

USA WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS ATHLETES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Policies & Procedures

Revision 12

Approved January 31, 2021

ARTICLE I: AAC Qualifications

To be eligible to serve on the Athlete's Advisory Council (AAC), an athlete must be a "Qualified Athletes" as defined in Section 8.5 of the Bylaws of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), as follows:

"Qualified Athletes" are USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) members in good standing, citizens of the United States, and who are "10 Year Athletes" as defined in the Bylaws of the USOPC ("10 Year Athlete Representative" means an athlete who, at the time of election/selection as a representative, has represented U.S. in the 10 years prior at the Pan American Games, Open (not age division) World Championships or another event designated by the USOPC and USA-WSWS as an elite-level event.).

All USA-WSWS Qualified Athletes shall be eligible to vote for their AAC representatives, following the procedures set forth below.

ARTICLE II: AAC Election Procedures

a. Number & Allocation – The AAC shall consist of a total of ten (10) Qualified Athlete Members, with voice and vote. Membership on the AAC shall be divided between the Sport Disciplines having Qualified Athletes, to be allocated among those Sport Disciplines based on the relative membership (all members, not just Qualifying Athletes) of those Sport Disciplines within USA-WSWS. All eligible Sport Disciplines shall be entitled to at least one AAC Member.

b. AAC Member Election Procedures. AAC Members shall be elected by each eligible Sport Discipline as follows:

1. Any Qualified Athlete (whether or not a member of the AAC) may nominate candidates to serve as an AAC Member. All candidates must meet the above qualifications.
2. A ballot containing the AAC nominees shall be distributed to all Qualified Athletes for each Sport Discipline, at least thirty (30) days before the Annual (January) Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors. Voting will be closed fifteen (15) days after the mailing.
3. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected as AAC Members.
4. Any vacancies shall be filled by a majority vote of the relevant Sport Discipline's elected AAC Members.

c. Other Sport Disciplines. Sport Disciplines with no Qualified Athletes may appoint a delegate to the AAC, with voice and no vote.

d. Sport Discipline Delegate Election Procedures. Other Sport Discipline Delegates shall be elected by majority vote of the Actively Engaged Athletes (see USOPC Bylaws Sec. 8.5.1(c) within that Sport Discipline.

1. Any Actively Engaged Athlete of the relevant Sport Discipline may nominate candidates to serve as an AAC Delegate. All candidates must be an Actively Engaged Athlete.
2. A ballot containing the AAC nominees shall be distributed to all Actively Engaged Athletes for each such Sport Discipline, at least thirty (30) days before the Annual (January) Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors. Voting will be closed fifteen (15) days after the mailing.
3. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected as the relevant Sports Disciplines' AAC Delegate.

e. Each AAC Member and Delegate shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor has been duly elected, except that each Sport Discipline having more than one AAC Member may hold elections

such as the terms of that Sports Disciplines' Members are staggered (some positions being filled in one year, and other positions being filled the next year).

ARTICLE III: Election of Athlete Directors to USA-WSWS Board

a. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect the appropriate number of Athlete Directors and alternates to the USA-WSWS Board, so as to meet the USOPC requirements for Board representation (which may include both "10 Year Athletes" and "10 Year+ Athletes," as set forth in the USOPC Bylaws). Each Athlete Director elected to the USA-WSWS Board shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The term shall begin when the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors is called to order and end immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board nearest the end of the term, or until a successor has been duly elected.

b. USOPC AAC Representative. The AAC member who has been elected to serve on the USOPC Athlete Advisory Council (see below) shall be automatically elected and shall serve as an Athlete Director to the USA-WSWS Board.

c. USA-WSWS Director Ballot. A ballot containing the names of other AAC members who wish to fill any Athlete Director positions coming vacant on the USA-WSWS Board (in addition to the USOPC AAC Representative, shall be distributed to all AAC members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected as Athlete Directors.

ARTICLE IV: Election of Athletes to USA-WSWS Executive Committee

Number & Term.

a. The AAC Members shall elect the appropriate number of USA-WSWS Executive Committee Athlete Members, in order to meet the USOPC requirements for Executive Committee (Designated Committee) representation. All Executive Committee Athlete Members must be Qualified Athletes. Each Executive Committee Athlete Member elected to the USA-WSWS Executive Committee shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The term shall begin when the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors is called to order and end immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board nearest the end of the term, or until a successor has been duly elected.

b. USA-WSWS Executive Committee Athlete Members Ballot. A ballot containing the names of AAC Members who wish to fill any positions coming vacant for Executive Committee Athlete Members shall be distributed to all AAC Members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors. The nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected as Executive Committee Athlete Members.

ARTICLE V: Election of USOPC Athletes Advisory Council Representative

a. Special Qualifications. The AAC Members shall elect USOPC Athlete Council Representatives from among the AAC's Members. To be eligible, each nominee must be from a Sport Discipline which competed in the most recent Pan Am Games, and each such nominee must have represented the United States in the Pan Am Games within the preceding ten years. Each nominee must also otherwise meet all Qualified Athlete requirements, and cannot be paid employees of the USOPC or USA-WSWS.

b. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect one (1) athlete representative and one (1) alternate to the USOPC AAC. The alternate must be of the opposite sex. An athlete may serve as the USOPC AAC representative for a maximum of two terms of four (4) years per term. An athlete may serve for an additional term as an at-large member of the USOPC AAC. The term of the USOPC AAC representative shall begin when the first USOPC AAC Meeting of the quadrennium is called to order and shall end immediately preceding the first USOPC AAC Meeting of the succeeding quadrennium, until a successor has been duly elected.

c. Ballot - The election of the USOPC AAC representative shall be performed in conjunction with the election of the Athlete Directors to the USA-WSWS Board. The ballot shall contain a separate voting area designating the names of the AAC members qualified to serve as USOPC AAC members, and who wish to serve as the USA-WSWS representative to the USOPC AAC. Only athletes eligible to run for the USOPC AAC

position are eligible to vote for the USOPC AAC position. Elections must be concluded by the end of the Quadrennium. (currently at the conclusion of the Summer Olympic Games.)

ARTICLE VI: Appointments to USA-WSWS Committees

Athlete representatives shall be elected by the AAC for all USA-WSWS committees, in accordance with the requirements of the USOPC and USA-WSWS Bylaws. All AAC Committee Representatives shall meet the relevant qualifications (10 Year Athletes, 10 Year+ Athletes, and Actively Engaged Athletes, as defined in the USOPC Bylaws) applicable to each committee.

ARTICLE VII: Sport Discipline Athlete Selection Procedures

Qualified Athletes (whether or not members of the AAC) of each Sport Discipline shall elect the directors and representatives for their respective Sport Discipline's Boards and Committees. All such directors and committee representatives shall meet the USOPC qualifications (see USOPC Bylaws Section 8.5) for those boards and committees. Sport Disciplines with no "10 Year" and/or "10 Year +" Athletes shall elect their committee representatives from among the Actively Engaged Athletes (see USOPC Bylaws Sec. 8.5.1(c) within that Sport Discipline.

Each Sport Discipline may elect one or more alternate Members, Athlete Directors, Executive Committee Athlete Members, or Committee Representatives, as determined by the AAC members or delegates for that Sport Discipline.

ARTICLE VIII: Chairperson

a. Duties - The Chairperson of the AAC shall preside at all meetings of the AAC. The Chairperson shall call all meetings of the AAC in accordance with the AAC Bylaws and may call special meetings at anytime needed. The Chairperson may call for a vote of the AAC by mail, fax, or email ballot. The Chairperson may appoint special AAC Committees provided they do not conflict with designated committees or special committees previously appointed by the President of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. The Chairperson shall follow up on all actions taken by the AAC and ensure all plans are implemented and notify the AAC of failure to implement plans or actions. The Chairperson shall ensure all communications between the members of the AAC, all athletes, and the USA-WSWS Board of Directors.

b. Election Procedure & Term - The AAC shall hold an election at the Annual Meeting of the AAC. The term for the Chairperson shall be for two (2) years.

ARTICLE IX: Vacancies

In the event an AAC Director or Executive Committee seat is vacated prior to the expiration of the regular term, such seat shall be filled by any designated alternate for such seat who shall serve for the duration of the vacated term. Any AAC director may be removed for cause by the AAC by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the other members of the AAC, after due notice and opportunity to respond by the respective individual. Cause may include, but not be limited to, unexcused absence from two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board or Executive Committee.

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