



Australian Athletics Event Group Advisory Panels Operating Principles

Expression of Interest

Australian Athletics is currently seeking Expressions of Interest (EoI) for people interested in being members of Australian Athletics Event Group Advisory Panel for Race Walks.

Make-up

- The intention is that up to 8 people will be invited onto each panel and that the desired gender balance is 4 males and 4 females.
- Initial appointments onto the Panels would be through to the end of 2026.
- After 2026 the intention is that an opportunity to refresh the panels would occur each OG/PG cycle.

Time Frames/Commitment

The intention is:

- In most cases the first meetings will be conducted remotely on Zoom/Teams.
- To organise at least one “face-to-face” meeting/workshop of each panel by the end of the domestic season.
- For the Panel to meet:
 - ✓ At a minimum of 4 times per year either virtually by Zoom/Teams and/or in person to establish the plan for the Event Group which will include the calendar of camps, the upskilling of coaches and the overarching spirit and philosophy of the Event Group; and
 - ✓ Preferably at least once per year at a “face-to-face” meeting away from other events (i.e. no distractions); and/or
 - ✓ At other times “face-to-face” in conjunction with other events (e.g. AA-HP pays for an extra night accommodation so that Panel members can stay on after an Event/Championship).
- To liaise on an “as needs” basis by E-Mail or by phone on matters that may arise between meetings.

Over-arching intent

Guided by the overarching statement of *‘Australia versus the Rest of the World’*, the fundamental purpose of each Event Group Panel is to:

- Bring together a group of Event Group coaches/experts/officials to discuss ways to enhance the “Spirit of the Event Group”; and
- Identify and implement initiatives that will enhance Australia’s capability to achieve sustainable success (i.e. by achieving Medal and Top 8 performances) at Major Championships by the 2032 Brisbane OGs and beyond.

Purpose of having an “Event Group Advisory Panel is to:

- 1) Establish an over-reaching but achievable Event Group 2032+ vision and KPIs.
- 2) To leave biases “outside the door” to create unity in striving for success by Australian athletes in their Event Group at Major Championships.

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- 3) To develop a 3-year Event Group Plan outlining 2-3 initiatives per year targeted at improving the “Spirit of the Event Group” and focused on HP success in 2032 and beyond.
Note: Each Event Group will be allocated a budget to enable the delivery of their Event Group Plan.
- 4) To reduce the risk of Australian Athletics High Performance (AA-HP) staff operating without consulting by providing:
 - An opportunity for input into the AA-HP department and throughout the high-performance community regarding the needs of the Event Group from the perspective of the coaches/experts/officials living/delivering in the field; and
 - A communication mechanism between the Event Group and AA-HP Department.
 - A “buffer/filter” for AA-HP staff to test their thinking regarding new ideas/concepts, and if the Panel is supportive, utilise the “power of the group” to drive new initiatives.
- 5) To increase our capacity to lobby for ongoing, and preferably additional, funding to support each Event Group and AA-HP programme generally.
- 6) To help plan domestic season events and to identify associated Service Provider support requirements/priorities (e.g. Biomechanical filming at events, etc)
- 7) To assist plan Event Group Camps/Workshops/Initiatives that align with the domestic and international season events/priorities and to identify associated Service Provider support requirements priorities.
- 8) To ensure that there is a legacy from the AA-HP Program Coach roles (i.e. if you just coach, then you will just leave a vacuum when you “exit”, as per the Australian model where they employed a number of overseas coaches for the 5-year lead-in to the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games).

Administration/Operation

- At this stage we are not in a position to pay members of the Event group Advisory Panels (i.e. they are volunteer roles). However, reimbursement of legitimate expenses will be covered (e.g. extra night accommodation arrangements, taxis, etc ~ subject to provision of receipts though).
- Coaches and officials appointed to the Advisory panels will need to be registered members of their respective Australian Athletics associations. In the instance that non-registered event group experts are appointed to a panel, they will need to agree in writing to comply with Australian Athletics’ [Code of Conduct](#), prior to commencing any Event Group Advisory Panel work.
- We remind the applicants that the appointed Event Group Advisory Panel members will be required to comply with the National Integrity Framework, as per the terms of their respective membership, as well as declare any potential conflicts of interest associated with their role on the Panel.

Other items/thoughts for further discussion/consideration

- The “Event Group Advisory Panel” work can be whatever the Panel determines within reason. However, we are mindful that we are primarily relying on volunteers, and we don’t want to over-burden them.
- The “Event Group Advisory Panels” are advisers, and the intention is they provide direction. However, they are not decision makers. Ultimately operational decisions remain with AA-HP staff and must comply with the requirements of the Australian Athletics Board.

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Expertise

The members of the Event Group Advisory Panel should have a high level of expertise in Athletics, such as:

- A retired athlete who has competed at an international level
- A coach who has coached athletes to an international level
- An international level official
- An event group expert, for example a performance support provider (e.g. therapist, scientist etc) that has supported a specific Event Group athlete/coach's senior Championship preparation

Why are we doing this?

Because by 2032 we want the World's leading athletics nations to be asking "What the heck are they doing better than us in Australia?"

The answer may be as simple as: "We are united in what we do!"



Event Group Advisory Panel “Facilitator” ~ Roles & Responsibilities

From within each of the “Event Group Advisory Panel” the intention is to identify and establish a Facilitator who will:

- Facilitate the Event Group Panel meetings/discussions
- Liaise with AA-HP staff to develop a 3-year Event Group Plan and associated budget.
- The role will need to be collaborative in nature and will not necessarily be anointed as the national ‘subject matter expert’.
- To assist AA-HP staff to develop an Event Group Plan for each respective Event group.
- To liaise with AA-HP staff with the intention of reaching an agreement regarding the content of an “approved” Event Group Plan.
- Note: The intention is that an “approved” Event Group Plan has been agreed to by the AA-HP General Manager.
- To coordinate the delivery of the approved Event Group Plan (i.e. facilitate the organisation of the Event Group initiatives identified in the Event Group Plan).
- To foster positive communication among the key athletes/coaches/stakeholders within their Event Group Advisory Panel.
- Attend a facilitator workshop, to learn how to run the panel.
- To conduct themselves in a manner so as not to bring themselves, Australian Athletics or the Event Group into disrepute.
- To not make, comment, issue, authorize, offer or endorse any public criticism or statement having or designed to have a prejudicial effect on the interests of Australian Athletics or the athletes.
- To notify Australian Athletics immediately of any problems/issues that may attract media attention or risk Event Group matters.

Remuneration

- Where system employed coaches/staff are identified as the Event Group Panel Facilitator the AA-HP Director of Performance Coaching will liaise with them and their employer to discuss where these responsibilities align to their existing Position Description and responsibilities.
- Where non-system employed Panellists are identified as the Event Group Panel Facilitator the AA-HP Director of Performance Coaching will liaise with them to establish an honorarium to acknowledge and provide some compensation for the role they are undertaking.



Event Group Advisory Panel Expression of Interest Process

If you would like to be considered as either a member of the Race Walks Advisory Panel or as the Facilitator please complete your expression of interest via this [link](#) before 25 July.

You will need to briefly explain your background and why you would like to be part of the Race Walks panel.