



CONVENTION

Lausanne 2018

Competition Calendar and World Rankings

Workshop
25 October 2018

Programme



- European Athletics perspective on Global Calendar & World Rankings
- Panel discussion about the Global Calendar incl. Q&A

Coffee break (30 minutes)

- IAAF presentation of World Rankings
- UK Athletics perspective on the IAAF World Rankings
- An Athletes perspective on the IAAF World Rankings
- Panel discussion about the Word Rankings incl. Q&A
- Wrap-up

WIFI (if you do not stay at the Royal savoy):

1 - Savoy Guest

2 - Voucher Login

3 - Password: didac

The Global Calendar

Background from European Athletics perspective

- The topic is not new, neither within European Athletics (linked to the topic of the Competition System 2009 ->) or the IAAF (e.g. the WAS Report 2015 and the Competition Commission Report to Congress 2015)
- In November 2014 the Council decided to set up a project to create a stronger link between the One-day Meetings and the European Athletics Championships.
- The project was postponed until September 2015 and then it was integrated into a bigger project to restructure the International Competition System and Calendar. The aim was to provide recommendations and information needed for decisions on changes and the European Athletics strategy for working within the IAAF process for restructuring the global calendar
- Close collaboration with the IAAF

Svein Arne Hansens Manifesto

Spring 2015

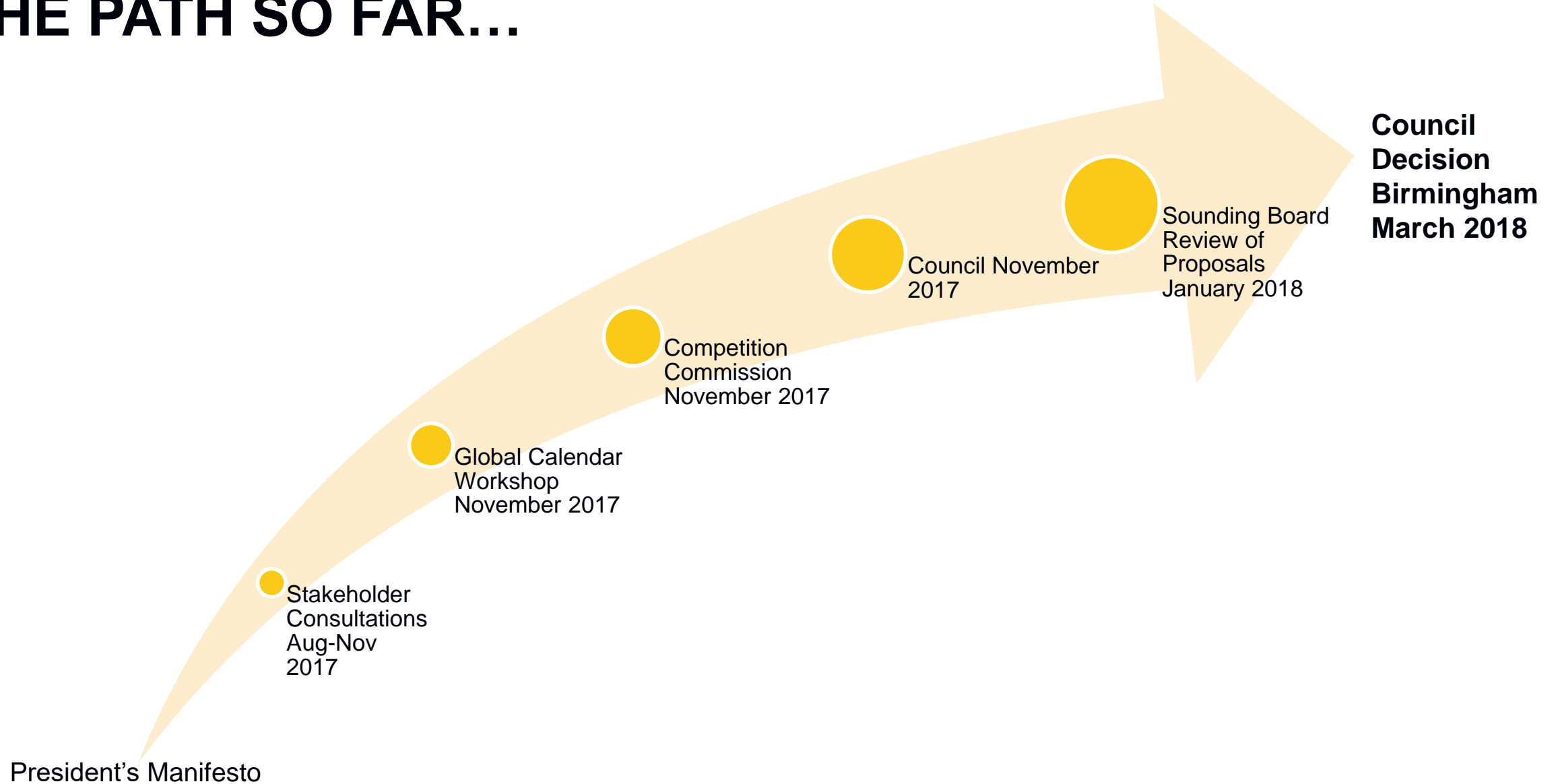
“To work close with the IAAF and other stakeholders to restructure the athletics calendar while preserving the interests of European federations and deliver measures to help organisers increase the attractiveness of their competitions.”

- Logical annual calendar with a clear narrative linking European one-day meetings and championships

GLOBAL CALENDAR



THE PATH SO FAR...



MAIN ISSUES IDENTIFIED IN AUG-NOV 2017

- *The competition system is not properly defined*
- *Competition seasons are not properly defined*
- *The positioning of the IAAF World Championships is not as impactful as it should/could be*
- *The One Day meetings circuit is obsolete and has not experienced any major changes*
- *One Day Meetings are invitational rather than based on merit*
- *The best athletes are not attending the highest level meetings and not always competing head-to-head*
- *There is no understandable or meaningful link between major championships and one day meetings*
- *One day meeting system does not properly consider the demands on athletes regarding travel*
- *Inconsistency among events regarding quality, stadium, production*
- *The Competition system does not currently provide enough athletes with proper financial opportunities allowing them to pursue their professional career*
- *Lack of (terrestrial) TV coverage*
- *Sponsors are not supporting the current system*
- *Lack of communication between all stakeholders*

THE SOUNDING BOARD

- Competitions Commission: Abby Hoffman, Anna Riccardi, Pierce O'Callaghan, Rajne Soderberg
- Athletes: Ekaterina Stefanidi, Rozle Prezelj
- Athlete Representatives: Ricky Simms
- Meeting Organisers: Jean-Pierre Schoebel
- Fans: David Barnett
- Sponsors/Marketing: Max Siegel, Nigel Swinscoe
- Media: Philippe Vandeweyer
- Broadcast: Charlie Classen
- Area Associations: Lamine Faty, Yvonne Mullins
- Member Federations: Akira Kazama, Martinho Nobre dos Santos

THE ROLE OF THE SOUNDING BOARD

- Review and validate key findings and proposals from Phase 1
- Further develop into concrete proposals
- Respective stakeholders asked for feedback
- Review final proposals before implementation

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

- Need for a Global review understood and well supported by all stakeholders
- Proposed concepts have been validated by majority of stakeholders
- All seasons to be better defined and end with respective World Championships
- All IAAF World Championships should showcase the best athletes
- Better link between the One Day Circuits and the World Championships
- Use of World Rankings fully supported and need to be consistently applied
- Need for fixed dates and timings for Events (WAS, One Day, etc.)
- Athletes Differentiation (different kit colours)
- Athletics seen on Free to air television as much as possible
- Professionalization of athletes

COUNCIL DECISIONS

5-6 MARCH 2018



CROSS COUNTRY SEASON

Council Approval of concept – details to be worked on by Competition Commisison

- Focus on Team
- More challenging and innovative courses (X-Factor concept)
- Need for a proper circuit with up to 8 meets held on a consistent day of the week
- Linked with mass participation
- Increased Prize Money for the Circuit
- Link the circuit to the World Cross Country Championships

Council Decisions

- Circuit to run from November to early February
- World Cross Country Championships / Area Championships culminate the season: 2nd weekend of February

INDOOR SEASON

Council Approval of concept – details to be worked on by Competition Commisison

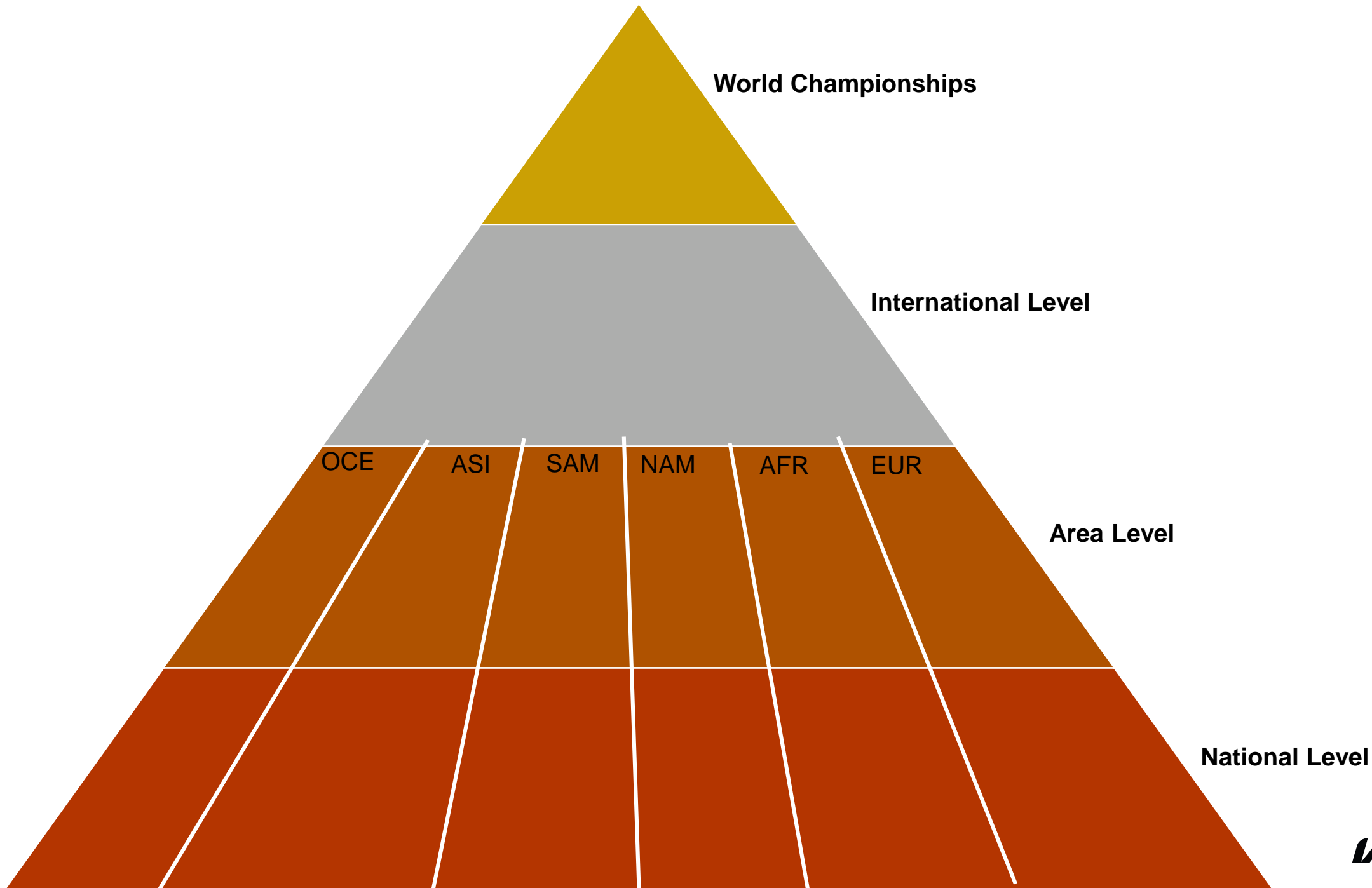
- Continue with an expanded World Indoor Tour (up to 8 meets)
- Fixed timings in consistent days of the week
- Mix of traditional venues (200m oval track) with venues having only a straight sprint track and field events
- “Black Box” effect – use of lights, music, etc.
- Commitment of Athletes to appear in a defined number of meets
- Increased Prize Money

- ***Council Decisions***
- WIT to run from January until end of February
- Season culminates with World Indoor Championships: 2nd weekend of March
- Window for National Championships to be held on the 3rd weekend of February

OUTDOOR SEASON

Council Approval of concept – details to be worked on by Competition Commisison

- 3 distinct levels leading to World Championships (National, Area & International)
- International Level: A circuit of top One-Day meetings allowing athletes to progress from Area to Top Tier starting in May
- Area Level: Circuits moving from Continent to Continent: number of meets to be discussed with the Areas starting in March
- Commitment of Athletes to appear in a defined number of meets
- Fixed timings in consistent days of the week
- Increased Prize Money
- IAAF brand associated with Continental Circuit (i.e. IAAF/African Continental Circuit)
- Exhibition / City Centre event linked to all the Circuit
- Season culminates with the World Championships (or Area Championships where possible) last week of August / first week of September
- Area Championships on even years seem to be the general consensus but need to work with Areas
- Fixed windows for National Championships: Late March for the Southern Hemisphere. Late June or the first week of July for the Northern Hemisphere



World Championships

International Level

OCE

ASI

SAM

NAM

AFR

EUR

Area Level

National Level

EXHIBITION SEASON

Council Approval of concept – details to be worked on by Competition Commisison

- Provide competitive and financial opportunities for athletes following the main competitive season
- September / October period
- Yearly rotational circuit across all continents
- Attractive locations around the world – chosen in consultation with Areas
- Could be a combination of Street Athletics, Beach Athletics etc.
- Very high Prize Money
- Standardized events with some flexibility (allowing for portable installations)

TEAM BASED COMPETITION

Council Approval of concept – details to be worked on by Competition Commisison

- Strong support for a team-based competition
- Ideas such as franchises (commercial, cities), countries according to rankings, etc.
- Need a review of current team-based competition (Continental Cup)
- Annual or Biannual
- Outside the prime Outdoor Season

WAS EVENTS - DATES

- **WXC**

Fixed date second weekend of February (supported by XC Committee) - ***Council Decisions***

- **WIC**

Fixed date second weekend in March (previously approved by Council)

- **WHM**

Fixed date last weekend of March - ***Council Decisions***

- **WRelays**

Fixed date first weekend in May (previously approved by Council)

- **RWTC**

Some flexibility April / May - ***Council Decisions***

- **U20**

Some flexibility in July - ***Council Decisions***

- **WCH**

Last weekend August / first weekend September - ***Council Decisions***

NEXT STEPS

1. Competition Commission to elaborate on details (will prepared through three WG's)
2. Consultation with Area Associations and relevant Committees/Commissions
3. Final Proposals submitted to Council for approval
4. Implementation starting in 2019 where possible
5. Governance of Global Calendar

IAAF World Rankings

Background

- In November 2014 the Council decided to set up a project to create a stronger link between the One-day Meetings and the European Athletics Championships.
- The start of the project was postponed until September 2015 and then integrated into a bigger project to restructure the International Competition System and Calendar.
- A proposal for a new Qualification System for the European Athletics Championships based on new trials events was presented in February 2016, but was rejected because of the associated cost.
- A new project for Qualification through a Ranking System based on position in head to head competition as the underlying principle started in May 2016.
- The proposed system was presented at the Convention in October 2016 and then approved by the Council in November 2016

The Ranking System in short

- 52 weeks rolling rankings in all disciplines except cross country, half-marathon, marathon, 50K Race Walking and the relays, however results in cross country will be part of the ranking for 10 000m.
- Ranking based on results (placing) in predefined international competitions (from national permit to the Olympic Games), and the national championships, divided in 5 or 8 groups
- All competitions must fulfil the following basic criteria: conducted in accordance with IAAF Rules, certain number of doping controls, result list sent to European Athletics.
- Points shall be allocated based on the competition category and place. The best 4 to 12 positions, depending on the group of competitions, will score.
- The Ranking is based on the athletes total points from his/her best 5 competitions (with some exceptions) in a specific discipline during the defined period.

Benefits of the System

- Adds value to the ECH by creating strong link with day-to-day events and with multiple strong narratives that impact at local level and on social media
- Enhances and highlights anti-doping efforts
- Ensures that the competitors are legitimately qualified and prepared for the ECH
- Gives MFs leverage for convincing athletes to compete more regularly
- Enhances athlete and MF communications efforts
- One-day meetings become more relevant outside the country and the time of the competition

Approved recommendations (Nov 2016)

- To approve the ranking system in principle with an aim to use it for qualification to the European Athletics Championships 2018
- That before implementation the system must be critical tested by Tilastopaja OY and the result of this must be analysed and necessary adaptations, if any, need to be made.
- That a process for annual review of the ranking system should be developed and implemented by the Head Office
- That a commercial and communication opportunities for the ranking system should be explored in a separate project

After the approval

1. The system was critical tested by Tilastopaja Oy and analysed to be able to make necessary adaptations. An implementation plan was prepared for the system to be used for qualification to European Athletics Championships 2018.
2. The IAAF informed that they wanted to establish a global ranking system and European Athletics decided to co-operate with the IAAF to create a common system rather than having a separate.
3. The IAAF appointed a working group, in which European Athletics is integrated, to develop a ranking system based on a combination of results and placing. A first conference call was held in September 2017 to discuss a first draft rules for the system.