

ATHLETES' COMMISSION CHARTER



ATHLETES' COMMISSION CHARTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

1 / PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the AOC Athletes' Commission is to represent the views of athletes to the Australian Olympic Committee ("AOC") Executive.

2 / ROLE AND OBJECTIVES

2.1. The AOC Athletes' Commission shall advise the Executive on all matters relating to the Olympic Movement including, but without limiting the generality thereof, the IOC, the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees, the Olympic Museum, Olympic Solidarity, doping, eligibility, Olympic Village facilities, Olympic ceremonies, sport and politics.

In this context the AOC Athletes' Commission may:-

- (a) offer or give advice;
- (b) offer or give counsel;
- (c) offer an opinion;
- (d) make a recommendation;
- (e) consult; or
- (f) give information or notice;

to the AOC Executive on all matters relating to the Olympic Movement, particularly with respect of athletes.

- 2.2. Like all commissions and committees of the AOC, the Athletes' Commission does not enjoy independent legal status.
- 2.3. To the extent that the members of the AOC Athletes' Commission are elected by their peers they have a leadership role within the Olympic Movement.
- 2.4. They will always endeavour to be available to provide advice and support to athletes in their personal capacities.
- 2.5. In order to provide the best possible advice to the AOC Executive, the AOC Athletes' Commission wishes to increase awareness of its role among athletes in all sports on the Olympic program. They would like athletes to be aware that they can approach them on any matters relating to the Olympic Movement which they would like raised with the AOC Executive and, in particular, on athlete related issues.
- 2.6. The AOC Athletes' Commission encourages sports on the Olympic program to adopt "best practice" models and standards for athlete development. It will also advise the AOC Executive on how athletes can better access opportunities to improve their sporting performances while acknowledging that these matters are generally the responsibility of National Federation and the Australian and State Institutes and Academies of Sport.
- 2.7. As it is not the role of the AOC Athletes' Commission to advise the AOC Executive on matters which are the responsibility of National Federations they have encouraged athletes to seek a similar advisory role within their National Federations to that which the AOC Athletes' Commission enjoys within the AOC. The AOC Athletes' Commission may also nominate an Athlete for appointment to the Oceania National Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission.
- 2.8. For the Olympic and Olympic Winter Games, the AOC Executive delegates responsibility for its Olympic Team to the appointed Chef de Mission and Executive of the Teams. During the Games

the relationship between Team members and the IOC, Games Organising Committee, International Federations and the AOC is one founded on contract, being a combination of the Olympic Charter and By-Laws, entry form, International Federation Rules, AOC Constitution and By-Laws and their Team Membership Agreement. Accordingly, the AOC Athletes' Commission has no role during the Games. It also has no role in any nomination and selection disputes or any anti-doping or other disciplinary hearings or tribunals involving athletes.

3 / CURRENT MEMBERS

Alana BOYD	Athletics	2012, 2008
Cate CAMPBELL OAM	Swimming	2012, 2008
Ramone COOPER (Deputy Chair)	Freestyle Skiing	2010
Kimberley CROW (Chair)	Rowing	2012, 2008
Steven HOOKER OAM	Athletics	2012, 2008, 2004
Lydia LASSILA OAM	Freestyle Skiing	2014, 2010, 2006
Anna MEARES OAM	Cycling	2012, 2008, 2004
Lauren MITCHELL	Gymnastics	2012, 2008
James TOMKINS OAM*	Rowing	2008, 2004, 2000, 1996, 1992, 1988
Kenneth WALLACE OAM	Canoe Kayak	2012, 2008
Loudy WIGGINS	Diving	2012, 2004, 2000, 1996

** In addition to being an elected member of the AOC Athletes' Commission, James is also an ex-officio member by virtue of his position as a member of the IOC Athletes' Commission.*

4 / MEETINGS AND ADVICE

- 4.1. The Athletes' Commission meets 3 or 4 times (2 minimum) throughout the year and through the Chair and Deputy Chair, reports the outcomes of their meetings to the AOC Executive.
- 4.2. Each meeting includes consideration of reports and updates on relevant activities of the AOC and consequent advice or recommendations on issues of significance from the perspective of the Athletes' Commission.
- 4.3. The Athletes' Commission has provided advice to the Executive on a range of matters, including:-
 - AOC National Federation Nomination Criteria (templates) and AOC Selection Criteria (templates)
 - Team Membership Agreements for athletes and officials
 - Anti-Doping education and policy
 - Team Athlete Liaison Officers
 - Attitude seminars
 - AOC Programs and Funding Guidelines
 - Team Planning
 - Team behaviour protocols
 - Olympic Village facilities
 - Team outfitting
 - Team Processing

- The IOC
- The By-Laws of the AOC (on Olympic Team Selection, National Federation Commercial Activities, Anti-Doping and Ethical Behaviour)
- Environmental issues
- Privacy Policy

5 / COMPOSITION

5.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

“9.1 The Athletes’ Commission will comprise:

- (1) eight members elected at each Olympic Games by the athletes who are members of the Australian Olympic Team competing at those Olympic Games;
- (2) two members elected at each Olympic Winter Games by the athletes who are members of the Australian Olympic Winter Team competing at those Olympic Winter Games;
- (3) up to two members who may be appointed at any time by the Executive;
- (4) any member of the IOC Athletes’ Commission who is a citizen of Australia and who was nominated by the Committee to the IOC for election to such position; and
- (5) any member of the Athletes’ Commission of ONOC who is a citizen of Australia and who was nominated by the Committee to ONOC for election to such position.”

6 / ELIGIBILITY

6.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

“9.2 To be eligible for election or appointment to the Athletes’ Commission a person must be:

- (1) at least 18 years of age and must not have been sanctioned for a doping offence during his or her sports career;
- (2) in the case of an elected member:
 - (a) nominated by an Athletes’ Commission of a National Federation, provided the charter of the Athletes’ Commission has been approved by the Committee; and
 - (b) a participant in the Olympic Games or an Olympic Winter Games during which election is held or have participated at the previous Olympic Games or Olympic Winter Games;
- (3) In the case of an appointed member – a participant at either or both the previous two Olympic Games or the previous two Olympic Winter Games last staged before the appointment.

9.3 The persons elected at an:

- (1) Olympic Games must comprise not less than three males and not less than three females; and
- (2) Olympic Winter Games must comprise one of each sex,

and no more than one male and one female athlete from any one sport on the Olympic program may be elected or appointed to the Athletes’ Commission.”

7 / ELECTION PROCEDURES

7.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

- "9.4 Election of members of the Athletes' Commission will be conducted according to the following procedure:
- (1) At or prior to the Opening Ceremony each nominated athlete will advise the Chef de Mission of the Australian Olympic Team or Australian Olympic Winter Team (as the case may be) whether he or she is willing to be a candidate for election to the Athletes' Commission;
 - (2) The Chef de Mission will cause the names of each such candidate to be recorded on a voting form and distributed to each Team member who is an athlete. Only Team members who are athletes may vote;
 - (3) Each voter will place a mark on the list of candidates next to the names of the candidates whom the voter wishes to be elected. Each such mark will count as one vote for the candidate concerned. Should any voter vote for more than the number of candidates to be elected, then the voting paper and the votes recorded thereon will be void;
 - (4) Voting by proxy or by correspondence is not permitted;
 - (5) Voting must occur over at least three days and will close no later than the day before the Closing Ceremony. Voting will take place in the Olympic Village and at such other locations as the Chef de Mission considers appropriate;
 - (6) Subject to the requirements concerning the sex of members of the Athletes' Commission, the relevant number of highest polling candidates will be deemed to be elected to the Athletes' Commission. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the youngest candidate; and
 - (7) The Chef de Mission will announce the results of the election prior to the Closing Ceremony."

8 / TERM OF APPOINTMENTS

8.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

- "9.5 Subject to clause 24.4, each person elected at an Olympic Games will hold office from the commencement of the day after the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games at which election occurs and will cease to hold office at the conclusion of the day of the Closing Ceremony of the next succeeding Olympic Games."
- 9.6 Subject to clause 24.4, each person elected at an Olympic Winter Games will hold office from the commencement of the day after the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games at which election occurs and will cease to hold office at the conclusion of the day of the Closing Ceremony of the next succeeding Olympic Winter Games.
- 9.7 Subject to clause 24.4, each person appointed pursuant to clause 9.1(3) will hold office for a period of four years from the date of their appointment and any person holding office pursuant to:
- (1) clause 9.1(4) will hold office whilst and so long as he or she is a member of the IOC Athletes Commission; and
 - (2) clause 9.1(5) will hold office whilst and so long as he or she is a member of the Athletes' commission of ONOC."

9 / ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

9.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

- "9.8 Within two months of the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Games and within two months of the Closing Ceremony of the Olympic Winter Games (or by the next AOC Executive meeting, whichever is the earlier), the Athletes' Commission will meet and at that meeting elect their Chair and Deputy Chair who will each hold office until the next ensuing election according to this clause.
- 9.9 Persons of a different sex must hold the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair of the Athletes' Commission."

10 / VACANCIES

10.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

- "9.10 In the event of any vacancy occurring on the Athletes' Commission through death, removal or resignation, the following procedures will apply:
- (1) The person eligible for appointment under clause 9.2 who received the next highest number of votes in the ballots at the election conducted according to clause 9.4 procedures and, subject to the conditions set out in clause 9.3, will be automatically appointed for the balance of the term of the member he or she replaces.
 - (2) If two or more persons received the next highest number of votes in the ballots at the relevant election, then the preference will be given to the youngest candidate.
 - (3) If the person appointed to fill that vacancy is unable or unwilling to take up office then a replacement will be appointed according to the procedures set out in clauses 9.10(1) and 9.10(2) until the vacancy is filled.
 - (4) If there are no eligible candidates to fill the vacancy, then the remaining members of the Athletes' Commission will appoint a person to fill the vacancy provided the person appointed fulfils the eligibility criteria set out in clauses 9.2 and 9.3."

11 / ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

11.1. The Constitution of the AOC provides as follows.

"9.11 The Athletes' Commission will advise the Executive on all matters relating to the Olympic Movement provided that matters specific to a sport will be addressed between the National Federation of that sport and its Athletes' Commission (if any). For this purpose the Athletes' Commission will meet at least twice a year with the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer and at the expense of the Committee and for such meetings a quorum shall consist of six persons.

9.12 The members of the Athletes' Commission must:

- (1) act solely in the best interests of the Committee and its members as a whole.
- (2) exercise their powers and discharge their duties with reasonable care and diligence, in good faith and for a proper purpose.
- (3) not make improper use of:
 - (a) their position; or
 - (b) information acquired by virtue of holding their position

so as to gain an advantage for themselves or any other person or to cause detriment to the Committee.

9.13 At meetings of the Athletes' Commission, any member of the Athletes' Commission who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered at such meeting must:

- (1) disclose the nature and extent of that interest to the meeting.
- (2) not be present while the matter is being considered at the meeting; and
- (3) not vote on the matter.

9.14 Clause 9.13 of this Constitution does not apply to a material personal interest that exists only because the Athletes' Commission member is a member of the Athletes' Commission."

For full details on the Athletes' Commission go to www.olympics.com.au and select Athletes' Commission.

AMENDED on 13 March 2014 both the adoption and amendment effective from 13 March 2014.

AMENDED on 6 August 2015 both the adoption and amendment effective from 6 August 2015.