



**Athletics Western Australian
Board Governance**



Athletics Western Australia

INTRODUCTION

Athletics WA (AWA) is the Member Association of Athletics Australia with a mission to lead an integrated, growing sport of athletics in Western Australia.

The purpose of this Board Governance model is to establish an effective governance framework for AWA to promote a consistent standard of corporate governance practice that promotes sound and prudent management in the interests of all stakeholders.

There are also individual profiles of each member to illustrate the diverse range of professional qualities that comprise the board and facilitate it in adhering to the responsibilities that are listed below.

ROLE OF THE BOARD

The Board's primary responsibility is to direct the affairs of AWA on behalf of its Members. Individual Board members represent and serve the interests of Members and collectively oversee and appraise the strategies, major policies and performance of the organisation.

The performance of the organisation is driven by the strategies developed and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer and management team ('Management'). The Board aims to bring an independent and objective view to the organisation's decisions, provides guidance to Management with respect to strategy development, and reviews the effectiveness of Management in delivering upon those strategies. The Board also ensures that sufficient control and accountability systems are in place to accurately measure and report upon the performance of the organisation.

The specific functions and responsibilities of the Board include:

- (a) setting the broad strategic direction of the organisation in consultation with Management;
- (b) providing input into and final approval of Management's development of corporate strategy and performance objectives and monitoring Management's implementation of that strategy and stated objectives;
- (c) monitoring financial outcomes and the integrity of reporting; in particular approving annual budgets and monitoring material investments, funding activities, capital expenditure, acquisitions and divestments;
- (d) ensuring effective and timely reporting to members;
- (e) approving and monitoring the risk management framework and ensuring that effective and adequate audit, risk management and compliance systems are in place;
- (f) monitoring and assessing performance of the organisation, the Board itself, individual Board members, Management and major projects;



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ATHLETICS WA BOARD MEMBERS

Mal Harford (Chairman)

Mal Harford has been a Member of the Board since February 2012 and is a private practice lawyer specialising in Commercial and Property law.

Mal's sporting background is primarily in Australian Rules Football and he is a Life Member of both the Collegians Amateur Football Club and the Swanbourne Tigers Junior Football Club. Mal was also a Member of the Management Committee of the WAAFL from 1983-1986 and acted as Assistant Manager for the WA Amateur Carnival teams in Melbourne in 1985 and Adelaide in 1986.

His current sporting pursuits are that he is a member of the Fremantle Dockers, the Cottesloe Tennis Club and the Cottesloe Golf Club.

Dr Kelly Botha (Deputy Chairman)

Dr Botha is a Clinical Psychologist and her primary fields of interest and specialisation are performance psychology, and adolescent and young adult mental health.

Kelly's performance-related work has included contractual and consultant positions with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), the Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS), WAFL, and Netball WA.

Kelly has provided an invaluable balance to the Athletics WA board since joining in 2014.

David Van der Walt

Joining the board in 2009, David is a successful property developer with a genuine interest in supporting the community and individuals in need of support. A keen golfer, David enjoys all sports and has been a strong supporter of Athletics WA for many years, providing guidance and good governance to the board.

Darren Wright

Darren is a former AIS and WAIS athlete and state representative in the 400m hurdles who has maintained a strong involvement in athletics by coaching and administration with his alignment at Melville / Little Athletics Club. Darren has developed a successful business in servicing the mining, oil and gas industry from Perth and has been a board member since 2009.

Marissa Bechta

Marissa is a qualified Chartered Accountant and Registered Tax Agent with over 18 years' experience and is a Director at Cooper Partners Pty Ltd.

Marissa has strong expertise in a broad range of taxation issues, including corporate and international taxation and taxation of large private enterprises.

A lover of all sports Marissa has provided invaluable financial guidance to the Athletics WA board since joining in 2012.

John Forbes

A board member since 2012, John is a Clinical Psychologist in private practice, who also works with sports-people on optimising their performance and overcoming psychological barriers. John is also a Certified Practising Accountant, with extensive financial management and audit experience in government and the private sector, and has also worked in the IT sector - including being a Certified Information Systems Auditor.

Mickey Arthur

John Michael Arthur (Mickey) played professional cricket for 15 years as a right handed opening batsman including playing for South Africa A. After retiring Mickey went into coaching that eventually led him to coach South Africa to number 1 ranking in the world in all formats. He then moved to Australia where he also coached the Western Australia Warriors and Australia.

Mickey is currently employed as Director of Cricket at Christ Church Grammar School and is the owner of Mickey Arthur Cricket Academy while also managing the Future Force High Performance Rugby programme with Western Force.

Mickey joined the board in 2013 and still has involvement at the elite level by coaching Jamaica in the Caribbean Premier League.

Teresa Blackman

Teresa was elected Chairman of Little Athletics WA in late 2014 and joined the Athletics WA board in 2016. Teresa maintains a strong involvement with athletics through her administration roles, including the national Little Athletics Australia Board, and is keen to review strategies and develop synergies from grassroots to transition athletes and beyond.

Tim Lyons

Tim was admitted to practise as a lawyer in 1988 and is the principal of Gibson Lyons Lawyers where he specialises in litigation and employment law.

He has been heavily involved in his children's sports of Australian Rules, basketball and athletics as administrator, coach and competitor for many years. He was recently awarded life membership of the University of Western Australia Little Athletics Centre and competes at Open and Masters levels in discus, hammer and shot put where his enthusiasm exceeds his ability considerably.