

ROWING NSW

SELECTION OMBUDSMAN

DATE: 22 November 2021

REFERENCE: NSW State Team Selection Ombudsman

The NSW Selections Ombudsman is an official observer, advisor, mentor and mediator to Participants and Selectors participating in the selection of crews to represent NSW in competition.

Powers of the Selection Ombudsman

1. The powers of the Selection Ombudsman shall include without limitation:

- (a) to investigate an act or omission of the Selectors or seek more information from the Selectors in relation to the exercise of their powers under the Selection Policy, in respect of which:
 - (i) a complaint or an inquiry has been made to the Selection Ombudsman;
 - (ii) the Selectors seek clarification; or

- (b) for the purpose of promoting and monitoring compliance with the Selection Policy, to observe and attend (at the Selection Ombudsman's discretion):
 - (i) event, trials and other attendances required under the Selection Policy or the Event Requirements;
 - (ii) meetings of the Selectors (at which the Selection Ombudsman may require the Selectors to produce to the Selection Ombudsman a record or document excluding sensitive information (as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)) within a specified period);
 - (iii) any debriefing session between an Athlete who has failed to be selected, their nominated coach or support person and one or more of the Selectors;

- (c) to give a recommendation to the Selectors that addresses an act or omission of the Selectors that relates to the exercise of their powers under the Selection Policy (which recommendation must be given due consideration by the Selectors).
2. The Selection Ombudsman is not required to investigate all complaints or inquiries. For example, the Selection Ombudsman may refuse to deal with a matter if the Selection Ombudsman considers:
 - (a) it is trivial; or
 - (b) it is frivolous or vexatious or is not made in good faith; or
 - (c) it lacks substance or credibility; or
 - (d) the subject-matter of the complaint or inquiry has already been investigated or otherwise dealt with by the Selection Ombudsman.
3. It is required that athletes consult with the Ombudsman prior to lodging an appeal.
4. Investigations conducted by the Selection Ombudsman will generally take place during the relevant event, trial or other attendance, prior to the lodging of an Appeals by a Participant, and must be completed by no later than 48 hours after the announcement of the relevant selection decision. The Selection Ombudsman is not authorised to make selection decisions.
5. Independence of the Selections Ombudsman.
 - (a) The selections Ombudsman is appointed by the board of directors of RNSW and is independent of the selectors, coaches and athletes.
 - (b) The Selections Ombudsman's involvement in relation to any particular Participant ceases immediately the Participant begins an appeal with RNSW. The Selections Ombudsman cannot participate in any way in relation to matters under consideration by an Appeals Tribunal.