



U.S. OLYMPIANS & PARALYMPIANS ASSOCIATION

USOPA Operating Guidelines
Adopted September 14, 2023
serves as Bylaws for USOPC Board purposes

Organization

The United States Olympians and Paralympians Association (USOPA) is the official association of United States Olympians and Paralympians.

Purpose

[Inspire all Americans to support the Olympic and Paralympic movement.]¹

USOPA Membership

Everyone who has been an athlete member of the official U.S. delegation at any Olympic or Paralympic Games shall automatically be a USOPA member. Membership in USOPA begins at the completion of each Olympic or Paralympic Games for which the official U.S. delegation was named.

USOPA Council

1. Membership

- Chapter Presidents
- USOPA Executive Committee
- Any USOPA member currently serving on the World Olympians Association (WOA) Executive Committee

2. Chapter Presidents.

Each USOPA Chapter is represented on the Council by a Chapter President. All Chapter Presidents will be determined by an appointment process of constituent USOPA members.

3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee coordinates Council functions and USOPA activity in between meetings of the Council. Each member of the Executive Committee may vote on all matters

¹ This purpose statement is provisional only. It will be finalized after the the USOPA strategic plan is presented in February 2024.



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properly before the Executive Committee, for which they do not recuse due to a conflict of interest, according to the USOPC Conflicts of Interest policy.

4. Role of the President

The President, in coordination with the Director of Alumni Relations, will coordinate and plan the agenda for all meetings of the Council.

5. Meetings

The annual meeting of the Council will be held during the annual United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Assembly. Additional meetings of the Council will be held at the discretion of the President.

USOPA Executive Committee

1. USOPA Officers

- President
- Past Presidents (to the extent they remain active in the organization), who together share a single vote
- Members at Large (7)

2. Role of the President

- The President will Chair all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Council.
- The President will nominate, for consideration by the Executive Committee, all USOPA appointees to USOPC or other bodies.
- The President will be the primary point of contact between USOPA and the leadership of the USOPC and with any staff liaison appointed by the USOPC.

3. Role of Members at Large

- To vote on items before the Executive Committee as required.
- To appoint a President on an Acting or Permanent basis in the event of the incapacity, unavailability or resignation of the President, or the expiration of the President's term.

4. Term

- Each member will serve for an initial term of four years (maximum of three terms).
- The President will serve for an initial term of two years as President. At the end of the initial term, they will be eligible for additional terms as President, not to exceed eight years total.
- Terms of the Executive Committee will be staggered.
 - To accomplish staggering, in 2024 election, four Officer positions will be selected



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for an initial term of two years to expire at the end of 2026 and four Officers positions will be selected for an initial four-year term to expire at the end of 2028.

- Of the eight candidates elected in 2024, the four receiving the most votes will be seated for the four year-term and the lowest votes will be seated for the two-year term.

5. Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet on a regular basis based on a schedule determined by the USOPA President. The Executive Committee shall meet no less than quarterly.

Election of USOPA Officers

1. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee will have five members appointed as follows: two appointed by the President and three appointed by the USOPA Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee should meet at least four months before the selection of candidates.

2. Nomination Process

- a. In advance of all elections (every two years), the Nominating Committee will announce the call for nominations to all alumni via appropriate channels, such as the organization's website, email newsletters, and other communication channels.
- b. Must have at least (2) Olympian candidates and at least (2) Paralympian candidates.
- b. Eligible individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by other USOPA members.

3. Eligibility Criteria:

- a. Nominees must be USOPA members.
- b. Nominees must confirm that they are interested in serving in the role for which they have been nominated.
- c. Nominees must be in good standing with the USOPC, adhering to any applicable policies and codes of conduct (SafeSport, completed background check).

4. Election Process for Members at Large/President:

- a. Election of Officers shall be scheduled for the period between September 1 and December 15 of the election year.
- b. The Nominating Committee develops a list of eligible candidates to stand for election.
- c. Election of Officers shall be conducted by vote of all USOPA members.
- d. The top vote-getting Paralympian candidate and Olympian candidate shall be elected first,



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with subsequent roles being filled by highest vote getting remaining candidates (regardless of whether the candidate is an Olympian or Paralympian) until all positions are filled.

- e. The President shall be selected by the Executive Committee after each election in a special meeting to elect a President from among their ranks.

5. Vacancies

- a. If a Member at Large is to be replaced, the Nominating Committee will select a replacement from the unelected members from the slate from the most recent election. If there are no such candidates, the President shall nominate an eligible member to serve the remainder of the term, subject to approval by the Board.
- b. If the President is to be replaced, a new president shall be elected by the Executive Committee.

Amendments and Interpretation

This is a working, living document that establishes an operational foundation for the USOPA Council. This document may be updated or amended by the the USOPA Council with input and guidance from USOPC staff.