



M/36/20
Monaco, 11 August 2020

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

Re: **Tokyo 2020 - qualification for Marathons and Race Walks in September–November 2020**

Dear all,

On 28 July 2020 (reference Circular M/30/20), World Athletics announced the lifting of the suspension of the Tokyo Olympic qualification period for the marathon and race walk events from 1 September 2020 onwards. This is limited to the achievement of the Entry Standard only; the accrual of points for World Rankings and the automatic qualification through placing at Gold/ Platinum label marathons remains suspended until 30 November 2020.

During this period from 1 September to 30 November 2020 inclusive, athletes will be able to register Olympic qualifying entry standards only in races which have been pre-identified and advertised, and which have been authorised by a Member Federation (and/or are part of a World Athletics circuit – e.g., Label Road Races) with in-competition drug testing on site conducted according to World Athletics requirements.

Member Federations whose athletes intend to attempt the Olympic qualification in such races, must notify the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) of the name of the athlete(s) and race (name, date and venue) where they intend to compete. This will ensure that appropriate out-of-competition, and in-competition, testing can be programmed and arranged as required. For athletes planning to race in September 2020, time is limited and it is essential that this notification be made as soon as possible. For athletes competing in October and November, the AIU must be notified no later than 6 weeks prior to the race date. The AIU will, in turn, confirm whether the athlete's testing is in compliance with the requirements and identify the athlete as eligible for Olympic qualification, notifying the race organiser and Member Federation accordingly. Please notify the AIU by email to: thomas.capdevielle@athleticsintegrity.org.

With the exception of World Athletics Label Road Races, Member Federations who intend to organise, in the period 1 September to 30 November 2020, marathon or race walk competitions eligible for Olympic qualification, must submit an application to World Athletics using the Application Form included in Appendix 1. For races in September, the form must be submitted as soon as possible to guarantee sufficient time for review and approval. For races in October and November, the form must be submitted by **31 August 2020**. Please email the Application Form to: events@worldathletics.org.

World Athletics, in cooperation with the AIU, will validate the applications and publish the list of these pre-identified races on the World Athletics website at the beginning of September. This published list will be available to all Member Federations and athletes and will include only the marathon and race walk races in which it will be possible for athletes to achieve the qualification through Entry Standard for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 in the period 1 September to 30 November 2020.

As announced in the press release on 28 July 2020 (available [here](#)), one of our Platinum Label Road Races, the **Virgin Money London Marathon**, due to take place on Sunday **4 October 2020**, has committed to promote this



qualification opportunity to athletes around the world and we are pleased to provide the following eligibility criteria agreed with the Race Organiser for athletes' entry:

1. Presently not qualified for the Olympic marathon
2. Achieved the following times in the period 2019-2020:
 - a. Marathon: sub 2:15:00 (men) and sub 2:34:00 (women)
 - b. Half Marathon: sub 1:02:30 (men) and sub 1:11:30 (women)
3. The fields will be limited to 50 athletes per race. If more than 50 eligible athletes apply, the entries will be selected based on:
 - a. Marathon entry time
 - b. Half Marathon entry time
4. Special consideration will be given to Area diversity

In addition, please note the following:

1. The invitation is for the athlete only, no accompanying person will be permitted as part of the invitation
2. The respective Member Federations will be responsible for covering the athletes' travel
3. All invitations are at the discretion of the Race Organiser (London Marathon Events Ltd)
4. Accommodation will be provided by the Race Organiser at the elite athletes' hotel

Deadline and contact:

Closing date for submitting entry applications is **23 August 2020**. After this date no invitations will be considered by the Race Organiser. For further information please contact: Spencer Barden, London Marathon at: spencer.barden@londonmarathonevents.co.uk.

If you have questions concerning the qualification period for Marathons and Race Walk events for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, please send them to events@worldathletics.org.

Kind regards,

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

Jon Ridgeon
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix: Road Race Application Form (under separate cover)