



2008 ATHLETES' COMMISSION REPORT



ONOC Athletes Commission Report

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AGM

The ONOC AC had their annual meeting and forum in New Zealand. The meeting was over 2 days 11th and 12th of February.

It was attended by Barbara Kendall (chair) Allana Slator – AUS, Naca Takayawa – FIJ, Mary Mahuk –VAN and Andrew Lepani PNG.

They were also joined by Voices of the Athletes Executives Jo Ferris (UN aids) and Natanya Potoi (RADO).

On the last day we also had the pleasure of the athletes from the IAAF HPTC in Auckland attend. Ana Poughila, Salome Dell, Erwen Cassier, Aunese Curreen, Niko Verekaita, Moses Kamut and Arnold Sorina. We were able to run these athlete through, aids and drug and leadership education.

Mary Mahuk was elected secretary general of the Athletes Commission. She will now undertake to talent ID and educate the right athletes who are interested in being a voice within the NOC's.

With the right athletes involved their contribution will really add value to an NOC.

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executive board in those NOC's that don't have active athletes commissions.

During the meeting we developed a questionnaire for athletes that will be distributed to all athletes at games times. This questionnaire will be a valuable tool in ensuring we hear the athletes voice and that feedback is given to the NOC and games organisers on what they did well and how we can all improve.

This questionnaire is available now to all NOC's.

These 2 days were also a fantastic opportunity for the delegates to brainstorm the future of our program "voices of the athletes" - be a leader, play safe, play true.

This program was launched at the Pacific Games in Samoa. We learnt a lot from the Pacific Games and are now putting in process the plan for the next few years to have our voice heard.

ANOC AGM representation

Mary Mahuk from Vanuatu represented the ONOC Athletes Commission at the ANOC AGM in Beijing April 2008.

Here she gave a 5-minute presentation on the work we are doing within our region with our program - Voices of the Athletes. The feedback was very positive about Mary's report.



ONOC staff with ONOC Athletes Commission meeting in Auckland, NZ



Beijing Representation

The ONOC Athletes Commission were given one accreditation – thanks to Robin Mitchell for our representative

Nacaniel Takayawa from Fiji represented the ONOC Athlete's Commission as an athletes liaison officer and our Voices of the Athletes at the Beijing Olympics.

The entire island athlete NOC's were clustered together in one area of the games village this way they could pool their resources.

IOC Athletes Commission April 2008

There was an extra meeting to deal with the issues that were facing the games re the torch relay and freedom of speech. We released a press statement FORM the IOC athlete's commission encouraging athletes not to boycott the games.

Beijing 2008

The IOC athletes Commissions held their elections in Beijing. Grant Hackett and I both put our names forward for election. Unfortunately neither of us got enough votes to be elected onto the commission. Our thanks to all those that did vote for us. The good news is that President Rogge has appointed me back onto the Athletes' Commission so Oceania still has a representative on the IOC Athletes Commission.

December 2008

Our last meeting for the IOC Commission was in December in Lausanne. The main points from the meeting:

Beijing was a great success from an athlete's perspective in all areas, transportation, competition venues, accommodation and villages.

A record number of athletes voted at the games for the new Athlete Commission members but there were a few problems with unclear campaigning rules and these are now being reviewed.

Congratulations to the new Members: Claudia Bokel, Germany, Dae Sung Moon, Korea, Alexander Popov, Russia and Yumilka Ruiz lauces, Cuba.

The IOC has resigned the contract with Adecco and we will look forward to a new and improved program, which has been, renamed the IOC Education and Career program. Oceania Athletes Commission hope to launch this in Vanuatu in May at our forum.

The next meeting and bi annual Athletes Forum will be in Marrakech, Morocco in May.

Andrew Lepani from PNG will be our representative along with myself.

Next year will be our reappointment of our Athletes Commission representatives for those that don't get reappointed I want to thank you for the great work you have done in supporting me with developing the "Voices of the Athletes" program we have been a great team.

Barbara Kendall

ONOC Athletes Commission Chairperson and ONOC Athletes Commission IOC representative.