



## NZ Masters Athletics Board Meeting

**Minutes of the Board Zoom meeting held on  
Sunday 6 February 2022, commencing at 2pm.**

Present: Andrew Stark (AS) (President), Michael Wray (MW) (Vice-President), Ian Carter (IC), Claire Giles (CG), Brayden Grant (BG) and Derek Shaw (DS) (Minute Secretary).

Apologies: None

1. Welcome:

The President welcomed everyone to the additional Board meeting and indicated that the main purpose of the meeting was to consider whether or not we proceed with the holding of the 2022 NZMA Track and Field Championships scheduled to take place in Wellington 11-13 March 2022.

2. Minutes of the previous Board meeting held on 16 January 2022.

*That the minutes of the Board Zoom meeting held on 16 January 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*                      A Stark / D Shaw                      Carried

3. NZMA T&F Championships:

AS indicated that he had received 43 responses to the survey that had been circulated to gauge views on whether the champs should proceed or not. All those who responded were in favour of going ahead, with most of them being able to get to Wellington without having to fly and thus not risking being stuck in Wellington and not being able to return to their home town if they catch covid.

MW reported that only two members of the Wellington LOC were in favour of proceeding with the champs and after one of these two officiated at the Capital Classic they changed their view after seeing the lack of compliance with the Wellington City Council requirements such as athletes staying in their bubbles and leaving after their events.

The LOC was worried about getting too many entrants and making policing the Council requirements difficult and also with not getting enough out of town participants to fulfil the WCC grant criteria. There was also a possible loss of ambulance cover as they could be needed for transporting covid patients. The pandemic modellers were predicting a large increase in covid cases with a doubling of cases every 5 days. It was noted that the highest daily number to date had been reported on the previous day.

CG reported the Otago masters were divided 50:50 on whether to proceed or not. Other members were concerned about the challenge of getting additional volunteers who were willing and capable of ensuring compliance with the Council requirements. Others saw that

conducting the track pentathlon was a particular challenge as athletes had to stay in the same bubble for the duration of the champs.

The willingness of out-of-Wellington participants to travel was a major unknown. There was also a risk of the champs becoming a 'super-spreader' event which could not only have a major adverse effect on the health of many of our master's athletes and officials but also the associated reputational risk for NZ Masters Athletics and the wider athletics community.

There was general agreement that the risks and uncertainties of proceeding clearly outweighed the benefits and as a consequence there was unanimous agreement that the 2022 NZMA Championships be postponed to later in the year or next year.

AS indicated that he would prepare a statement on the postponement of the championships including our reasons, such as the many uncertainties, risks, Government and Council rules and requirements. This announcement would then be posted on the NZMA website and notified to our membership database. It would also indicate that full refunds would be made.

It was noted that the NZMA AGM held in conjunction the championships, would also be postponed and consideration would need to be given to having an AGM via zoom. MW indicated that the Athlete of the Year awards could be published on the website and the trophies presented later.

#### 4. General Business:

AS reported that Anna Lynch has set up NZMA accounts on Xero and is not against being involved in Board zoom meetings.

Next meeting date to be confirmed later.

Meeting closed at 3.20pm