

R&J Open Forum held at AIS on Wed 27 February 2008

The matters below were raised as issues to be followed up by the incoming R&J Committee.

State/Territory Association issues

1. State Associations are responsible for ensuring that R&J attending tournaments to officiate are reimbursed reasonable out-of-pocket expenses. State RJ Coordinators should take the lead on making sure this happens. The national RJ Committee to disseminate a suggested set of guidelines on reimbursement.
2. It is a requirement that all R&J are members of a state/territory member association. It was noted that this is not so in NSW under the current constitution which is under review. The RJ Committee to verify that all state/territory constitutions provide for R&J to have membership.
3. RJ Committee to liaise with BA Board re professional indemnity insurance for referees, currently only held by a minority of state member associations.
4. RJ Committee to verify with State RJ Coordinators that all RJ have been screened as per BAI's Member Protection Policy for their state/territory.

Issues at Australian Championships and National Selection Events

5. BAI needs to enforce a minimum number of RJ from each member association (currently 1 per association). Possibly raise this to 2 RJ per association.
6. RJ Committee to examine the workload issue; states with more boxers in competition get less work whilst smaller states' RJ get a high level of work. Is there a way to deal with this other than having larger number of RJ attend?
7. Member Associations should always endeavour to provide some financial assistance to RJs attending national championship/selection events.
8. BAI should consider raising the fee for hosting the Australian Championships, from current level of \$300 to at least \$2000, and put that fee towards RJ Committee budget.

Other important issues

9. The RJ Committee to endeavour to run a program of seminars each year for all RJ, and seek financial support from BAI. Could BAI run an event to raise funds, and channel some towards this?
10. The draft accreditation policy was discussed. It was agreed that the level 1 and level 2 be condensed into a single level, and the RJ Committee is to re-draft the policy for dissemination and feedback, then submit to BAI for adoption. This is a high priority.
11. Problem of administrative ban on under-14 boxing in NSW was raised. RJ Committee to approach BAI to write to NSW Government seeking lifting of this ban, possibly to seek a meeting with the state minister. Also to ask Australian Sports Commission if they would do likewise.
12. Problem of legislative prohibition against women boxing was raised. Again, RJ Committee to ask BAI to make representations to NSW and ask ASC to support such approaches.
13. Communications between RJ members around the country need to be improved. All RJ need to know about changes to AIBA rules promptly for example. It was agreed that there should be an RJ section on BAI's website, and an email "broadcast" facility for the RJ Committee to keep in touch with RJ.
14. The RJ Committee's biggest challenge is to try to assist members in each state to recruit more new RJ. If we fail to get enough good RJ then the sport will fail. It was suggested that we produce a professionally designed leaflet for dissemination at events to try to encourage more people to undertake training as judges. Other ways of lifting our profile to encourage RJ recruitment need to be examined – eg media releases and interviews featuring senior RJs when selected for Olympics etc.
15. It was suggested that RJ coordinators in each member association could train coaches as judges for use at local tournaments when they are not cornering, as a way to increase the pool of available judges, especially in non-urban areas. This may require BAI approval – RJ Committee to investigate.