

DAKAR 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES NZOC SELECTION PANEL

MIKE KERNAGHAN (CONVENOR)

Mike Kernaghan represented New Zealand at Lawn Bowls until 2020 and is now Bowls NZ lead coach for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. He is a World Champion and Commonwealth Games medallist. He also played National League football in NZ from 1977 – 1987. As well as an accomplished sports person, Mr Kernaghan has had a long history in sports administration, being Deputy CEO of NZ Football and CEO of both Triathlon and Badminton New Zealand (2008-2010). Mr Kernaghan was also a Member of the NZOC Athletes' Commission from 1986 – 2010, Chair of the Commission from 2003 – 2010 (and as such a member of the NZOC Board).



Mike has been on the Selection Panel since 2013.

LESLEY NICOL

Dr Lesley Nicol (married name Rumball) is a specialist Sports and Exercise Physician, with a background in physiotherapy and elite sport. While completing her degrees in Physiotherapy and Medicine, Lesley had a stellar career for the Silver Ferns. She played 110 tests, captained the team and won a Netball World Championships title in 2003. She was captain of the record-breaking Southern Sting which won the National Bank Cup seven times in a row. Lesley has been inducted into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame and is a recipient of the New Zealand Order of Merit.



She has worked with top level teams including the Silver Ferns, Southern Sting and the Tactix. She worked at the Australian Institute of Sport prior to returning to Canterbury. Lesley has been a Drug Free Sport NZ and NZOC Board member. As a member of the NZOC Athletes' Commission she was the athletes' representative on the Commonwealth Games Federation Board.

Lesley co-authored the February 2021 Independent Report on Gymnastics New Zealand and was a member of the 2022 HPSNZ/ Cycling New Zealand Independent Review Panel. She is currently a Te Kahu Raunui Sport Integrity Commission New Zealand Board member. Lesley has been on the Selection Panel since 2015.

CHANTAL BRUNNER

Chantal Brunner is a two-time Olympian and New Zealand Olympic Order holder. Over a career spanning more than two decades, she competed at the Atlanta 1996 and Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, four Commonwealth Games, and four World Athletics (previously IAAF) Championships. A 17-time New Zealand national champion across long jump and sprint events, she holds the national long jump record, which has stood for over two decades.

Following retirement from competition, Chantal has contributed extensively to sport governance and athlete welfare. She chairs the New Zealand Olympic Committee's Olympians' Commission.



She is a member of the World Olympians Association Executive Committee, the IOC Athletes' Rights and Responsibilities Declaration steering committee, the foundation board of the international testing agency and the IOC's Athletes Entourage Commission, advocating for athlete-centred decision making and support systems globally. Chantal also serves as a member of the World Athletics' Nomination Panel which identifies, assesses and makes recommendations to the WA Council for the appointment of members on various WA bodies and commissions.

A qualified lawyer, Chantal served on the New Zealand Sports Tribunal and is widely respected for her work promoting integrity and athlete well-being across all levels of sport.