

USOPC AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS COUNCIL

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I MISSION STATEMENT

Affiliate Organizations Council Mission:

The mission of the Affiliate Organizations Council (AOC) is to increase interest and national programming opportunities for sports participation in support of the Olympic and Paralympic movements through partnerships and collaboration efforts.

The AOC shall support and advance the Olympic and Paralympic movements with focus on the following commitments:

- Promote inclusion and diversity
- Conduct sport development, competition and/or participation opportunities (locally/nationally/internationally)
- Protect and foster athlete and participant well-being
- Provide educational learning opportunities
- Partner and collaborate across the Olympic and Paralympic community.

ARTICLE II VISION and PURPOSE

The AOC vision is to preserve the fundamental principles underlying the Olympic and Paralympic movements in the United States, consistent with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act and the USOPC Bylaws. The AOC will facilitate the pursuit of common dreams and values of sport by giving participants, volunteers, and observers the opportunity to be involved in the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

The AOC shall have the following purposes:

1. To represent the views of the AOC to the USOPC Board of Directors, USOPC management, and the Olympic and Paralympic communities.
2. To ensure close cooperation and ongoing communications between the AOC and USOPC management and the Olympic and Paralympic communities.
3. To share best practices, strategies and information that may help the Olympic and Paralympic community and AOC members to continuously improve the quality of their services and operations.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Each organization recognized by the USOPC as an AOC under Section 16 of USOPC Bylaws shall be a member of the AOC. Each member organization is required to have representation on the AOC. Each member organization will designate one representative as the “primary” member with voting responsibilities and one representative as the “alternate” member with voice, but no voting responsibilities unless the primary member is absent from the meeting.

All representatives are subject to review and shall meet the following expectations:

- Have the highest personal values, judgment and integrity, understanding of AOC functions, and Olympic and Paralympic ideals.
- Be committed, willing and available to regularly attend AOC meetings and to contribute to AOC goals and objectives.
- Serve in a position of authority at their member organization (senior level staff, C-level staff, etc.).
- Member organizations shall select their AOC representatives without discrimination, consistent with the USOPC code of conduct.
- Alternative representative must meet the same criteria as the primary representative.

A list of organizational members and primary and alternative representatives shall be maintained annually.

ARTICLE IV LEADERSHIP

The officers of the AOC shall include the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. The officers shall be elected at the AOC meeting that occurs at the end of the Summer Olympic Quadrennium and which is held in conjunction with the Olympic and Paralympic Assembly. The officers shall be elected by a majority vote from the membership of the AOC to a four-year term of office. The officers’ term shall commence immediately upon elections. Officers shall be allowed to serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

Primary representatives eligible for serving as an officer shall meet the following expectations:

- Primary representatives need to be in good standing.
- Officers may not be from the same member organization.
- Officers shall serve without compensation. This provision shall not preclude the reimbursement by the USOPC of reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.
- Officers must satisfy the requirements of Section 3.7 of the USOPC Bylaws and pass a background check administered by the USOPC.

Officers shall have the following duties:

- The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the AOC and of the Executive Committee (see Article V). He/she shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of all standing and other committees.
- The Chair shall meet with the USOPC board of directors a minimum of once per year to provide a report on the business of the AOC.
- The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair, if the Chair is absent or unable to act, and shall discharge such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or by vote of the Executive Committee or AOC.
- The Secretary shall supervise the taking, making and distribution of the minutes of the meeting of AOC and Executive Committee meetings.

If an officer is removed for cause, resigns, or otherwise leaves office, the officer may be replaced in a special election by the AOC, to be conducted upon thirty (30) days' notice to the members of the AOC. Such election may be conducted by electronic or mail ballot.

An AOC officer may be removed for good cause at any time during his/her four (4) year term. Good cause is defined as failure by the officer to carry out his/her duties and responsibilities as set out in these Bylaws, or any violation of or failure to satisfy any element of USOPC Bylaws Section 3.7. Removal of the officer shall require the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the AOC after the officer has had the opportunity to address the AOC members at a meeting or teleconference. Before the vote to remove, a notice of the petition to remove and pending vote will be sent to the entire AOC at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled meeting or teleconference.

New AOC representatives shall complete an orientation process to review both the USOPC and AOC Bylaws.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

The AOC shall have an Executive Committee and a Nominating Committee. In addition, the Chair may create other Committees and/or Task Forces with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Committee members shall be selected as set out below and serve a four-year term of office. Committee member terms shall commence immediately upon selection. Committee members shall be allowed to serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.

Each committee or task force shall determine its own rules of procedure, including reasonable notification of meetings and voting process, and shall act in accordance with the bylaws of the AOC.

A summary of committee or task force meetings shall be provided to the Executive Committee for distribution to the AOC.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for collaborating with the Chair to advance the purposes of the AOC and confirm approvals of other committees or task forces. The Executive Committee shall meet as needed and be comprised of the Officers and one (1) designated representative from each of the five (5) USOPC recognized subgroups:

- Other Sport Organizations (e.g., Adaptive-Based Organizations)
- Community-Based Organizations
- Education-Based Organizations
- Armed Forces Organizations
- Recognized Sport Organizations

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for vetting candidates and facilitating the process to elect Officers of the AOC. The Nominating Committee shall meet as needed and operate under the following requirements:

- The Nominating Committee shall be composed of five (5) members, two (2) of whom shall be representatives, but not Officers, of the AOC; members of the Nominating Committee shall be named by the Executive Committee and may not serve on the Executive Committee.
- The Nominating Committee shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chair.
- A Nominating Committee representative who becomes a candidate for an Officer position shall be replaced.

Other Committees or Task Forces

The Chair, in collaboration with the Executive Committee, may establish other committees or task forces as needed under the following requirements.

- The Chair and Executive Committee shall appoint or nominate representatives to other committees or task forces.
- The Chair and Executive Committee shall appoint the Chairpersons of other committees or task forces.
- The duties of other committees or task forces shall be assigned by the Chair and Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

The AOC will meet each year in conjunction with the Olympic and Paralympic Assembly. The AOC, Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and other committees or task forces may hold additional meetings as necessary. AOC meetings will be called by the Chair or at the request of a majority of the voting representatives of the AOC. The Chair will set the meeting agenda. Any representative of the AOC may request that items be placed on the meeting agenda.

Should the AOC host a meeting to render an official AOC position and/or action via vote of the representatives, the following requirements shall be met:

- At any meeting of the AOC seeking an official position and/or action will utilize a quorum consisting of a simple majority of voting members.
- Each member organization has one (1) vote for an official position and/or action of the AOC. Representatives may not act or vote by proxy. If the primary member is absent from the meeting, then the alternate member shall be allowed to vote in the primary members place, having one (1) vote.
- At least 15 days advance notice of an AOC meeting will be given to each representative and USOPC staff.
- Attendance at an AOC meeting is limited to the primary or alternate representative and USOPC staff unless approved by the Chair.
- The USOPC may provide funding for primary and alternate representatives to an AOC meeting. Attendance by other representatives and/or observers, if approved by the Chair, may be funded by the member organization.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Proposed amendments to these AOC Bylaws shall be circulated to the representatives of the AOC at least fifteen (15) days prior to a scheduled or called meeting. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted with a minimum of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a properly scheduled or called meeting where a quorum has been established.

These Bylaws were originally approved on June 23, 2006.

Amendments:

Version 1.1 was approved by the members on September 23, 2010

Version 1.2 was approved by the members on September 20, 2012

Version 1.3 was approved by the members on September 22, 2016

Version 1.4 was approved by the members on December 18, 2020