

BY-LAWS (approved November 4, 1990, amended January, 2000)

1. INTERPRETATION:

“OAMA” means the Oceania Association of Master Athletes, and *“the Association”* shall have the same meaning.

“The Constitution” means the Constitution of OAMA. ALL NAMES AND TERMS used in these By-Laws have the same meaning as those defined in the Constitution.

“Country” means an independent State but does not include a State within a Federation.

“Territory” means a dependency or colony.

“Group” means more than one Affiliate combining for a particular purpose.

These By-Laws are made under clause 19.1 of the Constitution.

2. COMPETITIONS:

2.1 Regional Masters championships and inter-regional Masters competition shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of WMA. But this provision shall not prevent the Association from conducting or encouraging any sporting activity which is consistent with the Constitution of WMA.

2.2 Competition shall be conducted only in the age groups denominated as follows:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Male Age Group</u>	<u>Female Age Group</u>
35-39	None	W35
40-44	M40	W40
45-49	M45	W45
50-54	M50	W50
55-59	M55	W55
60-64	M60	W60
65-69	M65	W65
70-74	M70	W70
75-79	M75	W75
80-84	M80	W80
85-89	M85	W85
90-94	M90	W90

This By-Law shall not be read to prevent the conduct by the Association of other events in conjunction with Master competition, or to exclude older grades.

2.3 Pre-Master grades of 30-34 and 35-39 years of age for men, and 30-34 years of age for women shall be permissible.

2.4 An athlete's age group shall be determined by his date of birth. The age group in which he or she competes at Oceania championships shall be determined by the age which the athlete will be on the first official day of competition of the relevant Oceania Championships.

2.5 There shall not be team championships except in the case of relay teams, and as set out in clause 4.9 below.

2.6 Entries shall not be subject to prior achievement of qualifying standards.

2.7 Two or more age groups may compete together provided that there shall be separate results and awards for each age group.

2.8 The organising committee of each Oceania Master championships shall send a copy of the official results to the Secretary who shall forward a copy to each affiliate of OAMA and Council members.

3. PROGRAMME:

3.1 OAMA shall sanction Oceania Masters Athletic Championships, normally in each even-numbered year.

3.2 Each Oceania Masters Athletics Championships shall include a comprehensive schedule of track and field, and long-distance events and shall be subject to approval by the Council.

3.3 OAMA shall encourage its affiliates to promote regular national, inter-territorial or group Masters championships, within the age groups in By-Laws 2.2 and 2.3.

3.4 The draft programme of, and conditions for, Oceania Championship events shall be in the hands of Secretaries of Affiliates not later than four calendar months before the commencing date of the Championships. This shall be the responsibility of the Organising Committee.

3.5 Modifications to the draft programme by the organising Committee of Oceania Championships shall be in the hands of the Secretary of OAMA not later than three calendar months before their commencement. This shall not prevent further limited modification if circumstances make this unavoidable.

4. TECHNICAL, GENERAL:

4.1 This section shall apply to all Championships sanctioned by OAMA.

4.2 The specifications for hurdles and throwing events shall be the same as for WMA championships.

4.3 The scoring system for the Decathlon shall be as set out in Appendix B hereto, and its amendments.

4.4 The scoring system for the Pentathlon shall be as out in Appendix C hereto, and its amendments.

4.5 The Manager of all Oceania Masters athletic championships shall appoint a suitably qualified Safety Judge with authority to withdraw from competition any athlete whose continued participation in that competition would, in the opinion of the Safety Judge, endanger the athlete's health. The Safety Judge may exercise his authority through deputies and both the Safety Judge and any deputies shall be clearly identifiable as such.

4.6 Competitors shall be advised, preferably in the programme, of the reporting time for each event. No round or stage of any event shall commence at a time earlier than that shown in the printed programme.

4.7 The Clerk of the Course may alter the composition of heats depending on the number of competitors, but this shall not be construed to permit the bringing forward of any event or part of that event to a time earlier than that shown on the printed programme.

4.8 For bend races which are run entirely in lanes, lane assignments in rounds after the first round shall be based on competitors' performances at the most recent stage of the event and shall be as follows:

Fastest	Lane 4
2nd fastest	Lane 5
3rd fastest	Lane 3
4th fastest	Lane 6
5th fastest	Lane 2
6th fastest	Lane 7
7th fastest	Lane 1
8th fastest	Lane 8

Where two or more competitors have recorded the same time at the most recent stage, those competitors may draw for, or mutually agree upon, the lanes involved.

4.9 Road races, cross-country races and road walking races shall also include team competition, and the result of each age group shall be decided by totalling the times of each team's first three finishers in that age group. Each affiliate shall be restricted to one team result for each age group.

4.10 In road races, cross-country races and road-walking races, an athlete may score as an individual in his own age group and for a team in a lower age group, provided that the intention to do so is declared to the Manager before the start. An athlete may not score for a team in more than one age group.

4.11 In each event there shall be three individual awards in each age group in which there are three or more finishers. In any age group in which there are fewer than three finishers, each finisher shall receive an award.

4.12 In road races, cross-country races and road-walking races held by OAMA sanction, there shall be three team awards in each age group in which three or more teams have three or more finishers and a team award shall consist of an award to each of a team's first three finishers. In any age group in which fewer than three teams have three or more finishers, each team having three or more finishers shall receive a team award.

4.13 Sections 3 and 4 of the By-Laws may be modified by the Executive in their application to particular championships. Any application by an Organising Committee for such modification must be lodged with the Secretary not later than 6 months before the commencement of the championships.

5. TECHNICAL, PARTICULAR:

5.1 In track events longer than 1500 metres, the manager may restrict competitors to the two outer lanes if he considers other events will be unduly delayed by allowing the remaining competitors to use the inside tracks.

5.2 Relay races over 4 x 100 metres and 4 x 400 metres shall be conducted between single teams representing a Country, Territory or Group, and in age groups, as approved by the Manager. The Manager or his delegate should be notified of the team's composition one hour before the event is due to start.

5.3 In relay races, an athlete may compete for a team in only one age group, which may be a lower age group than that of the athlete.

5.4 In the marathon, cross-country and road-walking events, the team competition shall be between Countries, Territories, or Groups, and in age groups approved by the Manager.

5.5 Section 5 may be modified by the Council in respect of particular championships. Any application by an Organising Committee for such modification must be lodged with the Secretary not later than six months before the commencement of the Championships.

6. WORLD AND OAMA MASTER RECORDS:

6.1 The rules relating to World Master Records are set out in Part 5 of the WMA By-Laws, and where World Records are being applied for, those Rules are to be applied.

6.2 Oceania Master Records, or where appropriate, Oceania Master "Best Performances" shall be recognised for each of the five-year age groups listed in Section 2.2 of these By-Laws and also for each five-year age group older than those listed; and shall be denominated accordingly. The record shall be submitted on the basis of the competitor's age on the day of performance.

6.3 Observance of the appropriate specification(s) as set out in Appendix A to the By-Laws shall be a necessary condition for ratification of an Oceania Master Record or Oceania Master "Best Performance" in the hurdles or throwing events.

6.4 An application for an Oceania Master Record or Oceania Master "Best Performance" shall be made on the official application form and be submitted to the Executive through the Secretary. The official application shall be in the form shown in Appendix D of these By-Laws.

7. FINANCE:

7.1 The financial year commences on the first day of September in each year.

7.2 Affiliation fees shall be approved at each Assembly, and the fees approved shall be shown in Appendix E hereto.

7.3 The Affiliation fees payable annually by each Affiliate shall comprise the Subscription plus the Membership Levy imposed by the Assembly from time to time on the recommendation of Council. Payment shall be due on the first day of September each year and shall be paid not later than the 31st day of May immediately following.

7.4 Nothing in these By-Laws shall be construed to confer on any Country, Territory, or Group which has not paid its outstanding Affiliation Fee, the right to participate in a meeting of the OAMA Assembly, but upon the tender of all amounts outstanding as provided for in 7.5 below, full rights of admission and participation may be exercised.

7.5 Outstanding Affiliation Fees, and any other amount outstanding including the levy on membership, may be paid immediately before a meeting of the Assembly by means of a bank cheque or cash in currency as noted in Appendix F of the By-Laws. Payment by any other means at that time shall not entitle an Affiliate to be represented except as an observer.

7.6 Before the thirtieth day of September of each year, the Secretary shall submit to the Council a report for the year ending on the 31st day of August of that year.

8. DISCIPLINE:

8.1 Any accusation under clause 4.8 of the Constitution shall be adjudicated upon by a Discipline Committee comprising the Executive Officers of the Association, and Assembly delegates to the number required to give six sitting members of the Committee. Any accusations against three or more members of the Assembly shall be heard by a Discipline Committee to which has been added the remaining members of the Council.

8.2 If a person accused is a member of the Council, he shall not be a member of the Discipline Committee considering his case

8.3 If more than one person is accused, and each is a member of the Council, and the Discipline Committee is hearing the charges consecutively during the same meeting of the Committee, neither of the accused persons shall be members of the Committee whether cleared of the charges or not.

8.4 The Discipline Committee shall:

1. Fully inform any accused person of the charge made against him or her, and

2. Invite the accused person to state as fully as he or she pleases, any defence he or she may wish to raise in answer to the charges, and

3. In cases where expulsion from OAMA may result, give the accused person the opportunity to appear personally, and/or to be represented by another, to answer the charge.

8.5 The Discipline Committee shall not be convened in any case which the Council considers to be insufficiently serious for consideration by the Discipline Committee.

8.6 An accused person who is a Council Member may not deliberate under By-Law 8.5, but may make his views known in writing.

8.7 The Discipline Committee may determine an accusation by correspondence or by assembling together to hear oral evidence and submissions.

8.8 The accused person shall not only be informed fully by the Discipline Committee, of the charge made, but shall also be informed of the identity of his accuser. Moreover, all evidence and allegations made, and any other material in the possession of, or known to the Discipline Committee, whether to be used in the hearing or not, and whether favourable or unfavourable to the accused person, shall be given to him or her before the hearing takes place.

8.9 If the Committee assembles to hear the charge, the informant shall be asked to be present. If he or she refuses to be present, the charge shall proceed. If he or she is unable to be present for good reason, the Committee shall give weight to the fact that the accused person has not had the opportunity to challenge by cross-examination, the evidence against him.

8.10 In any case where the evidence or credibility of a witness cannot be challenged by cross-examination, the Committee shall take that into account when considering what weight shall be given to the evidence. This will include any matters considered by correspondence.

9. COMMUNICATION:

9.1 Council members, singly or by means of the Secretary shall establish and maintain communication, and liaise with, other athletic bodies, local, national, or regional, to ensure that optimum information on world and regional Master athletic activity is forwarded to all Master athletes within the Region, and to ensure that all athletic bodies are kept aware of administrative developments and performance levels in the Masters sphere.

9.2 It will be a responsibility of each member of Council to inform his or her Athletic Association or Centre, of OAMA activities, and to establish good relations with such bodies.

10. AFFILIATION:

10.1 The Council shall seek from Affiliates the following details:-

1. The areas over which each has jurisdiction, and the number of its active members.

2. Details of each Affiliate's Constitution.

3. The Offices held.

4. Such other information as the Assembly may require.

10.2 The Secretary shall provide each Affiliate with a copy of the Constitution and of these By-Laws, and with a copy of the constitution of WMA. As these documents are amended, the Affiliates shall be provided with details of the amendments.

10.3 The Secretary shall place before the Council or the Assembly any request received from an Affiliate for assistance in carrying out its objects and shall, with the prior approval of the President, Vice-President and Treasurer have the authority to expend not more than the sum of (\$Aust.....). This amount may be increased only by the Assembly.

11. AUTHORITY:

11.1 In all matters relating to the interpretation or application of the By-Laws, the Executive officers shall be the final authority.

12. GENERAL:

12.1 The Secretary shall within 30 days of receiving notice of the need for a mail vote pursuant to clause 9.4 of the Constitution, send a notice to all Affiliates that a vacancy has arisen for the position of Vice-President, and shall call for nominations for the position, setting a closing date for nominations to be in his hands, exactly six weeks after the date of the Notice.

Within 10 days after receipt of nominations, the Secretary shall:-

(a) Forward a dated list of the candidates to all Affiliates asking that each Affiliate erase carefully and clearly all the names on the list except that of the one candidate for whom it is voting; and

(b) Set a date exactly six weeks after the date of that list, for the votes to be in his hands.

(c) Inform all council members and Affiliates of the result of the mail vote (including information on Affiliates votes), as soon as he has ascertained it.

(d) A tied vote shall be resolved by the President exercising a casting vote.

APPENDIX TO BY-LAWS:

A. Specifications for Master Hurdles and Field Events

B. Scoring system and tables for Decathlon

C. Scoring system and tables for Pentathlon

D. Age Graded events and scoring

E. Forms: (1) Application for membership

(2) Application for acceptance of performance record

(3) Copy to be supplied to the Secretary of the form for WMA acceptance of membership by IAAF sponsorship to its IAAF members.

F. **Affiliation Fees of Affiliates as from 1 August, 1990:**

Athletes Members to:

50	150	300	500	750	1000	1500	2000	2500
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Fees in Dollars:

10	14	20	25	33	39	48	55	60
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Memberships over 2500 - \$5 for every 500 or part thereof plus \$60.

Each Athlete's subscription:

Australia and New Zealand 30c

All other nations, countries or territories 20c

Australia and New Zealand and US Territories - payment in their local currencies

All others - to be paid in New Zealand \$ equivalent money values.