

# Athletics Australia Board meeting #239

The 239<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Athletics Australia (**AA**) was held on 16 February 2018 at Cararra Stadium on the Gold Coast. In addition to the official Board meeting, AA also held a strategic planning workshop on 15 February, attended by the Board and AA Management, with CEOs of Member Associations (**MAs**) also attending a session. These meetings were held in conjunction with the Australian Athletics Championships.

The following is a summary of the key items discussed. As you would appreciate, in some cases detail must remain confidential, so some information is expressed in general terms.

## **Strategic Planning Day (15 February)**

In the last Board meeting summary, it was noted that AA was reviewing and revising its Strategic Plan for the period from now until 2020 around the following pillars:

- Present Athletics as 'One Sport';
- Become the largest participation sport in Australia;
- Invest in our athletes and coaches for international success;
- Deliver vibrant, exciting and high-quality competitions and events; and
- Create and deliver on the sport's value proposition.

The process has been iterative, commencing in September 2017. At this meeting, Management presented the latest version of the draft strategy to the Board and MA CEOs for feedback. MA Presidents received a similar presentation on 22 February 2018.

Outside of obtaining feedback about the plan in general, discussion between the Board and AA Management focussed on the following:

- How to best deliver athletics as One Sport;
- The best path for ensuring success in the recreational running space;
- Leveraging commercial events to maximise returns to the sport;
- Future framework for coaching education, management and pathways.

Specific initiatives on these areas will be considered, developed and reported upon in the future as work continues. However, outside of consolidating the Strategic Plan and key metrics, the immediate action to be implemented by the Board and Management will be to work with both the MAs and Little Athletics Australia to better define the concept of One Sport and assess key initiatives to achieve it.

## **Board meeting #239 (16 February)**

In addition to considerations of Strategic Plan, the Board engaged in discussion on a range of other matters at the Board meeting, including the following.

- **Commonwealth Games:** The CEO reported that everything remained on track for the Games. All key staff appointments were secured, athletes were training and performing well ahead of the selection trials.

- **Australian Athletics Championships:** As noted, the Board meetings were held concurrently with the start of the Championships, which double as a key nomination event for the Commonwealth Games team. AA has worked closely with the Commonwealth Games organisers to ensure, where possible, the Championships will replicate the Commonwealth Games and provide the athletes and coaches with an understanding of the venue and processes expected.
- **IAAF rankings:** The CEO has been asked to provide feedback to IAAF regarding the implementation of the new ranking system and will provide feedback if there are material impacts on Australia. Further, a working group has been formed to assess any new requirements for holding "IAAF Permit Meets" within Australia.
- **High Performance Director recruitment process:** The Board ratified the proposal that the CEO would lead the recruitment panel with representation from Australian Sports Commission and at least one AA Director appointed by the Board. The CEO will work with these stakeholders to develop the key criteria. The recruitment process will commence immediately.
- **Athletes' Advisory Group:** It was reported that the AAG will hold a meeting at the conclusion of the National Championships – it will be the first face-to-face meeting of the AAG since it was reconstituted. One of the key topics for the day will be athlete welfare. The CEO and some AA Directors would attend.
- **BLK:** The new apparel partnership with BLK has been finalised. The partnership covers apparel needs for AA athletes, staff and officials at key events and competitions over the next three years. It commences immediately, with staff and officials to wear BLK gear at the Australian Championships.
- **Officials Coordinator:** The CEO reported positively on the engagement of a new Officials Coordinator, which is a role that works between AA and LAA. The key focus of the appointee will be on training, engagement and retention of officials, a critical and valued resource for the sport.

The next Board meeting will be held on 11 April 2018.

If you have any specific queries, please contact the AA office at any time on 03 8646 4550 or [athletics@athletics.org.au](mailto:athletics@athletics.org.au).

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