

# Rowing Australia (“RA”) Athletes’ Commission

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## CHARTER

### **1. Purpose Statement:**

The purpose of the RA Athletes’ Commission is to represent the views of athletes to the RA Board and relevant committees of RA.

To report to the athlete body the outcomes of relevant decisions made by RA on issues identified by the athlete body through the Athletes’ Commission.

### **2. Role and Objectives:**

- The RA Athletes’ Commission will advise the RA Board on all matters relating to athletes within the rowing community.

In this context the RA 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 RA board.

- Like all commissions and committees of RA the Athletes’ Commission does not enjoy independent legal status.
- To the extent that a majority of the members of the RA Athletes’ Commission are elected by their peers they have a leadership role within the rowing community.
- The RA Athletes’ Commission will endeavour to look after the athletes of RA in the following ways:
  - (a) be available to provide advice and support to athletes where appropriate.
  - (b) to communicate relevant material from RA to the athletes
  - (c) keep the athlete body informed

- (d) provide the athlete body with a structure for having communications with the RA board.
- (e) to provide guidance in the form of advice to athletes involved in an appeals process

### **3. Current Members:**

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|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| • Rebecca Joyce      | NSW | Chair                |
| • Victoria Roberts   | NSW |                      |
| • Simon Burgess      | TAS |                      |
| • Marguerite Houston | QLD |                      |
| • Dana Faletic       | TAS |                      |
| • David Crawshay     | VIC |                      |
| • Amber Halliday     | SA  | Ex-officio – FISA AC |
| • Drew Ginn          | VIC | Ex-officio – AOC AC  |

### **4. Meetings and Advice:**

The Athletes' Commission meets a minimum of 3 times throughout the year and through the Chair, reports the outcomes of their meetings to the RA Board.

Each meeting includes consideration of reports and updates on relevant activities of RA and consequent advice or recommendations on issues of significance from the perspective of the Athletes' Commission. Meetings also discuss issues raised by the athlete body.

### **5. Composition**

The Athletes' Commission will comprise:

- 5.1 3 members elected at the Australian National Championships in the year of the Olympic Games by the athletes competing for national selection in Senior A, U23 or Junior events;
- 5.2 up to 2 members who may be appointed at any time by the Board; and
- 5.3 any member of the AOC Athletes Commission who is or has been part of the National Rowing Team, will be invited to be part of the RA Athletes' Commission as an ex officio.
- 5.4 and any member of the FISA Athletes Commission, will be invited to be part of the RA Athletes' Commission as an ex officio.

- 5.5 and both the current Men's and Women's team captains will be invited to be part of the RA Athletes' Commission as an ex officio.

## **6. Eligibility**

To be eligible for election or appointment to the Athletes' Commission a person must be:

- 6.1 at least 18 years of age and must not have been sanctioned for a doping offence during his or her sports career;
- 6.2 in the case of an elected member:
- (1) needs to be nominated by any of the following: a current rower in the Australian Rowing team, the Rowing Australia Board, State Rowing association, State Institute, Australian Institute of Sport or by a member of the RA Athletes' Commission
  - (2) a participant in the Australian Rowing team having competed at either the Senior World Championships or Olympic Games.
  - (3) been a member of the Australian Rowing Team but is not currently nominated for selection.
- 6.3 In the case of an appointed member, they must have been a participant in a senior rowing team and preferably have been part of the Australian Rowing Team in the last eight years.

## **7. Election Procedures**

Election of members of the Athletes' Commission will be conducted according to the following procedure:

- 7.1 All nominations to be advised to the CEO of rowing Australia by the commencement of the National rowing championships;
- 7.2 The CEO will cause the names of each such candidate to be recorded on a voting form and inform each athlete competing at those championships of the whereabouts of the voting papers for each of the categories including Senior A, U23 or Junior, only these categories may vote;

- 7.3 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;
- 7.4 Voting by proxy or by correspondence is not permitted;
- 7.5 Voting must occur over at least three (3) days and will close no later than the day before the Kings Cup Regatta. Voting will take place in the Rowing competition venue, and at such other locations as the CEO considers appropriate;
- 7.6 Subject to the requirements concerning the gender of members of the Athletes' Commission, the relevant number of highest polling candidates will be deemed to be elected to the Athletes' Commission.
- 7.7 The CEO will announce the results of the election prior to the final race of the King's Cup Regatta.

## **8. *Term of Appointments***

- 8.1 Subject to clause 12.1, each person elected pursuant to 5.1 at a National Championships will hold office from the commencement of the day of announcement of election and will cease to hold office at the conclusion of the day of the next election if not elected;
- 8.2 Subject to clause 12.1, each person appointed pursuant to clause 5.2 will hold office for a period of four years from their appointment and any person holding office pursuant to clause 5.3 or 5.4 will hold office whilst and so long as he or she is a member of the AOC Athletes Commission or FISA Athletes Commission. Additionally, a person appointed pursuant to clause 5.5 will hold office whilst and so long as he or she holds the position of team captain.

## **9. *Appointment of Chair and Deputy Chair***

The Athletes' Commission will recommend to the RA Board two members for nomination as Chairperson of the Commission. The RA Board will then, at the first Board meeting following the National Championships, appoint a Chair from the two nominees presented to them by the Commission. The Athletes' Commission will then appoint the Deputy Chair from the remaining members of the Commission.

## **10. Vacancies**

In the event of any vacancy occurring on the Athletes' Commission through death, removal or resignation, the following procedures will apply:

- 10.1 The person eligible for appointment under clause 6.2 who received the next highest number of votes in the ballots at the election conducted according to clause 7 election procedures and, subject to the conditions set out in clause 6.3, will be automatically appointed for the balance of the term of the member he or she replaces;
- 10.2 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;
- 10.3 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 10.1 and 10.2 until the vacancy is filled;
- 10.4 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 6.2 and 6.3.

## **11. Role of the Commission**

- 11.1 The Athletes' Commission will advise the Board on all matters relating to athletes within the Rowing Community. The Commission will advise the athlete body on outcomes relevant to issues raised through the Athlete Commission.

For this purpose the Athletes' Commission will meet at least three times a year with the prior approval of the CEO and at the expense of RA and for such meetings a quorum will consist of five persons.

## **12. Anti-Doping Rule Violations**

- 12.1 Any person found to have committed a Doping Offence or an Anti-Doping Rule Violation contrary to the Anti-Doping By-Law is ineligible to hold any position on the RA, whether as an office bearer or as a member of the Board, any Commission or Committee or otherwise whilst subject to sanction for that doping offence.