



ANDREA PAOLA BONILLA TELLO ECUADOR

Three words that describe you best:

**HONEST
BRAVE
DETERMINED**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

Be the voice of the athletes, to defend their rights, create more opportunities, support initiatives, support inclusive and clean sport and let the world know that lives can be changed through sport.

Why I am running for the election:

My goal is to raise my voice on behalf of the athletes, claim our rights, contribute to an increasingly inclusive, clean and ethical sport.

I would like to work to help create a path for future generations of athletes in such a way that the sport continues to progress and encourage all the people to know that through sport, we have the power to change lives.

The sport has given us powerful tools, and has always allowed us to develop many capabilities, which can be used to create new strategies for the benefit of sport development or any other field.

As elite athletes, we are obligated to show the world those capabilities, and how beneficial they can be in bringing about positive change in society.

In that way, being part of the Athletes' Commission is the first step to contribute to that change.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



LISANNE DE WITTE NETHERLANDS

Three words that describe you best:

**CARING
PASSIONATE
STUBBORN**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

All our voices are equal, and we need to be heard for athletics to thrive.

Why I am running for the election:

Athletics was my first love. I've loved it since I was a child and our relationship taught me many things.

First of all, it taught me to dream. But to reach those dreams I had to learn, I had to learn and understand the power of commitment, sacrifice and discipline, things I think we all share.

I also had to learn how to keep my passion alive when things became tough. Athletics gave me great joy, but also a lot of painful moments, all of which helped me understand our amazing sport.

Athletes know what athletes need, better than anyone. We understand the difficulties of our sport and our opinions should be listened to. By being on the Athletes' Commission I can help create an environment where athletes can become better athletes, and this incredible sport can thrive.

I want to grow our sport into a safer space for athletes, in competition and their training environment, with a strong focus on mental health. Ours is a truly global sport and I think it's important to give as many people as possible the opportunity to experience it.

I want to make other people fall in love with athletics, too.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



LAUMA GRIVA LATVIA

Three words that describe you best:

**PASSIONATE
RESPONSIBLE
COMMUNICATIVE**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

Promoting and advancing athletics as clean and safe sport that upholds the highest standards.

Why I am running for the election:

Coming from a small country, sport has given me a lot of opportunities, and now, with my experience as an athlete, a coach, a parent and a business owner, I see this as my opportunity to give back to athletics.

One reason I love sports so much is because it is very fair – you either run, jump, throw the distance or you do not. It will be measured and the best wins. It's that simple, so you pour your soul out at practices to achieve the best result when it counts.

With this being said, I see the World Athletics Athletes' Commission as a place I could contribute by standing for clean, inclusive, safe sport that upholds the highest ethical standards.

I stand for an even playing field for athletes.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**

RAMIL GULIYEV TURKEY



Three words that describe you best:

**HONEST
LOYAL
RESPECTFUL**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

I want to be the voice of all athletes.

Why I am running for the election:

As an athlete, I have a great responsibility for the younger generation, and I believe that my help to the younger generation is important.

After my victory at the World Championships, I wanted to share my experience, help other athletes achieve their goals.

I would like to devote myself to the fight for equal opportunities and conditions for all athletes, to protect their rights I will be happy to be the representative of my country and dedicate myself to the development of athletics in my country and in the world.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



MATTHEW HUGHES CANADA

Three words that describe you best:

**DEDICATED
DRIVEN
PASSIONATE**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

To provide as much transparency as possible to the athletes and fans on the decision making and goings-on of World Athletics.

Why I am running for the election:

As someone who has competed in the sport of athletics their entire life, from running cross country in grade 3, to making my first world junior team in 2007, to then competing in the senior ranks for a decade plus, I am extremely invested in this sport and its continued growth worldwide. In 2011, when I made my first World Championship team, to now, having recently retired from competitive track and field, I've witnessed the good, the bad, and most importantly, the ugly side of our sport.

The initiation of the Athletes' Commission has been one of the most positive things to happen in a long time. Having current and past athletes a part of major decisions in our sport is integral to keeping our sport moving in an honest direction. As athletes, we are all stakeholders in our sport.

As a camper, I was always taught to leave your campsite better than you found it, and I'll be dated if I don't leave this sport in a better place than it was when I started. I think it's imperative that the Athletes' Commission continues to provide transparency on the decision making of World Athletics to make our sport better for the future generations.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



IVET LALOVA-COLLIO BULGARIA

Three words that describe you best:

**PATIENT
CURIOUS
EVOLVING**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

Giving back to the sport I love.

Why I am running for the election:

I've spent the last 26 years of my life on the track. And I just love it.

It has given me so many emotions, joy, friendships. So many travels, cultures, fans. It was amazing to see how loved our sport is around the world.

At the end of my own athletic career, I want to give back some of these emotions in a way, to help and support my fellow athletes and our beloved sport.

As a part of the European Athletics Athletes' Committee for many years I know how important the voice of each athlete is in building the future of the sport.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



HALIMAH NAKAAYI UGANDA

Three words that describe you best:

**INTELLIGENT
DETERMINED
SUCCESS**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

To unite athletes and to improve athletes' welfare.

Why I am running for the election:

I feel the responsibility to stand up for the needs of the athletes and to defend their rights, especially for the female athletes of Africa and other countries at large.

Athletics is part of my life and the love I have for the sport, I have since I started participating in athletics at an early age, therefore I want to motivate the young generation to start the sport at an early age. It is my desire to encourage children and young people to get more active by getting involved in physical skills to gain more confidence.

We need to make sure that as athletes in the world we become more united and more cooperative through communicating with each other.

Therefore I would be very grateful if you voted for me. Thanks.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



AIRINĖ PALŠYTĖ LITHUANIA

Three words that describe you best:

**RESILIENT
DETERMINED
SEEKER**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

Consider issues related to athletes and athletics overall, make related recommendations to World Athletics and actively engage with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play.

Why I am running for the election:

Growing up in a family where sport was a huge part of our day-to-day life, I finally ended up falling in love with athletics. 19 years of training and competing made me realise that being a part of this community means not only participation in its activities and promotion away from the field, but also growing together and as a person and when in need – standing up and being a voice of change and improvements. As a big believer of aiming high (and not only doing what I love – the high jump), I believe that ATHLETES are the ones, who are shaping the global opinion about track and field, so WE have to use this opportunity to make our beloved sport even better.

The Athletes' Commission gives us an opportunity to speak up, to tell OUR side of the story and to discuss about positive changes. As an elected member of World Athletics Athletes' Commission, I would:

- be a CHANNEL between ATHLETES and World Athletics, considering issues related to athletes and athletics overall;
- provide ADVICE and related recommendations to World Athletics;
- PROMOTE athletes' INVOLVEMENT in decision-making processes across all related topics;
- actively ENGAGE with initiatives and projects that protect and support clean athletes on and off the field of play.

Being a part of the Athletes' Commission as a representative and communication channel between YOU, my fellow ATHLETES and World Athletics, it would not only be a great honour but also a huge responsibility for me. I would try to do my best to make OUR thoughts stand out and make sure that the future of World Athletics is even brighter.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



ANNA RYZHKOVA UKRAINE

Three words that describe you best:

**RESILIENCE
RESPECT
SUPPORT**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

My main goal is to give athletes confidence that they are always protected.

Why I am running for the election:

To be an athlete means much more than to be somebody who only competes and wins medals. We can lead millions of fans and younger athletes. We are influencers and role models for other people.

Athletes have to know: if one's in trouble, the other helps. From the start of the war in Ukraine, I've felt that we are a true sports family. I wish everybody could feel the support I've felt during these times.

But we also have to support athletes in many other things. I've always stood against ageism, including in sports. I'm convinced that we need to consider athletes' results, but not their age. Every athlete deserves support.

There are many projects in athletics to make it more attractive. But we have to keep abreast and make sure that all those steps are athlete-oriented and don't go against fair competition.

As I said, athletes are influencers. More or less, they are famous all over the world. We have to help them adapt to the interests of the media and not be subjected to psychological pressure. And one of the essential tasks is to show the true value of clean sport. We have to show young athletes that they can compete clean at the highest level. Even more: it must be the lifestyle of every athlete.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



LEA SPRUNGER SWITZERLAND

Three words that describe you best:

**DEVOTED
PERSEVERING
PASSIONATE**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

I would like the athletes to be heard and feel well represented through the commission, to be able to delegate their needs and problems and focus on their passions.

Why I am running for the election:

Freshly retired from the oval office, my passion for our sport remains unchanged. We are in a period where our sport must reinvent itself, stand out, and rejuvenate itself. Athletics is more than a sport; it is a spectacle.

But it is important not to forget the performance and the athletes in these evolutions. Because the athlete is at the heart of our sport, at the heart of the show, and at the heart of the action.

My will to make our sport grow is as alive as ever, but my desire to protect the athletes is even greater.

I work for the Lausanne Diamond League, and I am immersed in the world of athletics every day. I remain at the heart of our sport.

Have you thought about the athletes? Do you think that it would benefit athletes? I will ask these questions without limitation, for the athletes' sake.

“Work hard in silence, let success make the noise” has always been my motto as an athlete and it will remain in my DNA. I am committed to taking action and representing you to the best of my ability so that you, the athletes, can make the noise.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



ALESSIA TROST ITALY

Three words that describe you best:

**COMMITTED
PASSIONATE
HONEST**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

Grow athletes' role awareness and sense of community.

Why I am running for the election:

As many of us, I have grown with athletics – through it, thanks to it, because of it.

We are athletes, we all know words as motivation and commitment – they are our closest companions, they shape our dreams and lead our way – but we also know that we often cope with everyday issues and problems, duties and responsibilities.

The journey we all go through provides amazing experiences and opportunities, challenge and satisfaction. We are surrounded by capable people working with us towards our goals and we will find renewed energy being in touch with other fellow athletes. They are competitors, but also colleagues, humans who are experiencing the same environment and similar thoughts.

That is why we need to be aware of our role, to let our voice be heard, to commit in order to build a shared knowledge and a common culture. As individuals and as a collective culture, it is paramount to understand the most relevant issues and to identify the fundamental tools that can turn a young athlete's growth potential into full performance and personal potential.

Younger athletes deserve great models, older athletes own experience that must be valued. The athlete community must be the place where each feels represented and supported beyond age, gender, ethnicity and belief, but also beyond discipline and competition.

We are athletes, all year long and anywhere. In many different ways, we all are.

It's a matter of identity.



**ATHLETES' COMMISSION
CANDIDATE INFORMATION**



TOSHIKAZU YAMANISHI JAPAN

Three words that describe you best:

**PERSISTENT
INQUISITIVE
VISIONARY**

Your objective as a Candidate in one sentence:

To add a unique perspective and create a circulation of ideas and opinions from athletes around the world to make our sport truly global.



Why I am running for the election:

Dear Friends,

My name is Toshikazu Yamanishi, Doha 2019 World Champion, Tokyo 2020 Olympic Bronze Medallist, Muscat 2022 World Racewalk Team Championship Individual Gold Medallist in the Men's 20km Racewalk. I am from Kyoto, Japan with an Engineering Degree from the Kyoto University.

Almost one year after the Tokyo Olympic Games and our road to Paris already underway, I have decided to run for the seat in the World Athletics Athletes' Commission. I hope to serve you, my fellow athletes, in engineering and driving our sport forward globally, add an Asian and Japanese perspective, and create a circulation of diverse opinions and dialogue beyond the Euro-Americas and the rest of the globe.

From Oregon 22, race walk distance in the 50km was shortened to 35km. This is one of many signs or messages that our sport itself must adapt and evolve with the times or changes that come upon us. We face many priorities such as gender equity and diversity, anti-doping, or sustainability. Affecting us directly, the qualification pathways for major championships, or the international competition tours can evolve even further.

The epicentre of athletics may be in the Euro-Americas now, and that could be because of geographical distance or language. But we can go beyond these so-called boundaries, create something more than a twoway dialogue but a convectional dialogue from and between all corners of the globe. My Asian and Japanese background, a perspective of the host nation of the Olympic Games will be an asset for our cause.

My experiences in international competitions can complement our agenda. From Donetsk, Ukraine, and from Taicang, Muscat, Jakarta, Taipei, La Coruña, through Doha and soon Eugene, the experience continues to be eye-opening.

Finally, from the island nation of Japan, I hope to work with my fellow athletes from all across the globe, to make our sport truly global, to be cherished and embraced by everyone in the world.

Thank you and wishing everyone, the best of luck at the World Championships!

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CANDIDATE INFORMATION**