

Updates on matters considered at the Conference

Child protection

There have been two significant developments since the Conference:

- Orienteering Victoria has now completed a draft set of Child Safety Standards, which are currently being circulated within the Victorian orienteering community for comment. Whilst some parts of the document are specific to Victorian legislation, it is likely that much of it will be transferable to other states once finalised. Interested states can obtain the draft document from OV.
- The ASC have advised that they will be running workshops for NSOs. We will be taking part in a workshop in Sydney in late April. We are able to have up to four delegates at the workshop so any interested person from NSW (or any other state who is willing to travel) may be able to be involved.

It is still unclear which, if any, legislative changes will occur at national and state/territory level in response to the report of the recent Royal Commission. (The Victorian legal changes were in response to a separate Royal Commission in Victoria).

Governance

As those who have been involved in OA meetings in recent years would be aware, there has been little further action within OA on governance changes in the last 12 months, with our highest organisational priority being to place OA's financial situation on a firm footing.

It is clear from our recent discussions with ASC that they are still strongly pushing an agenda of governance reform, and in particular want sports to continue to pursue becoming a company limited by guarantee. Whilst this is likely to be a lengthy process, we may wish to consider some of the "smaller" items in ASC governance principles (e.g. term limits for the Board) in advance of broader governance reform. The Board will consider this matter at its forthcoming meetings and it is likely to be a significant agenda item at the 2018 Conference.

Participation grants

OA has recently considered a number of applications for participation grants. Of the 10 proposals received, 6 have been approved, 3 are subject to further negotiation with the submitting states, and 1 has been deferred for later consideration. OA also intends to implement a project to facilitate extracting statistical information from Eventor and relieving states of the need to submit such information to OA themselves.

The projects will not account for all of the funds available, and hence it is likely that there will be a second round of projects called for later this year.

We are in the process of informing states about the outcome of their applications. This should be completed this week.

Blair Trewin
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