



**53<sup>rd</sup> World Athletics Congress**  
**Held virtually on 17/18 November 2021**  
**Decisions and Information**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> World Athletics Congress held for the first time virtually on 17/18 November 2021, with 180 Member Federations represented.

**Minutes of the previous Congress meeting**

Congress approved the minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Congress Meeting held in Doha, Qatar on 25/26 September 2019 as circulated as a true and correct record of that meeting.

**Membership – Russia**

The Acting President of the Russian Athletics Federation (RusAF) Irina Privalova accepted the invitation, following Council's proposed resolution regarding the continued suspension of RusAF's membership of the World Athletics, to address Congress and provided an update on RusAF's position. The independent Chair of the Russian Taskforce Rune Andersen also addressed Congress and provided detail on the progress that had been made and on what remained outstanding with respect to the reinstatement conditions.

Following these presentations, Congress approved the World Athletics Council's recommendation that the Russian Athletics Federation continues to be suspended while the Council oversees completion of the Russian reinstatement plan.

The following resolution was passed by vote (126 in favour, 18 against, Simple Majority 73):

*Congress resolves, in exercise of its powers under Article 13.7 of the World Athletics Constitution, that the suspension of RusAF's membership of World Athletics will continue until Council decides that all of the conditions set by Council from time to time for the revocation of RusAF's suspension and the consequent reinstatement of RusAF's membership have been met.*

The related World Athletics press release can be accessed [here](#).

**Amendments to the World Athletics Constitution**

On 19 March 2021 (Circular M/11/21), Member Federations were asked to submit proposals to amend the Constitution by 17 May 2021 and, by this deadline, no proposals were received. The Council proposals listed below were circulated to Member Federations prior to the Congress meeting on 16 September 2021 (Circular M/30/21), as part of the Congress documents.

All 84 proposals to amend the World Athletics Constitution received from Council were approved by Congress and the following is a summary of the outcomes of these decisions taken by Special Majority votes, in accordance with Articles 27.1(b) and 82.1 of the Constitution:

- Substantive & consequential: 34 amendments voted on in nine ballots
  - Ballot 1: Proposals N° 6, 7, 4, 9, 13, 14, 15 and 75 (134 votes in favour, 1 against, Special Majority 89)
  - Ballot 2:
    - Proposals N° 11, 16, 17 and 19 (139 votes in favour, 5 against, Special Majority 95)
    - Proposals N° 12, 20, 22 and 72 (131 votes in favour, 1 against, Special Majority 87)
  - Ballot 3: Proposals N° 21, 40, 46, 65, 82 and 83 (140 in favour, 1 against, Special Majority 93)
  - Ballot 4: Proposal N° 26 (145 in favour, 2 against, Special Majority 97)
  - Ballot 5: Proposals N° 28 and 29 (143 in favour, 2 against, Special Majority 96)
  - Ballot 6: Proposal N° 32 (113 in favour, 37 against, Special Majority 99)



- Ballot 7:
  - Proposal N° 35 (146 in favour, 5 against, Special Majority 100)
  - Proposal N° 36 (122 in favour, 3 against, Special Majority 83)
- Ballot 8:
  - Proposal N° 37 (145 in favour, 3 against, Special Majority 98)
  - Proposal N° 45 (144 in favour, 1 against, Special Majority 96)
- Ballot 9: Proposals N° 59, 67, 68 and 79 (149 in favour, 2 against, Special Majority 100)
  
- Purely editorial & consequential: 27 amendments bundled in one vote on one ballot
  
- Ballot 10: Proposals N° 1, 5, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 33, 43, 49, 48, 54, 55, 56, 57, 61, 70, 77, 78, 84, 53, 63, 66, 76, 73, 74 and 81 (157 in favour, 0 against, Special Majority 104)
  
- Editorial & consequential amendments for clarification: 20 amendments bundled in one vote on one ballot
  
- Ballot 11: Proposals N° 3, 8, 10, 39, 64, 69, 71, 80, 18, 25, 34, 41, 42, 44, 47, 51, 52, 60, 50 and 62 (154 in favour, 1 against, Special Majority 103)
  
- New or clarification: three amendments in separate votes on one ballot
  - Ballot 12:
    - Proposal N° 2 (154 in favour, 0 against, Special Majority 102)
    - Proposal N° 38 (135 in favour, 3 against, Special Majority 91)
    - Proposal N° 58 (135 in favour, 0 against, Special Majority 89)

*Note: Decisions of Congress listed above in the order of vote and by proposal number as set out in the table of proposed amendments to the Constitution that begins at page 323 of the [Congress Book](#).*

The approved amendments to the World Athletics Constitution will come into force on 1 December 2021.

The amended World Athletics Constitution can be found on the World Athletics website by clicking [here](#) (Book A).

## Reports

The Congress received and unanimously approved by vote the following reports which were included in the Congress Book circulated on 16 September 2021 prior to the Congress meeting:

- 2020 Annual Council Report (140 votes in favour, 0 votes against, Simple Majority 71)
  - Report from the President on activities (Executive Board & Council)
  - Financial Report on annual financial statements for the preceding two financial years (2019 & 2020)
  - Reports from the Auditors
    - Financial Audit Report
    - Non-Financial Audit Report
  - Reports from the Commissions
    - Athletes' Commission
    - Competition Commission
    - Development Commission
    - Governance Commission
  - Reports from the Working Groups
    - Human Rights Working Group\*
    - World Plan Working Group
    - Athletic Shoes Working Group



- Reports from the Independent Bodies
  - Report from the Vetting Panel (141 in favour, 0 against, Simple Majority 71)
  - Report from the Athletics Integrity Unit Board (123 in favour, 0 against, Simple Majority 62)
  - Report from the Disciplinary Tribunal (114 in favour, 0 against Simple Majority 58)

\*Fulfilling the commitment made at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Congress in 2019, the World Athletics Council appointed the Human Rights Working Group, whose report to the 2021 Congress on progress in the recognition of human rights within the sport of athletics and included its findings and recommendations, was approved on 17 November. Details can be found [here](#) in the related World Athletics press release.

### **Appointments**

#### **Appointment of the Independent Members of the Athletics Integrity Unit Board**

By vote (134 in favour, 4 against, Simple Majority 70), the Congress approved the recommendation of the Integrity Unit Board Appointments Panel (details included in the Congress Book) and appointed, in accordance with Article 27.1(i) of the Constitution, Victoria Aggar and Jill Pilgrim (both current members of the AIU Board), as Independent Members of the Integrity Unit Board for a further two-year period from 1 December 2021 until the first World Athletics Council meeting following the 2023 Election Congress.

#### **Appointment of the Auditors**

As recommended by the Executive Board (details included in the Congress Book), Congress unanimously approved by vote (144 in favour, 0 against, Simple Majority 73) the appointments of the following Auditors for 2021 until 2024:

- Ernst & Young as Financial Auditors;
- Ernst & Young as Non-Financial Auditors of Governance & Ethical Compliance; and
- QSA as Non-Financial Auditors of Anti-Doping & Integrity Programmes.

#### **World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030**

The World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030 is the roadmap for the sport for the next eight years. It is the outcome of one of the most thorough reviews of Athletics ever conducted, with 85% of Member Federations contributing, and over 25,000 individuals across the world inputting into the development of the Plan through the Global Conversation campaign. The Plan, which was developed and recommended by the Council to Congress for approval, had been circulated to Member Federations as part of the Congress Book.

Congress unanimously approved the World Plan for Athletics 2022-2030 by vote (134 in favour, 0 against, Simple Majority 68).

The related World Athletics press release can be accessed [here](#).

#### **Grant of Service Awards**

In accordance with the Honorary Member and Service Award Rules, the Nominations Panel's role is to ensure a fair process is undertaken to review the nominations received (primarily from the Area Associations) and make recommendations for the appointment of Honorary Members and the awarding of Service Awards to Council for submission to Congress for approval.

Council agreed with the recommendations of the Nominations Panel, with regards to awarding of Service Awards, and they were circulated to Member Federations on 16 September 2021 as part of the Congress Book.

The outcomes of World Athletics Congress decisions by vote to grant Service Awards are summarised below.

- **Veteran Pin**



By vote (149 in favour, 0 against, Simple Majority 75), the Congress granted the Veteran Pin to the following recipients for their long and meritorious service to the cause of Athletics within World Athletics and/or Area Association activities:

Area	Nominees	Country	Gender
Africa	Leonie Etong	Cameroon	Female
	Joseph Ochieng	Kenya	Male
	Gezahegn Abera	Ethiopia	Male
Asia	Tsewang Rinzing	Bhutan	Male
	Shen Chundu	China	Male
	Obeid Abud Aliyan	Yemen	Male
Europe	Frank Hensel*	Germany	Male
	Keith Davies	Great Britain & NI	Male
	Anthony Chircop	Malta	Male
NACAC	Maria de la Caridad Colon Ruenes	Cuba	Female
	Michael A. Serralta	Puerto Rico	Male
	David Weicker	Canada	Male
Oceania	Dame Valerie Adams	New Zealand	Female
	Sally Pearson	Australia	Female
	Semisi Fonua	Tonga	Male
South America	Ximena Restrepo	Chile	Female
	Dennis MacDonald	Suriname	Male
	Luis Vinker	Argentina	Male

\* Posthumously

- **Plaque of Merit**

By vote (150 in favour, 2 against, Simple Majority 77), the Congress granted the Plaque of Merit to the following recipients for their exceptional service to the cause of world Athletics within Area Association activities:

Area	Nominee	Country	Gender
Africa	Ahmed Ettannani	Morocco	Male
Asia	Loh Lin Kok	Singapore	Male
Europe	Erika Strasser*	Austria	Female
NACAC	Alberto Juantorena Danger	Cuba	Male
Oceania	Brian Roe	Australia	Male
South America	Marco Luque	Bolivia	Male

\* Posthumously

- **Silver Order of Merit**

By vote (154 in favour, 2 against, Simple Majority 79), the Congress granted the Silver Order of Merit to Honorary Life Personal Member **Carl-Olaf Homen** of Finland in recognition of outstanding contributions to the development and promotion of Athletics throughout the world.