



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Sports Commission**

Mr John Harding  
Executive Officer  
Orienteering Australia  
orienteering@netspeed.com.au

Dear John,

**Governance Reform in Sport**

The ASC is committed to improved governance in sport, as detailed in both *Australia's Winning Edge* and *Play.Sport.Australia*. Following the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, the ASC Board recommitted to *Australia's Winning Edge* and the need for continued governance improvement of sport for Australian sport to be successful into the future.

I wanted to update you on the ASC's plans to support the implementation of *Governance Reform in Sport*.

As you may recall, I wrote to you in June 2016 to release the *Governance Reform in Sport* document which sets the direction for the ASC's work in leading continuous governance improvement within the sport sector. *Governance Reform in Sport* details a unified approach for sports by focusing on integrated behaviours, processes and supporting systems. The ASC considers that the key pieces of work that need to be developed for each sport includes a whole-of-sport:

- Strategic plan with a common set of goals that are endorsed by all members
- Digital strategy
- Commercial framework
- Financial management system including consolidated national accounts.

Underpinning the *Governance Reform in Sport* document is the unified behaviours supporting document. This document outlines what governance reform success may look like for the sport, and is attached for your information. These ***unified behaviours***, once adopted, will ensure the implementation of whole of sport behaviours and key business systems which will enable the sport to develop and execute participation and high performance activities consistently and successfully for the benefit of all members.

The ASC Chair, John Wylie, and I have recently spoken to every State / Territory Department of Sport and Recreation (SDSR) to update them on this approach, and we have their collective support. The ASC will continue to engage and partner with the various SDSRs as we collectively support sport at both the national and state levels to implement the unified behaviours in sport across Australia.

The ASC and SDSR's have begun working with seven targeted sports (Swimming, Sailing, Cycling, Athletics, Rowing, Basketball and Hockey) to implement the unified behaviours.

T 61 26214 1111  
E info@ausport.gov.au  
ausport.gov.au

Leverrier Street Bruce ACT 2617  
PO Box 176 Belconnen ACT 2616

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 /ausport



Coinciding with this work, the ASC will organise a national road show in early 2017 which will be an opportunity to educate the entire sports sector about governance reform and the benefits of the unified behaviours. We will circulate further information relating to this early next year.

This is a high priority for the ASC and my team looks forward to discussing the opportunities for governance reform with Orienteering Australia during the governance assessment of the Annual Sports Performance Review in early 2017.

Thank you again for your continued support for this important piece of work.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Thomson', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Michael Thomson  
General Manager  
Participation & Sustainable Sports Division  
28 November 2016