



**240th World Athletics Council Meeting
18/19 March 2026 – Toruń, Poland
Information and Decisions**

The Council of World Athletics, chaired by President Sebastian Coe, met on 18 and 19 March 2026 in Toruń, Poland, ahead of the World Athletics Indoor Championships Kujawy Pomorze 26.

1. REPORTS

Council received the following:

- President's Introduction
- Executive Board update including a financial update
- CEO and Operations report, including an update on the 2026 priority projects for HQ, an overview of the success Key Performance Indicators set for the World Athletics Indoor Championships Kujawy Pomorze 26, and an update on RunX, the first Treadmill Championships
- Report from the Athletes' Commission including a proposal regarding the qualification framework for the World Athletics Championships and the Olympic Games and input into competition related proposals
- Report from the Coaches' Commission including the proposed Terms of Reference for the Commission
- Report from the Competition Commission including the qualification principles for the World Athletics Championships and the Olympic Games, the proposed repechage format for the LA 2028 Olympic Games, the creation of a new Event Presentation Delegate role, and amendments to World Athletics Rules and Regulations
- Report from the Development Commission including a progress update on the review of the coach education framework
- Report from the Governance Commission including proposed amendments to the Governance Rules
- Report from the Nationality Review Panel including proposed amendments to Eligibility Rules and Transfer of Allegiance Regulations
- Report from the World Plan Implementation Taskforce with progress updates on delivery of the World Plan actions and the tools and services available to support delivery
- Report from the Nominations Panel including the proposed appointments to the Election Oversight Panel
- World Athletics Series Events and Olympic Games progress updates
- Bidding materials for the 2028 and 2030 World Athletics Indoor Championships and the 2028 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships including the application documents, risk register reports, bid summaries and the Bid Evaluation Panel report and recommendations
- Report from the Athletics Integrity Unit Board.

2. INFORMATION AND DECISIONS

2.1 WORLD ATHLETICS SERIES EVENTS & OLYMPIC GAMES

2.1.1 World Athletics Indoor Championships 2028 and 2030

Upon the recommendation of the Bid Evaluation Panel, Council awarded the organisation of the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships to Bhubaneshwar, Odisha, India and the Athletics Federation of India. The event will be held on 3-5 March 2028.



This will mark the first time India hosts a global track and field championships, with Odisha continuing to strengthen its position as a major host of international athletics events. The state previously staged the Asian Athletics Championships in 2017 and has also hosted a World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze meeting.

Council also awarded the organisation of the 2030 World Athletics Indoor Championships to Astana, Kazakhstan and the Athletic Federation of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The event will take place on 15–17 March 2030. The awarding of the 2030 edition to Kazakhstan’s capital city will support the continued expansion of athletics into new markets. Astana hosted the Asian Indoor Championships in 2023 as well as World Athletics Indoor Tour Gold meetings in 2024 and 2025.

2.1.2 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships 2028

Upon the recommendation of the Bid Evaluation Panel, Council awarded the organisation of the 2028 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships to Hefei, China and the Chinese Athletics Association. The event will be held on 9 April 2028.

Holding the Championships in Hefei continues a four-year sequence of major World Athletics Series events in China, following competitions in Nanjing (2025), Guangzhou (2025), Yangzhou (2027), and Beijing (2027). The rapidly growing capital of Anhui Province in Eastern China, with a population of 10 million people, is a key economic player in the region.

2.1.3 Qualification Principles for the World Athletics Championships and the Olympic Games

Council approved new principles governing qualification for the World Athletics Championships and the Olympic Games. Developed with significant input from the Athletes’ Commission, these principles represent an evolution of the qualification model used for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games and the World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25.

The model will continue to be based on a dual pathway with approximately 40% of athletes to now qualify through entry standards and 60% through world rankings, compared to the previous 50:50 distribution.

Results valid for Entry Standards will need to be achieved at World Rankings Category C events and above, with the aim of strengthening qualification opportunities through the global network of Continental Tour Meetings and Label Road Races.

The qualification systems and entry standards for the WCH Beijing 27 and LA 2028 Olympic Games will be developed based on these principles and will be submitted to Council for approval prior to the next Council meeting.

2.1.4 Repechage format for LA 2028 Olympic Games

Council approved the revised repechage format for the LA28 Olympic Games, incorporating measures to improve fairness, clarity and athlete welfare. The updated format introduces a defined “bona fide effort” performance threshold, based on World Athletics scoring tables, to determine eligibility for progression to repechage rounds, ensuring that only athletes demonstrating a genuine competitive effort may advance.

In addition, the format provides for a minimum interval of approximately 21 hours between rounds to safeguard athlete recovery.



The approved approach will be implemented for LA28 only, with its effectiveness to be assessed post-Games before any consideration of future application.

2.1.5 Event Presentation Delegate

Council approved the introduction of a new Event Presentation Delegate role for the World Athletics Championships and World Indoor Championships, aimed at strengthening the planning and delivery of event presentation. The delegate who will be nominated by the Competition Commission, and approved by Council for each event, will bring specialist expertise to support Local Organising Committees in enhancing the overall presentation, spectator experience and alignment with broadcast requirements.

2.1.6 World Rankings Category E upgrades

Council approved the updated chart of World Rankings Category E upgrades (as outlined in appendix to this circular) for 2026 onwards, reflecting a revised assessment of Member Federation activity and performance in organising lower-level competitions. The upgrades are based on the quality of competitions, measured through performance and ranking points, and recognise Member Federations that have demonstrated strong delivery standards across their events.

2.2 WORLD ATHLETICS RULES & REGULATIONS

2.2.1 Competition Rules and Technical Rules

Council approved proposed amendments to the Competition Rules and Technical Rules to improve operational clarity, competitive integrity and consistency of application across events. Key changes included:

- Combined Events – False Start clarification (CR31.14.4): clarifies the requirements for a performance achieved in a Combined Events competition to be ratified as a World Record in an individual track event.
- Qualification Rounds (TR4.3): refines the wording to empower referees to permit athletes competing in concurrent events to take their trials in a different order during any round of a Qualification Round.
- Pacing with non-compliant shoes (TR6.3.1): clarifies that pacing by athletes wearing non-compliant footwear constitutes assistance and is therefore not allowed, in order to safeguard fairness and the integrity of the sport.
- Discus and hammer circles (TR35 / TR37): updates the technical requirements to mandate the use of concentric circles for Discus and Hammer Throw in new installations, ensuring safe and consistent field-of-play layouts, while also facilitating operational procedures.

Full details of the rule amendments are set out in the [Technical Information](#) section of the World Athletics website.

2.2.2 Disputes & Disciplinary Proceedings Rules

Council approved proposed amendments to the Disputes & Disciplinary Proceedings Rules, to align with the sanctions framework for Continental Tour and Combined Events Tour, effective 27 March 2026.

These amendments support the introduction of a harmonised Table of Sanctions within the Disputes & Disciplinary Proceedings Rules applicable to the Continental Tour and Combined Events Tour Regulations. This follows implementation of evaluation and assessment criteria for One Day Tours and aligns with the approach adopted for the Cross Country and Indoor Tours which were approved by Council in December 2025.



The amended rules are available [here](#) on the World Athletics website (Book C, C1.4 - Continental Tour Regulations, C1.8 - Combined Events Tour Regulations & D: Integrity & Disciplinary – D5.2 Disputes & Disciplinary Proceedings Rules).

2.2.3 Eligibility Rules & Transfer of Allegiance Regulations

Council approved further amendments to the Eligibility Rules and Transfer of Allegiance Regulations, building on the framework established following the transfer freeze in 2017–2018 and subsequent refinements in 2022.

The amendments address key areas including limits on the number of applications during an Olympic cycle, the management of multiple or en masse applications, and recruitment of athletes at younger ages. The revised framework reinforces the principle that transfers of allegiance should support the development objectives of Member Federations and reflect a genuine connection between the athlete and the country or territory represented.

The Regulations apply to competitions where athletes represent a Member Federation in a national team capacity, including World Athletics Series events, Area Championships, Regional Games and the Olympic Games. They do not apply to participation in one-day meetings, tours or label road races.

These changes are intended to protect the integrity and credibility of national representative competitions by preventing frequent or non-genuine transfers of allegiance.

Key changes include limiting the number of applications over an Olympic Cycle to a maximum of ten applications. Within this limit a Member Federation can only make an application for one male and one female from another Member Federation over an Olympic Cycle. Changes also cover representation in National Representative Competitions at U18 level and clarifying the definition of 'Other Relevant Competitions' to exclude certain games and/or championships. Transfer windows will be introduced where applications will only be considered and decided within the windows. There will be two transfer windows set per annum, the dates for each window will be advised each year. A circular detailing the substantive changes to the Rules, Regulations and procedures will follow separately and the topic will be included in a forthcoming Member Federation information session.

The updated Eligibility Rules and Transfer of Allegiance Regulations, effective 27 March 2026, are available [here](#) on the World Athletics website (Book C: Competition – C3.3A Eligibility Rules; C3.4 Transfer of Allegiance Regulations).

Complete applications received prior to 27 March 2026 will be processed under the current Rules and Regulations, and applications submitted after 27 March 2026 will be subject to the updated Rules and Regulations. Questions concerning applications can be sent to nrp.secretariat@worldathletics.org

2.2.4 Age Manipulation

Council approved amendments to Eligibility Rule 3.4 and Technical Rule 3.2, effective 27 March 2026, to strengthen the framework for age verification and address the risk of age manipulation in certain jurisdictions. The amendments, introduced ahead of the World Athletics U20 Championships Oregon 26, enable World Athletics and the Athletics Integrity Unit to establish specific age verification requirements where a higher risk has been identified. These measures are intended to safeguard the integrity of age-category competitions. The Member Federations impacted by this decision will be notified after the Athletics Integrity Unit, working with the Competitions Department, have set the specific requirements for the Member Federations concerned and Council decide on their implementation.



2.2.5 Governance Rules

Council approved amendments to the Governance Rules to reflect the constitutional changes agreed at the 2025 Congress and further strengthen the governance framework. The amendments include the expansion of the Nominations Panel and the incorporation of consequential changes following the merger of the Executive Board Appointments Panel into the Nominations Panel, as approved by Congress in 2025. These updates ensure that the Rules remain aligned with the Constitution and enable the Nominations Panel to operate with a complete and effective membership in advance of the 2027 Congress.

The amended rules, effective 27 March 2026, are available [here](#) on the World Athletics website (Book B: Organisation – B3.1 Governance Rules).

2.2.6 Athletic Shoe Regulations

Council approved the exclusion of throwing events conducted from a circle (shot put, discus and hammer) from the scope of the Athletic Shoe Regulations, thereby permitting athletes to wear footwear of their choice.

This amendment reflects the lack of clear scientific evidence that footwear provides a material performance advantage in these disciplines, as well as the practical challenges and disproportionate impact of enforcing compliance in cases involving non-specialised footwear. World Athletics retains the authority to reintroduce specific footwear regulations for these events should future technological developments demonstrate a material impact on performance or fairness.

The amended regulations, effective 10 April 2026, will be available [here](#) on the World Athletics website (Book C: Competition – C2.1A Athletic Shoe Regulations) in due course.

2.2.7 Diamond League Regulations

Upon the recommendation of the Competition Commission, Council approved amendments to the Diamond League Regulations governing the allocation of Global Wild Cards for the Diamond League Final. The revised provisions address practical limitations identified in recent seasons, including conflicts with National Wild Cards and situations involving athlete injury, while preserving the principle of qualification through participation.

The amendments grant the Diamond League Board discretion to allocate Global Wild Cards in exceptional circumstances, ensuring that athletes who have demonstrated sustained engagement with the series are not unfairly excluded. The changes aim to strengthen both the flexibility and competitive integrity of the qualification system.

The amended regulations, effective from 27 March 2026, are available [here](#) on the World Athletics website (Book C: Competition – C1.3 Diamond League Regulations).

2.3 RUSSIAN ATHLETICS – FUTURE REINSTATEMENT CONDITIONS

The Council considered a report of the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) on the conclusion of the three-year Special Conditions Program applicable to the Russian Athletics Federation which had been in place since March 2023 and the implementation of which Council has been updated on by the AIU on a regular basis. The original March 2023 decision can be found in Circular M/18/23. The AIU reported that all 34 strategic conditions and all associated operational requirements under the Special Conditions Program have been fulfilled to the satisfaction of the AIU and its independent experts.

The original Special Conditions were drafted under the assumption that for anti-doping purposes, Russia's suspension was lifted and its athletes would resume international competition. This has not been the case to



date given the Council's separate March 2023 decision remains in place. While all of the Special Conditions have been complied with, the system has not been 'stress tested' under the conditions of international competition, therefore the AIU recommended that the conditions below should be imposed by the Council and be reviewed on an annual basis. This has been agreed by Russian Athletics. Upon the recommendation of the AIU Board, the Council resolved as follows:

1. Russian Athletics has complied with all the Special Conditions and compliance with those Conditions are no longer a condition of re-instatement (for anti-doping purposes) and therefore the monitoring of Russian Athletics as initiated under the Special Conditions shall now cease.
2. To re-integrate Russian athletes into international competition at some time in the future, the following new conditions are imposed by the Council as conditions of reinstatement:
 - A bi-annual review shall be conducted by an international expert nominated by the AIU to ensure there is no substantial backsliding by Russian Athletics against the matters achieved under the Special Conditions. The cost of each bi-annual review shall be borne by Russian Athletics.
 - Russian Athletics shall pay the cost of extra testing on its athletes (including all related overhead costs as calculated by the AIU), to ensure there are 40 Russian athletes in the international registered testing pool (IRTP) and that these athletes are subject to a regime of testing twice the rate (on average) than for other athletes in the IRTP.
3. These conditions shall be reviewed annually by the Council on the recommendation of the AIU.

Important Note: The above decision relates solely to the anti-doping compliance status of Russian Athletics. The Council decisions concerning the war in Ukraine, adopted in March 2023 and reaffirmed in March 2025, remain fully in place and are unchanged. Nothing in the above resolution alters or affects the existing eligibility restrictions on Russian athletes that apply for this reason.

2.4 COMMISSIONS AND TASKFORCES

2.4.1 Commissions

The Athletes', Coaches', Competition, Development and Governance Commissions all met in the lead up to the Council Meeting and each reported to Council on their key activities and areas of focus since the last Council meeting. Their approved recommendations are set out in this Circular with brief updates outlined below.

Athletes' Commission

Council received an update from the Athletes' Commission following its February 2026 meeting, which focused primarily on proposed qualification systems for the World Athletics Championships Beijing 27 and the LA28 Olympic Games. The Commission highlighted the importance of athlete welfare, planning certainty and equitable global access, and expressed support for maintaining a hybrid qualification model combining World Rankings and entry standards, pending further analysis and consultation.

The Commission also emphasised the need for evidence-based decision-making, including additional modelling, impact assessment and appropriate governance timelines before any structural changes are implemented. It further encouraged continued engagement with athletes and stakeholders. In addition, the Commission provided feedback on other competition matters, including the proposed repechage format and rule amendments.

Coaches' Commission

Council received an update from the newly established Coaches' Commission following its inaugural meeting in February 2026 and approved the Terms of Reference for the Commission. The Commission outlined its proposed



strategic direction over its initial 18-month mandate, focused on strengthening the professionalisation, representation and global engagement of elite coaches within the sport.

The Commission's work will be structured around three core areas: enhancing standards and governance frameworks for elite coaching, improving access to knowledge, education and continuous professional development, and establishing more structured mechanisms for engagement and representation of coaches globally. As an early priority, the Commission is progressing the development of a Coaches' Charter, intended as a global reference framework setting out shared principles of professional conduct, safeguarding and accountability, while recognising the diverse contexts in which coaches operate.

Council noted that further work will be undertaken to refine the Commission's priorities, including the development of the Coaches' Charter and related initiatives. The Commission's 18-month plan is being developed and will be recommended to Council at their next meeting

The terms of reference for the Coaches' Commission can be found in the [World Athletics library](#).

Competition Commission

Following its February 2026 meeting, the Commission reviewed a broad range of strategic, technical and regulatory matters relating to future championship structures, qualification systems, competition formats, innovation initiatives and rules and regulations. The approved recommendations are reflected in the relevant sections of this circular.

In addition, the Commission considered a number of other topics for further development or information, including starting procedures, certification processes, Youth Olympic Games technical regulations, the review of World Record and World Rankings event classifications, the timing of future rule updates, and ongoing monitoring of competition manipulation risks. Council noted the breadth of the Commission's ongoing work in supporting a modern, consistent and athlete-focused competition framework.

Development Commission

Council received an update from the Development Commission following its February 2026 meeting, which focused on key strategic priorities aligned with its 4-year plan. Discussions centred on strengthening social impact measurement in Kids' Athletics and grassroots programmes, advancing the Coach Education & Certification System (CECS) framework review, enhancing the World Athletics Referee Education & Certification System (WARECS), and developing frameworks to support Member Federations and Area Associations.

The Commission emphasised the importance of evidence-based approaches and practical implementation, including the development of impact measurement tools to support Member Federations in demonstrating the value of grassroots programmes, and the introduction of more flexible and modernised coaching and officiating education systems. In terms of the evolution of the CECS framework, the focus has been on two key areas: streamlining the CECS structure, strengthening alignment between levels, introducing a more modular Level 1 model, and developing a 'Kids' Athletics+' course to bridge the gap between Kids' Athletics and Level 1, creating clearer progression routes and improving accessibility at entry level; and shifting from the current coaching course lecturer model to a structured coach developer framework which aligns with international best practice in coach education. Further information will be shared with Member Federations as these concepts are developed and implemented.

Progress was also noted on pilot frameworks to assess MF performance and identify targeted development needs, with further consultation and refinement planned prior to broader rollout.



Governance Commission

Council received a summary of the Governance Commission report which covered an update on the ongoing work across electoral processes, internal governance and regulatory matters. The Commission reported progress on preparations for the 2027 electoral cycle, including the approval of revised competency frameworks and nomination requirements for World Athletics Council candidates, aimed at strengthening transparency and rigour in the election process.

The Commission also reviewed a range of governance and regulatory topics, including ongoing work on the Member Federation sanctions framework and rule amendments relating to areas such as age manipulation and competition regulations. In addition, the Commission recommended amendments to the Governance Rules and the details of these approved amendments are set out in Section 2.2.5 of this circular.

2.4.2 World Plan Implementation Taskforce

Council received an update from the World Plan Implementation Taskforce on progress since its last report in September 2025, including activities delivered during the World Athletics Championships Tokyo 25 and priorities for 2026. The Taskforce highlighted Tokyo 2025 as an important platform to promote the World Plan, gather feedback and strengthen engagement with Member Federations through the Congress, the Development Booth and the dedicated Member Federation information sessions. These activities supported greater visibility of the World Plan, encouraged knowledge-sharing among federations and helped showcase practical examples of implementation across the four pillars.

Looking ahead, the Taskforce outlined its 2026 priorities, including a review and update of the World Plan, further consultation with Area Associations and Member Federations, and stronger support for delivery in the areas of More Partnerships and More Fans, which have been identified as more challenging to progress to date. Progress was also reported on simplifying the Annual Report Form framework and strengthening measurement through clearer implementation categories and additional metrics. Council noted the ongoing work to improve implementation, measurement and stakeholder engagement, including the creation of an online library of good practice examples from across the Areas.

2.5 APPOINTMENTS

Election Oversight Panel

Upon the recommendation of the Nominations Panel, Council approved the appointment of two new members to the Election Oversight Panel for the period from March 2026 through to the conclusion of the 2027 Election Congress, following the resignation of two existing members.

The Election Oversight Panel is now composed as follows:

- Margot Foster OLY (AUS), Chair
- District Judge Jon Napier (GBR)
- Vidushpat Singhania (IND)
- Gaby Ahrens (NAM)
- Dung Nguyen (VIE).

Appendix

Member Federation quotas for E category competition upgrades 2026

Member Federation	E quota
USA	16
CZE	10
JPN	10
ESP	9
FRA	9
GBR	9
GER	9
RUS	9
AUS	8
BRA	8
SWE	8
CAN	7
CHN	7
ITA	7
POL	7
RSA	7
JAM	6
NZL	6
AUT	5
BEL	5
CUB	5
EST	5
FIN	5
GRE	5
HUN	5
IND	5
IRL	5
KEN	5
KOR	5
NED	5
NOR	5
POR	5

Member Federation	E quota
SLO	5
SUI	5
TUR	5
UKR	5
ARG	4
LAT	4
ALG	3
BAH	3
BLR	3
BUL	3
CHI	3
COL	3
CRO	3
DEN	3
GUY	3
ISL	3
ISR	3
KAZ	3
LTU	3
MAR	3
MAS	3
MEX	3
NGR	3
PHI	3
ROU	3
SRB	3
SVK	3
TPE	3
TTO	3
UZB	3

All other MFs have a quota of 2.