



April 2021

Dear Elite Athletes

### **What is the US Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC)?**

When Surfing became an Olympic Sport and USA Surfing became the National Governing Body (NGB) in the United States, the sport took on added importance and responsibilities. Under federal law, the U.S Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) is tasked with managing Olympic sport in the USA. A significant part of the federal law gives athletes a substantial role and voice in the governance of their sport and the USOPC. One of those key components of the statute is the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC). We are writing you today to consider participating on the ACC and further enhance the sport of surfing for future generations.

### **What is AAC's Mission?**

The mission of the AAC is to ensure communication between the USOPC and athletes who are actively engaged in athletic competition or who have represented the United States in selected elite international competition within the past ten (10) years.

### **Who are the AAC members?**

The AAC is comprised of six (6) individual athletes to serve as leadership plus one (1) athlete from each sport on the Olympic & Pan American Games program and five (5) athletes from the Paralympic Games. In addition, each NGB selects an alternate for the primary athlete member.

Courtney Conlogue was Surfing's AAC Representative for this quadrennium until her recent resignation to devote more time to training and competing. Kevin Schulz, Surfing's Alternate, is now the Representative. He is eligible to run for another term. AAC Reps can serve two terms.

In the case of Para (adaptive) surfing, it is not a Paralympic sport and, as such, these athletes are not currently eligible to run or vote for an ACC position.

Recently retired athletes often make excellent representatives as they know the sport and have the time to commit. Athletes who meet the eligibility criteria within the last ten (10) years qualify.

For further details, please see the USOPC AAC Bylaws at:  
<https://www.teamusa.org/Footer/Legal/Other-Documents>

## **What is an AAC member time commitment?**

The full USOPC AAC generally meets about three (3) times per year including at the annual Olympic and Paralympic Assembly which is usually in the autumn. All costs associated with attending the meetings are paid for by the USOPC, including travel, lodging and meals. Both representative and alternate can attend the meetings, but only one will be funded by the AAC/USOPC.

Surfing's USOPC AAC Representative and Alternate are also automatic members of USA Surfing's Board of Directors. This entails at least four (4) meetings a year (lately all Zoom calls), the costs of which are paid for by USA Surfing.

Under federal law and USOPC Bylaws, athletes must make up at least 1/3 of all governance boards (e.g., USA Surfing BOD) and standing committees at the USOPC and within each sport. The USOPC AAC is the major way the USOPC meets the 1/3 athlete representation obligation.

## **How can I get involved in the Olympic movement and become an AAC member?**

- We will hold an election soon for an Athlete Representative and an Alternate to serve on the USOPC AAC which also means seats on USA Surfing's Board of Directors.
- The attached USA Surfing Athlete Data Base list includes all athletes who we believe are eligible to run for this position and also eligible to vote for the USOPC AAC candidates.
- If you believe we are missing any qualified athletes, please send a note to John Ruger, email listed below.
- You may self-nominate or may nominate anyone on the USA Surfing Athlete Data Base.
- Please send your nomination(s) or your self-nomination to: John Ruger at [johnwruger@gmail.com](mailto:johnwruger@gmail.com) with a copy to Andrea Swayne, USA Surfing COO, at [andrea@usasurfing.org](mailto:andrea@usasurfing.org) by Monday, April 26, 2021.
- Please consider participating on the USOPC AAC and enhance the Olympic Movement and Olympic Surfing in the United States.
- If you have any questions, please contact:
  - Elizabeth Ramsey, USOPC AAC Executive Director  
[Elizabeth.Ramsey@teamusa-aac.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Ramsey@teamusa-aac.org)
  - John Ruger, USOPC consultant to USAS  
[johnwruger@gmail.com](mailto:johnwruger@gmail.com)  
303 886 8240

Thanks for your consideration

USA Surfing

Name	Team	Year	Discipline
Carissa Moore	Olympic	2021	Short
Caroline Marks	Olympic	2021	Short
Kolohe Andino	Olympic	2021	Short
John Florence	Olympic	2021	Short
Kelly Slater	Olympic	2021	Short
Lakey Peterson	Olympic	2021	Short
Kevin Schulz	Pan Am	2019	Short
Candice Appleby	Pan Am	2019	SUP Race and SUP Surf
Cole Robbins	Pan Am	2019	Long
Daniel Hughes	Pan Am	2019	SUP Surf
Connor Baxter	Pan Am	2019	SUP Race
Tiare Thompson	Pan Am	2019	Long and Short
Seth Moniz	WSL	2021	Short
Griffin Colapinto	WSL	2021	Short
Joshua Moniz	WSL	2019	Short
Sebastian Zietz	WSL	2019	Short
Connor Coffin	WSL	2021	Short
Courtney Conlogue	WSL	2021	Short
Malia Manuel	WSL	2021	Short
Sage Erickson	WSL	2021	Short
Ezekiel Lau	WSL	2019	Short
Coco Ho	WSL	2019	Short
Patrick Gudauskas	WSL	2018	Short
Crosby Colapinto	WSL	2021	Short
Billy Kemper	WSL	2019	Short
Jett Schilling	WSL	2019	Short
Gabriela Bryan	WSL	2019	Short
Alana Blanchard	WSL	2019	Short
Keanu Asing	WSL	2018	Short
Bethany Hamilton	WSL	2018	Short
Kirra Pinkerton	WSL	2018	Short
Zoe McDougall	WSL	2018	Short
Nat Young	WSL	2017	Short
Dusty Payne	WSL	2017	Short
Mason Ho	WSL	2017	Short
Tanner Gudauskas	WSL	2016	Short
Brett Simpson	WSL	2016	Short
Alessa Quizon	WSL	2016	Short
Meah Collins	WSL	2016	Short
CJ Hobgood	WSL	2015	Short
Fred Patacchia, Jr	WSL	2015	Short
Dane Reynolds	WSL	2015	Short
Jamie O'Brien	WSL	2015	Short
Dax McGill	WSL	2015	Short

Damien Hobgood	WSL	2013	Short
Taylor Knox	WSL	2012	Short
Bobby Martinez	WSL	2011	Short
Cory Lopez	WSL	2011	Short
Gabe Kling	WSL	2011	Short
Melanie Bartels	WSL	2011	Short
Taro Watanabe	ISA WSG	2018	Short
Jordy Collins	ISA WSG	2018	Short
Cole Houshmand	ISA WSG	2017	Short
Samantha Sibley	ISA WSG	2017	Short
Nolan Rapoza	ISA WSG	2016	Short
Maddie Peterson	ISA WSG	2016	Short
Nathaniel Curran	ISA WSG	2015	Short
Damien Hobgood	ISA WSG	2015	Short
Ben Bourgeois	ISA WSG	2015	Short
Chris Waring	ISA WSG	2011	Short
Evan Thompson	ISA WSG	2011	Short
Matt Pagan	ISA WSG	2011	Short
Kaleigh Gilchrist	ISA WSG	2011	Short
Lani Doherty	ISA WSG	2011	Short
Zane Schweitzer	ISA SUP	2019	Surf/Race
Tyler Bashor	ISA SUP	2019	Race
Lara Claydon	ISA SUP	2019	Surf/Race
Stephanie Shideler	ISA SUP	2019	Race
Jade Howson	ISA SUP	2019	Race
Sean Poynter	ISA SUP	2018	Surf/Race
Emmy Merrill	ISA SUP	2018	Surf
Fiona Wylde	ISA SUP	2018	Race
April Zilg	ISA SUP	2018	Surf/Race
Mo Freitas	ISA SUP	2017	Surf/Race
Slater Trout	ISA SUP	2017	Surf/Race
Ryan Funk	ISA SUP	2017	Race
Annie Reickert	ISA SUP	2017	Race
Chuck Glynn	ISA SUP	2016	Race
Talia DeCoite	ISA SUP	2016	Race
Dave Boehne	ISA SUP	2015	Surf
Danny Ching	ISA SUP	2015	Race
Shae Foudy	ISA SUP	2015	Race
Colin McPhillips	ISA SUP	2013	Surf
Shane Scoggins	ISA SUP	2012	Race
Matt Becker	ISA SUP	2012	Race
Kai Sallas	ISA Longboard	2019	Long
Soleil Errico	ISA Longboard	2019	Long
Lindsay Steinreide	ISA Longboard	2019	Long
Tony Silvagni	ISA Longboard	2018	Long

Kevin Skvarna	ISA Longboard	2018	Long
Kelis Kaleopaa	ISA Longboard	2018	Long
Rachael Tilly	ISA Longboard	2018	Long
Tory Gilkerson	ISA Longboard	2018	Long
Ned Snow	ISA Longboard	2013	Long
Megan Godinez	ISA Longboard	2013	Long