



## **AREA ASSOCIATION RULES**

*(Approved by the Council on 29 November 2022,  
effective from 01 July 2023)*

## Specific Definitions

The words and phrases used in these Rules that are defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) shall have the meanings specified in the Constitution and the Generally Applicable Definitions, and (in respect of the following words and phrases) the following meanings:

**“Annual Report”** means the report as prescribed (as amended from time to time) by the Chief Executive Officer, required by Area Associations under Rule 6.9 shall be reported to World Athletics.

**“Area Meeting”** has the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.

**“Area Official”** has the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.

**“Chief Executive Officer”** has the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.

**“Competition and Technical Rules”** means the World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules a copy of which can be found: <https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/book-of-rules> (Book C)

**“Election Congress”** has the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.

**“Ineligible”** has the same meaning as defined in the Vetting Rules.

**“Member Federation Official”** has the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.

**“Purposes”** has the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.

**“Region”** means a geographical area within an Area, as defined by the constitution of an Area Association.

## 1. Overview

1.1. The purposes of World Athletics include to:

- 1.1.1 encourage and support the development, organisation and delivery of Athletics worldwide through its Area Associations and Member Federations (Article 4.1(g) of the Constitution); and,
- 1.1.2 support and assist Area Associations and Member Federations to promote and develop Athletics (Article 4.1(h) of the Constitution).

1.2. The Area Associations are entities that are delegated authority by World Athletics to make decisions in their respective Areas in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations (Article 19.1 of the Constitution).

1.3. There are six (6) associations each responsible for an Area as follows:

Area	Area Association
Africa	Confederation of African Athletics (CAA)
Asia	Asian Athletics Association (AAA)
Europe	European Athletics (EA)
North America, Central America & Caribbean	North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association (NACAC)
Oceania	Oceania Athletics Association (OAA)
South America	Atletismo Sudamericano (AS)

1.4. These Area Association Rules (“these Rules”) explain the procedures and specific requirements applicable to Area Associations’ roles and responsibilities including their authority, rights and obligations and other related matters.

1.5. All references in these Rules to ‘the Constitution’, ‘the Council’, ‘the Executive Board’, ‘Vetting Panel’, ‘Candidacy Rules’, ‘Vetting Rules’ and ‘Disciplinary Tribunal’ shall mean to those of World Athletics unless expressly stated otherwise.

## 2. Purpose of these Rules

2.1. The purpose of these Rules is to supplement the Constitution and, where applicable, subject to local laws, national policy or other national requirements of the Country in which the Area Association is established, to set out the procedures and specific requirements in relation to:

2.1.1. the roles and responsibilities of Area Associations including their authority;

2.1.2. the rights of Area Associations;

2.1.3. the obligations of Area Associations;

2.1.4. the procedures for resolving disputes between Member Federations in the Area or between the Area Association and a Member Federation; and,

2.1.5. other related matters.

### **3. Application of these Rules**

3.1. These Rules apply to:

3.1.1. Area Associations; and,

3.1.2. Area Officials and staff.

### **4. Role of Area Associations (Article 20)**

4.1. In addition to the roles set out in Article 20.1 of the Constitution, each Area Association shall be responsible for:

4.1.1. establishing, managing and publishing an annual calendar of the International Competitions, Area Competitions and other competitions including regional and group games held at an Area level or within its Area. This calendar shall include the national championships of all of its members and any other intra-Area competitions;

4.1.2. issuing Area Association Permits for International Competitions and International Meetings to be held in its Area (in accordance with the Competition Rules);

4.1.3. any other matters that are delegated to it by Council or the Executive Board.

### **5. Rights of Area Associations (Article 21)**

5.1. The rights of Area Associations are set out in Article 21.1 of the Constitution and in the Rules and Regulations.

5.2. The Council may, in its discretion, grant additional rights and privileges to Area Associations, from time to time, including but not limited to providing any financial support to Area Associations.

### **6. Obligations of Area Associations (Article 22)**

6.1. **Manage Area Competitions (Article 22.1(b)):** Each Area Association shall “manage and organise Area Competitions”. This Rule sets out the requirements for Area Competitions:

6.1.1. each Area Association shall hold at least every two calendar years at least one senior Area Championships in a Country or Territory in the Area, in which athletes from every Member Federation in the Area are entitled to participate as specified in the constitution or rules of each Area Association;

6.1.2. Area Associations shall organise or manage other Area Competitions including Regional or Group games in which athletes from Member Federations from regions or groups within the Area compete;

6.1.3. Area Competitions shall be managed and controlled in accordance with the Competition and Technical Rules;

6.1.4. each Area Association shall report on these obligations in its Annual Report, in accordance with Rule 6.7.

6.2. **Elections (Article 22.1(e)):** Unless the laws of the Country in which the Area Association is established state otherwise, the following Rules shall apply to the obligations to hold elections as set out in the Constitution, and be specified in the constitution or rules of each Area Association:

6.2.1. must have its Area President democratically elected at an Area Meeting;

6.2.2. other elected individual members of the Area Council including vice-president(s) must be democratically elected. If a vice-president(s) represents a Region and is elected at a general meeting of a regional body then Rule 6.2.4 below applies;

6.2.3. any other members of the Area Council may be appointed or co-opted in accordance with the procedures set out in the Area Association's constitution or rules;

6.2.4. a representative of a Region on the Area Council must be democratically elected by Member Federations within the Region at the regional bodies' general meeting. Such elections must be conducted on the same basis as set out in these Rules;

6.2.5. Area Council elections must be held at an Area Meeting at least once every four (4) years in advance of the Election Congress so that the identity of the Area President who will sit on the Council is known before that Election Congress;

6.2.6. there should be a proper opportunity and procedure for submission of applications and nominations from candidates to be elected;

6.2.7. voting at elections must be verified by scrutineers; and

6.2.8. each person proposing to be a Candidate for the position of 'Area President' must be determined by the Vetting Panel to be Eligible to stand for election. Any undefined terms in this Rule 6.2.5 shall have the same meaning as stated in the Candidacy Rules and Vetting Rules.

6.3. **Area Meetings (Article 22.1(f)):** Unless the laws of the Country in which the Area Association is established state otherwise, the following Rules shall apply to the obligation to hold Area Meetings as set out in the Constitution, and be specified in the constitution or rules of each Area Association:

6.3.1. written notice of each Area Meeting must be given to all members and persons entitled to attend and, as prescribed by the Area Association's constitution or rules, receive such notice and at the same time a copy of the written notice and all documentation be sent to the President and Chief Executive Officer;

6.3.2. where an Area Association proposes to amend the Area Association's constitution the proposed amendments shall be clearly marked (e.g. by underline, strike out, or other form of clear designation) and circulated with the documentation in accordance with Rule 6.3.1 above. World Athletics will notify the Area Association of any inconsistency or inconsistencies (with World Athletics' Constitution and Rules

and Regulations) and the Area Association shall make any changes required by World Athletics to remedy it/them within the timescale agreed between the Area Association and World Athletics;

6.3.3. each member or person entitled by the Area Association's constitution or rules can attend and speak on all motions and resolutions made at the Area Meeting;

6.3.4. each member or person entitled by the Area Association's constitution or rules with voting rights, can vote on all motions and resolutions made at the Area Meeting;

6.3.5. all members or persons entitled by the Area Association's constitution or rules must be notified in writing about the agenda and the proposed motions or resolutions to be decided at each Area Meeting;

6.3.6. the procedures for voting at each Area Meeting, including the voting majority and threshold shall be stated in the constitution or rules;

6.3.7. the quorum for an Area Meeting shall be stated in the Area Association's constitution;

6.3.8. a summary of the key information and decisions taken at the Area Meeting must be sent to all members and persons as specified in the Area Association's constitution or rules and the President and Chief Executive Officer within three (3) months of the end of the relevant meeting. Where information and decisions are not in either English or French they must be translated into either English or French;

6.3.9. minutes of each Area Meeting shall be taken, and a copy sent to the members of the Area Association and the President and Chief Executive Officer within six (6) months of the relevant Area Meeting (or such other time as is required by the Area Association's constitution). Where minutes are not in either English or French they must be translated into either English or French.

**6.4. Supply of Information (Article 22.1(g)):** Each Area Association must supply to the Chief Executive Officer (or their nominee):

6.4.1. documents such as, but not limited to, those related to its Area Meetings, convening notice, agenda, minutes of the Area Meeting, attendance sheets of voting delegates, and, if applicable, list of candidates to the different positions available at the Area Association and associated Area Association rules governing an election procedures, and documentation and minutes concerning Area Council meetings. Where such documents concern an Area Meeting or Area Council meeting the supply of them shall be prior to such meetings;

6.4.2. such other information as required by Constitution, these Rules or any other applicable Rules or Regulations.

**6.5. Central Office and Legal Entity (Article 22.1(d) & (h)):**

6.5.1. An Area Association must be established as any type of legal entity in accordance with the laws of the Country in which it is based, provided that the entity has members and its membership include the Member Federations in its Area (in accordance with Article 19.3 of the Constitution);

6.5.2. each Area Association shall supply to World Athletics a copy of the certificate, or other official document(s), certifying the establishment of the Area Association as a

legal entity and its registration or other equivalent process in the Country in which it is established, including any registration number or other numbers of identification and the full postal address of its central office and any changes to these shall be notified to the Chief Executive Officer within twenty (20) days of the any such change occurring;

6.5.3. each Area Association shall supply the full legal name, and registration or other identification number, of any entity in which the Area Association has a controlling interest; any changes to these entities or new entities shall be notified to the Chief Executive Officer within twenty (20) days of any such change occurring;

6.5.4. each Area Association shall notify the Chief Executive Officer within seven (7) days if it is informed by a governmental authority that it has been, or will be dissolved, wound up (whether due to a merger, amalgamation or otherwise), or as a consequence of it no longer being properly constituted under the law applicable to the Country in which it is based and shall notify the Chief Executive Officer of the steps it intends to take (if any) to resolve the situation and provide all relevant documentation to the Chief Executive Officer.

#### 6.6. **Constitution (Article 22.1(i)):**

6.6.1. Pursuant to Rule 6.4.2, each Area Association must submit to the Chief Executive Officer within three (3) months of approval by its members any new or amended constitution, whether amended or new, the entire constitution. Where the constitution is not in either English or French it must be translated into either English or French.

6.6.2. The Area Association's constitution specifies a process for filling vacancies on the Area Council.

#### 6.7. **Annual Report (Article 22.1(j)):**

6.7.1. Each year Area Associations must submit a written Annual Report in accordance with the form prescribed by World Athletics from time to time.

6.7.2. Any information required in accordance with Rule 6.7.1 above must be submitted by the president or chief executive officer of the Area Association to the Chief Executive Officer (or their nominee) by the due date.

6.8. **Website:** Area Associations shall have a website for the Area Association in which its Member Federations are listed.

6.9. **Developments:** Area Associations shall keep World Athletics up to date with information on any significant developments in the Area Association which may impact on the Area Association's ability to fulfil its obligations or otherwise about issues, concerns or developments concerning Member Federations, Member Federation Officials and Area Official.

6.10. **Assistance (Article 12.2(b)):** Area Associations shall if requested by World Athletics, help World Athletics if it decides to intervene in a Member Federation (under Article 12.2 (b) of the Constitution).

**6.11. Integrity and Governance (Article 22.1(a)):** Area Associations are obliged to administer, promote and develop Athletics within their respective Areas in accordance with the Purposes of World Athletics set out in the Constitution.

6.11.1. one of those purposes is to protect the integrity of Athletics by developing and enforcing standards of conduct and ethical behaviour and implementing better governance; to this end Area Associations must recognise the decisions of the Disciplinary Tribunal (whether in relation to Anti-Doping Violations or Non-Doping Violations) and **either:**

- a. not elect or appoint any person as an Area Official who would be suspended in relation to the decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal for the period stated in the said decision; **or**
- b. remove the Area Official concerned by the decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal from office until the outcome of the proceedings, including any appeals process;

6.11.2. if notified, pursuant to Rule 11 of the Vetting Rules, that one of their Area Officials has been found Ineligible by the Vetting Panel, and in the opinion of the Vetting Panel, the issues identified by the Vetting Panel are so serious that the Area Official should no longer hold office or be eligible to stand for office as an Area Official, remove that Area Official from office and/or prevent that Area Official from standing for office as an Area Official.

**6.12. Safeguarding:** Each Area Association shall comply with any mandatory minimum standards and associated key performance indicators published by World Athletics that relate to safeguarding individuals involved in Athletics (i.e. athletes, support staff, officials, volunteers, board members, etc.) in accordance with such policies, procedures and applicable Rules and Regulations.

**6.13. Other Rules and Policies (Article 22.1(c)):** Each Area Association shall comply with all applicable Rules and Regulations and any applicable policies and procedures published by World Athletics as are prescribed by World Athletics as applying to Area Associations.

## **7. Disputes involving Area Associations (Article 84)**

7.1. Under Articles 84.1 and 84.2(b) of the Constitution, in the event there is a dispute or difference between:

7.1.1. a Member Federation or Member Federations and an Area Association; or

7.1.2. Area Associations;

(a "**Dispute**"), Council may take reasonable steps to assist in the resolution of such Disputes. This Rule 7 sets out the steps that Member Federations and Area Associations must take in such circumstances and the steps World Athletics may elect to take. For the avoidance of doubt, World Athletics is neither a decision-making body nor an appeal body in respect of such Disputes.

7.2. **Notification for Assistance:** In the event of a Dispute between the parties described in Rule 7.1.1 or 7.1.2 ("Disputing Parties"), either of the Disputing Parties may notify the Chief Executive Officer of the Dispute in writing, giving brief details of the Disputing Parties' respective positions. Where the Dispute is:



7.2.1. between Member Federations from the same Area Association and the Area Association has not been informed of or previously involved in any attempt to resolving the Dispute then, in the first instance, the Dispute will be referred to the Area Association to resolve the Dispute;

7.2.2. between a Member Federation or Member Federations and their Area Association and the Dispute has not been through the Area Association's dispute resolution rules and procedures then, in the first instance, the Dispute will be referred to the Area Association to resolve the Dispute;

in accordance with the Area Association's dispute resolution rules and procedures or either, where Rule 7.2.1 applies, other dispute resolution process agreed between the Member Federations or, where Rule 7.2.2 applies, other dispute resolution process agreed between the Member Federation or Member Federations and the Area Association. World Athletics will liaise with the relevant Area Association to collaborate and work together to agree such reasonable steps as are necessary to assist in the resolution of the Dispute.

7.3. Upon notification under Rule 7.2 the Disputing Parties shall provide:

7.3.1. information confirming that they have taken all necessary action to resolve the Dispute themselves;

7.3.2. a summary of the Dispute and the Disputing Parties respective positions; and/or

7.3.3. any and all other information that may assist Council in understanding the Dispute,

(together, the "**Dispute Information**").

7.4. **Referral to Dispute Resolution Processes:** Upon review of the Dispute Information, subject to Rules 7.2.1 and 7.2.2, the Chief Executive Officer may either:

7.4.1. refer the matter for resolution whether by mediation or by a suitably qualified person or persons or an entity which provides such services ("the Dispute Resolution Process") the Area Associations and/or Member Federations (as the case may be) will be required to comply with any rules stipulated by the person appointed to conduct the Dispute Resolution Process; or

7.4.2. appoint one or more Council Members (the "**Appointed Member**") in accordance with Rule 7.5 below (the "**Appointed Member Process**").

7.5. **Appointed Member Process:** The Appointed Member Process is intended to be a less formal process whereby the Appointed Member acts as an independent third party to assist in the settlement of Disputes and the negotiations between Disputing Parties.

7.6. Should the Chief Executive Officer elect to refer the Dispute to the Appointed Member Process pursuant to Rule 7.4.2 above, the Chief Executive Officer will appoint the Appointed Member, and the Disputing Parties will be notified within fourteen (14) days of such appointment. An Appointed Member from Council must not have any current or previous association (in the last five (5) years) with either of the Disputing Parties.

7.7. The Disputing Parties must co-operate and assist the Appointed Member in their work in resolving the Dispute and:

7.7.1. provide information/documentation,

7.7.2. attend meetings and/or hearings, whether in-person or by video or telephone; and/or,

7.7.3. abide by any other steps or deadlines,

the Appointed Member requests from or directs to the Disputing Parties.

7.8. The Appointed Member Process will be at an end when, either:

7.8.1. the Dispute has been resolved in writing and has been signed by the Disputing Parties; or

7.8.2. the Appointed Member informs the Disputing Parties that, in their judgment, the Appointed Member Process will not resolve the Dispute.

7.9. **Costs:**

7.9.1. The payment of the costs of any Dispute Resolution Process will be determined by the person appointed to conduct the Dispute Resolution Process and in the absence of any determination will be shared equally between the Disputing Parties.

7.9.2. The costs of the Appointed Member will be shared equally between the Disputing Parties unless the Chief Executive Officer agrees that World Athletics pay the costs of the Appointed Member.

7.9.3. In either of the circumstances in Rule 7.9.1 or 7.9.2, the Disputing Parties will pay their own legal costs and any other costs or expenses.

**8. Disputes between Member Federations within an Area:** An Area Association may either on its own initiative and independently of World Athletics, resolve either any disputes between Member Federations from the Area in accordance with the Area Association's dispute resolution rules and procedures or other dispute resolution process agreed between the Member Federations concerned as directed, guided and supported by the Area Association.

## **9. Internal Disputes within a Member Federation**

9.1. In the event of a dispute between Member Federation Officials within a Member Federation (an "**Internal Member Federation Dispute**"), Member Federations are obliged by Rule 11 of the Member Federation Rules to resolve such Internal Member Federation Disputes as quickly as possible. Where such disputes are referred to World Athletics in the first instance, nothing in the above shall prevent World Athletics consulting with and referring such disputes to an Area Association in accordance with Rule 9.2.

9.2. World Athletics will consult with and refer the Internal Member Federation Dispute to the Area Association to resolve the Internal Member Federation Dispute, independently of World Athletics, in accordance with the Member Federation's dispute resolution procedures or any other agreed dispute resolution procedure as directed, guided and

supported by the Area Association. Member Federations are obliged to co-operate with the Area Association of which they are a member and take such steps as are required by that Area Association to resolve the Internal Member Federation Dispute.

#### **10. Breaches of obligations by Area Associations (Articles 20 – 23)**

- 10.1. The obligation on Area Associations to comply with these Rules is set out at Articles 20 to 22 of the Constitution. The Council has the power to impose the sanctions for breach of obligations by any Area Association, under Article 23.2 of the Constitution.
- 10.2. Before the Council can impose a sanction pursuant to Rule 10.1, the procedure set out in Article 23.4 of the Constitution must be followed.