



SAFEGUARDING RULES

(Approved by Council on 3 December 2025, effective on 1 January 2026)

Specific Definitions

The words and phrases used in these Rules that are defined terms (denoted by initial capital letters) shall have the meanings specified in the Constitution and the Generally Applicable Definitions, or (in respect of the following words and phrases) the following meanings:

“Abuse, Harassment and Exploitation” means abuse, harassment and exploitation as defined in World Athletics’ Safeguarding Policy, as amended from time to time.

“Adult” means any person aged 18 years and over.

“Case Management Group” means the group appointed pursuant to Rule 5 below and having the role set out in Rule 5.1 below.

“Child(ren)” means any person aged 17 years and under.

“International-Level Athlete” means any athlete defined as an International-Level Athlete in the Anti-Doping Rules, as amended from time to time.

“International Participant” means for the purposes of these Safeguarding Rules any person who (i) is or has previously been selected or appointed to attend an International Competition or who acts or has previously acted as an official member of a delegation on behalf of a Member Federation or Area Association, or (ii) acts or has previously acted as a coach or athlete support person to an International-Level Athlete, or (iii) is believed to have moved or be seeking to move to the Country or Territory of another Member Federation or Area Association to evade any ban, suspension or restriction from working in Athletics or (iv) is an International-Level Athlete.

“Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision” means for the purposes of these Safeguarding Rules any decision relating to a Safeguarding Concern that is taken under the authority of a Member Federation/Area Association or by another competent authority in the relevant jurisdiction of the Member Federation/Area Association. Competent authorities include national safeguarding authorities, courts of law, professional regulators and national sports tribunals having determined matters equivalent to a Safeguarding Concern under these Safeguarding Rules, whether arising in sport or otherwise. For the avoidance of doubt, ‘decisions’ for this purpose shall include, without limitation, provisional suspensions, hearing determinations and other substantive decisions and outcomes relating to a Safeguarding Concern.

“Prohibited Conduct” means conduct described in Rule 2.1 below.

“Safeguarding” means the measures taken to protect individuals from Abuse, Harassment or Exploitation.

“Safeguarding Concern” means any allegation of Prohibited Conduct or any concern, incident, suspicion, action, behaviour or failure to act in a way which has caused or which causes or which may cause Abuse, Harassment or Exploitation of an Adult or Child.

“Safeguarding Order” means measures to safeguard, limit and/or restrict (including but not limited to a suspension) a person from all or any specific Athletics activity for such period and on such terms and conditions as considered appropriate as determined by the Case Management Group in accordance with these Safeguarding Rules.

“Secretariat” means the independent body or organisation appointed by the Executive Board in accordance with Rule 4 below to provide secretariat services to the Case Management Group.

“World Athletics Event” means an event as designated by World Athletics from time to time.

Preamble

World Athletics takes its responsibilities for creating safe and positive environments for all in, and involved with, the Athletics community seriously. World Athletics' Safeguarding Policy has been developed to guide stakeholders on how to guard against Abuse, Harassment and Exploitation in order to inspire and grow the sport.

These Safeguarding Rules and framework have been created under the authority of World Athletics. They provide for the investigation of Safeguarding Concerns in Athletics and for orders to be made where appropriate, imposing safeguards, limitations and/or restrictions on individuals. This enables World Athletics to fulfil its commitment, ensuring that safe, happy and positive environments are created for individuals to participate in Athletics, and everyone is able to achieve their full athletic potential whilst being treated with dignity and respect.

World Athletics has delegated responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of relevant Safeguarding Concerns to the Athletics Integrity Unit (the "Integrity Unit"), as set out in the Rules. The Integrity Unit is therefore tasked with investigating Safeguarding Concerns involving those bound by these Rules and seeking appropriate orders from the Case Management Group, as and when required. The Integrity Unit is also tasked with assessing Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decisions and requesting the international extension of those decisions from the Case Management Group, as and when required.

An independent Case Management Group has been appointed to make decisions in relation to Safeguarding Concerns which are investigated and/or brought to it by the Integrity Unit. The role of the Case Management Group is to assess risk and make Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders that it considers to be necessary and proportionate to manage the risk, both on an interim and final basis.

Decisions of the Case Management Group (including decisions to impose interim safeguarding orders) may be appealed to an independent Appeal Panel constituted under the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal Rules.

The Secretariat to the Case Management Group is provided by an independent body appointed by World Athletics. The Secretariat is also directly responsible for recruiting and appointing the members of the Case Management Group.

World Athletics may appoint a Safeguarding Officer to its Events which shall have the powers to impose immediate provisional Safeguarding measures in order to prevent risk of harm as set out in these Rules.

World Athletics and the Integrity Unit will collaborate in relation to the implementation of these Safeguarding Rules and may agree protocols between them from time to time to facilitate their efficient administration.

1. General

- 1.1 These Safeguarding Rules are established to deal with Safeguarding Concerns in relation to the persons identified in Rule 3.1 below.
- 1.2 Safeguarding Concerns may arise from conduct that took place at any time in the past or present and shall be dealt with pursuant to these Safeguarding Rules whenever that conduct occurred.
- 1.3 Member Federations and Area Associations must comply with these Safeguarding Rules and the World Athletics' Safeguarding Policy.
- 1.4 Save for the application of these Safeguarding Rules:
 - 1.4.1 Member Federations are responsible for managing reports of Abuse, Harassment and Exploitation in their Country or Territory and for dealing with Safeguarding Concerns relating to Member Federation Officials, athletes and athlete support personnel in their jurisdiction under their own Safeguarding policies and procedures. World Athletics' Safeguarding Policy requires Member Federations to adopt and implement procedures for the investigation and prosecution of reported Safeguarding Concerns in their territories; and
 - 1.4.2 Area Associations are responsible for managing reports of Abuse, Harassment and Exploitation relating to their staff or volunteers, accredited persons at Area Association events and competitions and participants in activities hosted at Area Development Centres and for dealing with Safeguarding Concerns relating to Area Association officials under the terms of their own Safeguarding policies and procedures. World Athletics' Safeguarding Policy requires Area Associations to adopt and implement procedures for the investigation and prosecution of reported Safeguarding Concerns under their jurisdiction and, in the absence of jurisdiction, to refer matters for investigation and prosecution by the relevant Member Federation.
- 1.5 Each Member Federation and Area Association shall:
 - 1.5.1 promptly report to the Integrity Unit and World Athletics any Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision in respect of an International Participant. The Member Federation/Area Association shall provide the Integrity Unit and World Athletics with a copy of the Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision and the supporting case file; and
 - 1.5.2 promptly report to the Integrity Unit any information of which they become aware which might constitute (on its own or with other information) a Safeguarding Concern by a person falling within the Integrity Unit's exclusive jurisdiction under these Safeguarding Rules.
- 1.6 Reports under Rule 1.5 shall be made within 7 days of the Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision being issued or of the Member Federation or Area Association becoming aware of information that might constitute a Safeguarding Concern.

- 1.7 Failure by Member Federations and Area Associations to comply with these Rules may lead to sanctions in accordance with the Constitution and/or the Member Federation Rules.

2. Prohibited Conduct

- 2.1 The following conduct shall be considered to be behaviours that are Prohibited Conduct and therefore subject to these Safeguarding Rules:
 - 2.1.1 Abuse, Harassment or Exploitation;
 - 2.1.2 any criminal offence or breach of any other applicable laws or regulations which would give rise to a Safeguarding Concern;
 - 2.1.3 a breach of World Athletics' Safeguarding Policy;
 - 2.1.4 a breach of the appropriate/relevant Member Federation or Area Association's Safeguarding policy or code of conduct;
 - 2.1.5 failure to report any Safeguarding Concern, suspicion or allegation in accordance with Rule 7;
 - 2.1.6 knowingly making or encouraging someone else to make, a false or misleading report of possible Prohibited Conduct is a breach of these Safeguarding Rules and will be dealt with in the same way as any other Prohibited Conduct;
 - 2.1.7 abuse of process and or breach of confidentiality in relation to a Safeguarding Concern;
 - 2.1.8 failing to comply with any Safeguarding Order; and/or
 - 2.1.9 assisting, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or engaging in any behaviour which might involve a breach or attempted breach of these Safeguarding Rules whether or not such attempt in fact results in a breach.
- 2.2 Prohibited Conduct under these Safeguarding Rules may also amount to:
 - 2.2.1 a criminal offence and/or a breach of other applicable laws. These Safeguarding Rules are intended to supplement such laws and regulations with further rules of conduct for those involved in the sport of Athletics. These Safeguarding Rules are not intended and should not be interpreted to prejudice or undermine in any way the application of such laws and regulations which must be complied with at all times;
 - 2.2.2 a breach of the rules of a Member Federation, Area Association or other organisation or agency in relation to safeguarding athletes in the relevant jurisdiction. These Safeguarding Rules are not intended to limit the responsibilities of persons under Rule 3.1 under such rules, but nothing in such rules will be effective to limit the application of these Safeguarding Rules or to remove, supersede or amend in any way the jurisdiction of the Integrity Unit and the Case Management Group under these Safeguarding Rules; and/or

- 2.2.3 a breach of the rules of the IOC in relation to Safeguarding athletes and other participants during the Olympic Games. These Safeguarding Rules are not intended to limit the responsibilities of persons under Rule 3.1 under such rules, but nothing in such rules will be effective to limit the application of these Safeguarding Rules or to remove, supersede or amend in any way the jurisdiction of the Integrity Unit and the Case Management Group under these Safeguarding Rules.
- 2.3 The following conduct may also amount to a breach of the Integrity Standards of the Integrity Code and nothing in these Safeguarding Rules limits or prejudices the right of the Integrity Unit to take action against Applicable Persons pursuant to the Integrity Code:
 - 2.3.1 a failure to report in accordance with the appropriate procedure any incident, fact or matter which may indicate (on its own or with other information) a Safeguarding Concern;
 - 2.3.2 knowingly making, or encouraging someone else to make, a false or misleading report of possible Prohibited Conduct;
 - 2.3.3 assisting, aiding, abetting, conspiring, covering up or engaging in any behaviour which might involve a breach or attempted breach of these Safeguarding Rules whether or not such attempt in fact results in a breach;
 - 2.3.4 any act which threatens or seeks to intimidate another person with the intent of discouraging that person from the good faith or obligatory reporting of information that relates to possible Prohibited Conduct to the relevant body or authority; and/or
 - 2.3.5 retaliation against a person who, in good faith or under an obligation, has provided evidence or information that relates to possible Prohibited Conduct to the relevant body or authority.

3. Application of these Safeguarding Rules

- 3.1 These Safeguarding Rules shall apply to, and are binding on, the following:
 - 3.1.1 Officials;
 - 3.1.2 Persons participating in or accredited at a World Athletics Series Event or other World Athletics Event, including persons involved in the hosting or organisation of such events;
 - 3.1.3 Persons participating in or accredited at the Olympic Games;
 - 3.1.4 Persons participating in or accredited at a World Athletics Congress;
 - 3.1.5 Member Federation and Area Association Officials where the responsible Member Federation or Area Association (as the case may be) fails or fails to adequately investigate and/or prosecute a Safeguarding Concern under the applicable Member Federation or Area Association procedures in place; and

- 3.1.6 an International Participant who is or has been the subject of a Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision.
- 3.2 For the purposes of Rule 3.1.5, a Member Federation or Area Association may be deemed to have failed or failed to adequately investigate and/or prosecute a Safeguarding Concern under the following non-exhaustive circumstances:
 - 3.2.1 Inaction on the referral of a Safeguarding Concern over a prolonged period of time (3 months);
 - 3.2.2 Conflict of interest between the subject of concern and the relevant Safeguarding Officer and/or the Member Federation or Area Association's decision-making body;
 - 3.2.3 Retribution taken against referrer(s) in response to the raising of Safeguarding Concern(s).
- 3.3 World Athletics shall determine whether a matter falls within Rule 3.2 and may refer the matter to the Integrity Unit, together with any supporting documentation in support of the referral.
- 3.4 The Integrity Unit Board shall decide whether to pursue a matter arising under 3.2 taking into account the seriousness of the conduct of the subject of concern and the other circumstances of the case.
- 3.5 This decision shall be communicated to World Athletics in writing and with reasons.
- 3.6 The Integrity Unit Board's decision to step in and assume the conduct of a matter under Rule 3.4 will be without prejudice to the Council and World Athletics' right to take action against the Member Federation or Area Association concerned in accordance with the Constitution and/or the Member Federation Rules.
- 3.7 A decision by the Integrity Unit Board not to step in and assume the conduct of a matter referred to it under Rule 3.3 shall not be subject to appeal and World Athletics may refer the matter back to the Member Federation or Area Association concerned.
- 3.8 For the avoidance of doubt, World Athletics may impose sanctions on the Member Federation or Area Association in accordance with the Constitution and/or the Member Federation Rules even if the Integrity Unit Board decides not to exercise its step-in jurisdiction.

4. Secretariat

- 4.1 World Athletics will appoint the Secretariat to establish the Case Management Group and to assist the Case Management Group with the management of cases of Safeguarding Concerns under these Safeguarding Rules.
- 4.2 The role of the Secretariat is to:
 - 4.2.1 recruit and appoint suitable persons to be members of the Case Management Group;
 - 4.2.2 manage all cases referred to the Case Management Group in a timely and efficient manner;

- 4.2.3 appoint individual members of the Case Management Group to each specific case;
 - 4.2.4 liaise with individual members of the Case Management Group as appropriate in relation to cases referred to the Case Management Group; and
 - 4.2.5 take any other steps as are necessary to ensure the efficient management of the Case Management Group.
- 4.3 The Secretariat shall be appointed by the Executive Board on the recommendation of the Head of the Integrity Unit and Chief Executive Officer of World Athletics on such terms and conditions as decided by the Executive Board.

5. Role and Appointment of the Case Management Group

- 5.1 The role of the Case Management Group is to consider a Safeguarding Concern that has been referred to it under Rule 10.1 to determine whether the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern poses or may pose a risk of harm to others in Athletics and if so, make such Safeguarding Orders that are necessary and proportionate to manage the risk. The Case Management Group shall have the power to gather any information or evidence it deems to be relevant and necessary (in addition to the Integrity Unit's investigation findings) to enable it to make decisions under these Safeguarding Rules.
- 5.2 The Secretariat will appoint a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of ten (10) individuals to the Case Management Group, including one (1) Chairperson. The members of the Case Management Group appointed by the Secretariat must between them have a range of suitable skills and cultural backgrounds.
- 5.3 Individuals will be appointed for a specified term of four years and may serve for a maximum of three terms of four years.
- 5.4 The Secretariat may appoint individuals to the Case Management Group upon a vacancy arising or on occasion in order to ensure knowledge sharing and continuity, subject to the requirements of 5.2 and 5.5.
- 5.5 All those appointed to the Case Management Group must be Eligible in accordance with the Vetting Rules and must be Independent.
- 5.6 The Case Management Group will meet as often as necessary to consider Safeguarding Concerns which are referred to it under these Safeguarding Rules.
- 5.7 The Secretariat will decide how many and which members of the Case Management Group shall be appointed to inquire into any Safeguarding Concern which is referred to the Case Management Group. The Chairperson (or their appointee) shall sit as a single member of the Case Management Group as specified in the Rules and in any appropriate case at their discretion.
- 5.8 No member of the Case Management Group may be appointed to inquire into any Safeguarding Concern referred to the Case Management Group if they:
- 5.8.1 are no longer Eligible in accordance with the Vetting Rules;

- 5.8.2 have any personal connection or interest (whether directly or indirectly) with any of the parties or witnesses;
 - 5.8.3 have had any prior involvement with any fact or aspect of the case;
 - 5.8.4 are of the same nationality as a person being investigated for or that is the victim/survivor of a Safeguarding Concern; or
 - 5.8.5 are someone whose impartiality or independence could reasonably be questioned (as determined by the Secretariat).
- 5.9 If a member of the Case Management Group is, for whatever reason, unable, unwilling or unfit to continue to act in a matter to which they have been appointed, the Secretariat may in their absolute discretion:
- 5.9.1 appoint another member of the Case Management Group to replace that member in the matter, or,
 - 5.9.2 authorise the remaining members of the Case Management Group appointed to inquire into a particular matter to continue in their absence.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 The members of the Case Management Group must ensure that everything disclosed to them during the course of their duties remains confidential, including the facts of any case and any deliberations or decisions that are taken.
- 6.2 The members of the Case Management Group must not disclose the existence of, or make any statements relating to:
 - 6.2.1 any matter that is before the Case Management Group, whether or not those members are tasked with considering the matter; or
 - 6.2.2 any matter that has been decided by the Case Management Group.
- 6.3 Subject to Rules 6.4, 7.7, 14 and 15 below, all cases dealt with under these Safeguarding Rules must be kept confidential, and neither World Athletics, nor the Integrity Unit, nor any Member Federation or Area Association, nor any person involved with any case may publicly comment on any facts of a case. Any witnesses must keep confidential any document or information which they receive as a result of their participation in any such proceedings.
- 6.4 At any stage, the Head of the Integrity Unit or World Athletics may, in their absolute discretion, decide that information should be shared in order to ensure the proper effective discharge of their legal responsibilities, functions and/or to protect the integrity and reputation of World Athletics or Athletics.

7. Reporting and Investigation of a Safeguarding Concern

- 7.1 Any Safeguarding Concern relating to a person identified in Rule 3.1 above must be reported to the Head of the Integrity Unit as soon as reasonably possible, and where applicable, the Safeguarding Officer for the Event.
- 7.2 In addition to any reported Safeguarding Concern, the Head of the Integrity Unit may consider any information that has come to their attention by whatever means

that indicates (on its own or with other information) a possible Safeguarding Concern.

- 7.3 The Head of the Integrity Unit will carry out an initial assessment of the information promptly in order to determine if the Safeguarding Concern falls within the Integrity Unit's jurisdiction under these Safeguarding Rules.
- 7.4 Grounds do not need to be given for the initiation of an investigation into a Safeguarding Concern and the decision may not be contested.
- 7.5 Where a decision is made by the Head of the Integrity Unit to investigate or not to investigate a Safeguarding Concern, that decision shall be communicated in writing to the referring body or individual.
- 7.6 The Integrity Unit shall have the same powers in relation to an investigation of a Safeguarding Concern as are set out in Rule 4 of the Athletics Integrity Unit Reporting, Investigation and Prosecution Rules – Non-Doping in relation to investigations of Non-Doping Violations. The Integrity Unit shall take all reasonable steps to commence and carry out the investigation promptly and without any undue delay. The investigation may be undertaken in whole or in part by Integrity Unit Staff or persons acting under delegated authority from the Integrity Unit and the Head may seek any expert or third-party assistance that they determine to be necessary in the circumstances.
- 7.7 As soon as reasonably practical following commencement of any investigation by the Integrity Unit, the Integrity Unit shall take reasonable steps to inform the victim/survivor and the complainant (where appropriate) of the processes under these Safeguarding Rules, including the roles of the Integrity Unit, World Athletics, the Case Management Group and the role of any Appeal Panel appointed to hear appeals from its decisions. In addition, the Integrity Unit shall take reasonable steps to keep the victim/survivor and complainant (where appropriate) apprised from time to time of the progress of the matter and the outcomes of it, including any referrals that may be made to other bodies under these Safeguarding Rules. The Integrity Unit shall also take reasonable steps to inform the complainant and victim/survivor of the requirements of these Safeguarding Rules relating to confidentiality and the sharing of information and other matters.
- 7.8 Investigations into Safeguarding Concerns by the Integrity Unit may be conducted in conjunction with, and/or information obtained in such investigations, may be shared with other relevant authorities or bodies.
- 7.9 If at any point following a report of a Safeguarding Concern, or during an investigation of a Safeguarding Concern, the Head of the Integrity Unit considers that the matter should be referred to the police or other law enforcement agency then this must be done in accordance with the local legislation and in the jurisdiction within which the Safeguarding Concern arose.
- 7.10 If there is a requirement for a Safeguarding Concern to be reported to any other agency because of legal requirements in the jurisdiction within which the Safeguarding Concern arose, then the Head of the Integrity Unit will report the Safeguarding Concern accordingly and record the fact that the mandatory reporting requirements have been followed.
- 7.11 Whilst the Integrity Unit will have discretion where it deems it appropriate to stay its investigation pending the outcome of any investigation(s) being conducted by

other relevant authorities or bodies, it is entitled to continue its investigation and refer the matter to the Case Management Group in accordance with these Safeguarding Rules notwithstanding that a Safeguarding Concern is being investigated by the police or law enforcement agency in accordance with Rule 7.8 or is being investigated by an agency in accordance with Rule 7.9.

- 7.12 If at any point during an investigation the Head of the Integrity Unit considers that a Safeguarding Concern would be more appropriately investigated and dealt with by a Member Federation or an Area Association, the Integrity Unit's investigation will be stayed and the Head of the Integrity Unit will refer the matter to the relevant Member Federation or Area Association (as the case may be) to investigate further and deal with the matter appropriately. The Head of Integrity Unit when referring the matter will also state if the matter has been reported in accordance with Rules 7.8 to 7.10 above. The Member Federation or Area Association (as the case may be) must keep the Head of the Integrity Unit fully informed as to progress of the investigation and its proposals as to how the case should be resolved in a manner and at times required by the Integrity Unit. The Head of the Integrity Unit may decide at any time that the matter should be referred back to the Integrity Unit to continue to be dealt with pursuant to these Safeguarding Rules.

8. Agreed Safeguarding Outcomes

- 8.1 Where the Head of the Integrity Unit believes that a Safeguarding Concern is of a level of seriousness that does not warrant referral to the Case Management Group, the Head may arrive at an agreed outcome with the subject of concern, subject to the consent of World Athletics.
- 8.2 If an agreement is reached, the matter will not be referred to the Case Management Group and no decision under these Rules will be required. A person who agrees to resolve matters in accordance with this Rule 8 waives their right to appeal against or otherwise challenge any aspect of the agreed outcome.
- 8.3 An agreed outcome under this Rule 8 shall be treated in the same manner as an order imposed by the Case Management Group for the purposes of communication and publication under Rules 14 and 15 respectively.

9. Interim Safeguarding Orders and Immediate Provisional Safeguarding Measures

- 9.1 If the Head of the Integrity Unit believes that a person who is bound by these Safeguarding Rules poses, or may pose, an immediate risk of harm to an individual or individuals, the Head of the Integrity Unit may apply to the Case Management Group to impose an interim Safeguarding Order and/or other order. The application by the Integrity Unit will be made on notice to the person concerned unless the Head considers there to be good cause for it to be made ex parte.
- 9.2 In determining whether an interim Safeguarding Order under Rule 9.1 should be made, the Case Management Group shall give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
- 9.2.1 whether an individual or individuals are or may be at an immediate risk of harm;
- 9.2.2 whether the matters are of a serious nature; and/or

- 9.2.3 whether a Safeguarding Order and/or other orders are necessary or desirable to allow the conduct of any investigation by the Integrity Unit or any other authority or body to proceed unimpeded, having regard to the need for any Safeguarding Order or other order(s) to be proportionate.
- 9.3 If the Head of the Integrity Unit subsequently becomes aware of further information which needs to be assessed prior to, or whilst, the matter being considered by the Case Management Group, they may amend or withdraw the application for any interim Safeguarding Order and/or other orders.
- 9.4 The Secretariat will appoint one or more members of the Case Management Group to consider the application. The Case Management Group will determine all procedural matters for the conduct of the matter. Only written material and documentary evidence such as photographs, videos and audio recordings will be considered unless the Case Management Group decides to exceptionally allow the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern to address the Case Management Group in person.
- 9.5 The Head of the Integrity Unit will promptly notify the terms of any interim Safeguarding Order and/or other order imposed by the Case Management Group in writing in accordance with Rule 14 below.
- 9.6 The person may lodge an appeal against any interim Safeguarding Order or other order within fourteen (14) days of receipt of it to an Appeal Panel in accordance with Rule 17 below. The necessary information about how to appeal the interim Safeguarding Order or other order will be outlined in the written notice of the order sent to the person at the time of its imposition.
- 9.7 If an interim Safeguarding Order or other order remains in place for six months, it must be reviewed by the Case Management Group who may extend the interim Safeguarding Order and/or other order for a further period as appropriate. The review must be done as soon as reasonably possible after the six-month period from the date of the original imposition of the Safeguarding Order and/or other order.
- 9.8 The Head of the Integrity Unit will promptly notify the person in writing of the outcome of the Case Management Group review and the person shall have the same rights of appeal following a decision to extend the interim Safeguarding Order and/or other order as the person had following the original imposition of the interim Safeguarding Order or other order.
- 9.9 In addition to the powers of the Case Management Group to impose an interim Safeguarding Order and/or other order, if it is considered necessary to impose immediate provisional Safeguarding measures because of an immediate risk of harm to others at a World Athletics Series or other World Athletics Event or World Athletics Congress, the World Athletics' Safeguarding Officer appointed for that Event (where a Safeguarding Officer is appointed for the Event) may separately put in place immediate provisional Safeguarding measures at or before the Event or Congress and notify the person subject to those measures, the victim/survivor and the Head of the Integrity Unit accordingly. There shall be no right of appeal from any immediate provisional Safeguarding measures imposed. The World Athletics' Safeguarding Officer appointed for that Event may lift any or all of the immediate provisional Safeguarding measures at any time. The immediate provisional Safeguarding measures may include:

- 9.9.1 cancellation, removal or denial of accreditation for the World Athletics Series or other World Athletics Event and/or World Athletics Congress and all associated rights, privileges and benefits;
- 9.9.2 removal from the World Athletics Series or other World Athletics Event and/or World Athletics Congress (including immediate cancellation of accreditation or withdrawal of access to official venues, and cancellation of reservations at official hotels and flight tickets);
- 9.9.3 any other Safeguarding measure considered to be appropriate to the situation.

10. Referral to the Case Management Group

- 10.1 On completion of the investigation by the Integrity Unit, if the Head of the Integrity Unit believes there is a sufficient basis for an inquiry by the Case Management Group into whether the person subject of a Safeguarding Concern poses or may pose a risk of harm to others in Athletics, the Head of the Integrity Unit must provide the investigation findings to the person concerned. The investigation findings will include all material that the Integrity Unit has relied on in reaching its findings save for any exceptional material dealt with under Rule 12 below.
- 10.2 Upon receipt of the investigation findings, the person the subject of the investigation shall be given a period of fourteen (14) days to provide their written response to the findings. This period may be extended or shortened as the Head may determine at their sole discretion in the circumstances. If the person makes representations which require further investigation, then the further investigation must be done by the Integrity Unit before the matter is referred to the Case Management Group.
- 10.3 Following receipt of any representations from the person concerned and completion of any follow up investigation that may be required, or following expiry of the fourteen (14) day period (or such other period as may be determined by the Head) if no representations are made, the Integrity Unit may:
 - 10.3.1 decide that no further action is currently required as there are no longer grounds for an inquiry to be conducted into a Safeguarding Concern; or
 - 10.3.2 refer the matter to the Case Management Group for an inquiry to be conducted into the Safeguarding Concern.
- 10.4 The Integrity Unit shall inform World Athletics of any matter referred to the Case Management Group in accordance with Rule 10.3.2.

11. Case Management Group Procedures

- 11.1 If a matter is referred to the Case Management Group by the Integrity Unit under Rule 10.3.2, the Case Management Group shall conduct an inquiry into whether the person subject to a Safeguarding Concern poses or may pose a risk of harm to others within Athletics and, if so, determine what Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders are necessary and proportionate to manage the risk. The Case Management Group is not required to make conclusive findings of fact for this purpose.

- 11.2 The Case Management Group shall conduct its inquiry in any manner it deems to be appropriate subject only to the requirements of procedural fairness and these Safeguarding Rules. The Case Management Group is not bound by the rules of evidence, may inform itself in any manner it deems fit and shall determine all procedural requirements for the conduct of its inquiry.
- 11.3 The Case Management Group may without limitation:
 - 11.3.1 seek such evidence or information as it considers necessary to conduct its risk assessment whilst having regard to the need to avoid unnecessary delay;
 - 11.3.2 require any person bound by these Rules to give evidence orally or in writing;
 - 11.3.3 instruct an expert to conduct a risk assessment of the person subject to a Safeguarding Concern;
 - 11.3.4 require any person bound by these Rules to produce to the Case Management Group any document or other thing in their possession or under their control;
 - 11.3.5 inspect, retain or copy any document or thing produced to the Case Management Group as is reasonably necessary;
 - 11.3.6 seek and accept any further representations in writing from the person subject to a Safeguarding Concern on any matter;
 - 11.3.7 seek such information from World Athletics or any other organisation that it considers may be relevant or necessary;
 - 11.3.8 determine the manner in which it will deliberate for the purposes of making a decision in the matter, including deciding whether exceptionally it wishes to hear in person from the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern and/or any victim/survivor or witness;
 - 11.3.9 award interim relief or other preventative measures on a provisional basis pending its final decision in the matter; and /or
 - 11.3.10 make such other directions or enquiries as it considers necessary or appropriate for it to be able to assess the matter before it.
- 11.4 Unless the Case Management Group in its discretion exceptionally wishes to hear in person from the person subject of the Safeguarding Concern and/or any victim/survivor or witness, the case shall be considered on the written materials before it.
- 11.5 In exercising its discretion as to whether exceptionally to hear from the person subject of the Safeguarding Concern and/or any victim/survivor or witness in person, the Case Management Group may give consideration, inter alia, to the following factors:
 - 11.5.1 whether any Safeguarding Order and/or other order would affect the person subject to the Safeguarding Concern's paid employment or engagement within Athletics;

- 11.5.2 whether any protective measures need to be put in place to hear from a victim/survivor or witness who is willing to address it in person;
- 11.5.3 whether exceptional material (as defined in Rule 12 below) is to be put before the Case Management Group;
- 11.5.4 whether in relation to an International Participant an oral hearing has previously been conducted in relation to the same matter.
- 11.6 If the Case Management Group determines that a person subject of the Safeguarding Concern is to address it in person, they are entitled to be represented by legal counsel and/or any other representative(s) before the Case Management Group, at their own expense.
- 11.7 The burden of proof in the Case Management Group's consideration of a Safeguarding Concern is neutral.
- 11.8 As a general rule the Case Management Group may not consider any material (written, photographic, video, electronic or audio evidence) which the subject of the Safeguarding Concern has not seen and had a reasonable opportunity to respond to.

12. Exceptional Material

- 12.1 In exceptional circumstances, the Integrity Unit may make an application for permission to submit material to the Case Management Group that has not been sent to the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern ("**exceptional material**") where the Integrity Unit considers that the exceptional material should not be sent to the person for any one or more of the following reasons:
 - 12.1.1 revealing it to the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern may create a risk of harm to any person(s); and/or
 - 12.1.2 revealing it to the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern may amount to a criminal offence or otherwise be unlawful.
- 12.2 The Head of the Integrity Unit must give the person the subject of the Safeguarding Concern fourteen (14) days' notice of an application by the Integrity Unit pursuant to Rule 12.1 above unless doing so may:
 - 12.2.1 create a risk of harm to any person(s); and/or
 - 12.2.2 amount to a criminal offence or otherwise be unlawful.
- 12.3 On receipt of an application relating to exceptional material from the Integrity Unit, the Secretariat will appoint one or more members of the Case Management Group to sit as an exceptional material panel ("**Exceptional Material Panel**") to decide to allow or reject the application in whole or in part.
- 12.4 If the application is allowed, then the Exceptional Material Panel must consider whether the material should be redacted (in whole or in part) and whether a summary of the material should be provided as an alternative or in addition to the redacted version.

- 12.5 A member who sits on an Exceptional Material Panel determining an application under Rule 12.3 above, may not be a member of the Case Management Group that will have conduct of the case referred under Rule 11 above or an application relating to the case pursuant to Rule 9 above that is heard subsequently to the application to the Exceptional Material Panel.

13. Final Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders

- 13.1 If, following its review of a matter, the Case Management Group determines that the person the subject of a Safeguarding Concern poses or may pose a risk of harm to others in Athletics, it will determine what Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders are necessary and proportionate to manage the risk.
- 13.2 The Case Management Group has the remit to impose any final Safeguarding Order and/or other order it considers necessary and proportionate in the circumstances and it is not limited in its scope or choices.
- 13.3 The Case Management Group may decide to impose a final Safeguarding Order and/or other order for a specific period of time or for an indefinite period of time. If the final Safeguarding Order or other order is for an indefinite period of time, a condition may be imposed prescribing how long (if ever) before the person may apply for the final Safeguarding Order and/or other order to be reviewed and potentially lifted.
- 13.4 The Case Management Group may decide to impose conditions in a final Safeguarding Order and/or other order in relation to a person's continuing participation in certain activities in Athletics, including specifying in relation to which types of athlete or other person the participation may be allowed. The Case Management Group may also impose a requirement for the person concerned to attend a training course and/or mentoring program to be approved by World Athletics, relevant to any Safeguarding Concern raised and/or any Safeguarding Order or other order made, within a specified period of time before returning to Athletics activity.
- 13.5 At any time prior to imposing final Safeguarding Orders, the Case Management Group shall consult with World Athletics for the purpose of ensuring that any Safeguarding Orders imposed are practically enforceable.
- 13.6 The Integrity Unit shall monitor compliance with Case Management Group orders. Where there is evidence of non-compliance, the Integrity Unit will refer the matter to the Case Management Group as necessary.

14. Decisions

- 14.1 Where a Safeguarding Order and/or other order is imposed by the Case Management Group (whether interim or final), it will issue a decision giving the reasons for its imposition, details of the terms and conditions imposed, including the date it will take effect and the end date (if one has been prescribed), and information as to any right of appeal and the time within which any appeal must be lodged.
- 14.2 The Case Management Group shall issue any Safeguarding Order and/or other order, and the written reasons for such decision, as soon as reasonably practicable and within 14 days of the date of the conclusion of its review of the matter on the papers or the date of the hearing (or within such shorter period as

may be determined where it has been agreed to expedite the process for good cause). Where the 14-day deadline cannot reasonably be met, the reasoned decision shall be issued as soon as possible thereafter. The Case Management Group may issue a Safeguarding Order and/or other order prior to communication of its written reasons.

- 14.3 Any decision of the Case Management Group shall be promptly communicated to the subject of the Order, the victim/survivor, anyone else benefiting from the Order (e.g. in cases of no-contact orders) by the Integrity Unit, and (where appropriate) the complainant.
- 14.4 The decision shall also be promptly communicated to World Athletics, who shall make necessary disclosures for implementation purposes.
- 14.5 World Athletics (or its designee) shall inform the appropriate Member Federation(s) and/or Area Association(s) of decisions of the Case Management Group or Appeal Panel accordingly. The Member Federation and/or Area Association will be advised about informing any clubs, associations or other organisations as appropriate.

15. Publication

- 15.1 If the Case Management Group decides to impose a Safeguarding Order and/or other order (including under Rule 16 below), World Athletics has discretion to make the orders and written reasons public, in the form it deems appropriate, where it considers it to be appropriate, necessary and proportionate to do so. In doing so, World Athletics may consider (i) the views of any person harmed by the Safeguarding Concern (ii) whether such public disclosure would further the core aims of these Safeguarding Rules and (iii) any other matter that World Athletics considers relevant to the particular case. World Athletics will inform the Head of the Integrity Unit of its decision in relation to public disclosure under this Rule in each case.
- 15.2 If a matter is dismissed, or if the Case Management Group is not satisfied that the person the subject of a Safeguarding Concern poses or may pose a risk of harm to others, then the decision of the Case Management Group may only be made public with the consent of the person who is the subject of the decision.

16. International Extension of Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decisions in respect of International Participants

- 16.1 Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decisions in respect of an International Participant shall be notified promptly to World Athletics and shall constitute irrebuttable evidence against the person to whom the decision relates.
- 16.2 Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decisions relating to International Participants will, promptly upon notification, be assessed by the Integrity Unit. Further to assessment, a decision may be referred to the Chairperson of the Case Management Group (or their appointee) to request the international extension of the decision by imposing one or more Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders on the relevant person. The referral for international extension to the Case Management Group will be on notice to the relevant Member Federation/Area Association, the International Participant concerned and (where appropriate) the victim/survivor. The Chairperson (or their appointee) may seek any information or representations they consider necessary from World

Athletics, the relevant Member Federation/Area Association, the International Participant and/or any third-party before determining how a Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision should be extended to the international level. The Chairperson (or their appointee) will issue any procedural directions that are considered necessary to determine the matter and will hear the matter on the papers sitting alone.

- 16.3 In extending Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decisions to the international level, the Chairperson of the Case Management Group (or their appointee) shall not be bound by the scope and terms of the Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision and may impose Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders that are necessary and proportionate to protect others in Athletics, having due regard to:
 - 16.3.1 the Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision (including the reason for the Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision and its scope and effect);
 - 16.3.2 the core aim of these Rules;
 - 16.3.3 the circumstances of the relevant person who is the subject of the Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision; and
 - 16.3.4 any other circumstances that might be relevant to the individual case.
- 16.4 The Chairperson of the Case Management Group (or their appointee) shall issue any Safeguarding Order and/or other order extending a Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision as soon as reasonably practicable and within 14 days of the date of their review of the matter on the papers. Where a 14-day deadline cannot reasonably be met, the decision shall be issued as soon as possible thereafter. When imposing such Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders, the Chairperson of the Case Management Group (or their appointee) will provide brief written reasons explaining how the Safeguarding Orders and/or other orders seek to extend the underlying Member Federation/Area Association Safeguarding Decision. The Chairperson of the Case Management Group (or their appointee) may issue a Safeguarding Order and/or other order prior to communication of its written reasons.
- 16.5 Where a Safeguarding Order and/or other order is imposed in accordance with Rule 16 the person subject to the Safeguarding Order and/or other order shall have the right within fourteen (14) days of notification of (i) the Safeguarding Order and/or other order, and (ii) the brief written reasons of the Chairperson of the Case Management Group or their appointee, to make an application to lift or vary such Safeguarding Order and/or other order before the Case Management Group convened for such purpose (which may include the Chairperson provided the Group comprises three members). The Case Management Group shall give such directions as are necessary to determine the application, as appropriate to the circumstances of the application.
- 16.6 A Safeguarding Order and/or other order imposed in accordance with Rule 16 may only be lifted or varied following an application made under Rule 16.4 if (or to the extent that) the Case Management Group determines that the Safeguarding Order and/or other order is not necessary or proportionate, having consideration to the factors set out at Rule 16.2 above and the reasoning of the Chairperson of the Case Management Group (or their appointee). Safeguarding Orders and/or other

orders imposed under Rule 16.2 shall otherwise remain in force pending the final determination of the matter.

17. Appeals

- 17.1 The person who is the subject of a Safeguarding Order and/or other order by the Case Management Group under these Safeguarding Rules (whether interim or final) may appeal such decision to the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal. To bring an appeal under these Rules, the person must give notice in writing to the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal within fourteen (14) days of notification of the Safeguarding Order and/or other order. The notice must include the grounds for the appeal together with any supporting documentation.
- 17.2 On lodging an appeal, the appellant will have fourteen (14) days to provide any additional information to be considered by the Appeal Panel ("the Appellant's submission"). World Athletics or the Integrity Unit (as the case may be) may then submit any information it wishes to rely on within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Appellant's submission.
- 17.3 Any Safeguarding Order and/or other order imposed by the Case Management Group (whether interim or final) will remain in force until the matter is considered and a decision issued by the Appeal Panel constituted under the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal Rules.
- 17.4 World Athletics may appeal any final decision of the Case Management Group to the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal within fourteen (14) days of the decision and will have a further fourteen (14) days to provide any additional information to be considered by the Appeal Panel ("the Appellant's submission"). The respondent may then submit any information they wish to rely on within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the Appellant's submission.
- 17.5 Where an appeal is lodged within the fourteen (14) day deadline, an Appeal Panel shall be set up and the appeal process and hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal Rules.
- 17.6 The chair of the Appeal Panel may make any directions concerning the conduct of the appeal hearing including with regard to the provision of evidence by the victim/survivor of a Safeguarding Concern as they consider appropriate.
- 17.7 The appeal shall be limited to consideration of whether the decision by the Case Management Group to impose a Safeguarding Order and/or other order (whether interim or final) is one that has no reasonable basis in all the circumstances.
- 17.8 The Appeal Panel shall have the powers in relation to Safeguarding Orders set out in the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal Rules.
- 17.9 In the event that an appeal is partially or wholly successful, the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal shall communicate the amended Safeguarding Order and/or other order to the parties. The Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal may decide to remit the matter back to the Case Management Group for further consideration, in which event the parties will be notified of the next steps in the matter.
- 17.10 The decision of the Appeal Panel of the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal will be final and binding and no further appeal will be allowed.

18. Effective Date and Transitional Provisions

- 18.1 These 2026 Safeguarding Rules shall come into full force and effect on 1 January 2026 (the “Effective Date”). They will replace the 2023 Safeguarding Rules that were in force prior to the Effective Date and will apply immediately and in full from the Effective Date to all cases, including cases arising prior to the Effective Date, save only as set out in 18.2 and 18.3 below.
- 18.2 Any matter that is pending before the Case Management Group as of the Effective Date shall be determined in accordance with Rules 9 to 12 of the 2023 Safeguarding Rules.
- 18.3 If an individual has already been provided with investigation findings following completion of an investigation by the Integrity Unit in accordance with Rule 9.1 of the 2023 Safeguarding Rules as of the Effective Date, then referral to the Case Management Group shall take place in accordance with the procedure set out in Rule 9 of the 2023 Safeguarding Rules (save that the Head of the Integrity Unit may also arrive at an agreed outcome with the individual, subject to the consent of World Athletics, in accordance with Rule 8 of these 2026 Safeguarding Rules) and the Case Management Group shall consider the matter in accordance with Rules 10 to 12 of the 2023 Safeguarding Rules.
- 18.4 Any other investigation into a Safeguarding Concern that is pending as of the Effective Date shall be conducted in accordance with Rule 7 of these 2026 Safeguarding Rules.