



# WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

PROMOTING VETERAN ATHLETICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF



## P R O P O S A L

### WAVA ACCOUNTING PERIOD/FINANCIAL YEAR

WAVA's accounting period is to-day two years' duration beginning January 1st each even-numbered year (for example January 1st, 1996). It consequently ends at December 31st each uneven-numbered year (for example December 31st, 1997).

WAVA has its General Assembly ~~odd~~<sup>odd</sup>-numbered years, the next in Durban in 1997.

The General Assembly in Buffalo decided on auditing of WAVA's finances that

WAVA independent, professional auditors shall be appointed by the Council and shall report to the General Assembly

It must be understood that such report shall be given as soon as possible but with our current accounting/financial period this is impossible. The current accounting period started January 1st, 1996, and will end at December 31st, 1997. Auditors' report can be given to the General Assembly in 1999, i.e. first after 2 years which to me is totally unacceptable. The accounting period must, as I see it, be such that the period ends at December 31st even-numbered years to make possible an audit no later March and then present the report to the General Assembly later the same year. So doing the audit and auditors' report is meaningful and of immediate interest and the Assembly can also claim responsibility directly - not wait another year which makes the report uninteresting.

The new order of presenting the budget to the Affiliates and the General Assembly underlines still more the need of a changed accounting period/financial year.

The Council decided in Buffalo in 1994 to forward a proposal to the General Assembly to change the accounting period to be January 1st uneven-numbered years and end December 31st even-numbered years. This was not done due to first see the result of proposals re auditing and the budget procedure. These proposals were approved of in Buffalo and the logic proposal must now be to change also the accounting period to fit into the system.

If approved by the Council now in Durban a proposal can be forwarded to the General Assembly in 1997.



# WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

PROMOTING VETERAN ATHLETICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF



April 10, 1996

To: WAVA Council  
From: Al Sheahen, Treasurer

Re: Proposal to Change WAVA's Accounting Period

Dear Friends:

I just received Torsten's faxes, which included a proposal to change WAVA's accounting period.

WAVA's current accounting period, as outlined in the By-Laws, 2(2), is of two years' duration, beginning on Jan. 1 of each even-numbered year. For example, our current accounting period began Jan. 1, 1996 and will end Dec. 31, 1997. The proposal would change the period from Jan. 1 of every odd-numbered year to Dec. 31 of every even-numbered year. Thus, the period would begin, say, on Jan. 1, 1999 and end on Dec. 31, 2000.

As Treasurer, I strongly oppose this proposal and urge you to vote against it.

My reasons:

- 1) It would be cumbersome to administer and impossible to comprehend. The accounting period and the budget period must, by accepted financial methods and by common sense, be identical. We currently set a budget for the two-year period which essentially covers the period from one T&F Championships to the next. The current budget covers the period of the incoming officers.

Under the new proposal, the Treasurer would have to keep three sets of books: 1) one for the new accounting period; 2) one for the budget for the outgoing officers; 3) one for the budget of the incoming officers.

Not only is this too much work to ask of any Treasurer, it would be too complicated for anyone to really understand, even if the Treasurer did.

- 2) It contradicts what the General Assembly unanimously approved last year.

In Buffalo, the Assembly voted: "The Treasurer, prior to the T&F Championships, shall submit a proposed budget to the Council and to the Affiliates for the next accounting period. Prior to the General Assembly, the Council shall review and approve the budget and notify the Assembly."

Under the current accounting period, this makes very good sense. For example, in April, 1997, in close consultation with the Council, I will submit a budget to the Council and the Affiliates

(more)

for the 1998-99 accounting period. The proposal will be included in the packet Torsten sends to all Council members and Affiliates. Anyone may comment upon the proposal prior to the Council meeting on July 15-16, 1997. The Council will approve the budget at that time and notify the General Assembly by making copies of the final budget and distributing them at the Assembly meeting. The delegates may ask questions or make comments during the meeting.

One reason this motion passed unanimously is it was felt the delegates should have a bit more input into the budget process than they've had in the past. Another reason was common sense: to have a budget in place prior to the next accounting year, rather than giving final approval at our even-year meeting -- four months after the period has begun.

Under the new proposal, this clearly wouldn't work. It makes no sense to approve and notify the Assembly of a budget in July, 1999 that wouldn't begin until Jan. 1, 2001. In fact, it would be virtually impossible to prepare an accurate budget 17 months in advance.

3) It isn't practical.

Even if we rejected the above two arguments, under the new proposal, when would the Council approve a budget? For the 1999-2000 period, the Council would either have to approve a budget in April, 1998 in Gateshead -- 8 months in advance -- or by mail. Either choice is unsatisfactory, and effectively cuts the General Assembly out of the process.


4) It's not necessary.

The only argument in favor of the proposal is that the auditors report can be given to the Assembly seven months after the close of the accounting period (assuming the Championships are in July) instead of the current 19 months after.

However, the Council has never suggested we are going to do an audit every two years. It's quite expensive (\$2000 for a modified audit) and probably necessary only every four to six years.

Moreover, an auditors report simply confirms the books are accurate. It's not new information. Currently, the Treasurer sends the final accounting to the Council and the Affiliates within 31 days after the close of the accounting period. The auditors report can be mailed to the Affilates shortly thereafter, as will be done in May, 1996 for the audit completed of the 1994-95 period.

The delegates are not as much concerned with the audited budget of the past period as they are with the next period's budget. They feel what's past is past and there's not much they can do about it. But they want to have a say into the upcoming budget. At the General Assembly, delegates receive a report covering 18 of the 24 months in the period. So they have a pretty good idea of how the full 24-month statement will look. They can comment on it, even though it's not audited. I think they trust the Council and the Treasurer to provide accurate figures and are not particularly concerned with an audit at that point.





# WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

PROMOTING VETERAN ATHLETICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF



May 2, 1994

To: Cesare Beccalli  
From: Al Sheahen

Re: WAVA Accounting Period

Dear Cesare:

Torsten tells me you and he are meeting on May 10-11 in Monte Carlo. He says one of the items on your agenda will be the WAVA accounting period.

As you remember, in Buffalo, we voted, 7-6, for Torsten's motion to establish a new accounting period commencing on January 1 of each odd-numbered year, and ending on Dec. 31 of each even-numbered year.

I opposed his motion, but apparently didn't do a very good job of presenting my ideas. It never occurred to me that anyone would agree with such a proposal, and I didn't prepare a sound opposing argument. I thought my motion was more of a "housekeeping" motion which would have little opposition. When I lost the vote, I was stunned. I shall prepare better in the future.

Perhaps I should have asked for reconsideration of the motion the next day, but I figured I had lost and would try to make the best of it. However, in thinking about it on the way home, I reconfirmed in my mind that it just didn't make any sense to do it the way we voted. The Treasurer would have to keep three sets of books, it seems to me: 1) for the new accounting period; 2) one for the budget for the outgoing officers; 3) one for the budget of the incoming officers.

Not only is this too much work to ask of any Treasurer, it would be too complicated for anyone to really understand, even if the Treasurer did.

The whole point of my proposal -- poorly presented, I admit -- was to try to bring the accounting period in line with the budget period. The By-laws now state (6c) "the treasurer's proposed budget shall cover the period until the next General Assembly..." It seems only logical that the accounting period should be the same as the budget period -- namely, from one Championships to the next.

Also, the Constitution requires the Treasurer to "submit a budget within 60 days of his election." That's fine the way we're set up now, but would need changing if we adopted Torsten's or other radical new proposals.

I wrote Torsten on April 21 and he has graciously agreed, with your permission, of course, "not to include the decision in the new handbook as the Council cannot make the necessary subsequent amendments and thus we live with the present facts and rules up to the General Assembly the next year..."

I think his decision is a wise one, and hope you concur. Bob Fine and I talked on the phone; I explained the problems carefully to him, and he indicated he would probably vote against the proposal if a reconsideration was held (he voted with the 7-6 majority in Buffalo).

I am sending all the correspondence between Torsten, Bob, and myself to you in case you want to delve into this more deeply. Frankly, I hate to burden you with this. You have more important matters to concern yourself with re WAVA. This seems like a minor, technical item which I should have been able to resolve better than I have.

I am satisfied that Torsten has agreed to leave the new language out of the Handbook until we can meet again, discuss it more thoroughly, and make the language consistent throughout the by-laws and Constitution. If you agree with that, then you don't have to spend any time on this at all, unless you choose to.

Thanks for listening,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the initials 'AL'.



# WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

PROMOTING VETERAN ATHLETICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF



April 29, 1994

To: Torsten Carlius  
From: Al Sheahen

Dear Torsten:

Thank you very much for your fax today advising me that you won't print the decision on the accounting period in the new handbook.

I think that's wise, and I owe you one.

I will give some thought to your April 1 to March 31 proposal. The problem I keep having is how to match the budget period to the accounting period. I can't see it making sense any other way, but I'll keep thinking.

I haven't yet had a chance to call Jack Loman on a possible audit. As you know, we've always required an audit, but we've never had one, and I'm not sure how much an audit would benefit us, if at all.

My experience with the USA Track & Field budget is swaying me. It works really well. The annual budget is approved at the December convention for the following calendar year. The delegates do not get an audited report of the financial statement at the convention; they get it via the mail a few months after the year's end. They are not as much concerned with the audited budget of the year past as they are with next year's budget. They feel what's past is past and there's not much they can do about it. But they want to have a say into next year's budget. They receive a nine-month statement, which gives a pretty good idea of how the full 12-month statement will look.

Under our current system, the delegates basically get a report ~~at the~~ Assembly after 22 of the 24 months in the accounting period. It's almost complete, and they can comment on it (which they do), even though it's not "audited." I think they trust the Council and the Treasurer to provide accurate figures, and are not particularly concerned with an audit.

This is not to say I don't approve of an audit. If we <sup>can</sup> do it at minimal expense to WAVA and in a timely manner, I think we should, even though our total budget is small. I plan to call Jack next week and see if he's given it any thought.

By all means please discuss it with Cesare.

-----  
Have you heard anything from Buffalo re the entry form? When we left Buffalo on April 14, they said they would send us the final draft on April 22. It's now April 29 and I have heard nothing from them. Time is running out.

Best regards,

cc: Bob Fine



# WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

PROMOTING VETERAN ATHLETICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF



Helsingborg, April 29, 1994

To: Al Sheahen  
From: Torsten Carlus

Copy: Bob Fine

Dear Al,

Many thanks for your fax dated April 21 re the decision in Buffalo to change the WAVA financial year. I regret that I am some days late to answer it but I have been away twice for sports and for my job and have not had the time to give you my thoughts and ideas. However, I think that we are still in agreement that a change is necessary and that I feel well.

I understand perfectly well that my proposal creates some subsequent administrative changes compared with the handling to-day. It also demands changes in the By-Laws as to the handling of the budget process just as you point out. In the Constitution there is also some clause that must be changed by the General Assembly in Buffalo, and - which is very essential and important to me - I think that the whole decision must in some way be approved by the General Assembly. This question is not something we can decide upon ourselves in the Council even if we must point out which way we think is the best.

From my point of view there should not be any reasons why the Treasurer's job should be more complicated or impossible just because we took the decision we did but I see and admit that the whole budget process must be reviewed.

Then over to your question about delaying and reconsidering the whole matter again. I will not include the decision in the new handbook as we (the Council) cannot make the necessary subsequent amendments and thus we live with the present facts and rules up to the General Assembly the next year. I must of course record in the minutes what we have decided but I am not against for example to adjust my proposal/the decision to cover April 1st odd-numbered years to March 31st even-numbered years. This might be a still better decision from the budget process view but it will give the Treasurer a little less time to prepare the financial report and have it audited.

I have no intention to rush the decision through and I will as a first thing ask you to consider April 1st-March 31st as a compromise. Secondly I will with your permission discuss the matter with Cesare when we meet May 10-11 for a coordination meeting in Monte Carlo and listen to his reactions. Whatever we do we must shorten or prolong the present financial year to come into order with a new one - this is also something to consider. To summarize I think we will find a new suitable order together and let me start thinking it over and talk with Cesare and then I come back to you. I see no worries in the sky !

Best regards and a nice weekend !

Yours  
Torsten



April 25, 1994

TO: TORSTEN  
FROM: BOB  
COPY: CESARE

DEAR TORSTEN,

I SPOKE TO AL ABOUT MANY THINGS INCLUDING THE WAVA ACCOUNTING PERIOD. I ALSO RECEIVED A COPY OF HIS FAX TO YOU.

THE VOTE WAS SO CLOSE THAT I WOULD HUMBLLY SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GO OVER THE WHOLE MATTER AGAIN. I MIGHT WELL SWITCH MY VOTE. I KNOW THAT AL, WHO HAS TO SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF THE WORK, IS VERY CONCERNED. IF THE MATTER IS RAISED ON THE FLOOR AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING IT WOULD CAUSE A GREAT DEAL OF PROBLEMS.

I KNOW THAT THE QUESTION OF OPENING THE WAVA COUNCIL MEETINGS TO SPECTATORS WILL PROBABLY BE RAISED AT THE ASSEMBLY MEETING. CHARLES DESJARDIN IS QUITE UPSET THAT THE MEETINGS ARE NOT OPEN. THAT ISSUE ALONE COULD TAKE UP TO AN HOUR TO RESOLVE.

I'M SURE THAT WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH THINGS TO AGGRAVATE OURSELVES ABOUT AND SO, IT WOULD BE EASIER TO GO OVER THE ACCOUNTING PERIOD WHEN THE COUNCIL MEETS BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIPS START.

I ASSUME THAT THE COUNCIL WILL BE MEETING AT LEAST THREE DAYS BEFORE THE MEET BEGINS. THAT WILL GIVE US MORE TIME DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS TO TAKE CARE OF OVERSEEING THE EVENT. WE MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO BE SPECTATORS - FOR A SHORT TIME.

OUR SON LEFT FOR ALASKA. IT IS SUCH A JOY TO SLEEP WITH THE BEDROOM DOOR OPEN.

MY BEST,

*Bob*





# WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN ATHLETES

PROMOTING VETERAN ATHLETICS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE IAAF



April 21, 1994

To: Torsten Carlius      Fax: 011-46-42-128-956  
From: Al Sheahen      Fax:      1-818-989-7118

Dear Torsten:

I have a request to make, which, if you grant it, I will consider a personal favor.

I have given the new accounting period, passed by the Council, 7-6, in Buffalo, serious thought. As Treasurer, I don't think I can make it work.

First, the by-laws now state (6c) "the treasurer's proposed budget shall cover the period until the next General Assembly..." My proposal, which was defeated in Buffalo, was to bring the accounting period into line with that section of the by-laws. Under the approved change, I would have to create at least three sets of books: one for the accounting period; another for the budget period of the current officers; yet another for the budget period of the incoming officers.

In my opinion, that's far too much work; it's too complex and cumbersome; and would be too confusing to the Council and affiliates. And, from an accounting point of view, it's virtually impossible to do.

So the favor I ask of you is to temporarily withdraw your proposal and let's discuss it further during the year and vote again at the Council meeting in 1995 -- or even sooner, if you choose. I would ask that it not be included in the new handbook, if you agree.

To keep things legal, Bob and I talked. He suggested asking for a "reconsideration" of the vote -- a proper approach. Since it was a secret vote, anyone can ask for the reconsideration. If you agreed, it would likely be automatic that the Council would approve your request to defer the discussion until 1995. We could do this by mail, with Cesare's approval.

I hope you agree with this. I think it needs more study, and more coordination with the other by-laws and even with a paragraph in the Constitution, which now calls for the Treasurer to "submit a budget within 60 days of his election." That should also be changed if your proposal is to stand.

Please let me know your decision as soon as possible, and thank you for your consideration.

cc: Bob Fine