**2025 AEC Athletes Report**

Athlete Executive Council Report:

*Submitted by the AEC President on 9/1/2025*

This year marked a significant transitional phase for the AEC. With many athletes stepping into new roles. Natalia Vega has taken on the presidency. Alongside her, Jaime Czarkowski and Andrea (Nott) Miles have stepped up as athlete representatives. Elle Santana has assumed the role of Vice President for Olympic International, while Jacklyn Luu serves as the alternate representative for Team USA AC. Trinity Noriega has taken on the important role of VP DEI, and Mari Flores has been appointed as secretary. Additionally, collegiate representative Brianna Holmes rounds out this new leadership team.

Throughout the year, this group met a couple times to brainstorm and develop innovative ideas aimed at making AEC more accessible. Their focus is on becoming a valuable resource for athletes, encouraging open communication and the sharing of ideas or concerns. This initiative reflects a commitment to fostering a supportive environment where all athletes feel empowered to contribute.

I would also like to take a moment to express my gratitude to our Athlete-at-Large representative, Claire Barton. Claire has done an amazing job in this role, and personally, I will miss her a lot. She guided me throughout the year and was always available to answer my questions. Thank you, Claire, for being such a great person and an exceptional athlete-at-large representative.

In addition, we recently held athlete-at-large elections, featuring three outstanding candidates. The winner will be announced on Saturday, September 6th, during the BOD/BOG meeting.

In a related development, Bill May, the USAAS athlete representative, has been appointed to serve as the executive athlete representative for Pan Am Aquatics.

As we look forward to the upcoming year, the AEC is excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. The new leadership is eager to implement their ideas and initiatives, further strengthening the support network for athletes and promoting a culture of inclusivity and engagement.

**Team USA Athletes’ Commission Report**

*Submitted by Mariya Koroleva, TUAC Representative*

The past year marked a period of transition and progress for the Team USA Athletes’ Commission (AC) as we advanced key priorities, welcomed new leadership, and strengthened our role as the voice of Team USA athletes.

At the 2024 Olympic & Paralympic Assembly, the AC elected its new leadership team for the upcoming Olympic quad. Morgan Fuller-Kolsrud has served on the AC leadership for the last two years and I’m happy to announce that she has been elected as the AC’s Second Vice Chair. Morgan has already made significant contributions to several key workstreams on the AC and we’re excited to see her expand her role as the Second Vice Chair and continue to represent our sport at the highest level.

We also onboarded 2024 Olympian Jacklyn Luu as the Team USA Athletes’ Commission Rep Alternate and I’m excited to have her perspective on the AC and the USAAS Board of Directors. Along with Bill May, Jacklyn and I served as athlete observers at several national team trials for the senior duet squad, youth, and junior team. At the youth trials, we gathered feedback from the athletes after the event and will use their recommendations to improve future trials.

A central theme for the Athletes’ Commission this year was the initiative for the AC’s independence from the USOPC, primarily to eliminate conflicts of interest and strengthen our ability to advocate on behalf of athletes. Currently, the AC relies on a Memorandum of Understanding with the USOPC for budgetary support (which is not guaranteed every year), so we are pursuing funding mandated by the Ted Stevens Act to ensure long-term sustainability and autonomy. Some of the other topics we discussed throughout the year are concerns around direct athlete support, Para athlete support during transitions to able-bodied NGBs, and reflections on lessons from Paris 2024 in preparation for the MiCo 2026 and Los Angeles 2028 Games. Protecting clean and safe sport has also remained a core priority, especially in the wake of the recent Chinese Swimming doping scandal, and the AC continues to advocate for reforms in both USADA and WADA.

Lastly, the 2024 Athlete Listening Survey showed consistent response rates across nearly all NGBs but highlighted low satisfaction with NGB performance and ongoing concerns over financial and social well-being, and the AC is looking to use these findings to improve athlete services and engagement in the future.

In the coming year we are also looking to finalize our 2028 Selection Procedures and streamline processes in order to better support our national team athletes in their pursuit of the LA Olympics.