

USA Judo Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) Meeting Minutes

Date & Time of Meeting: March 20, 2025, 1:00 pm MT

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

Marti Malloy
Matthew Parker
Kristin El Idrissi
Hannah Martin

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Matthew Parker at 1:03 pm MT.

Charter Updates

- Kristin requested an annual review of the AAC Charter at the next meeting. Matthew proposed inviting USA Judo's attorney, Laura Peeters, to join the April AAC meeting for discussion and insight.

April Meetings

- The AAC scheduled their regular working meeting for April 3rd, with Laura Peeters invited. The agenda includes reviewing the AAC Charter and any needed updates to current Committees and Task Forces. Matthew will send a Google Doc with the current charter for AAC member comments and suggested edits.
- The AAC agreed to hold a special meeting for the Board to join and ask questions, following emails from USA Judo's CEO Corinne Shigemoto from February 24 – March 7. Corinne expressed concerns about the selection process for athletes serving on committees and requested that she, Laura Peeters, and/or Board Members be allowed to join an AAC meeting. In her March 7th email, Corinne stated, *"...there has been some concern about the manner in which athletes are selected for service to committees. To help silence those concerns some board members would like to listen in to the AAC meeting, they wouldn't interfere. If you have concerns about such participation interfering with open discussion would you please consider allowing me or Judo's counsel to listen in to the entire meeting?"*
- Matthew responded to Corinne, declining the CEO and Board's request to join the meeting on 03/20 due to a full agenda and need to run an executive session. Matthew responded to Corinne, declining the CEO and Board's request to join the meeting on 03/20 due to a full agenda.

Committee and Task Force Appointments

Referee Committee:

- Aleksandar Kchirian: Marti motioned, Kristin seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.
- Steve Cohen: Matthew motioned, Marti seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.
 - o Matthew will confirm Steve's status as a 10 year+ athlete with the NGC due to Corinne's inquiry on Steve filling an athlete rep role

Nominating and Governance Committee

- Yasmin Alamin: Marti motioned, Kristin seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.
- Christopher Round: Matthew motioned, Marti seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Bylaws Task Force

- Christopher Round: Marti motioned, Matthew seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.
 - o Matthew will confirm with the NGC, and/or Laura Peeters, that Christopher may serve on the NGC and a Task Force. Section 8.15c states *"Members of the Nominating and Governance Committee shall be precluded from serving as a Board Director or in any other USA Judo capacity, whether governance or on staff, for a period of one (1) year after their service on the Nominating and Governance Committee ends. Members of the Nominating and Governance Committee shall be precluded from serving as a Board Director or in any other USA Judo capacity, whether governance or on staff, for a period of one (1) year after their service on the Nominating and Governance Committee ends."*
 - o The AAC held a conversation with Richie Endow, NGC Chair, validating that Christopher Round was an integral piece of the NGC and was well respected amongst the NGC. Richie informed the AAC that Christopher's work was greatly appreciated and felt he is a stellar asset to the NGC.

Ethics & Grievance Committee

- Daniel Collins: The AAC reconfirmed Daniel, unanimously voted in favor.

Audit & Finance Committee

- The AAC is withholding their appointment until the Board of Directors are in compliance with athlete representation on the USA Judo Board of Directors

Coaching Committee

- Leilani Akiyama: Leilani raised to the AAC that she was removed by the Chair of the Coaching Committee due to her role on the Ethics and Grievance Committee. Leilani asked whether there is a rule prohibiting from her acting on the Coaching Committee and the Ethics and Grievance Committee, to which she was informed: not that the AAC is aware of. Leilani then requested that she not be removed from the Coaches Committee or that she be nominated to be on it again.
- Marti motioned that the AAC place Leilani on the Coaching Committee, Kristin seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Committee and Task Force Appointments (continued)

High Performance Committee

- Marti informed the AAC of a conflict of interest due to her being a current member of the High Performance Committee. Marti abstained from voting.
- Christopher Velasco: The AAC acknowledged Christopher's connection with current high performance committee member Angelica Delgado through training at the same training center. The AAC discussed having the balance of Marti as a high performing past Olympian as an athlete representative, Angelica as the most recent high performing athlete on the IJF tour, and Christopher as an up and coming Junior athlete as a strong balance for athlete input on this committee. Matthew motioned to place Velasco on the High-Performance Committee, Hannah seconded, Kristin voted in favor, Marti abstained.

Rank and Certification Committee

- Gina Sullivan: Marti motioned, Kristin seconded, unanimously voted in favor.

AAC Election

- Hannah requested confirmation that the AAC will have elections. The AAC acknowledges the expired terms per the bylaws and USA Judo has plans to hold the AAC elections once the Board of Directors is in compliance with athlete representation, as to not hold up any further appointments.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm MT