

Policy

Work on reviewing the Constitution has continued throughout the year with a new draft to be put to the members of the Federation at this year's AGM. Following discussions with the Council, which is made up of delegates from each of the Constituent clubs and associations, it was decided to adopt a two stage approach to any amendments that might be considered appropriate. Rather than look to a complete restructure plus the many necessary changes to ensure good governance, it was agreed that the best approach was to initially just bring the Constitution into line with current practice, make changes to improve transparency and good governance and to bring clarity to many of clauses while bringing in a small number of additional aims so that the desired changes could be implemented quickly. The new draft is not considered contentious and has been agreed by the Council after close scrutiny and a number of amendments. The next stage is to decide whether to move to becoming an incorporated organisation, such as a company by limited guarantee which now seems to be the preferred approach by most sports governing bodies. This will involve a major restructure and much discussion will be needed to work out what might be best method for the future. The existing structure has served Masters exceptionally well since the BMAF was formed in 1975 but much has changed in athletics and over-riding legislation. The plan is to complete the second stage in order for it to be agreed at the 2021 AGM or possibly an earlier EGM.

International

BMAF members once again performed exceptionally well at the European Masters Championships in Jesolo in 2019 and their success is reported elsewhere. Unfortunately, however, all future events have been hit hard by the Covid-19 Pandemic necessitating a complete cancellation/postponement of all future Championships for 2020 and possibly into 2021. It is hoped that normality can eventually be achieved but both the WMA and EMA face major challenges in reorganising calendars and being able to find hosts for future Championships because of the severe impact on economies around the world. Currently the expectation is that Tampere will change from being a European Championships to a World Championships with Edmonton (indoor) moving to 2022 and Gothenburg to 2023. It is expected that Daegu in South Korea will be awarded the World Track and Field in 2025.

This will cause disruption to the European calendar and we still await decisions and what will happen then. The Non-Stadia is still scheduled for Madeira at the end of October and Braga is still scheduled for January, but a final decision cannot be made until nearer the time. Many athletes have been inconvenienced and left out of pocket by the cancellations and postponements. Unfortunately, neither the WMA or EMA employ administration staff and it is often necessary to wait for volunteers and/or local organising committees to deal with refunds and queries. There is very little that the BMAF can do in these circumstances but I should like to thank Pete Duhig for all his hard work in trying to get answers and it goes without saying his regular work in ensuring BMAF members get their entries to Championships accepted.

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