



M/48/22
Monaco, 23 September 2022

To: MEMBER FEDERATIONS
Copy: Council Members
Executive Board Members
Commission Chairpersons
Area Associations
Dentsu Athletics

Re: New World Athletics Referee Education and Certification System (WARECS)

Dear all,

We are pleased to provide you with further details regarding the new World Athletics Referee Education and Certification System (WARECS) which, as outlined in Circular M/38/22 dated 5 August 2022, replaces the Technical Officials Education and Certification System (TOECS).

As previously communicated, a review of the TOECS was undertaken to ensure that the development pathway for technical officials (including the education and evaluation process at each certification level) and opportunities to officiate in athletics reflect and are adapted to the ever growing and changing landscape of the sport. At the request of the Council, the review also included determining an approach to promote and embed better geographic representation and gender balance at all levels, particularly across International Technical Officials (ITOs).

The new WARECS, which is summarised below and detailed in appendix to this circular, was developed in cooperation with the Development Commission, the Competition Commission, the TOECS Editors Group and the ITO Review Advisory Group with input also from the Area Associations.

World Athletics Referees are appointed to World Athletics Series (WAS) Events and as Technical Delegates to World Athletics one-day meetings (Wanda Diamond League, Continental Tour, Cross Country, Combined Events and Race Walking Tours and Road Race Label events), as well as the athletics competitions of the Olympic Games to ensure fair and proper conduct of those events.

Goals of the new WARECS

- Ensuring that there is a clear development and education pathway to attract and support the progression of those who want to attain qualifications and officiate within athletics (from grassroots through to the global stage)
- Promoting a more diverse gender and regional balance among qualified referees
- Maintaining the highest levels of excellence within referees and reflecting enhanced requirements for qualified personnel to ensure integrity of new World Tours, recognised performances, and the avoidance of event manipulation.

Key points about the new WARECS

- International Technical Official changes to the more easily understood title of **World Athletics Referee**



- Three levels of World Athletics Referee qualification (Bronze, Silver and Gold) available in addition to National Athletics Referee (formerly national technical official) – detail on levels and equivalency to TOECS is set out in the table below
- World Athletics Referee education and evaluations now available in multiple languages
- Education and certification predominantly online (and depending on the level oral and/or written exams)
- Continuous professional development available for all levels

A summary of the key changes from the previous TOECS to the new WARECS pathway is set out below.

New level name	Previous level equivalency	Estimated numbers	When is the evaluation?	Education and exam	Minimum age and time between levels
National Athletics Referee Level (NAR)	TOECS Level I	As per MF needs	Anytime	Online (WA eLearning) + practical assessment	16 years old entry
World Athletics Referee - Bronze level (WARB)	New, not existing in previous TOECS	As per MF needs	Every year starting in Q4 2023	WA eLearning online exam in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic & Russian with possibility of other national languages	NAR + 3 years of proven experience (19 years old entry at least)
World Athletics Referee - Silver level (WARS)	TOECS Level II & Area ITOs Panels	8 per Area 4 per MF	Every 2 years (in even years) starting with 5-6 Nov 2022	WA eLearning online exam (written exam + presentation) in English, French & Spanish + webinars	WARB + 4 years of proven experience (23 years old entry at least)
World Athletics Referee - Gold level (WARG)	TOECS Level III & WA ITO Panel	8 per Area	Every 2 years (in odd years) starting in Q4 2023	WA eLearning online exam (written exam + presentation) + webinars	WARS + 4 years of proven experience (27 years old entry at least)



The **World Athletics Silver Referee level** is currently being developed with efforts focused on the online elements – the education (eLearning modules with webinars) and evaluation (online platform with proctoring tools). The first ever online evaluation in three languages (English, Spanish and French) is planned for 5-6 November 2022 and will concern only new officials proposed by their MFs/Area before 7 October 2022. The **World Athletics Bronze Referee level** will be effective in early 2023 and the **World Athletics Gold Referee** in the autumn of 2023.

Should you have any questions on the new system, please contact referees@worldathletics.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Ridgeon".

Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix: World Athletics Referees Education and Certification System summary note