



## **Australian Biathlon Athletes' Commission**

### **A sub-committee of Australian Biathlon**

Australian Biathlon (AB) has established an Athletes Commission (the Commission) with the view to providing a process to promote open communication with and feedback from, athletes. AB believes, that athletes can make a very valuable contribution to our sport.

The AOC National Federation Athletes' Commission By-Law:

- i. recommends that “athletes should be represented at all levels of the sport movement” and accordingly, the AB Athletes' Commission should ideally be representative of athletes from elite, masters, development, Defence Force and recreational athletes, however it is recognized the community at the moment is small and participation is dependent on those willing to volunteer
- ii. recommends that at least one member of the Board or Executive of the National Federation must be a member of the Commission and have a right to vote
- iii. it is not required for any member of the Commission to attend nor vote at general meetings of the National Federation
- iv. recommends the majority of the Commission is elected by its peers. While AB is working towards this recommendation, at the current time, given the small membership, the Commission will be constituted by volunteer athletes.

### **About:**

The Athletes Commission is:-

- i. A resource for AB to enable athletes to be drawn on to provide recommendation and feedback on matters relevant to athletes.
- ii. A promotional tool available for the purposes of promoting the sport to sponsors, the media and the general public.
- iii. A group that can facilitate and promote high standards of sportsmanship, ethical performance and integrity when competing or participating at all competitions including representing AB at the international competition.

- iv. A group that can relate immediately to athletes competing at all levels, whether at National/representative level (removed elite), development, masters or recreational and provide feedback to AB. This group will have a national focus.
  - v. A group that drives initiatives for athletes benefit such as but not exclusively fund raising, camps, social functions, social media, etc.
  - vi. For abundance of clarity, AB's Athletes Commission is a group of active athletes. It consists only of active athletes and does not include parents, support personnel, coaches for emerging, international level, National/Representative level, nor any person who may be conflicted as determined by the General Committee
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## **1. Purpose:**

1.1 The purpose of the Australian Biathlon Athletes' Commission (The Commission) is to represent the views of Australian biathletes at all levels to Australian /Victorian Biathlon Association Inc. (AB) and to initiate projects for the benefit of athletes nationally.

## **2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Athletes' Commission**

2.1 The roles and responsibilities of the Athletes' Commission are:

- a. Establish open lines of communication with athletes to identify issues relevant to the various issues such as training and development opportunities, equipment and other resources.
- b. Examine the AB Strategic Plan and give feedback to the Executive Officer on areas of improvement and/ or concerns that require input from athletes.
- c. Assist in the formulation of policy for athlete support programs.
- d. To provide support for athletes to achieve their personal best.

- e. Provide regular reports and recommendations to AB's Executive Officer on issues of relevance to athletes.
- f. Assist in promoting and delivering an Ambassador Program.
- g. Undertake special projects that may be relevant to the Commission and their Terms of Reference.
- h. Initiate self-help programs with the approval of the Executive Officer such as social media, fund raising, promotion and sponsorship for athletes nationally.

2.2 Note: This is not an exhaustive list and roles and responsibilities may be changed from time to time as determined by AB's General Committee.

### **3. Operating Guidelines**

- a. The Commission will consist of a maximum of five (5) active athlete members and a representative from the General Committee. The General Committee may appoint athletes to the Commission as it sees fit with the objective that the Commission is ideally representative of all levels of athletes.
- b. An active athlete includes a person who has competed in biathlon at a national or international level in the previous 12 years.
- c. To be eligible for appointment to The Commission, the member must be at least 16 years old and must not have been sanctioned for any disciplinary offence during his/her sports career.
- d. The Commission will include persons of both genders.
- e. The Commission will select a Chairman who will be the liaison person with the Executive Officer.
- f. The term of office for Commission members will be one (1) year.

- g. The Commission will hold at least one formal meeting per year and for such meetings, the quorum is 3 members. The meeting may take place by electronic means, such as Skype
- h. At least one member of AB's General Committee must be on the Commission and have the right to vote.
- i. Each member of the Commission is entitled to one vote. The Chairman has the casting vote.