



## Positioning Statement

The Australian Cheerleading Union (ACU) and Gymnastics Australia (GA) are aware that there are currently some concerns and confusion around the role of the ACU within the cheerleading framework. We recognise that the community and the key stakeholders are looking for clarity around the ACU's involvement and commitment to cheerleading in Australia now, and to address the future for Cheerleading.

The ACU works closely with Gymnastics Australia, whom the Australian Sports Commission recognises as the National Sports Organisation within Australia most suited and qualified to manage cheerleading in Australia; since GA's inception over fifty years ago. Both organisations are not only recognised by the Australian Sports Commission, but state and local government as the governing body for cheerleading and gymnastics in Australia.

The ACU, via GA, consult on an ongoing basis with Cheerleading Event Providers and distinguished Cheer Administrators across Australia, to ensure the ongoing development of the ACU. We acknowledge the amazing work and contribution that key stakeholders have had on the sport, and continue to do for cheerleading, and understand that we need to consider and protect the current key stakeholder's involvement in Australian cheerleading. It is important the governing body meets the needs of all stakeholders; event providers, coaches, judges, clubs and athletes, as well as, undertakes the key responsibilities required of a governing sport body in Australia.

There are a number of roles that a governing sporting body need to undertake in Australia, and we acknowledge that the ACU is yet to deliver on all of these roles. Roles and requirements that governing bodies need to undertake include:

- Be recognised as the pre-eminent body in Australia by an International Federation which is a member of SportAccord
- Be a not for profit incorporated association or company limited by guarantee
- Meeting the mandatory sports governance principles set by the Australian Sports Commission:
  - Structure of sports
  - Board composition and operation
  - Sport transparency, reporting and integrity
- Be accountable at the national level for proving if its members with technical and ethically sound sports programs, services and policies include:
  - Harassment, complaint handling and member protection policies
  - Anti-doping policy
- Be the pre-eminent organisation taking responsibility for the development of the sport in Australia and is accountable at the national level

Through the work that GA has undertaken in these areas, a number of these requirements can be automatically adopted by the ACU, while a number will require input from the cheerleading community.



Though this being said, the ACU has still been active in their role as the governing body and would like to outline some of their activities and benefits available to the cheerleading community in Australia.

- Continued support of cheerleading in Australia, and in particular clubs and dance schools, via the provision (but not enforced) services offered by GA's best practise Club Affiliation and Club 10 scheme which includes:
  - Membership; including member protection policy and insurance for athletes, clubs, coaches and volunteers
  - Club support; recognised national affiliation standards as adapted by clubs throughout Australia for over 30 years, including HR, insurance, resources, etc
- Have overseen the selection and management of "Team Australia" at the International Cheer Union's World Cheerleading Championships in Florida for the past four years, through a transparent process
- ACU was successful in securing uniform sponsorship and discounts for team members and their family and friends
- Continue to work alongside Australian University Sport to clearly define the pathway for university cheerleaders; helping to deliver their Southern University Games and identifying the Australian University Games as the bid event for World University Cheer Championships
- Have met with clubs, coaches and cheerleaders to identify new and innovative ways to support them, outside of what's currently on offer from the other national cheer organisations as we don't seek to impede on their current successes
- Kept communications open with members and non-members alike including regular updates to the Australian Cheerleading Union webpage and Facebook page
- Continued to work with the International Cheerleading Union on sport developments and partnerships including recognition &/or agreements with; FIG, National Olympic Council, FISU, Sport Accord, TAFISA, Dance Sport and AIMS, to name a few
- Attended and voted on behalf of Australia (following requests for opinions from Australia's major cheerleading operators) at the International Cheerleading Union's annual general meeting, met with Oceanic representatives, maintained a high level Australian representation
- Kept in contact with, and strive to include Australia's other big cheerleading organisations (as always) including Aussie Gold, World Cup Cheer and All Star in the collaborative work of ACU including requests for support, sharing ICU information, options for Team Australia involvement, etc

The ACU are acutely aware where they need to improve its role to ensure better governance of the sport, the existing great cheerleading services being provided, as well as, where they need to provide additional services to meet the needs of the sport in Australia.

The GA Board will be meeting to discuss the current concerns and their future involvement in cheerleading at their upcoming Board meeting.

If you wish to provide feedback on what expectations you have on the ACU as a national governing body, please send to: [ausgym@gymnastics.org.au](mailto:ausgym@gymnastics.org.au)

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