

2016 AAC Election Procedures

Eligibility to Run for Office and to Vote

Only athletes eligible to run for the AAC positions are eligible to vote for the AAC positions. All eligible athletes (regardless of gender) are able to vote for both the AAC Representative and Alternate.

The criteria is as follows:

USRowing By-laws

1. Athlete Advisory Council (“AAC”) of the United States Olympic Committee (“USOC”) athlete members shall consist of those individuals who meet the definition of “athlete” as that term is defined by the AAC in its By-laws (“AAC Athlete Members”). *[USRowing By-law 11(b)]*
2. AAC Representatives shall be nominated in accordance with Section 18(b) and elected to serve in the December immediately following the Summer Olympic Games in 2008 and every fourth (4th) year thereafter by vote of the AAC Athlete Members then eligible to vote. Only AAC Athlete Members shall be eligible to vote for the AAC Representatives. The term of office for the Representatives described in this section shall commence with the first AAC meeting of the quadrennium. No AAC Athlete Member who is an employee of the USOC or the Association shall be eligible for election as an AAC Representative. *[USRowing By-law 48(d)]*

Athlete Advisory Council By-laws – AAC Requirements

1. An athlete must have represented the United States in Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American, Para Pan American or other major international competition, within the preceding ten years as measured from the first AAC meeting of the Quadrennium. The term “other major international competition” as used herein means only a competition designated by the USOC as an Operation Gold competition. Requests for extensions in this requirement may only be granted by the AAC and must be in writing.
 - a. For USRowing purposes, the Operation Gold designated competition is only those events at the World Rowing Senior Championships that are also contested at the Olympic and Paralympic Games (i.e. M1x, M2x, M4x, M2-, M4-, M8+, LM4-, LM2x, LW2x, W1x, W2x, W4x, W2-, W8+, ASM1x, ASW1x, TAMix2x, LTA4+).
 - b. The 10-year measure will constitute athletes representing the United States from 2007-2016.
2. An athlete may not have served two previous terms on the AAC as a Representative. Status as an Alternate does not constitute serving a term. If an Alternate replaces a Representative and has the opportunity to attend over half of the meetings as the Representative in a Quadrennium, the Alternate shall be deemed to have served one (1) term.
3. AAC Representatives and Alternates are seated for one Quadrennium, or until replaced, whichever is later. For purposes of these Bylaws, a Quadrennium is

- deemed to start on January 1 of the year following the year in which the summer Olympic Games is scheduled to be held, and end on December 31 of the year in which the next edition of the summer Olympic Games is scheduled to be held. Once seated, no AAC Representative or Alternate shall lose his or her position on the AAC, except for cause and after a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the AAC at a properly called meeting, or except as stated elsewhere in these Bylaws.
4. Athletes may not be paid employees of the USOC, any NGB, USP or any city's domestic bid committee for an Olympic Games and simultaneously serve as a Representative or Alternate to the AAC. The term "paid employee" shall mean anyone who is employed on a regular basis. This provision shall not apply to 1) individuals who are engaged on an 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 on a finite or discrete project, and 2) athletes who are still competing and receiving benefits from the USOC, the USP or any NGB in his/her capacity as a competing athlete.
 5. All AAC Representatives and Alternates are required to disclose in writing to the Chair of the AAC and the USOC Ethics and Compliance officer any employment with the USOC, an NGB, USP, or a domestic bid committee.
 6. An AAC Representative's or Alternate's failure to satisfy additional NGB or USP requirements for qualification as an AAC Representative or Alternate may not be used by the NGB or the USP as cause to remove such individual their AAC Representative or Alternate position.
 7. The representative and alternate must be of the opposite sexes in a sport in which men's and women's teams are represented by a single NGB.
 - a. In the upcoming 2016 elections, the AAC Athlete Representative must be male and the AAC Alternate Athlete Representative must be female.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

- Set the guiding principles of the vision and strategic plans for USRowing (see strategies adopted in 2014).
- Set the policies of the Association.
- Establish the annual budget of the Association and monitor the financial operations of the Association.
- Hire, evaluate and dismiss the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
- Appoint delegates to represent the Association at FISA Congresses or other organizations of which the Association is a member and nominate United States nationals to hold office within FISA or other international sports bodies of which the Association is a member.
- Elect stewards of the Casitas Fund as specified in that organization's Articles of Incorporation and the Directors(s) of the United States Olympic Committee ("USOC") to which the Association is entitled.
- Exercise such other powers as may be vested by law.

Time Commitment

Board of Directors

Four regular meetings are held annually to conduct the business of the Association. These meetings are generally held from Friday night through Saturday afternoon. The board also meets by phone monthly. Two unexcused absences from in-person board meetings results in automatic removal of a board member under the Bylaws. Excused absences are granted by the full board for a limited number of reasons. Thus, it is critical that any candidate make a serious commitment to board participation. Board members typically serve on one or more committees of the board in addition to board service. Travel funding is provided for athlete representatives.

AAC

The USOC AAC meets approximately quarterly, with four meetings remaining in the 2016 quadrennial. Meetings are in person and are typically during the weekend, and over a 1-2 day period. The next meeting will be in January.

Election Process

1. **Call for Nominations:** A call for self-nominations will be sent to all athletes eligible to vote by November 1, 2016. *[USRowing Bylaw 18(b)]*
 - a. USRowing will use its roster data on file to pull the eligible voting list from the qualified athletes representing the United States from 2007-2016.
 - b. USRowing will use the email addresses on file in the USRowing database to contact eligible members. Athletes who are part of the voting pool should contact USRowing prior to November 11, 2016, to ensure their contact information is current and accurate. Please contact Liz Soutter, Assistant National Team Programs Manager, at liz@usrowing.org to verify your contact information.
 - c. Nomination materials also will be posted on USRowing's website on or before November 1, 2016.
 - d. All nominees must be eligible to run per the requirements above.
 - e. Nominations must be received by Monday, November 21, 2016.
2. **Posting of Nominees and Election Process:** USRowing will post all nominees who meet the eligibility requirements, and information on how to vote to its website by Wednesday, November 23, 2016.
3. **Election Process:** USRowing will use an independent, electronic voting service to administer the election.
 - a. USRowing will upload the eligible voters list after November 1, 2016, and prior to November 23, 2016.
 - b. USRowing will upload candidate names and bios beginning November 23, 2016.
 - c. Election will commence on December 1, 2016, and voting will run through December 21, 2016. *[USRowing Bylaw 50]*
 - d. USRowing will post election results by December 23, 2016.
4. **Administration**

- a. The election process will be administered by Brett Johnson, USRowing Director of Operations (brett@usrowing.org).
- b. The USRowing Grievance Procedures can be found under the CEO Policy Manual available online at:
<http://www.usrowing.org/About/Governance.aspx>