

SECTION 1: ATHLETICS SPORT SPECIFICATION

1. Rules of Competition

The rules of Virtus Athletics pertaining to competition, rankings and records will be those of World Athletics with approved variations by Virtus.

2. Virtus Sport Rules

2.1 Outdoor & Indoor Athletics

Virtus approved variations:

Rule 144.2: Assistance with Starting Blocks and Markers

Some athletes with an intellectual impairment may require their starting blocks to be set for them, or their runway markers to be at a pre-set distance from the take-off board, prior to the competition. The Technical Delegate will provide the appropriate athletes with a document on which to show their requirements.

Rule 161.1: Starting Blocks

In the first line replace 'shall' with 'may' in relation to the application of this rule to athletes with an intellectual impairment.

Note: As per Rule 144.2 some athletes may require their starting blocks to be set for them. The Technical Delegate will provide the appropriate athletes with a document on which to show their requirements.

Rule 162.2: Starting Considerations for Sensory Conditions

If an athlete has a hearing impairment the starter or their assistant may use a flag or other visual device as well as a pistol to signal the start. In some circumstances, for athletes with both a visual and a hearing impairment, an official may touch an athlete to signal the start.

3. Disciplines

Virtus recognises the following Athletics disciplines:

- Outdoor Athletics (II1, II2, II3 and Youth = under 18)
- Indoor Athletics (II1, II2 and II3)
- Cross Country (II1 and II3)
- Road Races - Half Marathon and Marathon (II1 and II3)

3.1. Virtus Athletics Youth Challenge

The Virtus Athletics Youth Challenge is an Athletic competition for Virtus athletes under 18 years of age and is the initial step in the long-term plan to develop the Virtus Athletics Youth Championships.

- **Athlete Eligibility:** All athletes must be under 18 (i.e for 2020 competitions the athlete must be born between 2006 and 2002).

The event is open to athletes with Provisional and full Virtus eligibility

- **Events**

Boys: 100m, 200m 400m, 800m, 1.500m 3.000m, 110m Hurdles (0.914), 400m Hurdles (0.84), Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Shot Put (5kg), Discus (1.5kg), Javelin (700gr), 5.000m walk, Relay(s) tbd

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Girls: 100m, 200m 400m, 800m, 1.500m 3.000m, 100m Hurdles (0.762), 400m Hurdles (0.762), Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Shot put (3kg), Discus (1kg), Javelin (500gr), 5.000m walk, Relay(s) tbd

- **Qualifying standards:** In its initial period, there will be no minimum qualifying standards.

- **Medal Presentation:** Medal Ceremonies should take place as per World Championships, but there needs to be a separate medal so it is clear there are two events. But treated equally.

4. Events

4.1. Outdoor Athletics

4.1.1. II1 Group (ID)

Events	Men	Women
100m	M	W
200m	M	W
400m	M	W
800m	M	W
1.500m	M	W
3.000m	-	W
5.000m	M	W
10.000m	M	-
100m Hurdles (0.84)	-	W
110m Hurdles (0.914)	M	-
400m Hurdles	M (0.84)	W (0.762)
3000m Steeplechase	M (0.914)	W (0.762)
5000m Walk	-	W
10000m Walk	M	-
4x100m	M*	W*
4x200m	Mixed (2M + 2W)	
4x400m	M*	W*
High Jump	M	W
Long Jump	M	W
Triple Jump	M	W
Pole Vault	M	W
Shot Put	M (7.260kg)	W (4kg)
Discus	M (2kg)	W (1kg)
Javelin	M (800gr)	W (600gr)
Hammer	M (7.260kg)	W (4kg)

Heptathlon Men	Heptathlon Women
110m Hurdles (0.914)	100m Hurdles (0.84)
High Jump	High Jump
Shot Put (7.260kg)	Shot Put (4kg)
200m	200m
Long jump	Long jump
Javelin (800gr)	Javelin (600gr)
1.500m	800m

*(for development 3.000m can be used in Regional events)
(5.000m can also be used combined M&W and in Regional)
* 1 team per country
* 1 team per country (2M+2W, who can run in any order)
* 1 team per country*

4.1.2. II2 Group (ID with additional Significant Impairment)

Events	Men	Women
100m	M	W
200m	M	W
400m (not run in lanes)	M	W

Triathlon Men	Triathlon Women
100m	100m
Long Jump	Long Jump
Shot Put (4kg)	Shot Put (3kg)

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800m (<i>not run in lanes</i>)	M	W
1500m	M	W
1.500m Walk	M	-
4x100m	M*	W*
Long Jump	M	W
Shot Put	M (4kg)	W (3kg)
Discus	M (1kg)	W (750gr)
Javelin	M (600gr)	W (400gr)

* 1 team per country

4.1.3. II3 Group (Autism)

updated 22.11.2024 - weights of Shot Put, Discus, Javelin

Events	Men	Women
100m	M	W
200m	M	W
400m	M	W
800m	M	W
1.500m	M	W
3.000m	M	W
Long Jump	M	W
Shot Put	M (7.26kg)	W (4kg)
Discus	M (2kg)	W (1kg)
Javelin	M (800g)	W (600gr)

4.2 Indoor Athletics

4.2.1. II1 Group (ID)

Events	Men	Women
60m	M	W
200m	M	W
400m	M	W
800m	M	W
1500m	M	W
3000m	M	W
60m Hurdles (0.84)	-	W
60m Hurdles (0.914)	M	-
3000m Walk	-	W
5000m Walk	M	-
4x200m	M*	W*
4x400m	M*	W*
Long Jump	M	W
High Jump	M	W
Pole Vault	M	W
Triple Jump	M	W
Shot Put	M (7.260kg)	W (4kg)

Pentathlon Men	Pentathlon Women
60m Hurdles (0.914)	60m Hurdles (0.84)
Long Jump	High Jump
Shot Put (7.260Kg)	Shot Put (4kg)
High Jump	Long Jump
1.000m	800m

(for development 1500m can be used in Regional events)
 (3.000m can also be used combined M&W and in Regional)
 * 1 team per country
 * 1 team per country

4.2.2. II2 Group (ID with additional Significant Impairment)

Events	Men	Women
60m	M	W
200m	M	W
400m (<i>not run in lanes</i>)	M	W
800m (<i>not run in lanes</i>)	M	W
Long Jump	M	W
Shot Put	M (4kg)	W (3kg)

Triathlon Men	Triathlon Women
60m	60m
Long Jump	Long Jump
Shot Put (4kg)	Shot Put (3Kg)

4.2.3. II3 Group (Autism)

Events	Men	Women
60m	M	W
200m	M	W
400m	M	W
800m	M	W
1.500m	M	W
Long Jump	M	W
Shot Put	M (7.26)	W (4kg)

4.3 Cross Country (II1 and II3)

Events	Men	Women
Short Race	3000m to 4000m	2000m to 3000m
Long Race	6000m to 8000m	5000m to 6000m

4.4 Road Races (II1 and II3)

Events	Men	Women
Half Marathon	M	W
Marathon	M	W

SECTION 2: VIRTUS CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT SPECIFICATION

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1 Event Specification for Outdoor Athletics

1.1 Event Title

For Virtus World Championship events the title of the event is the “[Year] Virtus Athletics Championships”, for example “2021 Virtus Athletics Championships”.

For Virtus regional championship events the title of the event is the “[Year] Virtus Athletics Championships - [Region]” for example “2022 Virtus Athletics Championships - Asia”.

1.2 Event Date

1.2.1 Virtus Athletics world championships will be scheduled every four years with the Global Games competition two years after the World Championships.

1.2.2 Virtus Athletics regional championships will be scheduled every two years.

1.2.3 Virtus Championships must be scheduled at least 6 weeks before or after WPA World or Regional Championships or Paralympic Games if held in the same year.

1.2.4 The event date should be determined in consultation with the Sport Director and should allow for competition cycles, climate, other major events, venue and accommodation availability.

1.3 Rules

The Virtus Athletics Championships will be governed by the rules of WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) with the approved variations by Virtus.

1.4 IF Sanctioning

Virtus Athletics Championships must seek sanction from the WPA. Virtus Athletics regional championships should seek sanction from the WPA. LOCs are responsible to meet the costs for sanctioning and administration of the process.

The involvement and sanction of the National Federation is essential to ensure a successful event.

1.5 Inspection Visit

The LOC will be supported by the Virtus Sport Director (or nominated Virtus Athletics Committee Member) who will give advice and guidance throughout the planning and delivery processes. Further support will be given by the Virtus Sports Manager, Technical Officer and other Committees as required.

The Sport Director (or representative) may undertake a one or two day inspection visit at least 6 months prior to the event which will include a visit to the competition and training venue(s), accommodation and time will also be available for competition related discussions.

The LOC will be responsible for all costs relating to the visit including travel, accommodation and catering costs.

1.6 Events

For the Virtus Championships the programme of events will be as per Section 1 Athletics Sport Specification.

1.7 Event Timetable

The competition will be run over 5 (five) competition days with additional days for classification, training, arrivals and departures as below.

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	-3 Days	-2 Days	-1 Day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
Arrivals									
Training									
Classification									
Technical Meeting									
Competition									
Opening Ceremony									
Closing Ceremony									
Departure									

Additional training days prior to competition can be made available should the LOC and teams agree.

The Opening Ceremony can also be held Day -1.
 Classification can also take place Day -3 instead of Day -1.

1.8 Competition Schedule

The Competition schedule should be planned in conjunction with the Virtus Sport Director with up to two sessions per day.

1.9 Entry Quotas

1.9.1 Each member organisation shall be entitled to a maximum of 3 (three) entries per individual event.

1.9.2 Each member organisation shall be entitled to enter 1 (one) team per relay event.

1.10 Medals

Medals will be awarded to the players/teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each event.

In the exceptional case an event is competed by only three (3) or less athletes, medals will be awarded applying the “MQS rule”.

1.11 Qualification Criteria

Entry is open to all Virtus Member Organisations in good standing.

Minimum qualification standards (MQS) will be published by Virtus ahead of each Championships.

1.12 Technical Meeting

The Technical Meeting will take place the day prior to competition to discuss all important details concerning the competition and organisation. It is compulsory for each participating nation to attend. Each nation can send up to two persons (Head Coach and/or Team Manager) to the meeting.

1.13 Team Composition & Delegations

There is no limit to the number of athletes a nation may bring though as per section 1.9 each nation is limited to 3 entries per individual event.

Each competing nation may in addition to the athletes bring 1 Team Manager, 1 Head Coach, 1 medic/physio and support staff at a ratio of 1:4 athletes.

1.14 Team Competition (only for II1 competition)

According to the Virtus guidelines and in order to encourage nations to participate, the Virtus World Championships will have both, individual and team competition per sex (male and female).

In the Team Competition each competing nation only is classified one (1) athlete per event (the best classified in the individual competition)

Only nations with a minimum of 3 participant's athletes per sex are eligible to participate in the Team Competition of this sex (male or female).

The classification system for Team Competition is:

- a) n points for 1st classified;
- b) n-1 points for 2nd classified;
- c) n-2 points for 3rd classified, and so on for other places, where (n) is the number of nations eligible for participation in the Team Competition per sex.

Example: Male Competition, 12 participating countries

- 1st 12 points
- 2nd 11 points
- 3rd 10 points
-
- 12th 1 point

1.15 Athlete Sport Equipment & Clothing Regulations

Only recognised Athletics clothing may be worn during races.

1.16 Disciplines & Sanctions

WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) and/or WPA - World Para Athletics apply.

1.17 Technical Officials

The following International and National Technical Officials must be appointed to the event:

Role	Number	Qualification	Appointed By
tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd

The Head Referee must arrive the morning prior to competition to inspect the facilities and work with the LOC and Sport Director to finalise the competition schedule.

The Referees must arrive at least the afternoon/evening day prior to competition to be briefed by the Sport Director and Head Referee and familiarise themselves with the facilities.

1.18 Sport Specific Volunteers

Trained sport specific volunteers should be recruited to support the delivery of the Championships in the following roles:

Role	Number
tbd	tbd

1.19 Facilities

1.19.1 Track and field events areas must be WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) standard and approved by the host country's National Governing Body of Athletics.

1.19.2 They should be floodlit with a surround that provides for team and spectator seating.

1.19.3 The following spaces should be provided for athletes and team officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Athlete Lounge
- Reserved seating area

1.19.4 The following spaces should be provided for officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Lounge/rest area
- Reserved seating area

1.19.5 Spectator seating

- Adequate seating should be available outside the competition and warm up fields of play for team members and spectators.

1.19.6 The following spaces should be provided to run the competition

- Competition management office including space for Sport Director and Referee to work (with internet connection).

1.19.7 Drinking water must be provided during training and competition for athletes, coaches, technical officials and volunteers.

1.19.8 Ice should be made available for athletes requiring it post competition.

1.20 Training Facilities

In addition training facilities should be provided and wherever possible located close to the accommodation venues. Training facilities should be available prior to and during the championships.

1.21 Classification

For Virtus Athletics Championships LOCs must apply to the IPC for classification evaluation at the event. For Virtus regional Athletics Championships LOCs should liaise with Virtus to agree whether this should be provided.

Where it is agreed with Virtus and the WPA for classification evaluation to take place at the event all administration and costs must be covered by the LOC.

2 Event Specification for Indoor Athletics

2.1 Event Title

For Virtus World Championship events the title of the event is the "[Year] Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships", for example "2020 Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships".

For Virtus regional championship events the title of the event is the "[Year] Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships - [Region]" for example "2021 Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships - Europe".

2.2 Event Date

- 2.2.1 Virtus Indoor Athletics world championships will be scheduled every two years.
- 2.2.2 Virtus Indoor Athletics regional championships will be scheduled every two years in the years in which a world championship is not held.
- 2.2.3 Virtus Championships must be scheduled at least 6 weeks before or after WPA World or Regional Championships or Paralympic Games if held in the same year.
- 2.2.4 The event date should be determined in consultation with the Sport Director and should allow for competition cycles, climate, other major events, venue and accommodation availability.

2.3 Rules

The Virtus Indoor Athletics Championships will be governed by the rules of WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) with the approved variations by Virtus.

2.4 IF Sanctioning

Virtus Indoor Athletics world championships must seek sanction from the IPC. Virtus Athletics Indoor regional championships should seek sanction from the WPA. LOCs are responsible to meet the costs for sanctioning and administration of the process.

The involvement and sanction of the National Federation is essential to ensure a successful event.

2.5 Inspection Visit

The LOC will be supported by the Virtus Sport Director (or nominated Virtus Athletics Committee Member) who will give advice and guidance throughout the planning and delivery processes. Further support will be given by the Virtus Sports Manager, Technical Officer and other Committees as required.

The Sport Director (or representative) may undertake a one or two day inspection visit at least 6 months prior to the event which will include a visit to the competition and training venue(s), accommodation and time will also be available for competition related discussions.

The LOC will be responsible for all costs relating to the visit including travel, accommodation and catering costs.

2.6 Events

For the Virtus Championships the programme of events will be as per Section 1 Athletics Sport Specification.

2.7 Event Timetable

The competition will be run over 3 (three) competition days with additional days for classification (where appropriate), training, arrivals and departures as below.

	-2 Days	-1 Day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Arrivals						
Training						
Classification						
Technical Meeting						
Competition						
Opening Ceremony						
Closing Ceremony						

Departure						
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Additional training days prior to competition can be made available should the LOC and teams agree.

The Opening Ceremony can also be held Day -1.

Where appropriate classification can also take place Day -3 instead of Day -1.

2.8 Competition Schedule

The Competition schedule should be planned in conjunction with the Virtus Sport Director with up to two sessions per day.

2.9 Entry Quotas

2.9.1 Each member organisation shall be entitled to a maximum of 3 (three) entries per individual event.

2.9.2 Each member organisation shall be entitled to enter 1 (one) team per relay event.

2.10 Medals

Medals will be awarded to the players/teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each event.

Medals will be awarded to the players/teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each event.

In the exceptional case an event is competed by only three (3) or less athletes, medals will be awarded applying the "MQS rule".

2.11 Qualification Criteria

Entry is open to all Virtus Member Organisations in good standing.

Minimum qualification standards (MQS) will be published by Virtus ahead of each Championships.

2.12 Technical Meeting

The Technical Meeting will take place the day prior to competition to discuss all important details concerning the competition and organisation. It is compulsory for each participating nation to attend. Each nation can send up to two persons (Head Coach and/or Team Manager) to the meeting.

2.13 Team Composition & Delegations

There is no limit to the number of athletes a nation may bring though as per section 2.9 each nation is limited to 3 entries per individual event.

Each competing nation may in addition to the athletes bring 1 Team Manager, 1 Head Coach, 1 medic/physio and support staff at a ratio of 1:4 athletes.

2.14 Team Competition (only for II1 competition)

According the Virtus guidelines and in order to encourage nations to participate, the Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships will have both, individual and team competition per sex (male and female).

In the Team Competition each competing nation only is classified one (1) athlete per event (the best classified in the individual competition)

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Only nations with a minimum of 3 participant's athletes per sex are eligible to participate in the Team Competition of this sex (male or female).

The classification system for Team Competition is:

- a) n points for 1st classified;
- b) n-1 points for 2nd classified;
- c) n-2 points for 3rd classified, and so on for other places, where (n) is the number of nations eligible for participation in the Team Competition per sex.

Example: Male Competition, 12 participating countries

- 1st 12 points
- 2nd 11 points
- 3rd 10 points
-
- 12th 1 point

2.15 Athlete Sport Equipment & Clothing Regulations

Only recognised Athletics clothing may be worn during races.

2.16 Disciplines & Sanctions

WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) and/or WPA - World Para Athletics apply.

2.17 Technical Officials

The following International and National Technical Officials must be appointed to the event:

Role	Number	Qualification	Appointed By
tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd

The Head Referee must arrive the morning prior to competition to inspect the facilities and work with the LOC and Sport Director to finalise the competition schedule.

The Referees must arrive at least the afternoon/evening day prior to competition to be briefed by the Sport Director and Head Referee and familiarise themselves with the facilities.

2.18 Sport Specific Volunteers

Trained sport specific volunteers should be recruited to support the delivery of the Championships in the following roles:

Role	Number
tbd	tbd

2.19 Facilities

2.19.1 Track and field events areas must be WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) standard and approved by the host country's National Governing Body of Athletics.

2.19.2 They should be floodlit with a surround that provides for team and spectator seating.

2.19.3 The following spaces should be provided for athletes and team officials

- Male and female changing rooms

- Athlete Lounge
- Reserved seating area

2.19.4 The following spaces should be provided for officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Lounge/rest area
- Reserved seating area

2.19.5 Spectator seating

- Adequate seating should be available outside the competition and warm up fields of play for team members and spectators.

2.19.6 The following spaces should be provided to run the competition

- Competition management office including space for Sport Director and Referee to work (with internet connection).

2.19.7 Drinking water must be provided during training and competition for athletes, coaches, technical officials and volunteers.

2.19.8 Ice should be made available for athletes requiring it post competition.

2.20 Training Facilities

In addition training facilities should be provided and wherever possible located close to the accommodation venues. Training facilities should be available prior to and during the championships.

2.21 Classification

For Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships LOCs can apply to the WPA for classification evaluation at the event and should liaise with Virtus if they wish to.

Where it is agreed with Virtus and the WPA for classification evaluation to take place at the event all administration and costs must be covered by the LOC.

3 Event Specification for Cross Country

3.1 Event Title

For World Championship events the title of the event is the “[Year] Virtus World Cross Country Championships”, for example “2021 Virtus World Cross Country Championships”.

For Regional Championship events the title of the event is the “[Year] Virtus [Region] Cross Country Championships” for example “2022 Virtus Americas Cross Country Championships”.

3.2 Event Date

3.2.1 Virtus World Cross Country Championships will be scheduled every two years.

3.2.2 Regional Championships will be scheduled every two years in the year in which World Championships are not held.

3.2.3 Virtus Championships must be scheduled at least 6 weeks before or after WPA World or Regional Championships or Paralympic Games if held in the same year.

3.2.4 The event date should be determined in consultation with the Sport Director and should allow for competition cycles, climate, other major events, venue and accommodation availability.

3.3 Rules

The Virtus Cross Country Championships will be governed by the rules of WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) with the approved variations by Virtus.

3.4 IF Sanctioning

There is currently no need to seek WPA sanction for Virtus Cross Country Championships.

The involvement and sanction of the National Federation is essential to ensure a successful event.

3.5 Inspection Visit

The LOC will be supported by the Virtus Sport Director (or nominated Virtus Athletics Committee Member) who will give advice and guidance throughout the planning and delivery processes. Further support will be given by the Virtus Sports Manager, Technical Officer and other Committees as required.

The Sport Director (or representative) may undertake a one or two day inspection visit at least 6 months prior to the event which will include a visit to the competition and training venue(s), accommodation and time will also be available for competition related discussions.

The LOC will be responsible for all costs relating to the visit including travel, accommodation and catering costs.

3.6 Events

For the Virtus Championships the programme of events will be as per Section 1 Athletics Sport Specification.

3.7 Event Timetable

The competition will be run over 2 (two) competition days with additional days for arrivals, training and departures as below.

	-2 Days	-1 Day	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Arrivals					
Training					
Technical Meeting					
Competition					
Opening Ceremony					
Closing Ceremony					
Departure					

Additional training days prior to competition can be made available should the LOC and teams agree.

The Opening Ceremony can also be held Day -1.

3.8 Competition Schedule

The Competition schedule should be planned in conjunction with the Virtus Sport Director.

3.9 Entry Quotas

There is no entry limit. Member organisations can enter as many athletes as they wish into Championship events.

3.10 Event Viability Criteria

Events will be considered viable if they have a minimum of three (3) eligible players/pairs from two (2) different nations.

3.11 Medals

Medals will be awarded to the players/teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each race.

3.12 Qualification Criteria

Entry is open to all Virtus Member Organisations in good standing.

There are no minimum qualification standards for Virtus Cross Country Championships.

3.13 Technical Meeting

The Technical Meeting will take place the day prior to competition to discuss all important details concerning the competition and organisation. It is compulsory for each participating nation to attend. Each nation can send up to two persons (Head Coach and/or Team Manager) to the meeting.

3.14 Team Composition & Delegations

Each competing nation may in addition to the athletes bring 1 Team Manager, 1 Head Coach, 1 medic/physio and support staff at a ratio of 1:3 athletes.

3.15 Team Competition

By points, according to the sum of the places of the 3 best athletes classified per nation.

3.16 Athlete Sport Equipment & Clothing Regulations

Only recognised Athletics clothing may be worn during races.

3.17 Disciplines & Sanctions

WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) and/or WPA - World Para Athletics apply.

3.18 Technical Officials

The following International and National Technical Officials must be appointed to the event:

Role	Number	Qualification	Appointed By
tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd

The Head Referee must arrive the morning prior to competition to inspect the facilities and work with the LOC and Sport Director to finalise the competition schedule.

The Referees must arrive at least the afternoon/evening day prior to competition to be briefed by the Sport Director and Head Referee and familiarise themselves with the facilities.

3.19 Sport Specific Volunteers

Trained sport specific volunteers should be recruited to support the delivery of the Championships in the following roles:

Role	Number
tbd	tbd

3.20 Facilities

3.20.1 The course and facilities must be WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) standard and approved by the host country's National Governing Body of Athletics.

3.20.2 The following spaces should be provided for athletes and team officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Athlete Lounge
- Reserved seating area

3.20.3 The following spaces should be provided for officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Lounge/rest area
- Reserved seating area

3.20.4 The following spaces should be provided to run the competition

- Competition management office including space for Sport Director and Referee to work (with internet connection).

3.20.5 Drinking water must be provided during training and competition for athletes, coaches, technical officials and volunteers.

3.20.6 Ice should be made available for athletes requiring it post competition.

3.21 Training Facilities

In addition training facilities should be provided and wherever possible located close to the accommodation venues. Training facilities should be available prior to and during the championships.

4 Event Specification for Half Marathon

4.1 Event Title

For Virtus World Half Marathon Championship events the title of the event is the "[Year] Virtus World Half Marathon Championships", for example "2020 Virtus World Half Marathon Championships".

For Virtus Regional Half Marathon Championship events the title of the event is the "[Year] Virtus [Region] Half Marathon Championships" for example "2021 Virtus African Half Marathon Championships".

4.2 Event Date

4.2.1 Virtus World Half Marathon Championships will be scheduled every two years.

4.2.2 Virtus Regional Half Marathon Championships will be scheduled every two years in the year in which World Championships are not held.

4.2.3 Virtus Championships must be scheduled at least 6 weeks before or after WPA World or Regional Championships or Paralympic Games if held in the same year.

4.2.4 The event date should be determined in consultation with the Sport Director and should allow for competition cycles, climate, other major events, venue and accommodation availability.

4.3 Rules

The Virtus Half Marathon Championships will be governed by the rules of WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) with the approved variations by Virtus.

There is currently no need to seek WPA sanction for Virtus Half Marathon Championships.

The involvement and sanction of the National Federation is essential to ensure a successful event.

Virtus Championships may be held on conjunction with other Half Marathon events, e.g. another elite or mass participation half marathon event.

4.4 Inspection Visit

The LOC will be supported by the Virtus Sport Director (or nominated Virtus Athletics Committee Member) who will give advice and guidance throughout the planning and delivery processes. Further support will be given by the Virtus Sports Manager, Technical Officer and other Committees as required.

The Sport Director (or representative) may undertake a one or two day inspection visit at least 6 months prior to the event which will include a visit to the competition and training venue(s), accommodation and time will also be available for competition related discussions.

The LOC will be responsible for all costs relating to the visit including travel, accommodation and catering costs.

4.5 Events

For the Virtus Championships the programme of events will be as per Section 1 Athletics Sport Specification.

4.6 Event Timetable

The competition will be run over 1 (one) competition day with additional days for arrivals, training and departures as below.

	-2 Days	-1 Day	Day 1	Day 2
Arrivals				
Training				
Technical Meeting				
Competition				
Opening Ceremony				
Closing Ceremony				
Departure				

Additional training days prior to competition can be made available should the LOC and teams agree.

The Opening Ceremony can also be held Day -1.

4.7 Competition Schedule

The Competition schedule should be planned in conjunction with the Virtus Sport Director.

4.8 Entry Quotas

There is no entry limit. Member organisations can enter as many athletes as they wish into Championship events.

4.9 Medals

Medals will be awarded to the players/teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each event.

4.10 Qualification Criteria

Entry is open to all Virtus Member Organisations in good standing.

There are no minimum qualification standards for Virtus Half Marathon Championships.

4.11 Technical Meeting

The Technical Meeting will take place the day prior to competition to discuss all important details concerning the competition and organisation. It is compulsory for each participating nation to attend. Each nation can send up to two persons (Head Coach and/or Team Manager) to the meeting.

4.12 Team Composition & Delegations

Each competing nation may in addition to the athletes bring 1 Team Manager, 1 Head Coach, 1 medic/physio and support staff at a ratio of 1:3 athletes.

4.13 Team Competition

By total time of the team, according to the sum of the individual times achieved by the 3 best athletes classified per nation.

4.14 Athlete Sport Equipment & Clothing Regulations

Only recognised Athletics clothing may be worn during races.

4.15 Technical Officials

The following International and National Technical Officials must be appointed to the event:

Role	Number	Qualification	Appointed By
tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd

The Head Referee must arrive the morning prior to competition to inspect the facilities and work with the LOC and Sport Director to finalise the competition schedule.

The Referees must arrive at least the afternoon/evening day prior to competition to be briefed by the Sport Director and Head Referee and familiarise themselves with the facilities.

4.16 Sport Specific Volunteers

Trained sport specific volunteers should be recruited to support the delivery of the Championships in the following roles:

Role	Number
tbd	tbd

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4.17 Facilities

4.17.1 The course and facilities must be WA - World Athletics (former IAAF) standard and approved by the host country's National Governing Body of Athletics.

4.17.2 The following spaces should be provided for athletes and team officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Athlete Lounge
- Reserved seating area

4.17.3 The following spaces should be provided for officials

- Male and female changing rooms
- Lounge/rest area
- Reserved seating area

4.17.4 The following spaces should be provided to run the competition

- Competition management office including space for Sport Director and Referee to work (with internet connection).

4.17.5 Drinking water must be provided during training and competition for athletes, coaches, technical officials and volunteers.

4.17.6 Ice should be made available for athletes requiring it post competition.

4.18 Training Facilities

In addition training facilities should be provided and wherever possible located close to the accommodation venues. Training facilities should be available prior to and during the championships.

5 Generic Competition Information

5.1 Entry Process

Preliminary entry information should be available 12 months before the date of the Opening Ceremony and final entry information 9 months before, giving full details and costs associated with the event.

For World Championships entry will be managed via the Virtus Sports Management system. The LOC will be given access to the system to manage entries and information.

For other events the Virtus Sports Manager System can be used. Alternatively LOC managed entry should be via an online entry system that is user-friendly and if possible, available in multiple languages. This should be supported by a paper-entry system for nations who have difficulty accessing the internet.

A full list of entrants should be available in excel format for key partner agencies within 2 weeks of the final entry deadline.

5.2 Entry fees

Fees to participants may be charged, however it should be remembered that many athletes will find it difficult to raise funds and therefore the cost of the event should be considered carefully.

Sponsorship may be raised, in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Virtus Handbook.

A capitation fee (level to be determined by Virtus) must be added to the cost of the event and may not be used to cover the cost of the event.

Virtus will charge a small online entry fee to cover administration costs of the Virtus Sports Management System which will be agreed with the LOC and included in the entry fee.

Entry fees will normally be made in 3 separate payments:

- 30% at first entry deadline, payable to LOC and may be held as a deposit organisers in accordance with the schedule below.
- 70% at final entry deadline, payable to the LOC.

Virtus advises all LOC's to establish a clear cancellation policy and to publish this within the entry pack.

5.3 Communication

A Team Handbook must be developed and published approximately 3 months before the event containing all key event information.

During competition, an effective communication system should be installed to ensure teams receive accurate and timely information.

All information relating to the event (including printed and electronic formats) must be presented in English. Where possible, information should be available in additional languages.

5.4 Results

An efficient and accurate competition schedule and results management service is essential throughout the event. Organisers should ensure that results of events are published 'live' to the event website.

By the close of the event, a full results list should be available.

A full copy of results should be sent to the Virtus Head office (in pdf format) immediately upon conclusion of the event.

6 Eligibility & Classification

6.1 Eligibility

All national teams shall be eligible to participate, provided that their Member Organisation is in good standing with Virtus, and the entry is sanctioned by the National Member Organisation.

Virtus will manage the primary eligibility process and will regularly update the Virtus Master List. All athletes entering the event must appear as 'Active' on the Virtus Master List no later than the final entry deadline. Applications for new athletes must be submitted to Virtus as soon as possible.

All eligibility entries to Virtus must be in 12 weeks before the competition start date.

Athletes who do not meet the qualifying criteria or do not appear on the Virtus Master List as 'Active' are not eligible for this event.

There is no 'guest' entry.

The LOC will be responsible for ensuring all athletes are eligible to compete. This includes:

- Appearance on the Virtus Master List no later than the final entry deadline (all athletes)

- N, R or C sports classification status (in sports incorporating sports classification)
- All sports rules and regulations regarding minimum age, nationality etc (all athletes)

Insert any IF eligibility requirements e.g. IF licence

6.2 Classification

As per the above the LOC will be responsible for ensuring all athletes are eligible to compete within events requiring an N, R or C classification status.

As per the Outdoor Athletics Championship specifications, for Virtus Athletics Championships LOCs must apply to the WPA for classification evaluation at the event. For Virtus regional Athletics Championships LOCs should liaise with Virtus to agree whether this should be provided.

As per the Indoor Athletics Championship specifications, for Virtus Athletics Indoor Championships LOCs can apply to the WPA for classification evaluation at the event and should liaise with Virtus if they wish to.

Where it is agreed with Virtus and the WPA for classification evaluation to take place at the event all administration and costs must be covered by the LOC.

7 Officials, Staffing & Volunteers

7.1 WPA Technical Delegate

The Virtus Athletics Director will take the role to co-operate with the WPA Technical Delegate nominated for the event. The WPA Technical Delegate and the Virtus Athletics Director are the highest authorities with regards to technical matters within each event.

7.2 Virtus Sport Director

The Virtus Sport Director will attend the event and be the lead on all technical matters and will act as the highest authority with regards to technical decisions.

The LOC is responsible for meeting the cost of travel (ie. flights), accommodation, transport and per diem expenses of Virtus Sport Director.

7.3 Virtus Official Representative

Virtus will normally appoint an Official Representative - a member of the Governing Board - to the event.

The LOC is responsible for meeting the cost of travel (ie. flights), accommodation, transport and per diem expenses of the Official Representative.

The Official Representative will take final decisions on all matters except those that are of a sports technical nature (and in so far not put before the Accreditation Committee) as much as possible in consultation with the technical delegate, the organising committee and team leaders. They shall also chair the Accreditation Committee and take a prime role in all protocol matters.

7.4 Virtus Sports Manager

The Virtus Sports Manager will normally attend World Championship events.

The LOC is responsible for meeting the cost of travel (ie. flights), accommodation, transport and per diem expenses of the Virtus Sports Manager.

The Sports Manager will be present at the event to support the Technical Director, Sport Director, Officials Representative and LOC where required and liaise with the teams and officials to support growth and development of the sport.

7.5 Technical Officials

Qualified Technical Officials must be appointed to the event as detailed in the discipline specific regulations above.

The LOC is responsible for meeting the cost of travel (ie. flights), accommodation, transport and per diem expenses for all officials.

8 Medical & Anti Doping

8.1 Medical

First aid and physiotherapy services must be made available for training and competition by the Organisers. An ambulance must be onsite during competition.

8.2 Doping Control

The Virtus Championships are subject to doping control testing. Appropriate facilities must be provided by the LOC in accordance with Virtus Anti-Doping Policy.

Any athlete requiring a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) has to send an TUE applications to the Virtus Anti-Doping Committee NO LESS THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE COMPETITION to tue@virtus.sport.

9 Event Operations

9.1 Accreditation

An accreditation system should be developed for all athletes, team staff, event staff, volunteers, officials, guests, media and other persons involved in the event. This should carry the persons photograph and details of their level of access.

An efficient system of presenting accreditation on arrival should be arranged.

9.2 Visas

Each competing nation is responsible for arranging for the necessary visas for their delegation. Where required the LOC will issue a letter of invitation to participating nations.

The LOC is responsible for applying and paying for the necessary visas for all appointed technical officials. They must ensure that applications are submitted by any deadline set by the diplomatic/consular authorities of the country to be visited.

9.3 Transportation

9.3.1 Athletes/Team Officials – All competing nations are responsible for the booking and cost of travel to the designated port of entry for the event. The LOC must provide transport to and from the designated port of entry and the accommodation, training and competition venues.

Arrangements should be made for athletes and staff to arrive at the venue 15 minutes prior to training sessions and 1.5 hours prior to competition.

9.3.2 Technical Officials - The schedule must guarantee that the officials arrive on venue a minimum one hour before the official start of each session.

9.4 Accommodation

It is normal for different standards of accommodation to be offered, however all accommodation should be of an appropriate standard and due care should be given to athlete welfare and protection issues. Accommodation for athletes, officials, volunteers and guests should be in the same general area but any media guests should be accommodated separately.

Accommodation should be located close to the arrival airport (ideally no more than 90 minutes in average traffic conditions) and include a number of accessible rooms.

Accommodation should be close to competition venues (no more than 30 minutes at peak traffic times) and include a number of accessible rooms.

9.5 Catering & refreshments

LOC's should provide all meals throughout the event including breakfast, lunch and evening meals ensuring religious/ethnic requirements and the nutritional requirements of athletes are observed.

Sufficient bottled water should be available at all training and competition venues throughout the event.

9.6 Security

The LOC are responsible for ensuring security measures to guarantee the safe and peaceful delivery of the event. The LOC should undertake a risk assessment in consultation with the relevant national and local authorities.

10 Ceremonies, Guests & Social Programme

10.1 Ceremonies and Receptions

Ceremonies are an opportunity to welcome delegations and guests, to showcase national culture and to launch or close the event in a positive spirit and atmosphere. It is mandatory to include an opportunity to raise/lower the Virtus flag and a welcome speech from the Virtus President.

Careful consideration should be given to athlete welfare regarding the timing, location and length of the ceremony. It should be close to the accommodation venue.

Additional Receptions may be considered for key guests, VIP's and sponsors.

10.2 Guests

Organisers are required to provide a VIP Guest hospitality programme. Organisers are required to ensure an appropriate accommodation venue is available for guests, and if possible, access to transport, competition venues and any social programme.

The guest list should be developed in consultation with the Sport Director.

Guests will normally attend at their own expense.

10.3 Social programme

A social programme may also be offered to participants. However it is important that the programme is sympathetic to the demands on elite athletes.

11 Branding, PR and Media

11.1 Branding and PR

The organisers are responsible for promoting the event in accordance with the branding guidelines set out in the Virtus Handbook.

All venues should be fully branded with the Virtus logo, and all printed materials, website and other marketing materials should ensure the Virtus logo is prominent.

11.2 Event Website

The organisers must create and maintain an event website, containing key information about the event. An event photographer must be arranged together with video footage of competition.

11.3 Media

Press releases should create a positive message regarding the spirit of the event maintain an athlete-centred approach. Copies of all press releases, news items, features, photos, videos and other media should be made available to Virtus upon completion of the event.

LOC's should take advantage of social media opportunities, including Twitter and Facebook to promote the event, Virtus, and sport for athletes with an intellectual disability.

12 Spectators & Ticketing

Event hosts should give careful consideration to how the event will be marketed to spectators, including arrangements for ticketing (whether paid or free tickets), and how spectator safety and enjoyment is carefully managed.

Tickets sales may be managed by the organisers or in conjunction with Virtus. Free tickets might ensure a larger crowd, adding to the atmosphere at events, whilst levying a charge will generate income towards the delivery of the event. In all cases, a ticket-management procedure should be put in place (this can be managed through the Virtus website).

Careful consideration should be given to how spectators will be managed within the venue including crowd safety, seating arrangements, commentary and public announcements, programme sales, access to refreshments and bathroom facilities, insurance, accreditation/access control, emergency planning.

13 Insurance, Finance & Contingency Planning

13.1 Event Hosting Fee

For World Championships an event hosting fee is payable to Virtus within 1 month of the completion of the event. The amount will be confirmed annually by Virtus.

13.2 Liability

The cost of hosting the event will entirely be met by the LOC and losses will not be underwritten by Virtus.

13.3 Insurance

All Team Members are obliged to have their own travel and medical insurance for the duration of the Championships.

The LOC must provide public liability insurance for the event and should consider cancellation insurance. Virtus advises all LOC's to establish a clear cancellation policy and to publish this within the entry pack.

13.4 Event Proceeds

Any financial surplus resulting from the hosting of the Championships will be distributed 50% to the LOC and 50% to Virtus.

13.5 Emergency Planning

LOC's should develop clear emergency procedures in the event of a major accident or emergency at all accommodation and training venues. This includes protocols for managing the immediate situation, ensuring the support of emergency services, for liaison and coordination with Virtus staff, and for management of media.

The plan should be developed in consultation with Virtus and made available to key staff within the LOC.

13.6 Contingency Planning

Despite the very best planning, there will often be unforeseen circumstances that arise during the planning and delivery of a major event. It is important therefore that LOC's give consideration to contingency and backup plans in respect of essential event areas to ensure successful delivery.

Examples might include:

- Problems regarding venue and facility availability,
- Loss of a key sponsor or income source
- A power failure or loss of internet impeding communication
- Accommodation availability problems
- A key member of staff or volunteer falling ill

14 Post Event

14.1 Post Event Report

On completion of the event, the Organisers will provide a short report detailing an overview of the event and a full statement of income and expenditure.

14.2 Final Results

The Organisers will be responsible for providing the Secretariat with an electronic copy of the event results. This should be done on a daily basis, with a full copy of results on completion of the event.