

Voting Fraud – Lahti, Finland WMA General Assembly

In a casual look back to the Lahti General Assembly of the World Masters Athletics organization, it was noted that Oceania had more than the usual number of delegates at the Assembly. In addition to the usual Australia and New Zealand, records show that American Samoa, Cook Island, Guam, Norfolk Island, North Marianas Islands, and Republic of Kiribati all had Delegates at the General Assembly but had no registered athletes. With the exception of Australia, New Zealand, and Norfolk Island, none of the others had been at any recent World Championships or WMA General Assemblies. That seemed odd so the names of those voting Delegates were looked up on the General Assembly Delegates list furnished by the WMA Secretary to the WMA Council on July 13, 2009 (see attached). It was noted that some of the Delegates listed were as follows:

American Samoa - Jean Hampson

Cook Island – Heather Carr

Guam - Bill Carr

Norfolk Island – Dick Dunston

North Marianas Islands – Viddy Jermacans

Republic of Kiribati - Donna Hiscox

But a quick check of the official entries and results of the Lahti Championships, **shows that all these people were registered Australian athletes competing, placing, and even taking medals home from Lahti to Australia.**

Jean Hampson, W60, got 5th in the 800m, 6th in the Long Jump, 5th in the Heptathlon, 2nd in the 4x100m, and 4th in the W50 4x400.

Heather Carr, W55, got 1st in the W50 20K Team Walk, 4th in the W50 4x100, 4 in the W50 4x400, 2nd in the 5,000 Track Walk, 2nd in the 10K Walk, and 3rd in the 20K Walk.

Bill Carr, M60, got 12th in the 100 meter, 10th in the 200m, 20th in the 400 meter, DNS the 4x100, and 3rd in the 4x400.

Dick Dunston, M60, was a DNS in the 1500m, and got 22nd in the Shot Put.

Vidvods (Viddy) Jermacans, M60, was a DNS in the 100m, and a DNF in the Decathlon.

Donna Hiscox, W35, was 5th in the 4x100, 4th in the 4x400, 16th in the 400m, and 8th in the Long Hurdles.

This is out and out voting fraud as common sense, and more importantly the WMA Constitution, makes it very clear that no one may represent two countries or vote for absentees, and that proxy voting is not allowed. It is clear, and has always been clear that no participating athlete can change affiliation without following formal affiliation change procedures. And certainly an athlete cannot represent two Affiliates at the same Championships, neither in competition nor otherwise. To allow that would be chaos.

**WMA Constitution 4.2.3 “Members of the Council and aforesaid delegates shall have each only one vote and may not vote on behalf of absentees.
Voting by proxy is not allowed”.**

This kind of underhanded behavior demeans WMA has no place in a sporting organization with fair play as its very basis. And those that participated in the fraud and those that recruited them, encouraged them, and benefited from them, should be disciplined.

Although the organization has rules and sanctions about cheating on the athletic field, unfortunately it has no specific rules and sanctions about cheating on the administrative field other than Bye-law 3.4.4.4 “unsportsmanlike conduct” and 3.4.4.6 “Athletes bringing the sport into disrepute or discrediting the sport”. For these offenses, they may lose their eligibility for Council, Committees, and General Assembly Delegate and may be suspended for a period not to exceed two years.

From the evidence it is clearly obvious that voting fraud has been systematically committed by athletes from Oceania. And with the inclusion of these six improper proxy delegates, all decisions and elections from the Lahti General Assembly that were within 6 votes should be declared null and void as they are tainted by the fraudulent votes.

Proxy: “A vote that is cast by one entity on behalf of another”

“A person who is authorized to act for another person or who is asked to act for another”

“The appointment of someone you trust to vote on your behalf”