



Gymnastics
Australia

BY-LAW 5

ATHLETES' COMMISSION

This By-law is made by the Gymnastics Australia (GA) Board under Clause 22 of the GA Constitution. It is binding on GA and all members of GA.

***Approved by the GA Board on 29 April 2007
Updated 6 July 2008, 17 December 2012***

1. INTRODUCTION

In 1998, Gymnastics Australia (GA) established an Athletes' Commission with the view to providing a process to promote open communication with and feedback from, athletes. GA believes, like most other sports, that athletes, present and past, can make a very valuable contribution to the sport. In 2001, the GA constitution was changed to include the Chairperson of Athletes' Commission as a Board Member.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Athletes' Commission are to be:

- (a) A non-political group which can offer advice and assistance to GA on matters and issues of relevance to athletes;
- (b) A promotional tool available for the purposes of promoting the sport to sponsors, the media and the general public;
- (c) A resource for GA to enable athletes to be drawn on to provide advice and feedback on matters relevant to athletes;
- (d) A group that can promote high standards of sportsmanship and ethical performance at any level of competition; and
- (e) A group that can relate immediately to athletes competing at the highest level and establish relationships to promote feedback to GA on matters concerning elite athletes.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of the Athletes Commission are to:

- (a) Establish open lines of communication with athletes to identify issues relevant to the various gym sports that need to be addressed by the Commission;
- (b) Examine the GA Business Plan and give feedback to the Board on areas of improvement and/ or concerns that require input from athletes;
- (c) Assist in the formulation of By-laws for athlete support programs;
- (d) To provide support for athletes to achieve their personal best;
- (e) Assist athletes in their retirement from competition and ensure that they receive the appropriate recognition and assistance through this stage;
- (f) Ensure the Roll of Honour is maintained;
- (g) Provide regular reports and recommendations to the GA Board on issues of relevance to athletes;
- (h) Assist in promoting and delivering the Club 10 Ambassador Program; and
- (i) Undertake special projects that may be relevant to the Commission and its Terms of Reference.

4. OPERATING GUIDELINES

4.1 Composition of the Commission

The Commission will consist of a maximum of six (6) members comprising the Chairperson and five (5) ordinary members. The Athletes' Commission can only have one representative from each of the Gymsports.

Any athlete representing gymnastics on the AOC Athletes' Commission will be an ex-officio member of the GA Athletes' Commission.

4.2 Selection Criteria for Members

The following selection criteria will be used when selecting members for the Commission:

- (a) A minimum age of 18 years.
- (b) Demonstrated willingness to contribute to Australian Gymnastics by contributing experience and knowledge gained as a competitor.
- (c) An understanding of the role of the Commission.
- (d) Demonstrated high standards of sportsmanship and behaviour when competing for and/ or representing Australia.
- (e) An active member in the sport or a former member, who has not been retired from the sport for more than four **olympiads** prior to appointment.

4.3 Nomination Criteria

Nominations for members will be called by the GA Chief Executive Officer following each Olympic Games cycle. Nominations can be received from Members as specified in Clause 5 of the GA Constitution.

Nominations must be completed on the nomination form and submitted to GA within the time frame specified.

The GA Board will make the appointments of all members, including the Chairperson.

As per the GA Constitution, the Athletes' Commission Chairperson may be invited to take up a position as Director on the GA Board as Athletes' Representative.

4.4 Term of Office

The term of office for Commission members will be four (4) years. Commission members cannot serve more than two consecutive terms.

Casual vacancies on the Commission will be appointed by the GA Board based on a recommendation from the Athletes' Commission.

4.5 Operating Guidelines

The Commission will operate on the following basis:

- (a) One formal meeting per year;
- (b) Other meetings to be called on a needs basis;
- (c) Meetings on an informal basis when the opportunity arises; and
- (d) Two representatives will attend the GA Annual Conference

5. CHANGES TO THE BY-LAW

Amendments to this By-law will be made pursuant to Clause 22.1 of the GA Constitution.