

BOXING AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION TO THE SPORT PANEL

Boxing Australia's 'environment'

1. Boxing Australia Inc. (BAI) is a member of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) and through recognition by that organisation is a member of the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) and the Australian Commonwealth Games Association (ACGA). As a result of BAI's membership of those associations and the resulting eligibility of its boxers to compete in the Olympic and Commonwealth Games it is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) as the N.S.O. responsible for conducting amateur boxing in Australia.
2. The ASC supports the sport of amateur boxing through:
 - A High Performance Program- \$632,500 budget (2008/09) managed by the ASC/AIS to facilitate coaching, training and international competition of 6-8 'elite' boxers
 - An NTID Program- \$445,000 budget (2008/09) managed by the ASC/AIS to facilitate coaching, training and international competition of 6 boxers (4 of whom must be indigenous) and identification and development through training camps of other potential international standard boxers
 - A Sport Development Program- \$195,000 grant (2008/09) by the ASC to BAI to conduct the sport in accordance with an agreed (and subjected to audit) Operational Plan.
3. The AOC supports amateur boxing through a grant of \$36,000 (2008/09) to BAI for senior age (17-34 years) 'elite' boxers and the ACGA supports the sport through grants of \$68,000 (2008/09) to BAI for development of 'elite' senior and underage (U19/17) boxers. Both the AOC and ACGA also support the sport through sponsorship of teams to the Olympic and Commonwealth Games and Youth Games.
4. BAI has eight State/Territory Member Associations which through a Delegate elect BAI's five Directors who manage BAI. The Member Associations must comply with BAI's 'rules' for conduct of the sport. Apart from designated national events and international matters each Member Association, acting in accordance with BAI's 'rules', conducts the sport within its jurisdiction.
5. BAI's five Directors manage the sport (in honorary capacities) through its national office staffed by one full-time position staff member (= two part-time share positions for a total salary of approx. \$46,000 pa). The national office and management of the sport nationally is heavily dependent on work provided on an honorary basis and is struggling to meet the management demands of the sport and its stakeholders.
6. State and Territory Governments provide varying and relatively 'small' but nevertheless welcome amounts of support ie \$3,000-\$15,000 grants to Member Associations and the 'odd' State has provided similar amounts direct to clubs/gyms. The N.T Government, also, spends a substantial amount bi-annually in presenting the boxing tournament at the Arafura Games.
7. SIS/SAS contribution to amateur boxing is so little that, overall, it is irrelevant to the sport (although, no doubt, it has been welcome to the odd individual).
8. International 'amateur' boxing is 1/ an extremely competitive sport i.e. it is in the top 3 international competitive sports along with soccer and running, 2/ it demands of its sportsmen a level of fitness equal to any other sport and 3/ it requires, if its better boxers are to be internationally competitive, their regular competition against international level opponents.
9. It is strongly anticipated that women's boxing will be introduced to the 2012 Olympic Games.

10. Summary- Australian amateur boxing is heavily dependent on ASC funding and AIS programs with ACGA/AOC/ State-Territory Government funding of complementary assistance (particularly the important ACGA funding targeted for underage international boxers). Management of the sport is heavily dependent on honorary work by the sport's supporters and is struggling to meet the needs of the sport.

What Australian amateur boxing needs for success

1. A 'fair' sporting environment at the international level.
2. A Government that is aware of a/ the 'goodwill' generated internationally by Australia's sportspersons, b/ the flow-on benefits generated as a result in other Australian international activities, and c/ the beneficial stimulus in many ways to Australian self-esteem.
3. A Government that has the will to provide financial support to sport to enable Australians to competitively compete at the international level.
4. A national office fully professionally staffed, able to meet the needs of management of the sport and its stakeholders, and better able to be pro-active rather than reactive.
5. Maintenance of the existing ASC/AIS High Performance Program.
6. Maintenance of the indigenous component of the ASC/AIS NTID Program, expansion of the program's non-indigenous component, and expansion of the program to encompass development of coaches as well as boxers.
7. Provision of income support of \$50,000 pa to selected boxers to enable them to remain in the sport until they are in their 30's and to not have to leave the sport to support their families i.e. internationally competitive boxers need to train and compete internationally full time.
8. Strong Government support of the ASC and its existing activities and provision to it of resources that would attract to it State/Territory Government 'partnerships'.

Recommendations for Australian sport generally including Boxing

1. The Government to increase funding to Australian NSO's to enable them to better manage and develop their sports and to improve the international competitiveness of their athletes.
2. The ASC to remain the principal conduit of Government support to sport.
3. The ASC/AIS to receive increased funding to enable expansion of its sports science, research and technology program.
4. NTID programs to be expanded to enable increased potential international athlete identification and athlete and coach development camps throughout the nation.
5. High Performance programs to be maintained or created to enable Australian athletes to improve their international competitiveness.

Recommendations specifically for Boxing

In conjunction with the foregoing recommendations for sports including boxing:

1. BAI be resourced to enable creation of a professionally staffed national office able to meet the needs of the sport, the ASC and regulatory authorities.
2. Selected boxers to receive income support of \$50,000 pa to facilitate their continued participation in the sport.
3. In the interests of international amateur boxing increased funding to be provided to the ASC/AIS to 'fast-track' development of its R&D boxing computer scoring project.

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