

Team USA Athletes' Commission MEMBER ELECTIONS AND VOTING POLICY

The Team USA Athletes' Commission (Team USA AC) Member Elections and Voting Policy specify eligibility requirements and election procedures for Members of the Team USA AC. It also sets forth the Approval Voting Procedures, as required for 1) Team USA AC Leadership and Officers, and 2) nomination of an individual to serve Athlete Ombudsman.

Section 1. Sport and General Paralympic Representatives.

- A. **Eligibility to Run.** Eligibility requirements are outlined in Article V. Section 5 of the AAC Bylaws (Team USA AC Bylaws).

- B. **Eligibility to Vote.** Those eligible to run are eligible to vote.

- C. **Process and Timeline Guidelines.** The Team USA AC Nominating and Governance Committee of the Team USA AC, with the assistance of Team USA AC staff, shall make NGBs/Sport Organizations aware of the AAC Election process, including these Guidelines. The NGBs will be asked to follow the Guidelines unless an alternate process/timeline is presented to and approved by the Team USA AC Leadership. All dates relate to the year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
 - 1. **By June 1.** The Team USA AC staff shall distribute the Process and Timeline Guidelines to each Sport Organization, along with the Team USA AC Bylaws and Policies.

 - 2. **By July 1.** The Sport Organization shall distribute the Process and Timeline Guidelines to its eligible athletes, along with the Team USA AC Bylaws and Policies. (The 10-year rule for Team USA AC Representatives and Alternates is defined in the USOPC Bylaws).

 - 3. **By October 1.** The Sport Organization shall call for self-nominations from eligible candidates.
 - i. Nominations should minimally include a written statement of intent and may include a resume or any other information pertaining to an athlete's ability to serve the Mission of the Team USA AC.

 - ii. An individual running for election must disclose any actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest consistent with their NGB's Conflicts of Interest Policy or other applicable policies or the USOPC Ethics and Compliance team for internally managed sorts (IMS), which shall determine whether the individual is eligible to run for election. (See USOPC Conflicts of Interest Policy for definitions and examples of conflicts of interest.). The disclosure shall be made to all eligible voters prior to the vote so that the disclosure may be considered in the voting process. Failure to disclose in advance of the election can be cause for the removal of the member once elected.

4. **By November 1.** The Sport Organization shall distribute the list of eligible nominees, along with statements of intent and other candidate submissions, disclosures, and voting instructions to eligible voters.
5. **By November 15.** The Sport Organization shall conduct an election where the top two candidates with the most votes are named the Representative and Alternate, respectively.
6. **By November 20.** The Sport Organization shall notify Team USA AC Staff of the results.

Section 2. Leadership.

- A. **Eligibility to Run.** Eligibility requirements are outlined in the AAC (Team USA AC) Bylaws.
- B. **Eligibility to Vote.** All AAC Members at the time of the election are eligible to vote.
- C. **Process and Timeline.** All dates relate to the scheduled year of the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.
 1. **By July 1.** The Team USA AC Staff shall distribute the Team USA AC Leadership Election process to Team USA AC Members and Alternates, along with the AAC (Team USA AC) Bylaws and Policies, and make a reasonable effort to notify past Team USA AC Members and Alternates and athletes who might be eligible. The process shall also be posted on the Team USA AC website as Leadership eligibility does not require current service in AAC.
 2. **By August 1.** Team USA AC staff should call for self-nominations from any eligible candidate.
 - i. Nominations should minimally include a written statement of intent and may include a resume or any other information pertaining to an athlete's ability to serve the Mission of the Team USA AC as a Leader.
 - ii. An individual running for election must disclose any actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest consistent with their NGB's Conflicts of Interest Policy or other applicable policies or the USOPC Ethics and Compliance team for internally managed sorts (IMS), which shall determine whether the individual is eligible to run for election. (See USOPC Conflicts of Interest Policy for definitions and examples of conflicts of interest.). The disclosure shall be made to all eligible voters prior to the vote so that the disclosure may be considered in the voting process. Failure to disclose in advance of the election can be cause for the removal of the member once elected.

3. **By September 1.** Team USA AC Staff should distribute the list of eligible nominees, along with statements of intent and other candidate submissions, disclosures, and voting instructions to all Members.

Section 3. Officers.

- A. **Process and Timeline.** Officers shall be selected by the Leadership from among their numbers and shall present their proposed slate of officers to the members for an approval vote at the next meeting of the membership after the summer and winter games leadership election meetings. The chair shall remain until the new leadership term begins and the members have approved the officer slate of the newly elected leadership.

Section 4. Leadership or Officer Vacancies. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the AAC Bylaws. If an election is necessary, the Team USA AC Nominating and Elections Committee should endeavor to coordinate a process reflective of the intent of this Policy, timelines notwithstanding although as soon as possible. Electronic voting may be used.

- A. **Replacement Prior to Starting Leadership Term.** In the case that elected leadership should for any reason need to be replaced prior to starting their term in leadership then the next highest vote getter will take their place.

Section 5. Approval Voting Procedures. These procedures shall apply for the following elections: 1) Team USA AC Leadership and 2) nomination of an individual to serve Athlete Ombudsman.

- A. A ballot of candidates shall be distributed to all eligible voters.
- B. The ballot shall include a list of all candidates and instructions shall simply state, "Vote for each candidate of which you approve. You should vote for as many candidates as open seats, but you must vote for at least one (1)."
- C. Each vote for approval shall count equally, and the candidate with the most votes wins the election.
- D. If a member of Leadership is also a Sport Representative or General Paralympic Representative, they will have one vote.
- E. If the election is for a position that involves more than one winner, then the appropriate number of candidates with the most votes win the election, so long as voters are aware how many positions will be filled associated with this vote.
- F. If there is a tie, then a ballot with the candidates affected by the tie will be compiled, and the above process repeated until the tie is broken.