

Role Description - Athletes' Commission Chair (published 24.03.22)

The World Rowing Athletes' Commission Chair (AC Chair) is the leader of the Athletes' Commission and a member of the World Rowing Executive Committee and Council with full voting rights.

Main duties & responsibilities of the AC Chair

1. To lead the Athlete's Commission.

The overarching role of the AC Chair is to provide athlete leadership and overall athlete input in developing and fulfilling the goals and objectives of World Rowing.

The AC Chair is responsible within the rules and statutes, for the overall functioning of the Athletes Commission, including scheduling regular meetings, setting Agendas, and ensuring decisions are appropriately actioned according. The AC Chair is responsible for building and leading the commission taking into account reasonable representation of the athlete community, regularly reviewing the performance of Commission members and identifying and encouraging the involvement of potential new members. Specifically, tasks include:

- a. Convening of meetings of the Athletes Commission as appropriate to fulfil the duties of the Commission in line with Art. 55 Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups;
- b. Chairing Commission meetings and allocating duties to the Commission members in accordance with the Bye-Laws to Art. 55 (Appendix S9);
- c. Preparing annual budget proposals with the Executive Director for approval by the Executive Committee;
- d. Reporting to the Council on matters related to the Athletes' Commission and submitting a report on the Commission's activities to the Ordinary Congress each year;
- e. Representing athletes during the Council & Executive Committee meetings in all areas relevant to athletes.

2. To provide support to the Executive Committee and Council

The AC Chair, with the Commission, should engage actively with the athlete community and seek their opinions on relevant matters so wherever possible the Chair can provide broad athlete input at the Executive Committee and Council meetings. Similarly, the AC Chair, with the Commission, should engage actively with the athlete community to provide the athletes with information and context on important matters and Council decisions.

3. To represent World Rowing and the athletes

The AC Chair may from time to time be called upon to represent World Rowing, its athletes and sometimes be its spokesperson at events, functions or meetings.

4. To act as a role model for the Rowing family

To act in accordance with the World Rowing Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and safeguard relationships and in a manner consistent with World Rowing Rules and Statutes which include Ethical Principles and Integrity.

Skillset & competences required of the AC Chair in their roles on the Commission, Council & Executive Committee

- Language - professional working proficiency in English.
- Leadership - recognised leadership skills and willing to take leadership roles as necessary, representing the organisation in public and leading specific discussions or project work.
- Interpersonal & relationship building - the ability to listen to others' viewpoints and understand issues from different perspectives, to question effectively and challenge constructively; strong relationship building skills and the ability to interact at ease with a wide range of people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Communication - the ability to articulate ideas, opinions, rationales, and comments in a clear, concise, and logical manner to address the needs of the audience. To have the ability to speak in front of small and large groups with a professional demeanour.
- Integrity - the highest levels of personal integrity, and commitment to driving a strong governance culture throughout the organisation.
- Strategic thinking - be able to demonstrate the ability to make decisions based on the broadest needs of the organisation and to think strategically; sound judgement, common sense and independence of thought; ability to distinguish between governance and operational matters.
- Availability - to be able to commit the necessary time to participate in all Executive Committee and Council meetings, in addition to Athletes' Commission meetings.

Please also refer to the following extracts of the World Rowing Statutes

Article 2 – Declaration of Principles

Article 45 – Duties of the Council

Article 51 – Duties of the Executive Committee

Article 46 – Duties of the Council Members

Article 58 – Ethical Principles and Integrity

APPENDIX S5 - World Rowing Athletes' Commission Regulations & Election Procedures

APPENDIX S9 – Bye-Laws to Article 55: Duties of the Commissions and Working Groups, paragraph 3. Specific Duties of the Technical Commissions, 3.1 Athletes' Commission