



Committee Name: Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC)

Date & Time of Meeting: 10/17/2022 - 3pm EST

Attendees:

Committee Members Present:

- Matthew Parker, Marti Malloy, Ben Goodrich, Dominic Rodrigues, Hannah Martin, Kristin El Idrissi

Committee Members Absent:

- N/A

Guests:

- Safe Sport Representative - Abby Morris

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Matthew Parker at 3:04 PM EST

- Safe Sport Guest Speaker (Abby- outreach manager for US Center for Safe Sport) about bridging the gap with athletes & SafeSport
 - SafeSportAthleteAdvisoryTeam ("SSAAT") (14 members in 2023: members provide feedback to Board), Board (12 ppl/4 athletes), SSAAT initiates communication with NGB AACs (via newsletter - updates), SSAAT pursues public athlete engagement (always looking for athletes to engage with- participate in conferences, blogs, 2023 Town halls), R&R process (working to provide more transparent policies, claimants, & updates)
 - AAC to advise what is needed by athletes and Abby can help advise how SSAAT can provide support.
 - New SafeSport survey coming in 2023 to compare to 2020 baseline (hoping for >4000 participants than 2020 survey)
 - Abby can send key results
 - Power Imbalance was a major theme from the previous survey results
 - Abby.Morris@safesport.org is the SSAAT contact
- Matthew - USA Judo Board voting went live today
 - How can we as a committee get ahead of the voting to engage athletes in the voting process (email addresses from 10 yr list?- should come from Marti as AAC Chair)
 - AAC to develop on-going comms plan for activating athletes
- Matthew - Providing resources to athletes. *What resources do current athletes have? What can be improved?*
 - Dominic - Not currently aware of any junior athlete resources
 - Ben - Seemingly little resources available for Paralympic judo. Communication for Ben was more present when living in CO (leveraged USOPC for USA Judo support).



- Funding is provided for some Para athletes for tournaments
- Explored support on strength training but to no avail.
 - Possibility of lack of resources within USA Judo to engage with Para-athletes, or all Elite athletes is a concern. The different needs of the USA Judo elite athletes (ie: Paras, Jr., Sr., Kata, and Veterans) have different needs and it is hard for one person to manage all elite athletes.
- Marti and Hannah - Elite Senior Resources. Weaker connection between athletes and USA Judo for resources.
 - Not receiving feedback from the USA Judo office when there are issues.
 - Not feeling a need for USA Judo support due to self-reliance/feeling lack of responsiveness from the NGB.
 - No information on strength training, nutrition (learned on own- self/local resourced).
 - Some competition support provided by USA Judo.
 - Ideal set up is centralized training with medical, physical, mental support
 - These resources are currently being provided locally by clubs in the US
 - Could USA Judo link/connect Elite athletes with resources?
 - This is not easily accessible. Realistically it would be hard to exist in one location.
- Kristin - Kata resources are not on the USA Judo website,
- Conclusion - Consistently a lack of response on inquiries to USA Judo - resource constraints. Athletes don't know who to ask, where resources are, or what resources are available
 - How can we as the AAC be the connector?
 - Informed about what is available to them and where. USOPC website has tons of resources (can be overwhelming but all resources are there).
 - Research USA Judo website to see current available resources.
 - AAC to research other sports/resources to see what we would want it to look like.
 - What pillars/buckets do these fall into (tournament resources, career opportunities, mental health, training resources, ect.)?
- Matthew - Financial Policy - where the money goes? AAC would like to dig into financials
- Marti - mentioned a board meeting is being held tomorrow

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm EST

Pending & Future Agenda Items:

- Review results from SafeSport. See if we can possibly get an internal survey through USA Judo to see if there are any themes that align.
- Developing on-going comms plan for activating athletes
- Review and continue resource discussion - what specifically is lacking?



- Financial Policy
 - Funding
 - Fundraising and Sponsorships
- Athlete Pipeline
 - What next steps can athletes take to improve their journey
 - i.e.: What resources and steps can a Jr. athlete use to transition into the Sr. ranks