

Canadian Masters Athletics (CMA) and Athletics Canada (AC) “Building a Masters Partnership”

Membership Agreement

September 30, 2011

A. Starting Principles (established at November 2009 meeting of AC and CMA)

1. The leadership of both organizations is committed to a single membership for Masters athletes.
2. The leadership of both organizations agrees CMA would maintain its autonomy and financial independence.
3. Both organizations wish to see an alignment between themselves that would result in greater administrative efficiencies.
4. Both organizations look forward to enhanced cooperation.

B. CMA Commitments to Building the Partnership

1. CMA will pursue a number of governance reforms in relation to establishing a framework for a Masters partnership with AC:
 - a) The CMA will become a Not For Profit corporation, created under the most appropriate provincial or federal statute (to be determined by CMA);
 - b) The CMA will revise its constitution to create an affiliate category of membership and to invite AC to become an affiliate member, thus creating a reciprocal membership arrangement between the two organizations (as CMA is already an Affiliate Member of AC);
 - c) The CMA Board of Directors will be restructured to allow each Provincial Branch having Masters members to appoint a representative to serve as a Director on the CMA Board, along with a limited number of Directors at Large. Each Director on the CMA Board, including Directors representing Provincial Branches, will have one vote.
2. As a commitment to integrated membership, CMA would agree that all individuals, in order to become members of CMA, must register with a Provincial Branch of AC. This would include individuals not resident in Canada. The CMA would be able to appoint non-competing individuals as Life Members of the CMA.
3. As a commitment to its members, CMA will continue its mission which includes organizing, regulating and administering athletics in Canada at the National and International level according to the rules established by the IAAF and the WMA.

C. Points of Agreement for the Partnership

1. AC would acknowledge that CMA is and continues to be recognized by WMA as the Canadian affiliate.
2. AC and CMA will have reciprocal organizational membership: AC will be an affiliate member of CMA and CMA will be an affiliate member of AC. There will be no fees or votes attached to such

memberships, but they would give each organization the right to attend and participate in the other organization's member meetings.

3. AC and CMA will have reciprocal individual membership: An individual wishing to become a member of CMA will register with AC through a Provincial Branch and would thus be an AC member and a CMA member.
4. To implement such reciprocal individual membership, AC and CMA will negotiate and come to agreement on the following particulars:
 - a) The Provincial Branches will increase their Masters membership payments to AC from \$5 to \$15. AC will forward \$10 of that fee to the CMA to fund their program.
 - b) Determining the individual membership information that would need to be obtained as part of the registration process and then transferred to CMA.
 - c) Determining a mechanism whereby CMA may obtain documentation relating to proof of age, which is a WMA requirement, required for those athletes participating in International WMA competitions only.
5. Recognizing that there have been several years of discussions but little tangible progress on aligning the two organizations, AC and CMA agree to work together to sustain the current momentum and to implement this partnership at the earliest possible date, depending on the timing of Annual General Meetings of the various Provincial Branches.
6. AC and CMA acknowledge that as members of international federations (IAAF and WMA), they are both required to follow the rules and regulations of their respective parent bodies. Presently, these international rules are not harmonized with regard to non-stadia age groupings. Both organizations agree to make every reasonable effort to accommodate both IAAF and WMA rules, in order to minimize the impact on those athletes who are affected.

D. Additional Notes

1. The restructuring of the CMA Board of Directors to include Provincial Branch representatives, as well as the reciprocal organizational membership between AC and CMA, will allow both organizations to share experience, expertise and best practices in relation to Masters Athletics issues.
2. Both AC and CMA would benefit from full disclosure and sharing of their respective membership numbers, and membership categories, so that discussion about appropriate membership fees can be based on sound, current information.
3. The WMA European Region has established a system whereby members there need to submit proof of age documentation only once, and thereafter it is recorded within the membership database. Efforts are presently underway to implement this database across the world, and if successful, this may assist with Point C. 4 c) above.
4. References to 'Provincial Branches' in this document refer to all provinces, allowing for any differences in the current organization of Masters Athletics in each province.
5. Lastly, a partnership agreement such as described in this document is an important first step towards building a longer-term collaborative and beneficial relationship between the AC and CMA, one that would make it possible to develop a thriving Masters Athletics community across Canada.

Both AC and CMA agree to be flexible, recognizing that not all obstacles and issues can be anticipated all at once, and that their partnership will likely evolve over time.

E. Next Steps

1. The Partnership agreement will take effect for the 2011-12 membership year.
2. Once the Partnership Agreement is implemented, the Task Force will remain in place to resolve issues that may require ongoing cooperation between AC, CMA, and AC Provincial Branches – with milestones identified to judge progress towards their resolution.



Rob Guy, Chief Executive Officer
Athletics Canada

October 11, 2011

Date



Paul Osland, President
CMA

October 23, 2011

Date