

POLICY	Governance
TITLE:	Life Membership, Annual Awards and Hall of Fame Policy
AREA:	Governance
RESPONSIBILITY:	Chief Executive Officer
DRAFTED BY:	SOM and SOEC
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1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to outline the criteria for each of the Paddle Australia (PA) Life Membership, Annual Awards and admission to the Hall of Fame including the process for nominations.
- 1.2. Unless otherwise specified, only financial members of PA will be eligible to receive Awards. The Honours and Awards Panel or PA President may, in exceptional circumstances, waive this requirement. Nominees that are in good standing with PA and their State Paddle Association (SPA) will be eligible to receive Awards.
- 1.3. Persons considered for these Awards will be vetted to ensure they hold no debt or any outstanding disciplinary matter with any affiliated club, SPA and/or PA.
- 1.4. The Honours and Awards Panel (HAP) hold discretion as to whether awards are made in any given award period.

2. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Life Membership to Paddle Australia (PA) is detailed in clause 5.4 of the Paddle Australia Ltd Constitution.

Life Membership is awarded to a person who has rendered distinguish or special service to the sport of paddling at a national level. This may include continuous meritorious service at State / Territory level which has impacted on the sport at a national level. The most frequently used criterion for life membership is length of service.

Extended length of service may be difficult as persons may hold roles of limited tenure yet perform meritorious service during their term in office. Under these circumstances, other criteria should be used to determine whether the person is deserving of nomination for Life Membership.

2.1 CRITERIA FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The following criteria may be used to determine suitability of a person for nomination for Life Membership to Paddle Australia (PA). While it is not necessary for all criteria to be satisfied, some at least should be considered.

The person under consideration may have demonstrated the following:

- Advanced innovative practice: introducing new procedures in either administration and/or management.
- Advanced the sport of paddling by effective promotion and recruitment with observable results.
- Enhanced communication with the general body of members and stakeholders.
- Reviewed and modified existing administrative and management procedures.
- Conducted research and introducing new practices for the betterment and/or development of the sport of paddling.
- The ability to enthuse others to implement appropriate ideas.
- Demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities in working with all areas of the sport of paddling.

2.2 LIFE MEMBER ENTITLEMENTS

A Life Member of Paddle Australia (PA) is entitled to:

- attend and debate at General Meetings but have no right to vote at General Meetings as per clause 5.1(d) of the PA Ltd Constitution.
- be sent an annual report each year.
- be invited to the annual awards dinner.
- be invited to PA events or activities.
- be exempt from membership fees to PA for life.
- receive a plaque / certificate / badge.
- be recorded in PA Honours on the website and Annual Report.

3. ANNUAL AWARDS

3.1 PADDLER OF THE YEAR

The Paddler of the Year Awards are presented to any paddler, in their respective age group, competing at any level or undertaking significant paddling expeditions during the nomination period.

Nominations for the following awards may be made by each PA Discipline Technical Committee, PA Discipline Technical Lead, SPA, High Performance Program, or Individual Member:

3.1 (a) Paddler of the Year – Olympic / Paralympic

3.1 (b) Paddle of the Year – Non-Olympic / Non-Paralympic

3.1 (c) Paddler of the Year - Junior

3.1 (d) Paddler of the Year - Paracanoelist

3.1 (e) Paddler of the Year - Master

***Note:** Olympic/ Paralympic means the events contested at the Olympics or Paralympics within the disciplines of Canoe Sprint and Canoe Slalom.*

3.2 COACH, TEAM AND TECHNICAL OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR

Nominations for the following awards may be made by the High Performance Program, any PA Discipline Technical Committee, PA Discipline Technical Lead or SPA.

3.2 (a) Coach of the Year

This award is presented to any coach, either paid or unpaid, whose athlete(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.

Nominees must be a financial member of a Club and/or hold a current PA Coaching Qualification at the relevant level.

3.2 (b) Team of the Year

This award is presented to any paddlers, competing in open or junior competition as a boat combination or competing as a team of paddlers competing in the same event or class at any level during the nomination period, who achieve outstanding results.

3.2 (c) Technical Official of the Year

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 paddling competitions.

3.3 STATE PADDLE ASSOCIATION NATIONAL AWARDS

Nominations for the following awards shall be submitted by each SPA and will be the winner(s) of the relevant award presented by the SPA. At least 40 days prior to the date of the Annual Awards, each SPA shall confirm to PA the details of their nominations in each of the following categories.

3.3 (a) Volunteer of the Year

Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has committed their time to volunteer for the paddling community during the nomination period. This individual is not required to have any role within any Paddle Organisation but rather to have demonstrated a tireless commitment to the sport, as evidenced through voluntary work at the Club and/or SPA level.

Nominees must be a registered member of an affiliated Club of PA.

3.3 (b) Club Coach of the Year

Club Coach of the Year Award is presented to any Club coach (other than a national, state or institute coach), either paid or unpaid, whose athlete or athletes, whether as individuals, as a team or as a team of individual participants, achieve outstanding outcomes during the nomination period. Outcomes need not be limited to competition results but can include outcomes in areas such as participation or inclusion. Nominations must be endorsed by an affiliated Club of PA.

Varying the requirement in clause 1.2 above, the Nominee must be a financial member of a Club and/or hold a PA Coaching Qualification.

3.3 (c) Instructor/Guide of the Year

Instructor/Guide of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has provided outstanding service to paddling in instructing or guiding at any level during the nomination period. The recipient is someone who follows the PA Safety Guidelines, who demonstrates professionalism through their actions and who fosters a greater engagement with paddling.

Nominees must hold current PA Instructor/Guide qualifications.

3.4 OLEGAS TRUCHANAS AWARD

Nominations for the Olegas Truchanas Award may be submitted by any PA Board Member, PA Discipline Technical Committee, PA Discipline Technical Lead, SPA, or Individual Member of PA.

Olegas Truchanas was a pioneering wilderness expedition paddler and award-winning wilderness photographer who was a key figure in the campaigns to save Lake Pedder and the Pieman, Gordon, and Franklin Rivers in Tasmania. In 1954 he became the first person to kayak the remote and inaccessible Gordon Splits – travelling solo from Strathgordon to Strahan in a canvass kayak. He shared his passion for the natural environment through his photography, publishing on environmental issues and, as an adventure instructor, teaching young people how to face the challenges of life. Olegas's images of south-west Tasmania were instrumental in early campaigns to save Tasmania's wild rivers for future generations.

[Biography of Olegas Truchanas – see more here.](#)

This award is presented to any paddler/s whose paddling activity/touring trip best exemplifies the spirit of Olegas Truchanas. It is awarded to those whose efforts reflect strength, determination, planning, ambition, and perseverance – even if not ultimate success – in a significant paddling expedition. There is no age limit. The award usually reflects an undertaking in the previous 24 months.

This award will in normal circumstances only be made to any individual/s once. The Nominee(s) need not be a member(s) of PA.

3.5 SERVICES TO PADDLING, EXCELLENCE AWARD AND AWARD OF MERIT

Nominations for the following awards can be made by the PA Board, any PA Discipline Technical Committee, PA Discipline Technical Lead or SPA.

3.5 (a) Services to Paddling

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.

3.5 (b) Excellence Award

The Excellence Award is awarded for services to paddling in either administration or sporting endeavour over a “significant” period of time (surpassing the Award of Merit). The Excellence Award is awarded once only, generally on retirement from competition or after a long period of administrative service.

3.5 (c) Award of Merit

An Award of Merit is awarded for an “outstanding” achievement in paddling 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, or organising/coordinating a major PA event.

3.6 PRESIDENTS AWARD

This award is decided and presented at the discretion of the serving Paddle Australia President, who will notify the CEO of any recipient independently of the Honours and Awards Panel.

4. HALL OF FAME

Membership to the Paddle Australia (PA) Hall of Fame represents the highest level of recognition for an individual's contribution to paddling.

Nominees will be considered and elected to the Hall of Fame biennially. Candidates must:

- be an Australian Citizen.
- be superior achievers at the highest level of paddling competition over a period exceeding six (6) years; or
- have made an exceptional and continuous contribution over an extended period (minimum of 15 years) to paddling as administrators, coaches, officials or in another capacity; and
- have the support of their peers.

Athlete Candidates will not be considered for election until at least four (4) years after their retirement from the highest level of competition.

In addition to their competitive achievements, a Candidate's integrity, sportsmanship, and character shall be considered in the selection process. Any past disciplinary action may render a candidate ineligible.

5. NOMINATIONS

Except for the Life Membership and Hall of Fame nominees, the Annual Award nomination period will be for the twelve months from 1st October to 30th September. Exceptions may be approved by the PA Board when the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or ICF World Championship (any discipline) occurs within a few days of the 30th September.

Nominations will be called for by the CEO of Paddle Australia (PA) by 1st September each year. Nominations for Awards under clause 3.3 will be called for by the SPA at a time and in such a way as they determine.

The closing date for nominations will be 40 days before the date of the PA AGM each year. The closing date for nominations will be confirmed when nominations are called.

Individuals shortlisted for an Award will be contacted to confirm that they are willing to be both shortlisted and to receive an Award.

Nominations should be made using the online Nomination Form provided by PA. Where insufficient detail is provided, the HAP may determine not to consider a nomination.

The Board of PA may make a nomination(s) where, in its reasonable opinion, it considers that an omission has been made due to the non-nomination of an individual or team. Such a nomination(s) shall be made within 5 days of the close of nominations.

The HAP will determine the shortlist and winner of each Award in accordance with the [HAP Terms of Reference](#).

6. FORFEITURE OF HONOURS OR AWARDS

Any Honour or Award bestowed by Paddle Australia (PA) may be forfeited by failure of a recipient to observe any PA by-laws, policies, or constitutional requirements or for any action or behaviour which brings paddling or PA into disrepute, upon the PA Board passing a resolution to remove such Honour or Award.

Upon Forfeiture any reference to the name of recipient of the Honour or Award will be removed from the PA Website and public-facing documents or electronic media and replaced with the wording “*Award Revoked DD/MMM/YYYY*”.