

Proposed competition regulation changes (out of stadia)

Proposal 1: Masters age categories

Current situation: For Athletics New Zealand Out of Stadia Championships there are both 15-year age championship grades (e.g., 35-49 and 50-64) and 5-year age grades for masters athletes. This is a result of an historical cross over between New Zealand Masters Athletics, and Athletics NZ.

Proposal: To discontinue the 15-year age categories and just use the 5-year age categories for masters athletes at Athletics NZ out of stadia Championships.

Rationale for change: It is fairer for one individual performance to only be eligible for one individual medal. The 5-year age categories are universally adopted by NZ, Oceania and World Masters athletics organisations. The status quo can be considered anomalous and double-dipping.

Result: There was unanimous support for this change. Including support from New Zealand Masters Athletics.

Proposal 2: Over 65 centre teams competition at NZ Cross Country and Road Race Championships

Current situation: Masters teams competitions at the Athletics NZ Cross Country and Road Race Championship events currently encompass the following grades;

- Masters Men (M 35-49)
- Masters Men (M 50+)
- Masters Women (W 35-49)
- Masters Women (W 50+)

Proposal: To change the Masters team competitions to include the following grades;

- Masters Men (M 35-49)
- Masters Men (M50-64) <change in age range>
- Masters Men (M 65+) <new teams' category>
- Masters Women (W 35-49)
- Masters Women (W 50-64) <change in age range>
- Masters Women (W 65+) <new teams' category>

It is additionally proposed that the Masters Women and Masters Men 65+ grade be made up of 3 person teams.

Rationale for change: To encourage greater participation in the masters age grade competitions and cater to anticipated increases in older age grade masters athletes.

Result: There was unanimous support for this change, including support from NZ Masters Athletics.

Proposal 3: Over 70 teams at NZ Road Relay

Current situation: There are currently five age categories for master's teams who contest the Athletics NZ Road Relay Championships. These are: Masters Men M35-49 & M50-59; Masters Women W35-49 & W50-59; and Open 60. There has been an unofficial O70 grade at the last two NZ Road Relay Championships in Feilding.

Proposal: To introduce an official short course (5 or 6 person, depending on the year/location) O70 grade in the Athletics NZ Road Relay Championships.

Rationale for change: For the last two years there have been three clubs that have supported the unofficial O70 grade – Wellington Harriers, Wellington Scottish and Athletics Nelson. With increasing numbers of runners in their seventies there is a growing interest in an official O70 grade with official results, records and medals. With increasing number of active runners in their 70s the number of teams contesting this grade could steadily increase as happened following the introduction of the M50+ grade in 1993 and the O60 grade in 2012.

Result: There was not unanimous support for this change. However, NZ Masters Athletics has emphasised its enthusiasm to see the O60 grade become 60-69, and the O70 grade to be introduced.

As occurred with the introduction of the O60 grade, we are proposing three-year trial of an O70 grade championship and then a review of the support it has received and any effects on other grades such as the O60-69 grade.

It is proposed that if an O70 Championship grade is introduced it should not count for Overall Club Championship points this year and that a full review of the scoring system be undertaken before the 2022 event.

Proposal 4: Athletics NZ Road Race Championship Distances

Current situation: The Athletics NZ Road Race Championship currently features six different running distances. These distances have changed over time, but unlike other out of stadia events, the Road Race Championship does not align with a World or Oceania championship.

Rationale for change: The following proposed changes primarily focus on rationalising the number of different distances required for holding the championship – providing a shorter day for participants, spectators and volunteers.

A number of other factors were considered during initial consultation, however, it was identified that significant change was needed to secure the long term viability of the event.

The 5km and 10km road distances are recognised as Athletics NZ records, whereas the 6km and 8km distances are not.

Result: Feedback was mixed regarding the appropriate distances for each individual age group, however there was strong support for rationalisation of the distances run to enable an improved Road Race Championship. Aligning the distances to emphasise 5km and 10km seems sensible, as the distances are recognised as national road records. This specific proposal came from Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty and was supported by NZ Masters Athletics.

	<i>Current distances</i>	<i>Proposed changes</i>
<i>Men</i>	<i>10k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>Women</i>	<i>10k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>M35-49</i>	<i>10k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>W35-49</i>	<i>5k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>M50+</i>	<i>10k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>W50+</i>	<i>5k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>M20</i>	<i>8k</i>	<i>5k</i>
<i>W20</i>	<i>5k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>M18</i>	<i>6k</i>	<i>5k</i>
<i>W18</i>	<i>5k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>B16</i>	<i>4k</i>	<i>5k</i>
<i>G16</i>	<i>4k</i>	<i>5k</i>
<i>B14</i>	<i>3k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>G14</i>	<i>3k</i>	<i>No change</i>
<i>M65+</i>	<i>10k</i>	<i>5k</i>
<i>W65+</i>	<i>5k</i>	<i>No change</i>

Comment:

These four Proposals are now posted for the required 50-day consultation period before any recommendations for adoption go to the Board. Comment, in support or otherwise, from those who have not thus far been involved in the discussions on these proposals would be very helpful.

Written feedback can be sent via email to executive@athletics.org.nz

Kind regards,

Rod Syme, John McBrearty, Don Mackenzie and Andrew Orme
Athletics NZ Rules Committee