

Australian Water Polo Athletes' Commission Charter

1. Purpose:

The purpose of the Australian Water Polo Athletes' Commission ("The Commission") is to represent the views of Australian Water Polo athletes to Australian Water Polo Inc ('AWPI').

2. Role and Objectives:

The functions of The Commission shall be to:

- 2.1 Advise the board of AWPI on any matters relating to water polo which impact on Water Polo Athletes;
- 2.2 Appoint one (1) delegate to represent it at conferences and general meetings of AWPI who will have the right to be heard on any matter affecting athletes within Water Polo and who will have the right to one (1) vote at general meetings of AWPI;
- 2.3 Nominate representatives from among their members to represent Australian Water Polo Athletes on AWPI as requested from time to time;
- 2.4 Nominate athletes for election by ballot to the Australian Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission;
- 2.5 Provide leadership and direction on matters that directly relate to Water Polo Athletes.

3. *Current Members:*

- Nathan Thomas Olympian (Former Captain) 2000, 2004
- Debbie Watson Olympian (Former Captain) 2000
- Thomas Whalan Olympian (Current Captain) 2000, 2004
- Trent Franklin Olympian (Current V-Capt) 2004
- Nikita Cuffe Olympian 2004

4. *Meetings and Advice*

- 4.1 The Commission must meet at least once a year and for such meetings a quorum must consist of a majority of its members. A majority of members includes those not physically present but present through telephone link up or other such means.
- 4.2 Members of The Commission must have equal voting rights provided the Chairperson of The Commission may have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.
- 4.3 The Commission shall at its first meeting after the AWPI Annual Conference each year elect a delegate to represent it at conferences of AWPI who will have the right to be heard on any matters and who will have the right to one (1) vote at any such conferences.
- 4.4 A Commission nominee shall act as Secretary for meetings and provide minutes of such meetings to AWPI.
- 4.5 Each meeting shall include consideration of reports and updates on relevant activities of AWPI and consequent advice or recommendations on issues of significance from the perspective of The Commission.

5. *Composition*

The Commission shall consist of:

- 5.1 Three (3) current members of the National Teams;
- 5.2 Two (2) recently retired National Teams members (for the purposes of this clause a “recently retired National Teams member” means any Water Polo Athlete who has represented Australia in open competition in the preceding two (2) Olympiads;
- 5.3 As Ex-officio, any member of the Australian Olympic Committee Athletes’ Commission who competes or competed in Water Polo.

6. Eligibility

To be eligible for election to The Commission a person must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must not have been sanctioned for a doping offence during his or her sports career.

7. Election Procedures

Election of commission members shall be conducted in the following manner:

- 7.1 National Teams and National Squads Athletes shall be those Athletes included in the Men, Women, Junior Men and Junior Women National Teams and Squads. To be eligible to take part in the Water Polo Athletes' Commission, a person must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- 7.2 Current National Teams members shall be elected for four (4) years by ballot conducted amongst members of the National Teams and National Squads during the year of an Olympiad.
- 7.3 Recently retired National Teams members shall be elected for four (4) years by ballot conducted amongst members of the National Teams and National Squads from nominations received from the National Teams, National Squads and Member Associations during the year of an Olympiad.
- 7.4 In all such ballots the "National Teams" shall comprise those Water Polo Athletes selected to represent Australia at the major international event(s) for the calendar year as defined by the Board of AWPI from time to time. The "National Squads" shall be as selected by the AWPI selectors for that calendar year. Each member of the National Teams and National Squads shall have one vote in each category of Current National Team Members and Recently Retired National Team Members.
- 7.5 At least two of the elected members of The Commission shall be female and at least two members shall be male. If at the first ballot this minimum composition requirement is not achieved then the ballot shall be declared in the following order:
 - 7.5.1 The two males with the highest number of votes;
 - 7.5.2 The two females with the highest number of votes;
 - 7.5.3 The ballot will be counted across both current and retired National Teams members' nominations with at least one of each gender
 - 7.5.4 being elected from the recently retired National Teams members.

- 7.6 In the event of any vacancy occurring on The Commission through death, removal or resignation, the following procedures will apply:
- 7.6.1 The person eligible for appointment under clause 7, who received the next highest number of votes in the ballots at the election conducted according to clause 7 procedures and, subject to the conditions set out in clause 6, will be automatically appointed for the balance of the term of the member he or she replaces.
 - 7.6.2 If two (2) 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.
 - 7.6.3 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 7.6.1 and 7.6.2 until the vacancy is filled.
 - 7.6.4 If there are no eligible candidates to fill the vacancy, then the remaining members of The Commission will appoint a person to fill the vacancy provided the person appointed fulfills the eligibility criteria set out in clause 7.