

2027 Selection Ombudsman Policy

BACKGROUND

The Rowing SA State Team Selection Policy outlines the broad selection criteria for all rowers and coxswains and can be viewed on the [Rowing SA website](#). This document operates as a supporting policy to the Selection Policy and outlines the purpose and powers of the Selection Ombudsman.

DEFINITION

The Rowing SA Selection Ombudsman is an independent observer, advisor and mediator appointed by the Rowing SA Board under the Selection Policy. A Selection Ombudsman will be appointed for each State Team program, including Masters. One person may serve as Selection Ombudsman in more than one program. 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, the CSSP, or Rowing SA Board or seek more information from the Selectors, the CSSP, or Rowing SA 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; and
 - 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.

4. Participants must seek a review by the Selection Ombudsman under Step 3 of the Appeals Policy before lodging a Formal Appeal, as the Appeals Policy steps must be completed first (By-Laws clause 7.1).
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, for a review under Step 3 of the Appeals Policy, the Selection Ombudsman must provide a written outcome within two business days of being contacted. That written outcome starts the 48-hour period for lodging a Formal Appeal under clause 7.2 of the By-Laws.
6. Independence of the Selection Ombudsman.
 - a. The Selection Ombudsman is appointed by the board of directors of Rowing SA and is independent of the Selectors, Coaches, and Athletes.
 - b. The Selection Ombudsman may be a Director of Rowing SA, but must not concurrently be a member of the CSSP, a Selector or a State Team Coach, and must declare any conflicts of interest in accordance with the Conflict of Interest Policy. Where the Selection Ombudsman is a Director of Rowing SA, they must abstain from Board deliberations on the ratification of State Team selections and on any matter they have reviewed as Selection Ombudsman.
 - c. The Selection Ombudsman's involvement in relation to any Participant ceases immediately after the Participant lodges a Formal Appeal. The Selection Ombudsman cannot participate in any way in relation to matters under consideration by the Independent Appeals Tribunal.
7. Reporting. At the conclusion of each State Team season, the Selection Ombudsman will provide a brief written report to the CEO and the Board on compliance with the Selection Policy and any recommended improvements, excluding confidential athlete information.

Please Note: Rowing South Australia ("Rowing SA") 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 Rowing SA Selection Policy.