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### American Volkssport Association Agenda Item Suggestion

**Proposed Motion –**

We move that AVA allow local clubs to purchase their own stamps. When they have an event the AVA would only send the rubber parts needed for the event. This should be less expensive to mail.

When the club no longer needs the stamp, they could return it to AVA for full or partial payment. They could also sell or give it to another club, or a new club starting out.

We also request that all stamps be sent out to clubs be painted black. This would eliminate the charge of \$15.00 for ink on the stamp.

**Summary of Proposed Action:**

This would allow be a less expensive to mail stamps

In painting all stamps black that are sent out, it would remove an area of tension between the AVA office and clubs. Also when returning a stamp from a year round event, the club has no control over how much ink is on the stamp.

**Submitted by:**

Craig Gauger

**Seconded by:**

Linda Neu

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Northwest	Rocky Mountain	South Central	Southeast	Southwest		



## American Volkssport Association

### Agenda Item Form

#### **Proposed Motion –**

I propose that we change AVA Policy to allow AVA credit for shorter distances than 5 km when appropriate, and modify the 10 km requirement from "must have" to "should have". The RD would be the approval authority for sanctioning walks that do not have a 10 km option, or that have distances less than 5 km.

Reason: We have an aging core of walkers who can no longer do a 5 km walk but still want to participate. We also plan to reach out to other groups (Special Needs, youth, charity fundraising events) that might not be able to handle a 5 km walk, much less a 10 km walk. This would more truly demonstrate our Mission to "Promote and organize noncompetitive fitness activities that encourage lifelong fun, fitness and friendship for all ages and abilities."

#### **We move that:**

See next page.

**Summary of Proposed Action:**

This change would be made to the AVA Policy Manual:

Page 17, 4.02, Traditional Volkssporting IVV Events, para I.A.1. Currently reads:  
Sponsoring clubs must offer at least one short and one medium distance at an event.

Proposed to read: Sponsoring clubs should offer at at least one short and one medium distance at an event. In special circumstances (Special Needs, youth, Silver Sneakers, etc) an RD can sanction an event with a less than short distance walk.

**Submitted by:**

Susan Medlin, Southwest Regional Director

**Seconded by:**

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**Agenda Item Form**

**Proposed Motion –**

There is a need to clean up existing walk (or other sport) directions to meet the guidelines presented in the Trailmaster Certification Guide. Many walks are great walks, but were never done using the current recommended guidelines. A more consistent and standardized presentation of directions makes AVA look sharp. If we want to attract newcomers, we have to present our product in the best possible way.

There is a need to create more events which are interesting, inviting, safe, attractive and accommodating of newcomers. Certified Trailmasters create better events and write better directions.

There is a need to support clubs with information and training at the local and regional level which cannot be met by Regional Directors or training offerings every two years at Convention.

I propose that current Certified Trailmasters enhance the AVA product by being allowed to mentor and certify AVA Associate members who wish to work through the Trailmaster handbook and become certified.

**We move that:**

current Certified Trailmasters enhance the AVA product by being allowed to mentor and certify AVA Associate members who wish to work through the Trailmaster handbook and become certified.

**Submitted by:**

Marie Weber

**Seconded by:**

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## American Volkssport Association

### Agenda Item Suggestion

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Free Walkers

#### **Proposed Motion –**

Clubs will continue to be allowed to have "Free Walkers" but they must pay the Participation Report After Action Fee for every participant.

An exception would be made for Clubs that exist solely to put on an annual volkssport event for an organization and the "Club President" is an employee of that organization

#### **We move that:**

Effective January 1, 2017, Clubs may continue to allow "Free Walkers" but they must pay a Participation Report After Action Fee of \$1.25 (would be raised to \$2.00 if the motion to increase the fee for IVV credit from \$3.00 to \$4.00 is approved as proposed) for every participant. The coupons from the New Walker Packets would continue to be accepted in lieu of the fee. The club would report participants as "Award, Credit, or Non-IVV".

An exception would be made for clubs that are affiliated with an organization and exist solely to sanction an annual volksmarch and the "Club President" is an employee of that organization. The organization determines whether there are "Free Walkers" or not. The club would not report "Free Walkers" to AVA. An example is the Fort Belvoir-DFMW, AVA-0069, which sponsors a volksmarch every October as part of the Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest. Another example is the Cavalier Volkssporting Club, AVA-0958, which is affiliated with the Intramural-Recreation Sports Office of the University of Virginia. They sponsor an annual volksmarch at the end of April which is the culmination of a fitness program that encourages members of the University of Virginia Community to get out and walk.

**Summary of Proposed Action:**

These changes would be made to the AVA Policy Manual:

Page 36, 4.11 After Action Reporting, para II.B.1. Currently Reads:

1. Paid participants will include everyone who paid a fee to participate in the event. Paid participants will be reported as receiving an IVV award which includes IVV credit, IVV credit only, or not receiving either (This category is called non-IVV participant). Those paying no fee and receiving no award or credit are called Free.

Proposed to read:

1. Participants will include everyone who participates in the event. Participants will be reported as receiving an IVV award which includes IVV credit, IVV credit only, or not receiving either (This category is called non-IVV participant).

An exception would be made for clubs that are affiliated with an organization and exist solely to sanction an annual volksmarch and the "Club President" is an employee of that organization. The organization determines whether there are "Free" participants or not. The club does not report "Free" participants to AVA.

Page 40 Appendix B: AVA Fee Structure

Currently Reads: Participation Report After Action Fees (Per Paying Participant)

Proposed to Read: Participation Report After Action Fees (Per Participant)

**Submitted by:**

Tom Jackson, Atlantic Region Director

**Seconded by:**

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**American Volkssport Association  
Agenda Item Form**

**Proposed Motion** – The Florida Volkssport Association (FVA) proposes a change to AVA policy to allow Clubs, State Organizations, and RDs to receive sorted list(s) of AVA Associate (Annual and Life) Members in their respective geographic areas for the purposes of situational awareness, retention, seeking volunteer support, and formation of new clubs where none exist.

**We Move -**

That the AVA make available to Regional Directors (RD), State Organizations, and Club Presidents (through RDs) the list(s) of AVA Associates (Annual and Life Members), upon written request. An e-mail from a club (in good standing) President or State Association President to be endorsed and forwarded through the RD, or from an RD, will suffice as a written request.

Given that AVA’s attorney has determined that current AVA policy does not support the release of membership names and contact information due to “privacy concerns,” we move that all necessary changes in policy to resolve this issue by the creation of a Privacy Policy that will obtain the necessary consent of Associates through the annual renewal process or by directly contacting the membership (in the case of Life Members). Releasable list(s) would then consist of all those members who have consented explicitly to the release.

Finally, we move that these changes should start as soon as administratively feasible, and the Executive Director announce this timeframe and associated procedures to be followed in the AVA Checkpoint when ready.

**Submitted By – David Bonewitz, Southeast Region Director**

**Seconded By --**

### **Summary of Proposed Action –**

As elected officials in the AVA, Club Presidents, State Organizations, and RDs should have access to information on AVA members in their respective geographic areas. In the past, requests for membership list(s) in specific areas, sorted by zip codes or the like, have been honored. Recently though, this practice has been suspended based on advice from the AVA attorney that current AVA policy does not support the release of personal information.

“Sorted” membership list(s) will consist of members names and at least one form of contact information – mailing address or e-mail, within a defined geographic area consistent with the requester’s area of responsibility/oversight within the AVA.

The AVA is experiencing declining membership, declining numbers of clubs and declining participation in our events. Clubs, State Organizations, and RDs need any and all available tools to conduct marketing, recruiting, and retention actions aimed at stemming these declines, maintaining current members who may be isolated from the nearest club, identifying experienced volunteers, and identifying AVA Associates in geographic areas where clubs have previously folded and where formation of new clubs is desirable.

In particular, the challenge of starting a new club in an area absent of any bottom-up point-of-contact in that location would be greatly aided by reaching out to AVA members in that area. These members would have local knowledge of the area as well as some knowledge and experience with existing AVA programs and previous clubs. Identifying a local AVA member in such a location is a natural first step.

Language concerning opting out of the release of information and on the use of provided information should be added to the AVA membership / renewal application subject to attorney review. The section on use of the data might be as follows:

*Your name and contact information will only be used by the AVA for official business in conducting AVA programs, records, and administration. The AVA will not release, disclose, or sell your information to any 3<sup>rd</sup> parties or commercial interests.*

Availability of membership list(s) would provide the following value-added to Clubs, State Organizations, or RDs:

- Situational Awareness of all AVA members within their area of responsibility
- Ability to maintain contact with “orphaned” AVA members where clubs have closed and keep them informed of AVA events and activities
- Ability to seek volunteers to support AVA events and activities
- Ability to identify AVA members in areas without a nearby club in order to facilitate the process of club formation



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**American Volkssport Association  
Executive Council Agenda Item**

**Introduction of Business:**

**I move that:**

Effective July 1, 2016 paragraph 4.06 General Rules for Events II. E.2 be amended to read "Clubs are encouraged to provide for pre-registration fees and day-of-the-event fees; however, the fee for IVV credit-only will be no more than \$4.00" and that the Appendix B: Fee Structure as it relates to **Participation Report After Action Fees (Per Paying Participant) 30 Days** amount be raised from \$1.25 to \$2.00.

**Summary of Proposed Action:**

It has been more than ten (10) years since the walking fees were raised. Costs of the Headquarters staff and clubs have not depreciated and so it is obvious that to maintain and provide for the proper administration of our organization a minimal increase as designated above is called for. Seventy-five cents of the one dollar increase would go to AVA and twenty-five cents of the increase would stay with the clubs. This would have been presented at the last meeting but it was felt that the Strategic Plan Committee would address this issue which it did not.

**Motion Submitted By:**

Glen Conyers, South Central Regional Director

**Action:**

Motion Carried

Motion Failed