

Revision History

GA Board (updated to reflect implementation of a Youth Advisory Panel)	28 September 2021
Gymnastics Australia Board (decision to remove AC By Law and replace with Terms of Reference)	06 November 2020

INTRODUCTION

High Performance (HP) athletes, present and past, can make a valuable contribution to their sport to ensure the governing entities can determine direction and make decisions within an athlete centred environment.

The Gymnastics Australia (GA) Athletes' Commission is an athlete-led group, representative of current or former GA HP athletes and their respective Gymsport, that can offer advice and guidance to the GA Board, senior management and to the National Gymsport Commissions on matters and issues of relevance to HP athletes.

The Athletes' Commission success relies on passionate HP athletes who want to engage, promote, support, and make a difference for the betterment of their sport.

PURPOSE

"Engaging our gymnasts. Voicing their value."

The purpose of the GA Athletes' Commission (AC) is to facilitate and promote open communication with and gain feedback from current HP athletes, across all competitive HP Gymsports to ensure that the GA Board, and senior management can benefit from the perspective and expertise of athletes in its deliberations and decision-making.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Athletes' Commission are to:

- provide an effective two-way communication channel for current HP athletes, to actively support and listen, consider questions and issues, ensuring their views on important matters are heard.
- represent the rights and interests of HP athletes and participate in consultation and decision making, where required or requested.
- facilitate positive change and the continual development of the sport within Australia.
- be a resource to advise the GA Board, senior management and/or the National Gymsport Commissions as required on HP athlete-centred issues.
- act in a manner which encapsulates the values of integrity, accountability, respect, quality and communication.

KEY FUNCTIONS

- contribute to the workstreams and working groups of the *Change the Routine* response, as requested by GA.
- maintain open communication with the GA Youth Advisory Panel and with the athlete representatives on the GA Integrity Committee.
- attend, as an observer, National Commission meetings to ensure the athlete voice is considered in these forums.
- contribute to discussions with Olympic and non-Olympic Gymsport national team athletes after benchmark events in order to promote the athlete's voice within the formal debrief process.
- be the point of contact and liaison for National Peak Sport Bodies - Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), Commonwealth Games Australia (CGA), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and their respective Athlete representative commissions along with participation in networking opportunities with other National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) athlete representative bodies.
- maintain accurate lists of alumni athletes in all competitive Gymsports and ensure this group is kept informed of any relevant GA announcements and activities.
- ensure the Roll of Honour and the Award of Distinction lists and historical records for all competitive Gymsports are accurate and updated.
- nominate an AC member to sit on the GA Awards Committee and coordinate the Gymnast's Choice Award.
- prepare a written report on activities for the GA Annual Report, and undertake any special projects as requested by the GA Board and/or management.

OPERATING GUIDELINES

Frequency of meetings

- the Athletes' Commission will hold at least one formal meeting per year, preferably face to face, during the Australian Championships, and at least three other virtual meetings.
- each Athletes' Commission member will hold at least one meeting with HP athletes in their respective Gymsport, preferably face to face, during a national camp or the Australian Championships.
- the AC Chair will be invited to meet with the GA President and GA CEO at least once each year and will be invited to attend at least one GA Board meeting each year.

Composition of the Commission

- the Athletes' Commission will comprise the following members.
 - an AC Chair appointed by the GA Board.
 - one representative from each of the competitive Gymsports
 - in addition, any gymnastics athlete on the AOC or Sport Australia / AIS Athletes' Commission will be an ex-officio member of the GA Athletes' Commission.

Selection Criteria

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

- demonstrated passion to contribute to Gymnastics in Australia by contributing experience and knowledge gained as an elite competitor.
- an understanding of the role of the Athletes' Commission and the time and commitment to fulfil its responsibilities.
- demonstrated high standards of sportsmanship and behaviour when representing Australia.
- a HP gymnast, who has not been retired from the sport for more than three Olympic cycles prior to appointment.
- a willingness to represent the broader gymnastics community, not just their own Gymsport.
- a willingness and capacity to devote the time required to broadly consult and liaise with the athlete community.

Nomination process

- nominations for members of the Athletes' Commission and the position of chair will be called by the GA CEO in within three months of the conclusion of each summer Olympic Games.
- nominations must be completed on the nomination form and submitted to GA within the specified time frame.
- Nominations Panel members include the GA CEO, the incoming AC Chair appointed by the GA Board and the two athlete representatives on the Integrity Committee.
- short listed candidates may be asked to participate in an interview.
- the Nominations panel will recommend preferred candidates to the GA Board for approval.

Term of Office

- the term of office will be four (4) years (or the period until the end of the year of the next summer Olympic Games whichever comes first).
- Athletes' Commission members cannot serve more than three (3) consecutive terms.
- casual vacancies on the Athletes' Commission may be filled by the GA CEO based on a recommendation from the AC Chair, or in the case of the AC Chair vacancy, on appointment by the GA Board.