



New Zealand Masters Athletics Board Meeting

Held Online – 6 August 2025

Meeting commenced at 7:30pm

Present: Derek Shaw (**DS**), Andrew Stark (**AS**), Dale McMillan (**DM**), Hayden Robinson (**HR**), Liz Mitchell (**LM**)

Apology: Brayden Grant (**BG**)

Welcome: **AS** opened the meeting and welcomed **LM** to the Board.

1. Matters arising from the previous minutes: No matters arising as most of the content was around the AGM to be held on 22 June 2025.

2. AGM Review: **AS** commented that he was pleased with the way the online AGM went, given there were more attendees than when it is held in-person. The pre-AGM survey gave a clear indication about what members thought about the remits. The WBOP remit about discontinuing the MOU was lost and **AS** indicated it is time for Murray Clarkson to accept it is here to stay and that it has benefited NZMA re: attendance at our events. Since the AGM, **AS** has been in discussions with Athletics NZ about the MOU, as it was to be reviewed in May 2025. Both groups acknowledge that there are no issues that need to be addressed. However, there are always on-going discussions about how we work better together. **AS** has also asked for Athletics NZ to factor in their planning the challenge of possibly hosting the OMA Championships in New Zealand during the 2027-2028 season.

3. Roles and Responsibilities Clarification

- Xero Assistance:

AS requested assistance with using Xero. **DM** and **LM** offered to help, though neither has direct experience with the platform. **AS** happy to have a Team meeting to upskill those interested

- Meeting Minutes:

LM will trial taking the minutes for Board meetings. **AS** thanked **DS** for doing the minutes for the past five years and he has offered to assist **LM** if required.

- Meeting Tools:

Discussion around using Fireflies for recording minutes. **LM** and **HR** have used it previously, but raised questions around its cost.

- OMA Championship Support:

DM offered to help with data processing, including verifying entries for the OMA Championships.

- Membership Verification:

There was a discussion about Centres being able to identify paid-up NZMA members. **AS** indicated that while he is a 'super' user of GameDay, he is not in a position to supply Centres with a list of Athletics NZ members. He suggested Masters Centres should contact their local Athletics NZ Centre as they should be able to assist with promoting masters to their club athletes.

- NZMA Membership: Changes to the Incorporated Societies Act requires all organisation to maintain a member register for 7 sevens. **AS** indicated that we do not always get notification for all Centres about non-club members and compiling an accurate list is a challenge. **AS** suggested we could make ALL NZMA members use the online registration portal as from 1st September. This will be up for discussion when the DRAFT constitution is sent to members for feedback.

- Portfolio Updates:
 - **AS** – President, connection with Athletics NZ, website and formatting Vetline, carries the stock of medals & uniforms.
 - **DS** – Assists LM when needed, Constitution update & Vetline.
 - **HR**: 4th World Games Trust, NZMA Handbook, social media, AGM action timeline
 - **BG** – Records and social media
 - **DM**, Ian & Heather Carter: Athlete of the Year (DS also assisting)
 - **LM** – Secretary

4. Athlete of the Year

Following discussion, it was suggested that a PDF of Athlete of the Year results be uploaded to the website shortly after the presentation event.

5. National Records Certificates

Options discussed for handling national record certificates:

- Sending PDF versions to Centres for printing / presentation.
- Sending certificates directly to record-breakers
- Uploading a generic certificate template to the website for download

It was also suggested that a volunteer may be able to assist with backdating certificates if required
 Volunteer Survey: **DM** has a list of people who responded to the pre-AGM volunteer survey. It was suggested to contact them to assess the skills and time they can offer, particularly for Vetline.

6. Constitution Review

- **AS**, with the help of **DS**, is consolidating three versions of the constitution, including creating a generic constitution for Master's Centres.
- Once completed, **AS** will post on website with link via Facebook, e-mail members and outline the consultation process. This will include requests for written feedback, an option to attend a Teams Meeting to discuss potential changes and a SGM where our expectation is that the new Constitution will be approved. Aim to have this completed by end of November.
- Potential points to consider: Electing a 'group' to govern who decide roles or electing specific positions, current structure includes voting by Board members, life members, and Centre delegates. Should voting be by delegates only. Fixed length Board terms. When to hold an AGM or leave that decision 'open'.
- AGM and SGM registrations can be managed via GameDay so an accurate list of attendees can be compiled.
- Governance Matters:
 - A suggested term limits for Board members was discussed, but acknowledged as difficult due to a shortage of new volunteers.
 - New governance model suggests that tied votes retain the status quo (replacing the current system where the Chair has a casting vote).
 - Due to our very low turnover, we are not required to have our accounts reviewed.
 - Removal of the legal advisor requirement was proposed, given we have access to help from Athletics NZ.
 - Discussion held about whether proof of age should be required given Athletics NZ

currently does not require this. Suggestion that a by-law be added, whereby NZMA reserves the right to require proof of age. Noted that for WMA events, all attendees are required to supply a copy of their passport.

7. Financial Report

AS presented the 2025 Profit & Loss Statement (YTD), prepared through Xero. NZMA will make a loss as we have spent significant amounts on uniforms and medals. The financial year concludes on 31 August.

8. OMA Track and Field Championships

- 91 athletes are currently entered.
- **AS** holds a spreadsheet of NZ entries and will check if all financial.
- A manager needs to be appointed for the event—responsible for relay team selection and handling protests. Malcolm Clark previously held this role, but unfortunately he has died from cancer. **AS** to clarify the scope of responsibilities, when he has the OMA Council meeting.
- **HR** may assist by filtering relay entries by gender, age group, and event to identify eligible athletes, prior to the meeting.
- Relay-related questions have been posted on the Facebook page.

9. Indoor Championships

- 68 athletes are entered. Mark Harris has been involved, handling entries and setting up the events, working in with HBG (Murray Andersen).
- There is some confusion around the programme, which may require some alternation once final numbers per event are know.

10. North Island Championships

- Being managed by the WBOP Centre. At the AGM in June **AS** offered NZMA's help, however feedback from Murray Clarkson was that it was all under control. **HR** has requested info for the website, but nothing yet. **HR** will follow this up and check on progress.

11. South Island Championships

- As this event is further out, there is no need to begin planning yet. **AS** to work with **DS** to deliver this meeting, using the generic programme as per last time.

12. NZMA National Track and Field Championships 2026

- Flights are being considered for Board members to attend Nationals in New Plymouth.
- Accommodation has been booked.
- Board members to confirm with Karen Gillum-Green whether partners will be attending.
- Medals ordered this year have recently been supplied directly to Taranaki. Taranaki to organise ribbons.
- **AS** & Mark Harris have supplied quotes to Taranaki, to cover the cost of organising and delivering the meeting.

13. Vetline

- The next issue is scheduled for October.
- **DS** to coordinate receiving articles, but will call upon others to help proofread. **AS** to see if there is someone else who may help with formatting (list of names from AGM survey).

14. 4th World Games Trust

- The Trust recently met and approved a \$5,000 grant to Wairarapa for a hammer / discus cage for the venue in Masterton.
- Continuing grants approved:
 - \$2,000 to North and South Island events and Indoor Champs
 - \$4,000 to Nationals
- The Trust is seeking new members with financial / investment knowledge.

15. Oceania Championships

- **AS** to notify Athletics New Zealand that NZ may host the Oceania Champs in the 2027–28 season, potentially in Canterbury.
- Finding sufficient officials, especially for throwing events, remains a challenge.

16. Records

- Nothing to report.

17. Athlete of the Year – Admin Access

- Actual athlete ages are needed to calculate performance percentages accurately. **DM** could obtain this information if granted admin access to GameDay.

18. Next Meeting

- Tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 28 September, following the OMA Championships.
- A separate open Zoom meeting may be held during the preceding week to discuss the draft constitution.

Meeting closed at 9:28 p m