

ATHLETES COMMISSION

The Australian Fencing Federation Limited (**AFF**) is the National Sporting Organisation (**NSO**) for the Olympic Sport of Fencing.

The AFF's vision is to have Fencing recognised as an exciting, accessible and challenging sport providing opportunities for participation at all levels – recreational, competitive and elite.

The mission of the AFF is to administer and promote the sport of Fencing in Australia through national plans and programs, services and opportunities that enable members from recreational to the Olympian to reach their maximum potential.

1. Application

The Charter applies to all athletes on the Athletes' Commission.

This Charter was adopted by resolution of the AFF Board on: 13 November 2024
The Policy will operate until amended, repealed or replaced

Other AFF policies may be necessary to read in connection with this Charter. AFF policies are published on the AFF's website: www.ausfencing.org

2. Purpose

To represent the views and interests of athletes and to empower athletes through providing information and facilitating communication between them and the AFF governing bodies.

3. Role and Objectives

The role and objectives of the AFF Athletes' Commission are to:

- Act as a link between the athletes and the AFF.
- Represent the views and interests of athletes and participate in AFF Board consultation and decision-making.
- Establish open lines of communication with athletes to:
 - Discuss and obtain feedback on issues concerning athletes and
 - Identify issues that need to be addressed by the Commission
- Consider questions and issues relating to athletes and provide advice to the AFF Board. In this context, the Commission may provide the AFF Board the following on all matters within its scope:
 - offer or give advice;
 - offer or give counsel;
 - offer an opinion;
 - make a recommendation;

- consult; or
 - give information or notice.
- Promote respect of the rights of the athletes.
 - Undertake special projects that are relevant to the AFF Athletes' Commission and these TOR.
 - Perform the activities required to address its responsibilities and make recommendations to the Board.

4. Composition

The AFF Athletes' Commission will comprise between three and five eligible persons, including both elected and appointed positions.

The elected positions for the Athlete's Commission are to be filled by the highest number of votes from an online ballot up to a maximum of three persons.

Where voting results from the Athlete's Commission Election do not meet equity targets or include para-fencing representation, the AFF Board may appoint additional Commission members.

5. Chair

Up to three members of the Athletes' Commission may put themselves forward as a candidate to be the Chair of the Commission and the Athletes' Director. The nominations are assessed by the AFF Board, and the Athletes' Director is appointed by the AFF Board.

To minimise conflicts of interest the Chair cannot be a NSO or AIS categorised athlete.

If the Chair resigns from the Commission or the Chair steps down but remains on the Commission, the Athlete's Commission members may put themselves forward as candidates for the Athletes' Director position to be appointed by the AFF Board.

Should the Chair be absent from a meeting, the Commission members present must appoint a Chair for that particular meeting.

6. Eligibility

To be eligible to sit on the AFF Athletes' Commission, a person must:

- be at least 18 years of age;
- reside in Australia at the time of election;
- be a registered fencer with a State Fencing Association or fencer who has been a registered fencer with a State Fencing Association within the last 2 years; and
- not have been sanctioned for a doping offence in their sporting career.

7. Term and Vacancies

Subject to the eligibility requirement above, the term of office for AFF Athletes' Commission members will be four (4) years, commencing the day after their election or appointment.

Any vacancy occurring in respect of members may be filled at any time at the discretion of the AFF Board and the Commission, provided that such vacancy must be filled with an individual who would have been eligible to be nominated for election for such position at the last applicable AFF Athletes' Commission election.

8. Representation

The AFF Athletes' Commission is represented on the AFF Board by one member, the Athletes' Director, appointed pursuant to the AFF Constitution.

Athletes' Commission members are invited to attend other AFF Commission/Committee meetings where appropriate and reasonable.

9. Duties and Responsibilities

Throughout their tenure on the Athletes' Commission, members of the Commission must:

- be available to attend video conferences and/or teleconferences for a minimum of three meetings per calendar year;
- remain an affiliated fencer with a State Fencing Association and
- maintain a clean doping record.

Reporting

The Chair will report to the Board on the Commission meetings regarding all relevant matters and appropriate recommendations for noting or approval by the Board.

The Commission Chair will ensure that the Board is immediately informed of matters that may impact significantly on the operation or reputation of the AFF.

10. Meetings

Frequency

The Commission must meet at least three times each calendar year. Participants may attend by video conference and/or teleconference.

The Commission Chair or any Commission Member may call a meeting of the Commission.

Meeting Attendance

All Commission members must be invited to attend meetings of the Commission. Any person may be invited by the Commission Chair to attend meetings of the Commission, but not necessarily for the full duration of the meeting.

Quorum and Voting

A quorum must consist of three members of the Commission.

11. Review

The Commission will review this Charter annually to keep it up to date and consistent with the Commission's authority, objectives and responsibilities.

The Commission undertakes an annual self-assessment of its performance to confirm that all activities listed in the Charter have been addressed and report this information to the Board.