

Media Release 8 December 2018

RE: Australian Cheerleading Governing Body

At a meeting on 12 December 2017, the Gymnastics Australia (GA) Board announced its intention to step down as the national governing body of Cheerleading in Australia. GA notified the International Cheer Union (ICU), Sport Australia (previously "Australian Sports Commission (ASC)") and the Australian Olympic Committee of this decision on 17 January 2018. The targeted timeframe for a handover to another governing body was determined to be between 17 January 2018 – 31 December 2018.

The responsibility for the identification of the new entity to be recognised as the national governing body of the sport in Australia from 2019 onwards currently sits with the ICU and Sport Australia. Any entity looking to be recognised as the national governing body needs to satisfy criteria set by the ICU and Sport Australia. (<http://cheerunion.org/about/statutes/>) (https://www.ausport.gov.au/supporting/nso/asc_recognition)

Since 6 July 2017, the Australian Cheer Sport Alliance (ACSA) has expressed its interest to apply to ICU for this role, and ACSA again expressed its interest to reapply on 17 January 2018. Following ICU's discussions with GA and Sport Australia regarding the requirements and specific timeline for the handover, ICU had requested from ACSA a number of standard member application documents. ICU received these documents on 18 April 2018 for consideration.

During ICU's Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 24 April 2018, the ICU Governing Council and AGM granted the ICU Executive Committee the discretion to admit a new Member Federation for Australia at a future date (to be determined), on the basis of compliance with the ICU statutes, as well as compliance with Sport Australia for recognition.

Following a thorough review of ACSA's documents, including ACSA's constitution and national structure, ICU notified ACSA on 17 May 2018 that its constitution and structure were non compliant with the required criteria.

To ensure international compliance with the international sport authorities and to meet the timeframe given by Gymnastics Australia (GA) for the handover, the International Cheer Union (ICU) with approval from Sport Australia has successfully established a compliant National Sport Organisation (NSO)/National Cheer Federation (NF) to represent Australia in an official NSO/NF capacity for Cheerleading.

Below are a few details to assist around education of this NSO/NF:

- The International Cheer Union (ICU) is the driving force behind this alongside Sports Australia. The contact person who is in charge of this process is Mr. Karl Olson, Secretary General of the International Cheer Union (ICU). Karl is an ICU executive committee member who is mandated by the ICU to develop this NSO/NF on behalf of the global cheer community. As of yet, there is no Australian industry member appointed to any position, but the NSO/NF will require local interim state members as well as interim national members who will vote on a board of directors. Additional details are contained herein, and any further questions, comments or concerns regarding this can be sent via email direct to Karl at Karl@cheerunion.org.
- The newly recognized and compliant National Sport Organisation (NSO)/National Cheer Federation (NF) to represent Australia in an official NSO/NF capacity for Cheerleading - is based on a "Federated" model (an NSO/NF comprised of not for profit State Members as its voting membership) - that is the standard of the vast majority, if not all, Australian Olympic recognized NSOs/NFs.
- Following a framework that is compliant with Sport Australia, the International Cheer Union (ICU) and the international sport authorities - the national organisation constitution has already been created and

approved by Sport Australia. All set up costs for the creation of these organisations has been and will be funded by the International Cheer Union (ICU).

- Ultimately, State Representatives will be elected from their respective states, and Directors will be elected by State & National Members. Within accordance of the NSO/NF constitution clause 23 (“Transitional Provisions”), this process will be initiated electronically through a nominations application that will be open from now until 15 January 2018 for both “First (Interim) Directors” and for “Interim State Members”. Following selection of these interim positions, elections will be conducted at each organisation’s respective Annual General Meeting, a date and location determined by each state and the NSO/NF respectfully, within compliance of the NSO/NF constitution.
- For those interested in these State Representative or Director positions or to simply be more informed, there are 8 separate Facebook groups for the Interim State Members - as an initial development platform. These can be found under “ICU Cheer Australia NSO SM -” with the name of the State or Territory (there are 8 separate State Member groups). Additionally, there is the NSO/NF Facebook page (a 9th group) titled “ICU Cheer Australia National Sport Organisation (NSO) Information Page” for those interested in the NSO/NF specifically. *Note: Within accordance of the NSO/NF constitution, individuals cannot serve both as a State Representative and as a Director; an individual can only serve in one of these roles.*
- Currently, the organisation name ‘Australian Cheer Union’ (ACU) has been passed over from Gymnastics Australia for the enclosed Constitution document to be used for the national body and the NSO creation; however, the NSO/NF members will be able change this name at their discretion at the organisation’s Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- As with all of ICU’s National Federation members, the Team Australia selection process for the ICU World Championships will ultimately be managed by the National organisation including coach and athlete selection process. To assist with team selection for the 2019 ICU World Championships - and pending the approval of the ICU Governing Council; there will be an electronic application (posted on the Facebook Pages and open for circulation) for nominations for an Interim 2019 National Team Director Board of which will select Australia’s 2019 National Teams coaches and athletes. This nomination application target deadline will be 5 January 2019, with the objective to place the top 6 individuals (3 for Cheerleading and 3 for Performance Cheer/Cheerdance Divisions) – based on the Australia Cheer Community’s vote. Following the 2019 ICU World Championships, the discretion of National teams selection will be managed by the National organization.
- This NSO/NF is not designed to replace the excellent work of Australia’s Cheer Event Providers Peak Body ACSA in any way, but only to support and formalise current efforts and the growth of Cheer in Australia. This is done by complying with the Australian Sport Authority requirements for official sport recognition and providing the opportunity of membership and voting rights to all industry stakeholders including as Coaches, Gym Owners, Athletes, Event Providers and Industry Supporters. This framework will also allow for important sport recognition benefits to all stakeholders within the country.

For more information and clarification please review the enclosed Australia new NSO/NF Constitution (approved by Sport Australia): http://cheerunion.org.ismmedia.com/ISM3/std-content/repos/Top/docs/Australia_NS0_Constitution_24No_v18.pdf

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