

Athletes Advisory Commission (AAC)

November 2023

In 2017, the World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF) Board of Directors decided to form an Athletes Advisory Commission (AAC) to act as an advisory group to the WTGF Sport Committee. The AAC was formed in order to improve the organization of the official sports of the World Transplant Games.

In 2018, the WTGF Sport Committee, with the assistance of each AAC sport group, revised the Games' Sport Rules and created the new Competitor Guide and Understanding & Agreements documents based on feedback provided by 49 athletes from 12 member countries in 16 sports. This process continued in 2022 for the 2023 Perth Games.

Goal of the Athletes Advisory Commission:

The goal of the Athletes Advisory Commission is to act as an advisory group to the WTGF Sport Committee. For each sport, the respective AAC groups assist the Sport Committee by sharing their experiences and providing feedback as athletes. The AAC groups assist by reviewing any proposed modifications to their sport's official rules for the WTG modified rules, reviewing suggestions received from the public and making suggestions to the WTGF Sport Committee. The AAC is very important to creating well organised WTG sports events. The AAC helps update WTG Sport Rules, Competitor Guides, and the Understanding & Agreement documents for Games organizers so that the world's best transplant sportsmen and sportswomen can enjoy an event that is a once-in-a-lifetime dream.

Objectives of the Athletes Advisory Commission

- a. To build more trust between the athletes and the WTGF
- b. To involve more athletes in the WTGF movement
- c. To serve as a panel of individuals who can share expertise in their sports
- d. To provide suggestions and recommendations to the WTGF Sport Committee, how to improve WTG sports
- e. To act as a source of experts and reference for the Sport Committee in all aspects related to sport
- f. To be available during the WTG on request of the Sport Committee or the Judiciary

Name

The Athletes Advisory Commission

- a. "Athletes" assist the Sport Committee with their experiences as athletes in past WTGs
- b. "Advisory" denotes its advising function to the Sport Committee
- c. "Commission" matches the naming of similar WTGF groups

The Role of the Athletes Advisory Commission and the WTGF Sport Committee

The AAC's role is to help to inform the Sport Committee as to the intricacies and particulars of specific sports, and the AAC should help provide feedback to Sport Committee to help the WTGF improve the overall games experience.

The Role of the WTGF Sports Manager and the Judiciary

- The WTGF Sports Manager is the professional in charge of communicating with the Local Organizing Committee Sports Director and the LOC Sports Managers before, during, and after the World Transplant Games.
- The Sport Manager oversees the rules and documents of the Sport Committee which are approved by the WTGF trustees.
- The role of Judiciary members is to assist the LOC Sports Manager during the World Transplant Games if and when issues about rules interpretations arise.
- During the World Transplant Games, the Sports Manager and the Judiciary Members may consult with the AAC.

How is an Athletes Advisory Commission (AAC) formed?

Requirements:

AAC members (athletes, coaches, trainers, team managers) must have expertise in their sport, have competed in one of the two previous Games and expect to participate in next World Transplant Games. *Expertise* is defined by an athletes' sport knowledge, sport commitment, and participation in previous games.

Sport knowledge includes but it not limited to: 1) years of participation in sport, and 2) coaching, certification, and training in the sport.

Sport commitment includes but is not limited to: 1) demonstrated efforts to improve their sport, and 2) participation in sport as athlete, coach, or trainer at local, national, and international level.

Previous games experience helps demonstrate that an athlete has previous knowledge of the similarities and differences between sporting events and transplant sporting events that take into consideration some of the challenges transplant athletes face when competing.

Interested AAC members must submit an online application that will ask applicants to share their experience, their interest and any previous/present experience in sport administration relevant to their wish to serve on the AAC.

AAC members should have good English speaking and writing skills.

Selection

The selection of members will be based on sport knowledge, sport commitment, and in some cases, members will be chosen to ensure the broadest possible representation of member countries on the committee. The AAC members are always allowed to resign, but AAC members who wish to resign are asked to inform the Sport Committee and the AAC group of particular sport with two (2) weeks' notice.

Current AAC members are eligible to be reapply to the Commission. However, each AAC member is only eligible to serve for two consecutive terms. That is, generally an AAC member

may serve for four (4) years before his/her service time ends. A person may reapply to serve as an AAC member after a two-year (1-term) absence.

Selection (continued)

At the conclusion of the Summer Transplant Games, the WTGF Sport Manager will invite athletes, coaches, trainers, and team managers to apply to serve. The Sport Committee will nominate athletes to serve on the AAC by the end of the calendar year. Athletes will begin their two-year service in January 2024 and serve until the end of December 2025.

Interested AAC members must submit an application directly to the World Transplant Games Federation who will let country Team Managers know who has applied from their country.

The WTGF Sport Committee will review the new applications and will send a list of recommended athletes to the WTGF Executive Committee for final approval.

Duties

AAC members will act solely in an advisory capacity and will not represent the WTGF in an official capacity. Members of a specific sport discipline will be consulted when the Sport Committee has a particular question about that sport.

AAC members will also be expected, when necessary, to be available to the WTGF-SM and Judiciary during the World Transplant Games. If an issue arises, it is the duty of the LOC-SM, the WTGF-SM, and the judiciary to resolve the problem.

Any perceived conflict of interest will not be allowed. For example, an AAC member may not be asked to provide feedback on issues in which a person from his or her country is involved.

Removal & Replacement

The Board of the World Transplant Games Federation recognizes the privilege selected AAC members have for the betterment of the competition and fair play of Transplant Games. This privilege comes with benefits such as the ability to help influence the improvement of Transplant Games Sports *and* this privilege comes with the responsibility to act professionally on behalf of all transplant athletes. AAC Members should also be willing to stand by the recommendations that they provide the Sport Committee that become part of the rules and guidelines of the Games.

Since AAC members are selected to serve by the WTGF, it is also the prerogative of the WTGF with recommendation from the Sport Committee to remove a person from membership of the AAC should their performance not be satisfactory. If deemed necessary, the WTGF-SC is empowered to appoint additional AAC members to a specific sport to ensure fair and complete coverage of all aspects of that sport.

Communication

At the conclusion of any meeting, one person from the group will briefly report on the meeting to the Sport Manager and the chair of the Sport Committee.