as brought about by Rule 8.3,
  - (v) seeking to compete while under suspension,
  - (vi) inappropriate interpersonal conduct,
  - (vii) displaying conduct prejudicial to the good name of WMA or conduct bringing the sport of masters athletics into disrepute,
  - (viii) behavior that infringes, denigrates or otherwise interferes with the rights of sponsors, or
  - (ix) conduct that violates the IAAF Code of Ethics.
- 9.2 Allegations of breaches of Rule 9.1 shall be made in writing and sent to the Secretary as soon as possible, but not more than 30 days after the date of the

alleged offence. The adjudication of any allegation and the imposition of any sanctions shall be by the Council or Law & Legislation Committee as specified under By-Law 34.

### **10. Anti-Doping Matters**

- 10.1 Athletes, coaches, officials, support staff and administrators at WMA sanctioned championships shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings, adjudication and sanctions for any of the following prohibited conduct:
- (i) improper use of prohibited substances,
  - (ii) refusing to submit to drug testing when requested to do so, or
  - (iii) tampering or other anti-doping matters.
- 10.2 Allegations of breaches of Rule 10.1 shall be made in writing and sent to the Chair of the Anti-Doping & Medical Committee who shall send all details to the Chair of the Law & Legislation Committee which Committee shall adjudicate the allegation according to WMA By-Law 34, WMA's Anti-Doping Rules, and any relevant IAAF By-Laws and Rules.

## **E GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **11. Settlement of Disputes**

- 11.1 In the event of disputes concerning the contents, interpretation and implementation of these Championship Rules, the parties involved shall endeavor to reach an amicable settlement. Should no settlement be reached

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the matter will be referred to the Law & Legislation Committee for their consideration and decision.

- 11.2 Should the decision of the Law & Legislation Committee fail to satisfy; the dispute may be finally settled by appeal to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 11.3 Any International Court of Arbitration for Sport appeal shall be conducted in English and the arbitration decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
- 11.4 WMA shall seek costs or contribution to costs incurred by it in any appeal to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport.
- 11.5 The place of arbitration before the International Court of Arbitration for Sport may be Lausanne, Switzerland; Sydney, Australia; New York, United States of America or other location specified by the Court.