

ATHLETES' COUNCIL

Mandate

Represent and promote athletes' views and interests to the Canadian Cycling Association (CCA) on all issues which directly or indirectly affect national team athletes, high performance athletes and/or any national caliber athlete.

Membership

The Athletes Council has ten (10) members comprising:

Two (2) National Team Athlete Representatives – one male and one female - from each of the following cycling sports: MTB, ROAD, TRACK, BMX, PARA-CYCLING for a total of ten. Eligibility as a National Team Representative is limited to athletes that are current members of the National Team or have been members of the National Team, for any period, within the five (5) years preceding the election (ie. the 2010 election would include 2006 National Team athletes and later).

Eligibility and Election

1. All representatives must reside in Canada.
2. Athlete representatives will be chosen through an election by their peers.

Election of National Team Athlete Representatives

1. Election for a two-year term will be held every two (2) years in even-numbered years.
2. National Team Athlete Representatives shall be chosen by election by the end of the calendar year in even years from the current National Team list identifying athletes eligible to vote.
3. Only athletes from the respective sport will be eligible to contend for the position of representative of that sport / gender.
4. Only currently active National Team athletes from the respective sport / gender will be eligible to vote for their sport / gender representative.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

1. At the time of its first meeting following elections, the Council will elect their Chair and Vice-Chair from among the ten National Team Athlete Representatives.
2. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected for a two-year term.

Representation to CCA and External Agencies

1. The Chair will serve as the National Team Athlete Representative to the Board of Directors.
2. The Athletes, specifically members of the National Team, will select a representative to serve on the High Performance Committee for a two-year term in odd years. This athlete representative will have to meet the same eligibility as the Athletes' Council representatives but does not need to be a member of the Athletes' Council.

3. Where the Chair is not able to attend the meetings of the Board, s/he will appoint an alternative representative from the other National Team Representatives. This action is permitted to ensure that the athletes' voice is heard at the decision-making bodies of the CCA.
4. The Council will recommend athlete representation to the Canadian Olympic Committee Athletes' Council and other external agencies such as AthletesCAN.

Removal from Athletes' Council

1. Athlete representatives can be removed from the Council in one of two (2) ways:
 - A vote of non-confidence supported by at least three-quarters of the representatives.
 - Resignation, in which case the athlete representative must make reasonable effort to find a suitable replacement.

Responsibilities

1. To serve as a source of athletes' opinion and advice to the CCA Board of Directors and associated Committees with regard to current or contemplated programs, policies and procedures.
2. To actively represent the interests of the athlete members of the Canadian Cycling Association and to take athlete-related issues forward to the relevant body within the CCA.
3. To provide a forum in which athletes may share and develop information or ideas as they relate to National Team Athletes and/or National Training Centers Athletes.
4. To ensure adequate communication of issues of concern to the community of active and aspiring athletes.
5. To pursue the development and maintenance of systems that will define and secure athlete's rights.
6. Through their representatives at the Board of Directors and the High Performance Committee, to contribute to the development of policy and programs and ensure that CCA policies, programs and procedures are athlete-focused.
7. To name representatives as requested by CCA and other bodies for activities where athlete representation is an integral element.

Duties of the Athletes' Council Chair

1. Attend Board of Directors meetings
2. Chair Athletes' Council meetings
3. Prepare agenda for, and organize Athlete Council meetings
4. Ensure proper representation at all other related Athlete Council meetings (COC, Athletes CAN)
5. Communicate with CCA staff

Duties of the Athletes' Council Vice-Chair

1. Attend Athletes' Council meetings
2. Serve as Alternate for the Chair to Board of Directors meetings if required
3. Stay current on all issues

4. Work with CCA national office staff to distribute, analyze and report on findings on Athlete Evaluation forms
5. Promote communication among all parties of the AC

Duties of Individual Members of the Athletes' Council

1. Direct athlete concerns and views to Athletes' Council for discussion and action
2. Be available to replace Chair and Vice Chair when necessary

Meetings

The Council will meet (at least) once a year preferably before the High Performance Committee (HPC) meeting and no later than the CCA Annual General Meeting within the confines of an official meeting. This meeting may be held via conference call.

The goal of the AC is to reach agreement through discussion, but if the Council finds itself in a deadlock, a vote may be taken with votes allocated as follows:

- Each of the ten National Team Representatives will cast a vote for a total ten votes.

This process ensures that all cycling sports are represented.

Staff Support

The CEO and/or CTO will liaise with the Athletes' Council and attend its meetings and conference calls.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy was approved by the CCA Board of Directors on the 2nd day of May, 2010

Original Policy Lead: Rose Mercier

Current Policy Lead: Bill Kinash / Greg Mathieu

Date of next review: May 2012