



# WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS

IN COOPERATION WITH WORLD ATHLETICS

President of AFI  
Adille J. Sumariwalla  
By eMail  
New Delhi - 110028

Rehlingen, 1 May 2021

Dear Mr. President,  
Dear Mr. Adille J. Sumariwalla!

I have been informed that AFI intends to open or has already opened its organisation for members in the age group of the Masters and that you request to be recognized as member of WMA to conduct the masters in India. As President of World Masters Athletics I cannot agree to this request.

WMA Constitution is the reference for governing the WMA and it clearly states what to do in this case:

*Article 4. Membership:*

*4.1 Only one properly constituted association or organisation that represents Masters Athletes for each Country or Territory is eligible for Membership in WMA; this may be a National Governing Body **or an independent national masters body** that is approved by the National Governing Body*

**The WMA Member for India is MAFI, represented in WMA by David Premnath.** There is no reason to suspend the member for India. MAFI is doing a very good job increasing the Masters Athletics movement strongly. The Constitution states on this of suspension of a member:

*5.3 The Council may recommend suspension or termination of a Member or its officers, to a General Assembly if it is of the opinion that the Member has:*

*(i) refused or neglected to comply with the provisions of this Constitution, the ByLaws, the Rules or other valid WMA resolutions or directives after being given notice to do so, or*

*(ii) continued to act in a manner prejudicial to the interests or reputation of WMA and masters athletics after being given notice to desist from any such act, or*

*(iii) become inactive or is no longer a properly constituted national association or an organisation that represents Masters Athletes, or*

*(iv) fails to act in accordance with their own constitution, in the interest of their athletes and in accordance with good practice that befits the position of the office they are elected to.*

None of these points may be used in your case to change the membership for India.

Some background: In case you are not aware, the IAAF Congress in 1991 in Tokyo decided to give full responsibility for the Masters to the association called at that time WAVA which is now the WMA and its regional associations. WMA has worldwide more than 150 National members.

WMA is the only body entitled to organise masters' competitions and to recognise records for the masters age groups. This principle applies to all member federations. I discussed the matter with the representative of WA in WMA council, Antti Pihlakoski. He agrees and supports WMA responsibility and policy. Antti will call you shortly.

It is clear that I am not in the position to forbid you to open your organisation for masters, but in case you want to proceed you must be aware that

- . None of the results achieved on national level will be considered!
- . No Master World Records or Asian master records will be recognized!
- . AFI will not be able to register athletes at WMA World Championships or Asian regional championships.

So for Masters Athletes there is no interest in being member of AFI.

I hope you can understand our situation supporting the interest of the masters athletes worldwide. I ask you to respect the basic rules related to the conduct of the athletics management worldwide! MAFI is and will continue to be the official Masters organisation for Masters Athletes in India.



**Margit Jungmann**  
**WMA PRESIDENT**