



2026 State Team

2026 Selection Ombudsman

BACKGROUND

The RSA State Team Selection Policy outlines the broad selection criteria for all rowers and coxswains and can be viewed on the RSA website. This document operates as an appendix to the Selection Policy and outlines the purpose and powers of the Selection Ombudsman.

DEFINITION

The RSA Selection Ombudsman is an independent observer, advisor and mediator appointed by the RSA Board under the Selection Policy. Their role is to uphold the Selection Policy and all relevant documents and ensure the selection processes have been upheld.

POWERS OF THE SELECTION OMBUDSMAN

1. The Selection Ombudsman is not authorised to make selection decisions.
2. The powers of the Selection Ombudsman shall include without limitation:
 - a. to investigate an act or omission of the Selectors, or RSA board or seek more information from the Selectors, or board 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. events under the Selection Policy or relevant 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 and one or more of the Selectors.
 - c. to give a recommendation to the Selectors, and/or board that addresses an act or omission of the Selectors or board that relates to the exercise of their powers under the Selection Policy (which recommendation must be given due consideration by the Selectors).
3. 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.

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4. It is recommended but not required that athletes, and applicants for coaching of selector roles consult with the Selection Ombudsman prior to lodging an appeal.
5. Investigations conducted by the Selection Ombudsman will generally take place during the relevant event, trial, or other attendance prior to the lodging of an appeal by a Participant and must be completed by no later than 48 hours after the announcement of the relevant selection decision.
6. Independence of the Selection Ombudsman.
 - a. the Selection Ombudsman is appointed by the board of directors of RSA and is independent of the selectors, coaches, and athletes.
 - b. the Selection Ombudsman's involvement in relation to any Participant ceases immediately after the Participant begins an appeal with RSA. The Selection Ombudsman cannot participate in any way in relation to matters under consideration by an Appeals Tribunal.

Please Note: Rowing South Australia ("RSA") will review this policy by no later than October of each year but may review and update the policy at any time and the publication or notification shall take effect in accordance with the RSA Selection Policy.

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