

Athlete Report 2024

Athletes Executive Council Report:

Submitted by the AEC President on 8/28/24

This year has been remarkable for our athlete representatives, and we are genuinely appreciative of their impactful contributions. The engagement and depth we've witnessed across all levels, from club representatives to those on the national team, is something we take great pride in and aim to sustain moving forward.

Beyond fulfilling our responsibilities as athlete representatives, we have initiated various projects and support systems to strengthen the athlete representative community. We proudly launched the inaugural edition of our quarterly newsletter, focusing on the theme of resilience. Athlete representatives were invited to nominate individuals who exemplify resilience, and we were excited to highlight Madilyn Carter from the Florida Elite Synchro Warriors. The newsletter included valuable resources on resilience and featured a "Meet the AEC" section to increase awareness and connection with our group.

We also organized a call for athlete representatives to clarify the rules proposal process. Recognizing that this topic is often only addressed at the convention, we wanted to ensure that athlete representatives are informed about how and when to submit rule proposals. In addition, many AEC members took on some of their own individual projects that bring awareness to the overall athlete representative experience.

Due to the positive feedback received from last year, we are excited to host another pre-convention athlete representative call on September 7th. This session will assist athlete representatives in understanding their roles at the convention and how they can contribute effectively. Additionally, we have created a comprehensive document titled "Athlete Representative Role 101," designed to help athletes easily navigate the various roles within the AEC and understand the distinctions between designated and non-designated athlete representative categories. This document will be distributed during our pre-convention athlete representative call along with our annual "Convention 101." Our goal is to provide overall support to athlete representatives and encourage their development.

Regarding the upcoming athlete representative elections for the next term, we will conduct them in two rounds. One has been completed. The first round involves the designated athlete representative positions, which serve on the Board and the AEC, and this happens with the 10-year and 10-year-plus group over the summer. This year, the General BOD Athlete Representative and AEC president roles were up for election. The second round will address AEC member positions at Convention, which include the AEC VP DEI, AEC VP OI, and AEC Secretary roles. This will take place on Saturday morning at the convention. All attending athlete representatives will have the opportunity to participate in these elections.

In the meantime, I would like to thank Luz Portilla-Villota (AEC VP DEI), Amy Gao (AEC VP OI), and Zofi Steffen for their contributions to the AEC and the broader USAAS

community. It has been a pleasure to work with them! Next, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Natalia Vega and Bill May for their outstanding contributions over the past two years as our General Board of Directors Athlete Representatives. Your insights and dedication have been invaluable, and you have represented the athlete community with exceptional integrity and commitment. I am thrilled to announce that Olympians Jaime Czarkowski and Andrea Nott (Miles) have been elected to take on this important role for the next two years. I can't wait for the fresh ideas and unique perspectives they will bring to our organization. Their energy and enthusiasm are bound to make an impact! In regards to the AEC President Election, Natalia Vega has been elected for the next term. I truly believe that Natalia is going to be a fantastic leader in her new role. With her valuable experience on the board, this feels like the perfect next step for her. I have no doubt she will make a positive impact! It has been a true privilege to serve in the AEC President position for the past four years. I leave this role filled with gratitude for the experiences I've gained, the remarkable individuals I've met, and the opportunity to represent our athlete representatives.

I can't express enough how proud I am of the AEC and the commitment everyone has shown. It's been wonderful to see everyone share their thoughts and opinions so passionately. We have such a fantastic group, each bringing different perspectives to the table, and that diversity is truly our strength. It has been a pleasure working with all of you this year, and I can't wait to see how the AEC moves forward in future years.

2023-2024 AEC

President: Emma Tchakmakjian

Athlete-at-Large: Claire Barton

2- General Board Athlete Representatives: Natalia Vega & Bill May

Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative: Mariya Koroleva

Team USA Athletes' Commission Representative Alternate: Monica Velazquez-Stiak

Vice President, Olympic International: Amy Gao

Vice President, Competitive Operations: Katie Wiekowski

Vice President, Member Services: Helen Beer

Vice President, DEI: Luz Portilla-Villota

Collegiate Representative: Brianna Holmes

Secretary: Zofi Steffen

Team USA Athletes' Commission Leadership Group Representative: Morgan Fuller-Kolsrud

Respectfully submitted,

Emmanuella Tchakmakjian

Team USA Athletes' Commission Report:

Submitted by Team USA AC Representative

The 2023-24 season was arguably one of the most successful seasons for our national teams, culminating with a historic Olympic silver medal for our Senior National Team! The Junior National Team also showed a great performance at the Junior World Championship and captured a gold medal in the acrobatic routine. We are so proud of the accomplishments of all of our national team athletes!

Monica and I served as the athlete observers at the youth and junior/senior trials and we are excited to kick off the new quad with the next generation of talented athletes. Looking ahead to LA 2028 and the multi-phase process for determining our next Olympic team and duet, we are committed to improving the transparency and communication surrounding the selection process and ensuring that it is fair and equitable for all athletes. We are excited to see how the success of our Olympic Team in Paris will motivate our national teams in the coming years and propel them to reach new heights.

Lastly, starting next month we will be adhering to a new timeline for electing the Team USA AC rep and alternate to align with the AC's Voting and Elections Policy. Historically we've conducted our elections and selected our reps prior to Convention, and with the new timeline this process will be pushed back to begin in October and conclude in mid-November.

I want to say a big thank you to our outgoing AEC President Emma Tchakmakjian who has been an incredible leader during her tenure in this role and we will miss her greatly! I also want to thank Morgan Fuller Kolsrud, Bill May, Claire Barton, Monica Velasquez, Natalia Vega and Irene Hawes for their ongoing guidance and support as we work to serve our athletes and continue to improve their experience on our national teams.

Respectfully submitted,
Mariya Koroleva