

**USA TAEKWONDO
ATHLETES' ADVISORY COUNCIL BYLAWS**

I. MISSION STATEMENT

USA Taekwondo (USATKD) Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) communicates the interests and protects the rights of athletes in cooperative support of USATKD in achieving its mission.

II. PURPOSE STATEMENT

USATKD AAC is responsible for broadening communication between USATKD and active sparring, poomsae, and paralympic athletes and serves as a source of input and advice to the USATKD Board of Directors with regard to current and contemplated USATKD policies.

III. AAC Composition

Ten individuals shall constitute the Athletes' Advisory Council. Eight members shall be elected after conclusion of the Summer Olympic Games, but prior to January 1 of the year following the Summer Olympic Games in an election separate from and after the USOPC AAC representative election. The three poomsae athletes, four sparring athletes, and one paralympic athlete with the highest vote totals shall be elected to the AAC. Voting shall be conducted by each discipline (sparring/poomsae/para). An individual who qualifies under both sparring and poomsae shall be eligible to vote in each election. Within each discipline up to one representative may be a 10 year+ athlete. The individuals with the highest vote total are elected as athlete representative to the Athletes' Advisory Council. Once a 10 year+ athlete is elected then any subsequent individuals within the discipline shall be 10 year athletes. The ninth and tenth positions on the Athletes' Advisory Council shall be filled by USATKD's representative and alternate to the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council.

IV. AAC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Only those athletes who are at least eighteen years of age on December 31 of the year of election and have been a member of USATKD for the 60 days immediately preceding the election shall be eligible to run for election and/or vote for the Athletes' Advisory Council.

B. Those athletes who have represented the United States in Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, Para Pan American, or Operation Gold event, or a world championship recognized by the WT, for which a competitive selection process was administered by USATKD within the preceding ten years as measured from the first AAC meeting of the Quadrennium are eligible to run for election to the Athletes' Advisory Council. For purposes of these Bylaws, a Quadrennium begins on January 1 of the year following the year in which the summer Olympic Games is scheduled to be held and ends on December 31 of the year in which the next edition of the summer Olympic Games is scheduled to be held.

C. Those athletes who have represented the United States in Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, Para Pan American, or Operation Gold event, or a world championship recognized by the WT, for which a competitive selection process was administered by USATKD as an elite-level event for purposes of this definition, but not within the previous 10 years shall be considered a “10 Year+ Athlete”

D. Only those athletes who have not served two consecutive terms as an AAC Representative are eligible to run for election to the Athletes’ Advisory Council.

V. AAC ELECTION PROCEDURES

Elections for AAC Representatives shall include the following provisions:

- A. A statement that only athletes eligible to run for the AAC position are eligible to vote for the AAC position;
- B. A requirement that AAC elections will be concluded 30 days prior to the end of the Quadrennium;
- C. A concise explanation of the process by which athletes are placed on the ballots will be published to the pool of eligible athletes at least 60 days prior to USATKD’s nomination deadline;
- D. Election procedures including but not limited to: manner of voting, identification of voting pool, identification of USATKD election administration representative, specific delineation of nomination/election time frames;
- E. A grievance process;
- F. Procedures for AAC Representative replacement during the Quadrennium

Violation of these election procedures may result in a refusal by the AAC to recognize the Representative if 2/3 of the properly elected AAC present at any duly called meeting agree. However, deference is given an elected Representative in situations in which no material violation has occurred.

VI. TENURE

The term for members of the Athletes’ Advisory Council shall be for four years, one quadrennium, or until the next regularly scheduled election, whichever is earliest. Once seated, an AAC Representative will not lose his/her AAC position, except for cause and after a 2/3 vote of the AAC at a properly called meeting or as stated elsewhere in these Bylaws.

VII. RESTRICTIONS

AAC Representatives may not be paid employees of the USOPC, USATKD, USP or any city’s domestic bid committee for an Olympic Games. The term “paid employee” shall mean anyone who is paid on a regular basis. This provision shall not apply to:

1. Individuals who are engaged on occasional or temporary basis, which shall include, but not be limited to coaching at a clinic or training camp, making a paid appearance for a sponsor, or working for a finite or discrete project.

2. Athletes who are still competing and receiving benefits from the USOPC or USATKD in his/her capacity as a competing athlete.

AAC Representatives are required to disclose in writing to the Chair of the AAC and Chair of the Ethics Committee any employment with the USOPC, USA Taekwondo, other NGB, USP, or domestic bid committee.

VIII. AAC CHAIR

The AAC shall elect from among its members, by majority vote, a chair. The term of office of the chair shall be four (4) years. The newly elected chair shall take office immediately. The Chair will assign a Vice Chair if/when necessary.

IX. AAC RULES of CONDUCT/RESPONSIBILITIES

A. AAC Representatives are required to attend agreed upon AAC meetings, which are public unless closed by a 2/3 vote.

B. Attendance at a meeting is defined as participating on conference calls and being present at face-to-face meetings.

C. In the event an AAC Representative cannot attend an AAC meeting in its entirety, he/she may request an exception. Exceptions may be granted only by the AAC Chair and must be submitted in writing. Acceptable exceptions include but are not limited to competition or personal emergency. A Representative who does not attend a particular meeting will be considered absent unless she/he is granted an exception by the AAC Chair.

D. If, for any reason, an AAC Representative is absent from three consecutive meetings, that Representative will be removed from the AAC

E. If, for any reason, an AAC Representative does not attend at least one half of the AAC meetings in any two year period during the Quadrennium, that Representative will be removed from the AAC.

F. A quorum must be present at duly called AAC meetings. The presence of Representatives reflecting a simple majority of the votes eligible to be cast at any such meeting will constitute a quorum.

G. In matters requiring immediate action, the AAC Chair is empowered to act on behalf of the AAC, subject to ratification at the next AAC meeting.

H. Representatives shall not take stands on issues or represent themselves as members of the AAC in areas of personal interest having no connection with official

AAC responsibilities. Representatives shall not falsely speak on behalf of the entire AAC membership. Representatives shall not reveal matters designated confidential by 2/3 vote of the AAC.

I. The AAC Representatives shall elect from among its members, by majority vote, three individuals who shall serve as athlete directors on the USATKD Board of Directors in addition to the USOPC AAC representative.

J. The AAC Representatives select a representative from the AAC to serve on each of the USATKD committees, which are required to have 33% athlete representation:

Audit Committee
Ethics Committee
Governance Committee
Judicial Committee
Nominating Committee

K. At AAC meetings, Representatives, who serve on USATKD committees, will provide a verbal and/or written report of committee activity and be afforded the opportunity to discuss important committee issues.

X. AAC MEETINGS RULES OF CONDUCT

A. Meetings follow, in general, the traditional rules of Parliamentary Procedure as to motions, seconds, discussions, and calls to vote. Meetings will be run by the Chair.

B. The Chair will accept items to be placed on the agenda from any interested party so long as they are received at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting; otherwise matters may be brought up as new business.

C. Other procedural rules for meeting conduct may be announced by the Chair unless the AAC, by majority, objects.

XI. REPLACEMENT OF AAC REPRESENTATIVES

If the Chair is removed for cause, resigns, or otherwise leaves office, the AAC will elect, by majority, a new Chair.

If a Representative is removed for cause, resigns, or otherwise leaves office within the first three years of the Quadrennium, the USATKD will hold an election to replace the Representative. If such event occurs in the last year of the Quadrennium, there will be no replacement for the Representative, and the AAC will operate with one fewer Representatives.

XII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Proposed changes to AAC Bylaws must be posted at least 30 days prior to the meeting wherein the vote will occur. Amendments must be passed by 2/3 of AAC Representatives.