

Annual Meeting Dec. 6, 2019

Rex Harvey MTF Exec. Committee Chair opened the meeting 8:05am

The Chair appointed a parliamentarian, Jim Pearce, who described Roberts Rules of Order and the procedures to be followed to the Committee.

The Chair asked permission to conduct the meeting out of order from the meeting agenda, **motion made to do so, seconded and passed.**

Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

A Motion was made to accept the 19 Active Athletes who submitted applications as the voting active athletes

Motion Seconded, Passed

Active Athlete Representative nominations/Speeches

Latashia Key, current Active Athlete Representative, described the duties of the position. There was discussion of the role.

Nominees: Elizabeth Teague, Cheryl Bellaire

Each was given three minutes to make speeches, take questions

Vote Taken- Elizabeth Teague is the new Active Athlete Representative

Motion made to destroy the ballots, seconded, passed

Elizabeth Teague: lizteague.mastersborder@gmail.com, (915) 330-7255, 4328 Loma de Brisas, El Paso, TX 79934

Rex asked for **Mary Rosado, LDR Chair**, to speak about the LDR Grand Prix. The Non-Stadia Events at the WMA Championships in Toronto are now valid GP events, the goal being to encourage more LDR masters participation.

Christine Gentile, L&L Committee Representative presented a summary of what has been accomplished at this Annual Meeting thus far. A couple of proposals (out of the 110 pages being reviewed) concerning MTF (Voting is Sunday, Dec. 8):

-Proposal #A25 – suggested by the chair of AAC, Jeff Porter, would strip masters athletes/youth delegates of their IAAF appointee. This was tabled for later.

-David Greifinger proposed increasing voting Masters Active Athletes numbers at the USATF Annual Meeting from 20% to 30%. The L&L Committee approved this proposal. More proposal updates, being discussed in the L&L meetings currently, are forthcoming.

The chair asked that the minutes from the preceding Annual Meeting (posted online) be accepted. **Motion made, seconded, passed.**

Operating Procedures changes

The bulk of the changes to the document are editorial such as changing IAAF to World Athletics and NCCWMA to NCCMA as a result of name changes to those two organizations.

Notable changes include:

- Changing the term of the Active Athlete Representative from one to two years, this will commence next year if approved. The Active Athlete Representative's duties are also better defined.
- The process for appointing WMA delegates is further defined. Traditionally, by custom, there were 3 MTF and 2 LDR delegates. As WMA only recognizes one affiliate per country (MTF for the USA), there is a need to have the delegates to the WMA Assembly more accurately reflect the distribution of athletes. The new procedures define a process of basing the delegates on a weighted percentage of participation. The appendix at the back of the new Operating Procedures spells out the process.

Robert Thomas suggested that if LDR receives two delegates they should also foot 40% of the bill for common services (eg, medical).

- Members of the Executive Committee must attend 50% of the face-to-face meetings over a two-year span. Failing to do so, without approved mitigating circumstances is, in effect, a resignation of the post.
- Hall of Fame committee make-up. Association Masters Chairs are removed from the list of those voting for HOF induction.
- Sandy Pashkin further explained the process to those assembled:
 - WMA recognizes delegates per country; MTF is the USA member, with five delegates due to the size of its teams. USA uniquely has both MTF and LDR groups sending 2 LDR Reps, 3 MTF. These numbers are skewed as LDR accounts for only approx. 9% of US entries. The New Operating Procedures detail a new method for determining delegates based upon LDR and TF events. In the last three years, LDR's entries have not supported their representation. The MTF Chair wants to push the new process to provide incentive for more MLDR participants.

Treasurer's Report, by Carroll DeWeese. Although he will be leaving the position at the end of this calendar year, Carroll will handle all expenses through 2019, after which Mike Travers will take over as treasurer. The overall budget coming up is slightly more than last year's, however, it has been reallocated.

New to 2020 is that those who have a MTF budget but run over will be allowed to request funds from someone else with a budget that may have excess. The treasurer will help find monies that can be used.

When he takes over, Mike Travers will send out quarterly budget updates. Mike will also have a dedicated email address. At this point, for 2019, Carroll expects to see a \$30-40,000 deficit, but is not sure as he has not received ledgers from the National Office yet. Carroll asked that those with allowed expenses from this meeting get those in to him before the end of the year. Rex asked that if someone needs to purchase an item for their sub committee or region, that they seek approval from him first.

More budget discussion ensued, including several members inquiring about specific committee budgets. Carroll asked for those with additional question to see him at this meeting

Sandy Triolo gave the West Region \$1000 out of the Communications Subcommittee budget as they will be conducting an Indoor meet but it was not known before the budget was allocated.

Motion made – to accept the budget, seconded, passed

Spokane Sports Commission Bid Presentation For 2022 Indoor Championships

The Spokane Sports Commission detailed the upcoming event (MTF Indoor Championships March 18-22, 2022). They also intend to bid for the 2023 WMA World Indoor

They are a proven full service organization with a medical team, headed by Dr. Drew Lopez, on site. They provide an officials concierge, and an athlete welcome experience. A video of the coming facility was shown: the Spokane Sports Complex. The groundbreaking has already occurred, with completion expected to be in August of 2021.

The facility is a walkable distance to several hotels, restaurants, bike paths and more. It is adjacent to the Spokane Arena, the entire area is very walkable. There are 2000+ Hotel rooms w/in a half-mile averaging \$99-179 p/n. Some of the hotels offer parking, breakfast and shuttles. The Spokane Airport (GEG) is very accessible, just a 10-minute drive to downtown, with minimal traffic

The facility will have a Hydraulic, banked 200m oval track. The track has six lanes on the curve, eight on the 60m straightaway, plus a warm up straight. There are multiple throwing areas (nets being discussed), and jumps areas.

In addition, the following was discussed:

The Spokane Sports Commission (SSC) said that they will have a dedicated Implement inspection. For warming up, there is, shown on the provided handout, a 4-lane 60m straightaway area under the bleachers. Locker rooms will be available for showering. There are also dedicated All-Persons (family) restrooms and a dedicated media area.

Motion made to accept Spokane's bid to host the 2022 Indoor MTF Championships, seconded, vote, passed unanimously

Following the Spokane presentation, Robert Thomas, MTF Site chair asked those present to speak to their Associations about bidding for our championships.

Cynthia Monteleone gave a prepared speech regarding male-to-female transgender athletes and how it harms women's TF to allow them to compete against women. Questions and discussions followed. A task force, that was agreed upon at the previous day's meeting, will be formed by MTF to address this.

Louisville, KY – New Indoor Facility Presentation (Not a meet bid)

The Louisville Sports Commission highlighted their new facility for a hopeful future meet. **The facility features a 200m hydraulic mondo oval**, one throwing area located inside the track area, unsure as to a drop net at this point. A second throwing area is fully caged in. There is a 400m adjacent outdoor track which could be 'bubbled' to host throwing events. The building has just begun. The facility is located four miles from downtown in an area undergoing a huge revitalization. There are 6000 hotel rooms in downtown area.

Lexington KY Bid Presentation 2022 Outdoor MTF Championships

Lexington is an easy to get to location in the middle of the USA. There are 11 Convention hotels, several of which are near the track, Shuttles will be provided.

University of Kentucky Track Facility-

There is a warm up track alongside the main track. The facility has six Shot Put rings; three inside, three outside the stadium, two Discus/WT cages, one Hammer cage, and two Javelin runways. The track is four years old and has plenty of spectator seating. There are also six Pole Vault boxes, four horizontal pits, and two High Jump pits. If summer storms occur, the jumps can be moved to an indoor track that is near the outdoor track. The Indoor facility could also be used for warm ups but it is perhaps too far from the track for this to be practical. Plenty of tents will be provided for shade. There is a Press box with sound system that can all broadcasting directly from the track.

In addition, each venue will have at least one Olympic-trials experienced official. The area has extremely experienced officials. There are no shower facilities available at the track.

Re the 2022 Outdoor meet dates, as the WMA meet in Sweden is Aug 17-27, the preferred dates for the USATF Outdoor Champs is the last weekend in July

A motion was made to accept Lexington's bid to host the 2022 Outdoor meet. It was seconded and passed unanimously

Hall of Fame Make Up Class. Task Force Chair Marilyn Mitchell spoke about the Hall of Fame Make Up class. No list of proposed inductees is currently available due to the chair's ill health. Names are still being solicited. The number of inductees for this will be capped at 20, chosen from a list of 30 names.

Chris Pasko, MTF and Association representative to the USATF board.

Pasko reported that the board agrees on the excellence and positivity of the current MTF Committee. Growth numbers are up for MTF but across the board for USATF numbers are down 3-4%. He also reported that he was impressed with the support and positivity he saw among members at the Outdoor Championships in Iowa.

Pasko also relayed that he still has concerns with the USATF Board's governance and financial transparency. He has submitted several proposals, which passed L&L and provided updates on: Growth strategy, with goals of doubling membership. Increasing membership fees was discussed, and a committee was convened to look at the feasibility of this. Chris added that if membership is increased, there needs to be better value provided to avoid losing members. A tier system of membership was proposed to provide additional value (i.e. free access to USATF TV or free meet entry) for very little cost to USATF. The Board is working on amounts.

Willie Banks, World Athletics Council Member.

Banks thanked those who supported him in a tough election. Since his election, he has attended two meetings. He feels it is important for masters to know that WA has supported WMA via grants, but are cutting that. They now intend to come in and help find sponsorships, promotions to replace that.

Sandy Pashkin said those grants went to the Regions for athletes who could not afford to compete, and those Regions will now suffer. So, WA's response to the grant loss does not fix the areas where the will occur loss.

The Chair brought up that IMGA is trying to take over World Masters Competition. They charge a lot to venues (multi-sport) and keep the profit, leaving the LOCs to fund the meet.

Sandy Pashkin brought up the transgender athletes competing in women's' events issue. She stated that WMA uses only testosterone levels as an indicator of gender although previously-male athletes have more physical advantages over women athletes than just that.

There is currently only one woman on the WA board tasked with discussing this. Asked to task Willie with that. Willie says there is currently a task force, in place and that he would push to have more women included on that task force. Next election, 2023, WA is required to have 40% women.

Len Krsak, gave a board member report, and included that officials selection will be posted on the wall after that meeting. He suggested that, due to lack of officials, to pass any ideas on regarding how to attract new people to officiating.

Reports

- **Club Ethics** has received no reports of any problems.

-The **Elected Executive Committee** members gave their reports, all of which are posted on the usatfmasters.org website.

-**Rules** Graeme Shirley provided a rules-changes summary, there were three tabled items from last meeting concerning WMA implement specifications. All passed.

Other items, like item #36, concerning hurdle disqualification, has been tabled for the moment. The attitude of the Rules Committee is that with big competitions coming up, we should not deviate from WA rules. The consensus on the hurdle rule is that it's so bad it needs to be adjusted within the year. The Rules changes packet is posted on the Document Library. Final document will be finalized Dec. 6 at this Annual Meeting.

Championship Meet Scoring

Rex brought up the proposal made by the Atlanta TC to allow only club members to be scored at MTF Championship meets. As it was in the previous day's discussion, this was opposed by the majority of those in attendance and even if it were embraced would necessitate a change to the rules.

The executive committee discussed the matter and per the parliamentarian, if no one is speaking in favor of a proposal there is no need for debate. A Motion was made to adopt the proposal, it was seconded, and was unanimously voted down.

Adding Men/Women's Teams Championship Awards

It was discussed adding Men and Women's team awards to the existing Combined team awards at MTF National competitions. In the ensuing discussion, some thought it would take extra time to score the meet. Sandy Pashkin pointed out that Hytek already does this automatically; it adds no extra time or effort.

A motion was made to add men's and women's team awards, it was seconded and failed to pass on a vote. NOTE: THIS WAS REVISITED IN A SUBSEQUENT SESSION.

USATF CEO and COO Max Seigel and Rene Washington came to speak to the Committee.

- They addressed concerns about the availability of team uniforms and felt that going forward we would have less challenges.
- They praised the World #1 program and said they were seeking out sponsors who would fit well with MTF.
- Mark Williams asked about the possibility of adding more Masters Exhibition Events (MEE) to the Open meets. Max Siegel responded that they are considering holding all the various USATF Championships in 2021 in Eugene where the World Athletics Championships will be held that year.
- Martha Mendenhal asked about adding field events to the MEE opportunities, which will be explored.
- Mark Cleary asked if there were some way USATF could help improve accessibility to venues for track athletes to practice, such as utilizing elite athletes to speak to the issue.
- Marilyn Mitchell contributed that the previous evening's bowling event was very fun.

2020 World Championships Uniforms

Elizabeth Guarneri, the MTF National Office liaison spoke regarding uniforms for 2020. Currently there is a pretty solid inventory. Uniforms will be distributed to registered athletes who do not already have one on a first come first served basis. Those athletes upon registration will receive a WUFOO form to provide their information including sizes, and proof of air/hotel information. WUFOO's will be sent out weekly.

For beyond 2020, the uniform orders will be placed year to year rather than once for the four year span, which will hopefully keep sizes and quantities better stocked. T-shirts have been removed from the kits being sent in order to have them for use as uniforms if the stock runs out.

It was also suggested that athletes borrow uniforms as they must comply with the WMA rules. The uniforms may be distributed at the MTF Outdoor Championships to save on shipping. The London red, black, black and white forms are OK'd for the WMA meet but are to be used for prelims. ONLY London and Rio uniforms are OK'd for this meet. The WMA rules say that an athletes top has to be approved by their country and must identify the country.

Toronto Fees

- WMA Toronto registration is not yet open, but when USA athletes register, they will find in addition to their WMA entry and event fees, there is a \$10 Team USATF charge. This money will fund some of the expanded Team USATF team management needs because of the large anticipated US entries (1400-2000 athletes), team socials (2), and other items.

- Also prior to checking out, USA athletes will be presented with an option to purchase physio appointments (via punch cards). They will be sold in bundles of 3, 6, 12, 18, or 24 with various costs for each. The entrants must opt out if they prefer not to purchase this option. If they opt out, they will still have an opportunity to purchase until the close of registration (May 18, 2020). There are rules that apply to the use of the physios, including: The punch cards will not be refundable or transferable. Tipping is expected. \$10-20 per visit is recommended.
- The number of appointments purchased will determine the size of the staff MTF can afford to send to Toronto. The goal is 3 at each of the three venues: a PT, a masseuse, and a chiropractor. By using this system, the cost of the physio staff will not come out of the MTF budget.
- A question was asked that if an athlete is injured, can they use the physio staff if they did not purchase a punch card. They will not be able to. They can use local staff at their own cost.
- Re NormaTec use, an athlete will have had to have purchased at least three sessions to use the NormaTecs. But those will not count against punch cards.

Christine Gentile summarized the **Updated L&L News**. Re the numbers of MTF and MLDR WMA delegates, there was a lengthy discussion. The motion was tabled for a year. It was L&L's feeling that the committees should be able to work this out, so this will be re-presented next year. It was stated again that the goal of this proposal is to incentivize more MLDR participation.

The L&L issues regarding the definition of "active athletes" that were of concern have been resolved collaboratively with the AAC and a good channel of communication has been opened with them.

Meeting adjourned