



# Australian Coaching Council

..... industry driven – committed to serving Australian sport .....

## National Forum Report

### “Sydney Forum Outcomes”

Held on Thursday 18 October 2018  
at NRL Learning Centre, Moore Park, Sydney

#### 1. NSO Interest in Attending the Forum

- 1.1 Present:** attending the Forum were 42 delegates representing 28 x NSOs, 2 x SSOs and a State Office of Sport and Recreation. (Shown as Appendix 1 p5)
- 1.2 Apologies:** apologies were received from 15 x NSOs, 2 x academic institutions and 4 x peak sporting bodies

#### 2. Forum Objectives

##### 2.1 ACC Objectives

- The primary objective of the Forum was to identify and explore with NSOs the major issues impacting Coaching and Officiating development and promotion.
- These issues will guide the strategic priorities and direction of the ACC and determine what services and assistance may be required by NSOs in the future.

##### 2.2 ACC Introducing the ACC Advisory Committee

Chair Lawrie Woodman delivered the opening address *‘The influence of the Coach – the importance of an effective national coaching and officiating system’*. He then introduced the highly respected and experienced members of the **Australian Coaching Council Advisory Committee**.



Lawrie Woodman



Norma Plummer AM



Prof Dick Telford AM



Kym Dowdell OAM



Patrick Hunt AM



Gene Schembri



Darryl Durham

Gene Schembri and Darryl Durham will be available to provide technical support to interested National and State Sporting Organisations.

### 2.3 “Why are you here?”

Delegates were asked what had brought them to attend the Forum?

- *Share learnings amongst sports*
- *Leadership is required in the coaching area*
- *Lack of leadership and direction in coaching*
- *Networking*
- *Piggy back off other sports – resources and ideas*
- *Not much support – see what is on offer*
- *Suck and see. What is the ACC about?*
- *Since the deregulation, wanting to see what other sports are doing.*
- *What is happening in coaching and coaching development?*
- *Training coaches but what about development*
- *Value-add to our coaching base*
- *Coach well-being and transition*
- *Developing cooperative resources*
- *Advocacy for sport*
- *Defining a meaningful workforce*
- *Identifying better guiding principles for the development of coaches*
- *Advisory group – What do sports need?*
- *Other support services are required*
- *Engagement of coaches on the horizontal plain*

### 3. Group Insights

From a highly engaged and collaborative series of discussions and group reports the major themes were distilled and presented as a summary to the Forum.

***The following section is presented as a Draft for review and comment by Forum attendees.***

Note: The complete, individual group responses are included as appendices to this report.

#### Major themes from group reports

The critical elements of the discussions can be captured in five major themes:

- **LEADERSHIP**
- **CROSS SPORT ACTIVATION**
- **BEST PRACTICE**
- **GENERIC RESOURCES**
- **ONGOING DEVELOPMENT (Coaches & Officials)**

Most of the suggestions for action made by the five groups in their presentations fit into these five areas.

#### Leadership

Essentially this is a call for clear national leadership and direction. It can be achieved through the industry coming together and collaborating under a national brand with the lead organisation (ACC) offering advice and support for NSOs particularly, and other coach and officiating stakeholders in the following areas:

- **'Thought leadership'** - latest ideas about coaching and coach development (CD). Evidence to guide practice. Ideas from both research and practice.
- **Advocacy** - work we might do to encourage boards to take more interest, coaching and CD to be written into strategic plans, influencing ASC / state governments, more coach mentions in the media, recognition.

- **Coach welfare** - encompassing employment, succession planning, life after coaching, personal welfare.

### **Cross Sport Activation/Collaboration**

This was probably the strongest (most recurring mentions) theme of the meeting– e.g. facilitate multisport forums, collaboration and sharing, networking, cross sport learning, cross fertilisation of best practices, cross sport development and mentoring and coming together as an industry. A national coaching conference and other types of coaching conferences were raised in this category.

### **Best Practice**

The theme of researching and sharing best practices for coach and officiating development was prominent in a range of areas, including pedagogy, appropriate technology, learning resources/systems and mentoring. Facilitating this research and sharing is regarded as a critical function for the lead agency. There is a potential role for academic partners (universities/researchers) in this regard.

### **Generic Resources**

Production of generic resources which can be used by all sports (any who want to use a specific resource) was raised by every group. This included, general principles resources, modular approaches to a wide range of topics, providing a network of people with skills and services to offer NSOs, cross sport mentors, and resources/programs to develop presenter skills.

### **Ongoing Development of Coaches and Officials**

Development beyond initial training was a prominent issue, including continuous learning, professional development credits (CPD type system). There was a wide range of potentially effective development processes and activities suggested in this area - role of mentors, coach developers, club/regional coaching coordinators, in-club support, conferences, promotion of broadly available generic activities which relate to coaching, specific activities to develop and improve the status of “development coaches”.

The idea of a membership structure to include both coaching organisations and individual coaches was raised and could be a sub category in this area. This is partly about belonging to something bigger/broader than the NSO and strengthening the advocacy role for coaching – “giving coaching a voice”.

**Note:** Attendees are invited to advise whether the above Summary accurately reflects the views of the attending NSOs and edits/omissions/comments are very welcome.

## **4. Building on the insights and wishes of NSOs – The Next Steps**

In accordance with the Australian Coaching Council commitment that it will be highly responsive and industry driven the following steps are proposed:

- **Next ACC Forum** – following the kind offer to host - the follow-up ACC Forum will be held
  - **Athletics Australia HQ – Albert Park, Melbourne**
  - **Date: Wednesday 6 March 2019**
  - **Format:** This one-day forum will comprise two major parts:
    1. Morning Session: Consolidation of NSO requirements in coaching and officiating in the future
    2. Afternoon Session: Professional Development and sharing the learnings from outstanding current initiatives and approaches

- **Offer of formal recognition by ACC and access to NCAS/NOAS accreditation**
  - In response to requests received from NSO's the ACC will offer formal recognition.
  - The purpose of ACC recognition is to build industry collegiality and connectedness – specifically in the realm of coaching and officiating development and wellbeing
  - In response to NSO demand the ACC can provide continuing accreditation of Coaching courses previously approved under the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme.
  - As promised during the 18 October Forum – formal communication offering the above will be forwarded to NSOs for consideration.
  
- **Alignment with the *National Sport Plan – Sport 2030***
  - As stated during the Forum the ACC has a commitment to ensure alignment with the principles espoused in the National Sport Plan and it will continue to work towards a strong and collaborative working relationship with Sport Australia.

## 5. Feedback and Communication

Feedback and questions from the group are welcomed and our ACC Advisory Committee members and steering committee will strive to respond in the most effective manner.

The Australian Coaching Council is enthusiastic about communicating and working with interested NSOs and other sporting organisations to build capacity and excellence in Australian coaching and officiating.

Thank you for your contribution to a highly successful forum and we look forward to working with you in future.

For any enquiries please contact:

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**MARTIAL ARTS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**  
 THE PEAK INDUSTRY BODY FOR MARTIAL ARTS IN AUSTRALIA

## Appendix 1

Australian Coaching Council Forum - Attendance List			
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