

Annual Meeting Dec. 5, 2019

MTF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

10:10am Rex Harvey called the meeting to order and introduced guests

Dolf Berle, USATF Board Member and MTF athlete

Elizabeth Guarneri, USATF National Office MTF liaison

Brian Keaveney, WMA Vice President for Competition

Len Krsak, USATF Board Member and MTF Games Committee member

Mary Rosado, chair of the MLDR

Christine Gentile, stepping in as Masters Law & Legislation Committee representative in the absence of David Greifinger.

Operating Procedures Changes

Vice Chair Jerry Bookin-Weiner summarized the **Proposed 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. The change was made due to the fact that many Association Masters Chairs are unfamiliar with the athletes. Mark Cleary, HoF Subcommittee Chair stated that many of those eligible to vote did not. Mark added that going forward there will be no carry-over on the HoF ballot from one year to the next. This info will be posted to the MTF website in about 30 days.

Other Issues

- -Rex asked all present to fill out active athlete forms, although 20 will be selected this year, that number, per the new Operating Procedures, will increase starting next year.
- -Rex asked for changes to the Masters Annual meeting agenda, and asked to go out of order.

- Make Up HoF Class – Marilyn Mitchell is creating a Make-Up Hall of Fame nominee list. There will be a separate ballot for this make-up class. Sandy Triolo asked those present to help find people to nominate. This is for people going back who may have been missed between when the HoF was established in 1996 and during the transition from a joint MTF-MLDR HoF to separate Halls of Fame
- Robert Thomas listed the sites of upcoming championship meets:
 - 2020 Indoors-Baton Rouge LA,
 - 2020 Outdoors-Greensboro NC,
 - 2021 Indoors-New York City NY,
 - 2021-Outdoor-Sacramento CA,
 - 2022 Indoors-Spokane is bidding,
 - 2022 Outdoors-Lexington KY is bidding.
- Graham Shirley spoke re a few rules notes although this is not a rules year. Some items carried over from last year. Graham also touched on that there are a few world meet rule changes including some regarding changes to the implements (essentially that it is implements, not age groups and genders, that are defined – so, both men and women may use shots up to 130mm)
- There are rules change proposals on the website including ones that remove the subjectivity of hurdle violations and another concerning the 30-second rule. Currently, WMA is retaining the 30-second clock.
- Brian Keaveney described the way that rules are changed by WMA, which is by following the PUBLISHED World Athletics (ex IAAF) rules. A Region can request a rule change, it is then studied, proposals made and then that information is then sent to the WMA Council, which meets early next year. Brian Keaveney stated that perhaps changes should be made to this process.
- George Mathews relayed to Brian Keaveney that some of the allowed current allowed specifications for the hammer/weight wires and handles are unsafe. Keaveney said this is a matter for a rules-change process.

Rules Governing Transgender Athletes

- WMA follows World Athletics rules which currently require that an athlete has to state that they've changed genders. Testosterone levels of male-to-female transgender athletes have to be under a certain level for a year or more and medical records are required. This is a competition rule. This information is now available in the newly published WA rulebook.
- Rex Harvey asked if there would be leniency on this rule for this year.
- Sandy Pashkin there is no answer to that yet.
- Brian Keaveney added that “we will see what we can do between now and then”, and that a procedure needs to be defined as the WA rule is so new.
- MTF athlete Cynthia Monteleone gave a speech regarding male-to-female transgender athletes and how it harms women's TF to allow them to compete against women. Discussions followed.
- At Rex Harvey's suggestion the Executive Committee approved establishing a Task Force on Transgender Issues in Masters T/F; a charge will be developed and the Task Force appointed in the coming weeks.

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.

Scoring of Non-club Athletes at National Championships

It was proposed by the Atlanta TC that at our national meets, unattached athletes not be allowed to earn points. This was opposed by the majority of those in attendance.

Age Grading Updates

Carroll Deweese and Brian Keaveney announced that the age grading, pertaining primarily to Combined Events, will be updated this year. The WMA Competition Committee believes the new age grading numbers will be in effect for the WMA meet this summer. The process is ongoing. Although the numbers are construed to score Combined Events, they are useful for meets that award age-graded prizes. The scores are based upon a true-age basis, and found on the WMA website. Combined Events scoring uses a five-year basis.

Women's Decathlon

Bill Murray described proposed changes to the WMA description of the Decathlon event. After receiving the go-ahead from the Executive Committee at the USATF Outdoor meeting, a recommendation was made to WMA during the NCCWMA Outdoor TF Championships to eliminate the word "Male" in the WMA rule book description of the decathlon, in effect allowing women to compete. The NCCWMA General Assembly approved the proposal. This is the proper procedure for submitting a rule change. The proposal then went to the WMA Secretary, and Brian Keaveney will now put it forth for approval. Murray pointed out that the US Combined Events Championships in 2019 had more women than men competitors, and the trend appears to be growing.

Sandy Pashkin pointed out that in the interest of equality, if the decathlon is to be made gender neutral, then the Heptathlon should follow suite. Murray responded that the WMA Council would likely see this point too, but his concern for now is the Decathlon changes.

WMA, Toronto Update by Brian Keaveney

Brian is part of the LOC hosting the meet. He had an update regarding the International Athlete Social, there is now a location set and the event will occur the night before the 2nd meeting day. The meet has added additional sponsors and in addition to the competition tracks, two training tracks will be available to the athletes, both accessible by subway.

The third competition track has been secured at Terry Fox Stadium in Brampton, ONT. It is accessible by bus.

All the Non-stadia courses are set. Brian announced that he was attending the USATF Annual meeting in an effort to inform and also to secure an adequate number of officials for the meet.

Closing Notes

Rex Harvey announced that in the new (2020) budget MTF received more money overall than for 2019 (\$2251 more). Some minor changes have been made to last year's budget, some accounts received a little more money, some a little less.

Rex also announced that MTF may have a possible sponsor. Although the National Office has yet to name the sponsor or reveal the amount. This money would be supplemental to the budget and does not fund the budget.

Jerry Bookin-Weiner, discussed plans for a possible MTF cruise/meet to the Bahamas in 2021, following the National Senior Games (November).

Meeting was Adjourned at 12:51.