

**USA WATER SKI & WAKE SPORTS**  
**ATHLETES' ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Policies & Procedures**  
**Approved January 28, 2018**

**ARTICLE I: AAC Qualifications**

Athletes who are members of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports in good standing, citizens of the United States, and who satisfy at least one of the following criteria are qualified to serve as "elite" athlete members on and vote for the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC):

A) Athletes who have represented the United States in international water ski competition, either as Team members or as individual qualifiers, within the preceding ten (10) years. Such international competitions shall include: World Championships, Pan American Championships, Pan Am Games, and Operation Gold events; OR

B) Within the two (2) years before election, demonstrated that they are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the Sport Disciplines: (i) National Championships "Open Age" Division; (ii) Elite Team Trials; or (iii) Open Age Division Ranking List; AND

C) Meeting these qualifications by competing in "open age" classifications, not from age-restricted classifications, such as "juniors", "seniors", or "veterans". Should a Sport Discipline not have an "open age" classification, qualification for this requirement shall be determined by the Athlete Advisory Council and approved by the USA-WSWS Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE II: AAC Election Procedures**

a. Number & Term – In accordance with USOC guidelines, the AAC shall consist of at least 50% "elite" athletes from Sport Disciplines with Pan American games program status. The AAC shall consist of ten (10) members from the AWSA Sport Discipline and one (1) member from all other Sport Disciplines. Each AAC member shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor has been duly elected.

b. Elections – Each Sport Discipline will elect their own representatives from within their respective Sport Disciplines to the Athlete Advisory Council. The respective election procedures must be in accordance with Article VII, and have athletes elect their own athlete representatives.

**ARTICLE III: Election of Athlete Directors to USA-WSWS Board**

a. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect the appropriate number of Athlete Directors and alternates to the USA-WSWS Board, so as to meet the USOC guidelines for a minimum of 20% athlete representation and voting power as designated by the USA-WSWS Bylaws. Each Athlete Director elected to the USA-WSWS Board shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The term shall begin when the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors is called to order and end immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board nearest the end of the term, or until a successor has been duly elected.

b. Eligibility – At least one-half (1/2) of the individuals elected to the USA-WSWS Board must qualify as "elite" athletes in the Sport Disciplines with Pan American games program status.

c. USOC AAC Representative - The AAC member who has been elected to serve on the USOC Athlete Advisory Council shall be automatically elected and shall serve as an Athlete Director to the USA-WSWS Board.

d. USA-WSWS Director Ballot - A ballot containing the names of the AAC members, who wish to serve as Athlete Directors to the USA-WSWS Board, shall be distributed to all AAC members at least (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors. Voting will be closed fifteen (15) days after the mailing and winners will be notified immediately.

#### **ARTICLE IV: Election of Athletes to USA-WSWS Executive Committee**

a. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect the appropriate number of Athlete Representatives and alternates to the USA-WSWS Executive Committee, so as to meet the USOC guidelines for a minimum of 20% athlete representation and voting power as designated by the USA-WSWS bylaws. Each Athlete Representative elected to the USA-WSWS Executive Committee shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The term shall begin when the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors is called to order and end immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board nearest the end of the term, or until a successor has been duly elected.

b. Eligibility - At least one-half (1/2) of the individuals elected to the USA-WSWS Executive Committee must qualify as "elite" athletes in the Sport Disciplines on the Pan American games program status.

c. USA-WSWS Executive Committee Representative Ballot - A ballot containing the names of the AAC members, who wish to serve as Athlete Representatives to the USA-WSWS Executive Committee shall be distributed to all AAC members at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the USA-WSWS Board of Directors. Voting will be closed fifteen (15) days after the mailing and winners will be notified immediately.

#### **ARTICLE V: Election of USOC Athletes' Advisory Council Representative**

a. Special Qualifications - Only those AAC members from Sport Disciplines with Pan American games program status athletes are eligible to serve on the USOC AAC. To be eligible to serve on the USOC AAC, an athlete must have represented the United States in Pan American, or Operation Gold competition within the preceding ten years as measured from the first AAC meeting of the Quadrennium. Athletes cannot be paid employees of the USOC or the NGB and simultaneously serve on the USOC AAC.

b. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect one (1) athlete representative and one (1) alternate to the USOC AAC. The alternate must be of the opposite sex. An athlete may serve as the USOC AAC representative from an NGB for a maximum of two terms. An athlete may serve for an additional term as an at-large member of the USOC AAC. The term of the USOC AAC representative shall begin when the first USOC AAC Meeting of the quadrennium is called to order and shall end immediately preceding the first USOC AAC Meeting of the succeeding quadrennium, until a successor has been duly elected.

c. Ballot - The election of the USOC AAC representative shall be performed in conjunction with the election of the Athlete Directors to the USA-WSWS Board (See Article III above). The ballot shall contain a separate voting area designating the names of the AAC members who meet the Special Qualifications, who wish to serve as the water ski representative to the USOC AAC. Only athletes eligible to run for the USOC AAC position are eligible to vote for the USOC AAC position.

d. Grievances- Athletes may resolve disputes regarding the election procedures according to Article IX of the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Bylaws. Elections must be concluded by the end of the Quadrennium. (Chapter XXIV, Section 1 currently requires elections to be at the conclusion of the Summer Olympic Games.) All approved procedures must be codified in the NGB's AAC documents and may be codified in the NGB organic documents.

## **ARTICLE VI: Appointments to USA-WSWS Committees**

Athlete representatives shall be recommended by the AAC to equal at least 20% of all USA-WSWS Executive Committees, nominating and budget committees, panels empowered to resolve grievances, and committees which prepare, approve or implement programs in the following areas:

- (1) expenditures of funds allocated to USA-WSWS by the USOC; and
- (2) selection of international team members including athletes, coaches, administrators, and sports staff.

Interested athletes that meet the requirements of Article I will indicate such interest, and the AAC will use their experience to select which athletes to put forward for each committee. The names will be provided to the USA-WSWS President, who will work with the respective committee chairs and the AAC members to determine the most appropriate selections for each committee. Every effort will be made to match athletes with their stated preferences. There is, however, no guarantee that the USA-WSWS President will accept the AAC recommendations.

In the case where there are two or more athletes on a committee, the AAC Chair shall appoint one of the athletes to be the liaison between the committee and the other AAC members.

## **ARTICLE VII: Sport Discipline Athlete Selection Procedures**

### **A. American Barefoot Club**

1. Subject to any restrictions stated expressly in, or necessarily implied by these bylaws, and subject to approval by the board, the Athlete Advisory Council shall be entitled to establish its' own bylaws and operational policies and procedures enabling it to conduct its' affairs in any manner approved by a majority of its' members.
2. Subject to approval by the ABC Board, the Athlete Advisory Council shall determine the type and number of its' board members, except that at least 20% of the voting power may be with "*Elite athletes*". The members of the Athlete Advisory Council shall select these board members.
3. The Athlete Advisory Council shall elect the 3 Advisory Council Directors to the ABC Board of Directors.
4. Qualifications of an "Elite athletes" for the ABC Athlete Advisory Council shall be by:
  - (a) Representing the United States in international water ski competition, either as Team members or as individual qualifiers, within the preceding ten (10) years. Such international competitions shall include, but not be limited to, World Championships, Pan American Championships and Pan Am Games. OR,
  - (b) Demonstrating within the two (2) preceding ski years, that they actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by competing in the ABC (i) National Championships Open Division; (ii) Elite Team Trials; or (iii) finishing in the top half of the ABC Open Division Ranking List.

## B. American Kneeboard Association

1. The Board shall consist of not less than 6, nor more than 11 elected members and shall consist minimum of 20% “elite athletes”. For purposes of these Bylaws “elite athletes” are defined as athletes who have demonstrated their qualifications as athletes by:
  - a. Demonstrating within the five (5) preceding years, that they actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by competing in the American Kneeboard Association National Championships Open Age Division - **OR**
  - b. Demonstrating within the five (5) preceding years, that they actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of any age restricted division, excluding Jr. Girls, Jr. Boys, Girls, Boys, at the American Kneeboard Association National Championships - **OR**
  - c. Within the five (5) preceding years finished in the top half of the National Overall Points System in any division, excluding Jr. Girls, Jr. Boys, Girls, Boys.
2. Standard term for each director will be two (2) years, beginning at the annual AKA Winter Board of Directors meeting.

## C. American Water Ski Association

1. Election of Athletes to Athlete Advisory Council
  - a. Eligibility – Athletes must qualify as “elite” athletes according to Article I, USA-WSWS Bylaws, and in accordance with USOC Guidelines.
  - b. Nominations - Nominations for the Athlete Advisory Council shall be accepted from the “elite” athletes (see Article I). The AAC shall appoint a nominating committee for the purpose of placing additional candidates on the ballot, if any of the following conditions are true:
    - A) Fewer than twelve (12) nominations are received for AWSA (traditional slalom, trick, jump) athletes, or less than ten (10) of the nominated AWSA candidates are willing to serve.
    - B) Less than one (1) nomination is received in each of the AWSA disciplines and overall.
  - c. Number & Term – The AWSA Sport Discipline shall elect the number of members as designated by Article II. Each AAC member shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor has been duly elected.
  - d. USA-WSWS AAC Ballot - A ballot containing the AAC nominees shall be distributed to all qualified athletes (as defined in Article I), at least ninety (90) days prior to the Summer Annual Meeting of the AWSA Board of Directors. Voting will be closed thirty (30) days after the mailing.
2. Election of Athlete Directors to AWSA Board
  - a. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect the appropriate number of Athlete Directors and alternates to the AWSA Board, so as to meet the USOC guidelines for a minimum of 20% athlete representation and voting power as designated by the AWSA bylaws. Each

Athlete Director elected to the AWSA Board shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The term shall begin when the Summer Meeting of the AWSA Board of Directors is called to order and end immediately preceding the Summer Meeting of the AWSA Board nearest the end of the term, or until a successor has been duly elected.

- b. Eligibility – All of the individuals elected to the AWSA Board shall have competed as athletes in AWSA (slalom, tricks, and/or jump) competition.
  - c. USOC AAC Representative - The AAC member who has been elected to serve on the USOC Athlete Advisory Council shall be automatically elected and shall serve as an Athlete Director to the AWSA Board.
  - d. AWSA Director Ballot - A ballot containing the names of the AAC members, who wish to serve as Athlete Directors to the AWSA Board, shall be distributed to all AAC members at least (60) days prior to the Summer Meeting of the AWSA Board of Directors. Voting will be closed fifteen (15) days after the mailing and winners will be notified immediately.
3. Election of Athlete Representatives to Executive Committee
- a. Number & Term - The AAC members shall elect the appropriate number of Athlete Representatives and alternates to the AWSA Executive Committee, so as to meet the USOC guidelines for a minimum of 20% athlete representation and voting power as designated by the AWSA Bylaws. Each Athlete Representative elected to the AWSA Executive Committee shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The term shall begin when the Summer Meeting of the AWSA Board of Directors is called to order and end immediately preceding the Summer Meeting of the AWSA Board nearest the end of the term, or until a successor has been duly elected.
  - b. Eligibility - All of the individuals elected to the AWSA Executive Committee shall have competed as athletes in AWSA competition.
  - c. AWSA Executive Committee Representative Ballot - A ballot containing the names of the AAC members, who wish to serve as Athlete Representatives to the AWSA Executive Committee, is distributed to the AAC members from the AWSA Sport Discipline at least thirty (30) days prior to the Summer Meeting of the AWSA Board of Directors. Voting will be closed fifteen (15) days after the mailing and winners will be notified immediately.
4. Appointment of Athlete Representatives to Committees

Athlete representatives shall be recommended by the AAC to equal at least 20% of all AWSA Executive Committees, nominating and budget committees, panels empowered to resolve grievances, and committees which prepare, approve or implement programs in the following areas:

- (1) expenditures of funds allocated to AWSA by the USOC; and
- (2) selection of international team members including athletes, coaches, administrators, and sports staff.

Interested athletes that meet the requirements of Article I will indicate such interest, and the AAC will use their experience to select which athletes to put forward for each committee. The names will be provided to the AWSA President, who will work with the respective committee chairs and the AAC members to determine the most appropriate selections for each committee. Every effort will be made to match athletes with their stated preferences. There is, however, no guarantee that the AWSA President will accept the AAC recommendations.

In the case where there are two or more athletes on a committee, the AAC Chair shall appoint one of the athletes to be the liaison between the committee and the other AAC members.

## **D. National Collegiate Water Ski Association**

1. Election of Athletes to Athlete Advisory Council
  - a. Eligibility and election – The NCWSA AAC shall elect one (1) of its current AAC Directors to serve on the USA-WSWS AAC.
2. Election of Athlete Directors to Board
  - a. Number & Term - The NCWSA AAC will elect two of their members to sit on the NCWSA Board. The term of each Director shall be 1 year.
  - b. Eligibility - All AAC members must be current members of the NCWSA and competed within the last ski year. The minimum criteria for AAC consideration is a skier who finished in the top half of the NCWSA Nationals D1 or All Stars, or recorded a comparable score in the Nationals D2, or been a member of a World University Team

## **E. National Show Ski Association**

1. Election of Athletes to Athlete Advisory Council
  - a. Eligibility-Athlete must qualify as a NSSA "elite" athlete according to the following NSSA Board of Directors guidelines, in addition to Article I - AAC Qualifications, USA-WSWS Bylaws, and in accordance with USOC guidelines. Athletes who are active members of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports in good standing, citizens of the United States of America, and who satisfy the following criteria, qualify to serve as NSSA "elite" athletes.
2. Mandatory Qualifications:
  - a. Competed as a skier, towboat driver, or announcer that placed in the top 50% at the Division I National Show Tournament in any of the last two (2) years in either the individual or team competitions.
  - b. Current valid NSSA membership
  - c. Minimum age of 18
3. Nominations –
  - a. NSSA Elite Skier Director Ballot Nominations for the NSSA AAC member shall be accepted by the NSSA Nominating Committee from the NSSA "elite" athletes. All nominations will be due to the NSSA Nominating Committee by 1 August of each year. The NSSA Nominating Committee will verify all nominees. The NSSA Nominating Committee will then prepare ballots. A Ballot containing the NSSA Elite Skier Director nominees shall be available to all qualified NSSA "elite" athletes to vote from 11 AM to 1 PM on Saturday and Sunday at the Division 1 National Show Tournament. The NSSA Nominating Committee shall obtain the results and rosters from the past five NSSA Division I Show Nationals. All NSSA "elite" athletes that are voting must show picture identification card to vote. The election results will be announced at the award ceremonies at the conclusion of the NSSA Division I Show Nationals.

2. Election of Athlete Directors to the NSSA Board of Directors

- a. USA-WSWS - AAC Ballot - A Ballot containing the NSSA AAC member nominees shall be available to all qualified NSSA AA elite" athletes to vote at the NSSA Division I National Show Tournament.
- b. Number & Term - The NSSA "elite" athletes (minimum age 18) shall elect the appropriate number of NSSA Elite Skier Directors to the NSSA Board of Directors, so as to meet USOC guidelines for a minimum of 20% athlete representation, voice and voting power as designated by NSSA bylaws. The three NSSA Elite Athlete Directors will designate who among them will serve as the one NSSA Elite Director Representative to the Athlete Advisory Council.

At this time, there is a total of three (3) NSSA Elite Skier Directors and one (1) alternate NSSA Elite Skier Director. The terms of all NSSA Elite Skier Directors shall be for two (2) years, and shall start at the conclusion of the Division I National Show Tournament.

No more than two NSSA Elite Skier Directors may be a member of any one Region.

No more than one NSSA Elite Skier Director may be a member of any one team.

For the purposes of initiating these new positions, the following procedure shall be used:

For the year 2003, the candidate with the most votes will be awarded a three (3) year term. The next two candidates with the most votes will each be awarded a two (2) year term.

For subsequent odd year elections starting in 2005, the two candidates with the most votes will be awarded a two (2) year term.

For subsequent even year elections starting in 2006, the candidate with the most votes will be awarded a two (2) year term.

The candidate with the next highest vote total each year will serve as the alternate NSSA Elite Skier Director (1 year term).

- c. Eligibility - Athletes who are active members of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports in good standing, citizens of the United States of America, and who satisfy the following criteria qualify to serve as NSSA Elite Skier Directors with full vote and voice rights on the NSSA Board of Directors.

3. Must attend the regular annual meeting of the NSSA Board of Directors.

4. Election of Athlete Representative to Executive Committee

- a. Number & Term - one Elite Competitor Director two (2) year term
- b. Eligibility – see Section 3 above
- c. Executive Ballot - one Elite Competitor Director

5. Appointment of Athlete Representatives to Committees - NSSA "elite" athletes shall compose at least 20% of all NSSA nominating and budget committees, panels empowered to resolve grievances, and committees which prepare, approve or implement programs in the following areas:

- a. expenditures of any funds that are allocated to the NSSA by the USOC; and
- b. future selections of international team members including athletes, coaches, administrators and sports staff.

## **F. National Water Ski Racing Association**

The NWSRA does not currently have an Elite Athlete designation nor requirement in their organization. They do utilize Athletes as Directors and on their committees. The Elite Athlete designation and participation is not needed at this time.

## **G. US Hydrofoil Association**

The USHA does not currently have an Elite Athlete designation nor requirement in their organization. They do utilize Athletes as Directors and on their committees. The Elite Athlete designation and participation is not needed at this time.

## **H. USA Wakeboard**

1. Elite athletes are defined as athletes selected by the Athlete Advisory Council to represent the athletes on the USA-WB Board and committees.
2. At time of election, elite athletes shall have demonstrated their qualifications as athletes by:
3. Representing the United States in international Wakeboard competition, either as Team members or as individual qualifiers, within the preceding ten (10) years. Such international competitions shall include, but not be limited to, World Championships, Pan American Championships, Pan Am Games, World Trophy and Operation Gold events; OR
4. Demonstrating within the two (2) preceding years, that they actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the Sport Disciplines: (i) National Championships "Open Age" Division; (ii) Elite Team Trials; or (iii) finishing in the top half of the Open Age Division Ranking List; AND
5. Meeting these qualifications by competing in "open age" classifications, not from age-restricted classifications such as "juniors", "seniors", or "veterans".

## **I. Water Skiers with Disabilities Association**

1. Eligibility. For the purposes of serving as Representative to the USA-WSWS Athlete Advisory Council, "Elite Athletes" are defined as athletes who at the time of election shall have demonstrated their qualifications as athletes by representing the United States in international water ski competitions, either as a team member or as an individual qualifier, within the preceding ten (10) years. Such international competition shall include, but not be limited to, World Championships, and World Trophy events.
2. Nominations. Nominations for the Athlete Advisory Council shall be accepted from the "Elite" athletes of WSDA.
3. Length of Term. The WSDA Representative to the Athlete Advisory Council shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until a successor has been duly elected.
4. AAC Ballot. A ballot containing the AAC nominees shall be distributed to all elite athletes (as defined in Article VII subheading A above) in the bi-annual election held in the Spring of even years.

## **ARTICLE VIII: Chairperson**

- a. Duties - The Chairperson of the AAC shall preside at all meetings of the AAC. The Chairperson shall call all meetings of the AAC in accordance with the AAC Bylaws and may call special meetings at anytime needed. The Chairperson may call for a vote of the AAC by mail, fax, or email ballot. The Chairperson may appoint special AAC Committees provided they do not conflict with standing committee or special committee previously appointed by the President of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. The Chairperson shall follow up on all actions taken by the AAC and ensure all plans are implemented and notify the AAC of failure to implement plans or actions. The Chairperson shall ensure all communications between the members of the AAC, all athletes, and the USA-WSWS Board of Directors.
- b. Election Procedure & Term - The AAC shall hold an election at the Annual Meeting of the AAC. The term for the Chairperson shall be for two (2) years.

## **ARTICLE IX: Vacancies**

In the event an Athletes' Advisory Council Director or Executive Committee seat is vacated prior to the expiration of the regular term, such seat shall be filled by the designated alternate for such seat, and shall serve for the duration of the vacated term. Any AAC director may be removed for cause by the AAC by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the other members of the AAC, after due notice and opportunity to respond by the respective individual. Cause may include, but not be limited to, unexcused absence from two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board or Executive Committee.

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