



# Blues Advisory Group

## Terms of Reference

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### 1. Preamble

Sport has always had a special significance at the University of Melbourne, particularly the success of our student-athletes in their endeavors in representing the University against other institutions in intervarsity competition.

Blues were first awarded by the University for cricket and rowing for sporting contests in 1870. They were adopted along the lines of those awarded by Oxford and Cambridge universities where students were selected for annual sporting competitions with Full Blues awarded for major sports and Half Blues awarded for minor sports.

Similar principles still apply to the awarding of Blues today with Full Blues awarded for a student's outstanding sporting achievement whilst representing the University in approved intervarsity competitions, and Half Blues awarded where sporting performance is excellent, but not of a Full Blue standard.

### 2. Composition

The Blues Advisory Group is appointed by the University of Melbourne's Board of Sport (the Board) and is comprised as follows:

- 2.1. Eight members who hold a Blue, Half Blue or Distinguished Service Award; and  
a Chair as nominated by the Director of Sport

The Sport Performance Coordinator, or designated University Team Manager for the year, will attend to provide secretariat support.

### 3. Term

Blues Advisory Group members will:

- 3.1. Be appointed for a three-year term and may be reappointed for two further terms
- 3.2. Vacancies will be advertised on the MU Sport website and to clubs via the Club Operations Memo as and when appropriate.

### 4. Blues Advisory Group Duties

The Blues Advisory Group will:

- 4.1. Discuss annual nominations for Blues and/or Half Blues and/or Distinguished Service Awards as nominated by University team managers and/or coaches and/or MU Sport
- 4.2. Evaluate all student-athletes representing the University, not just those nominated by team managers/coaches and may recommend awards at a level different to that nominated by a team manager/coach
- 4.3. Uphold the standards afforded to the awarding of Blues at the University, particularly when comparing the level of performance between sports and the level of performance from year to year
- 4.4. Recommend Blues nominations to the Director of Sport, who can accept or amend such recommendations when approving them on behalf of the Board
- 4.5. Discuss annual nominations for Intersports awards, as nominated by University team managers and/or coaches and/or the Sport Performance Coordinator:

- 4.6. Discuss annual nominations, as nominated by MU Sport's Elite Athlete Coordinator, for the Outstanding Sporting Performance of the Year by a student-athlete
- 4.7. Recommend Intersport Outstanding Performance and Distinguished Service nominations to the Director of Sport, who can accept or amend such recommendations when approving them on behalf of the Board.

## **5. Nominations for Awards**

- 5.1. MU Sport appointed team managers/coaches will have the opportunity to nominate student-athletes for a Full Blue or Half Blue and Intersport awards
- 5.2. The Sport Performance Coordinator or designated University Team Manager for the year may also nominate student-athletes for a Full Blue or Half Blue where the nominee's sport does not have an appointed team manager/coach, or where the team manager/coach fails to submit a nomination
- 5.3. MU Sport may also nominate team managers or coaches for a Distinguished Service Award where they have provided outstanding service to intersport over an extended period;
- 5.4. Affiliated sporting clubs may nominate for Distinguished Service Awards

## **6. Criteria for the Awarding of a Blue**

- 6.1. The primary criteria for the awarding of a Blue is outstanding performance representing the University at an approved intersport competition. Competitions may include:
  - 6.1.1. National University Championship competitions
  - 6.1.2. Other domestic intersport competitions as endorsed by MU Sport
  - 6.1.3. International university competitions as endorsed by MU Sport
- 6.2. The performance of a nominee at other non-intersport competitions, their years of representation or factors such as performance for one's club will not be taken into consideration
- 6.3. The primary criteria for awarding a Distinguished Service Award for representative sport will be an individual's exceptional and outstanding service to the University in providing coaching, team management or other significant support over an extended period. Nominees do not have to be a student or alumni of the University.

## **7. Procedure for Awarding a Blue**

- 7.1. MU Sport will call for nominations following the conclusion of representative sporting competitions
- 7.2. Nominators will submit nominations by the due date as communicated by MU Sport
- 7.3. Nominations will be reviewed by the Blues Advisory Group at a meeting convened by MU Sport (usually in the last week of October or the first week of November). A quorum of five shall be required for a meeting
- 7.4. The recommendations will then be communicated to the nominators on the following business day, including the process under which a challenge may be made
- 7.5. MU Sport will also notify student-athletes at this time who have been recommended for a Blue so that they may save the date of subsequent Blues and Sports Awards Presentation event (pending any challenges and final approval by the Director).

## **8. Challenges and the Appeal Process**

- 8.1. Where a nominator wishes to challenge a recommendation, they must do so by emailing the Sport Performance Coordinator within 48 hours of receiving notification of Blues recommendations
  - 8.1.1. Challenges can be made on the basis of the level of award recommended or the non-recommendation for an award
  - 8.1.2. Challenges should include additional information pertaining to the reason for the challenge
- 8.2. A Blues Appeal Panel will consist of three individuals eligible to be members of the Blues Advisory Group (but not current members). The decision of this panel shall be final
- 8.3. After all appeals have been determined, or following the expiry of the challenge period if no challenges are received, the Blues Advisory Group recommendations will be communicated to the Director of Sport, who will accept or amend the recommendations for an award on behalf of the Board and approve the announcement of Blues recipients.

## 9. Recognition of Receiving a Blue

Recipients of a Blue or Distinguished Service Award will receive:

- 9.1. A Full Blue certificate or Half Blue certificate or a Distinguished Service Award certificate
- 9.2. An invitation to Blues functions as and when they may be conducted
- 9.3. Entitlement to purchase special merchandise including a Blues blazer or Distinguished Service Award blazer and/or other items as available.

## 10. Stakeholders and Responsibilities

Principals regarding the awarding of Blues will be reviewed and discussed by Blues Advisory Group stakeholders. Operational matters will be determined by the Responsible Unit and Responsible Officer. Blues awards and the Blues Advisory Group TOR will be determined by the Director of Sport (on behalf of the Board).

- 10.1. Blues Advisory Group stakeholders are:
  - Board of Sport
  - Blues Advisory Group members
  - Sport Development Unit
- 10.2. The Responsible Unit and Officer for the Blues Advisory Group TOR is:
  - Sport Development Unit and the Sport Development Manager
- 10.3. The Authorising Officer for the Blues Advisory Group TOR is:
  - Director of Sport (on behalf of the Board)

## 11. Review

The Blues Advisory Group TOR will be reviewed bi-annually.

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