

POLICY	Governance
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide the policies and criteria for the Paddle Australia Honours Committee and Awards. Only financial members of Paddle Australia will be eligible to receive an Award unless the Awards Committee or President determines that exceptional circumstances preclude this requirement.

This Policy governs the appointment of a PA Honours Committee.

2. HONOURS COMMITTEE

- 2.1. The PA Board at their first meeting following the Annual General Meeting will appoint the Honours Committee. The Honours Committee will consist of no less than three (3) persons.
- 2.2. The Honours Committee shall be responsible for:
 - (a) Selecting the winners of the various Paddle Australia Annual Awards (including annual discipline awards if and when requested to assist);
 - (b) Advising the PA Board of persons to be considered for election as Life Members; and
 - (c) Advising the PA Board of persons to be considered for nomination for external awards and/or Australian Honours.
- 2.3. A staff member appointed by the Executive Officer will service the Honours Committee.

3. ANNUAL AWARDS

3.1 CANOEIST OF THE YEAR

- (a) Canoeist of the Year Awards may be presented in the categories:
 - (i) Canoeist of the Year – Olympic
 - (ii) Canoeist of the Year – Non-Olympic
 - (iii) Junior Canoeist of the Year – Olympic
 - (iv) Junior Canoeist of the Year – Non-Olympic
 - (v) Paracanoeist of the Year
 - (vi) Master Canoeist of the Year

Note: *Olympic means the disciplines of canoe sprint and canoe slalom. Non-Olympic means any paddle sports under the auspices of Paddle Australia, not represented at the Olympics, including canoe sprint and canoe slalom non-Olympic events.*

- (b) Canoeist of the Year Awards are presented to any paddler, in their respective age or group, competing in competition at any level or undertaking significant canoeing expeditions during the nomination period.

3.2 COACH OF THE YEAR

- (a) This award is presented to any coach, either paid or unpaid, whose athletes(s) as individuals, as a team or as a team of individual competitors, achieve outstanding results whilst competing at the highest level in competition at open or junior level during the nomination period.

3.3 TEAM OF THE YEAR

- (a) Any paddlers competing in open or junior competition as a boat combination or team of paddlers competing in the same event or class at any level during the nomination period.

3.4 THE OLEGAS TRUCHANAS CANOEING AWARD

- (a) Any canoeing activity/touring trip which best exemplifies the spirit of Olegas Truchanas, who shared his passion for the natural environment through photography, publishing environmental issues and teaching young people how to face the challenges of life.

3.5 TECHNICAL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

- (a) This award is presented to an individual who has achieved outstanding service by officiating at an international and/or national and/or state level. The recipient is someone who gives up their time to assist canoeing competitions.

3.6 INSTRUCTOR & GUIDES OF THE YEAR

- (a) This award is presented to an individual who has achieved outstanding service in instructing or guiding at a national and/or state level. The recipient is someone who follows the PA Safety Guidelines and demonstrates professionalism through their instruction.

3.7 PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

- (a) This award is voted via social media as nominated by PA. The athlete with the most votes, wins the award.

3.8 SERVICE TO CANOEING AWARD

- (a) This award recognises the efforts of non-professional sports administration personnel, officials, referees, instructors, guides, coaches or other volunteers who are active in the fields of administrative support, finance, sports training and education, project or team management and Association or club development, over a minimum of 10 years at state and/or national level.

3.9 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- (a) This award is decided and presented at the discretion of the serving Paddle Australia President, who will notify the CEO independently of the Honours Committee.

3.10 EXCELLENCE AWARD

- (a) The Excellence Award is awarded for services to canoeing in either administration or sporting endeavour over a “significant” period of time (i.e. surpasses “merit”).
- (b) The Excellence Award is **awarded once only, generally on retirement from competition** or after a long period of administrative service.

3.11 AWARD OF MERIT

- (a) An Award of Merit is awarded for an “outstanding” achievement in canoeing in either administration or sporting endeavour **in the year of the Award, where the individual does not qualify for other Awards**. In any one year, a number of merit awards may be presented. For example, winning a World Championship, organising/coordinating a major Paddle Australia event.

4. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

- 4.1. Certificates of recognition will be presented for all finalists in the annual awards as outlined in section 3.
- 4.2. The Honours Committee at their discretion, can award other certificates of recognition that are not outlined in section 3.
- 4.3. The Certificate of Recognition can also be awarded by technical committees to members (including Team Officials and Competition Officials) selected in National Teams at their discretion.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 5.1. Only financial members of Paddle Australia will be eligible to receive an Award.
- 5.2. Nominations will be called by the Chief Executive Officer, Paddle Australia providing details of Awards available, the closing date for nominations and a generic Nomination Form.
- 5.3. Nominations for Excellence and Award of Merit can be made by the Paddle Australia Board, any Paddle Australia Technical Committee or any member body on the Nomination Form provided by the CEO.
- 5.4. All nominations are to be submitted via the means as advised to the Chief Executive Officer, Paddle Australia no later than at least eight (8) weeks prior to the Award Presentation.
- 5.5. Nominations should include details of the nominee’s background, the year/s of service/performance including results and area of achievement/performance at national and international events. Nominations with insufficient detail will not be considered by the Honours Committee.
- 5.6. Awards are usually announced and presented at the Paddle Australia Annual General Meeting or Annual Dinner.