



U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD ATHLETES' COUNCIL BYLAWS

I. PURPOSE

A. The U.S. Ski & Snowboard Athletes' Council is organized for the purpose of promoting the interests of athletes in the sports of skiing and snowboarding. More specifically, the Council is formed to represent the interests of athletes before the U.S. Ski & Snowboard, the USOC, and other groups in order to promote a number of objectives including:

Aiding the growth and quality of the sport by:

1. Insuring all athletes an opportunity to compete at any level of competition for which they are qualified;
2. Protecting athletes from arbitrary quotas or selection processes in selection of national teams;
3. Insuring that no athlete will be denied the opportunity to compete in national and international competitions because of discrimination on the basis of age, race, national origin, disability, religion, sex, or sexual orientation;
4. Insuring that athletes are not prevented from competing for or receiving awards because of their personal political beliefs or pronouncements;
5. Educating athletes of their rights and responsibilities under applicable laws and policies related to the sport;
6. Providing a logical and effective communication channel among the athletes, the coaches, and the officers of U.S. Ski & Snowboard, USST and USOC;
7. Providing information to athletes about developments in the sport, and policies of organizations (U.S. Ski & Snowboard, USST and USOC) involved in the sport's competition;
8. Providing a forum for athletes to discuss and resolve issues concerning the athletes and the sport;
9. Providing qualified and fair consultation to athletes on matters regarding commercial sponsorship;

10. Insuring adequate representation (20%) on all national governing body committees.

II. ELECTION TO THE AC'S VOTING BOARD

A. The Athletes Council's Voting Board is comprised of the athlete representatives serving on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard board of directors. These athletes are elected, as outlined in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard bylaws, by the athletes of their respective disciplines. The officers will be selected from the members of the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Board of Directors. A Chairperson, Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary will be elected from this group. In addition, the U.S. Ski & Snowboard representatives will serve as the Athletes' Council Executive Committee. Any decisions made by the Executive Committee must be approved at the next duly-held Athletes' Council meeting.

B. These athletes must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the AC:

1. Athletes must have represented the United States Ski Team or U. S. Snowboarding in Olympic, World Championship or other major international competition;
2. The last such competition must have occurred within the preceding ten (10) years as measured from the first Athletes' Council meeting of that member's term.

C. Violation of these procedures and requirements can result in a refusal to recognize the representative if two-thirds of the duly-elected Athletes' Council present at any duly-called meeting agree, however, deference is given to the elected athlete in situations in which no clear violation has occurred.

III. ATHLETES' COUNCIL RULES OF CONDUCT

A. If a representative is unable to attend an Athletes' Council meeting or conference call, the Athletes' Council chair must be informed and they must make best efforts to update the group via e-mail in advance in regards to the discipline they represent. An alternate may be selected to serve in the representative's place. However, this replacement representative will be without vote. The Athletes' Council chair shall make every effort to insure that the discipline is represented.

B. If the representative is absent from three consecutive meetings for any reason, the Athletes' Council can request, by majority vote, the resignation of that representative from their board commitments. Once a resignation occurs, the Athletes' Council chair shall instigate the U.S. Ski & Snowboard to supervise an election for a new representative.

C. Athletes' Council meetings are open to the public unless closed by a two-thirds vote. All athletes and alumni members are encouraged to attend.

D. In a matter concerning immediate action, the Athletes' Council chair is empowered to act on behalf of the Athletes' Council subject to ratification at the next Athletes' Council meeting.

E. Meetings will follow, in general, the traditional rules of parliamentary procedure: motions, seconds, discussion, and call to vote. The chair will accept items to be officially placed on the agenda from any interested party as long as it is received two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting, otherwise, matters may be brought up as new business. The chair sets the agenda.

IV. ELECTIONS DURING ATHLETES' COUNCIL TERM: COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Officer Assignments:

1. The chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary positions will be nominated orally and elected by the Athletes' Council through a silent ballot vote;
2. Only current U.S. Ski & Snowboard BOD members are eligible to be nominated and can nominate themselves;
3. Officers will be elected to three-year terms, as long as the electee remains on the U.S. Ski & Snowboard BOD, and does not resign. New elections shall be held as needed.

B. U.S. Ski & Snowboard Committee Assignment Recommendations:

1. Assignments will be granted on the basis of an election, with ties broken by the Athletes' Council chairperson;
2. Only current Athletes' Council Executive Committee members are eligible to be nominated and can nominate themselves.

V. USOC ATHLETES ADVISORY COUNCIL NOMINATION & ELECTION PROCESS

A. The chairperson of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's Athletes' Council will work with appropriate U.S. Ski & Snowboard staff and the current USOC AAC representative in outlining the procedures to be followed for the quadrennial nomination and election of U.S. Ski & Snowboard's representative and alternate to the USOC Athletes Advisory Council following the requirements set forth by the USOC in its governance documents.

VI. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

A. These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote at any duly-called Athletes' Council meeting except that such amendment will not be effective until the call to order of the next duly-called Athletes' Council meeting.