

NZOC ATHLETES' COMMISSION

NZOC Athletes' Commission – Strengthening Athlete Voice and Mana

The NZOC Athletes' Commission was proud to deliver on its strategy to enhance athlete mana and voice in 2024.

Two New Zealand athletes were nominated for international representative positions by the NZOC Athletes' Commission.

Julia Ratcliffe was successfully elected as the Oceania representative to the Commonwealth Sport Athletes' Advisory Commission. Julia will serve a four-year term on the Commonwealth Sport Athletes' Advisory Commission where she will work to ensure athletes' views are represented in every facet of the Commonwealth Games Movement.

Tokyo bronze medallist (men's doubles tennis) Marcus Daniell was elected to the IOC Athletes' Commission, being voted on by athletes at the Paris Olympic Games. As well as sitting on the NZOC Athletes' Commission, as an IOC Member, Marcus also sits on the NZOC Board.

After eight years on the NZOC Athletes' Commission, Sarah Cowley Ross concluded her term this year. Elected in 2016 during the Rio Olympic Games, she became Chair in 2020 and has been a vital member throughout her tenure. Reflecting on her time on the Commission, Sarah described it as a privilege, highlighting the importance of service. She expressed pride in advocating for the athlete voice across various platforms, including the IOC, ANOC, ONOC, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the CGF, and the NZOC.

Richie Patterson, the new Chair, acknowledged the high standard Sarah has set and feels honoured to have worked alongside her. Other members who concluded their terms in September 2024 include Sarah Walker, Ben Sandford, Alison Shanks and Emma Twigg.

Sarah Walker, appointed to the IOC Athletes' Commission during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, concluded her term on the IOC Athletes' Commission and therefore, her position as an ex-officio member of the NZOC Athletes' Commission, marking a total of eight years in both of these roles. She has been appointed as an IOC Member and in this capacity, will remain on the NZOC Board.

Two new Commission members, Eliza McCartney and Dylan Schmidt, along with Max Brown (who was standing for re-election), were elected by their peers from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Samantha Child has been co-opted to the Commission in order to provide gender balance in the composition of the Commission as well as bringing a considerable diverse skill set and experience.

The Commission had significant input into preparations for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, in particular around length of stay after games, athlete experience, the health and safety of participants and the topics of focus for athlete education for Paris 2024. The Commission also provided feedback for the Selection Policy review process following the Games.



NZOC OLYMPIANS' COMMISSION

Olympians Supporting Olympians – NZOC Olympians' Commission in Action

The NZOC Olympians' Commission seeks to foster a sense of whanaungatanga (kinship) among New Zealand's Olympians, providing opportunities for them to connect, celebrate their achievements and engage with each other and their communities.

New Zealand Olympic legend Barbara Kendall was nominated by the Commission and was subsequently recognised with a lifetime honour by the World Olympians Association (WOA).

Barbara, a three-time Olympic medallist over five Olympic Games, was made an Olympian for Life by the WOA, an accolade bestowed to just five Olympians at each edition of the Olympic Games. The recognition is reserved for Olympians who have drawn on their Olympic experiences to make the world a better place by promoting the Olympic values at every stage of their lives.

She has remained deeply involved in sport since she finished competing. She has served as a coach, ambassador and IOC Member, and has sat on numerous national and international sporting boards and commissions.

The Olympians' Commission also led a number of legacy initiatives for Paris 2024, with each athlete receiving a welcome letter and sports pack with their Paris uniform. The sports pack provided a snapshot of the legacy of the athlete's sport, with information such as how many athletes had competed in their sports at Olympic Games, who were the youngest and oldest competitors, and how many medals had been won. These packs provided a great reminder to athletes of those that had come before them and how they were continuing the legacy of their sport.

In addition, the Commission provided opportunities for Olympians to be presented with their unique Olympic pin number. The pinning function, held prior to the 2024 Olympic Gala, was a wonderful event to enable Olympians to reunite and welcome new Olympians to the family, with 50 Olympians receiving their unique pins.



“New Zealand’s Olympians are more than champions. Each one is a source of inspiration whose story of perseverance, passion and triumph can ignite the dreams of youth, and show that, with hard work and belief, anything is possible.”

**Chantal Brunner (Olympian #692)
Chair of the NZOC Olympians' Commission**

