

USA Fencing is seeking nominations for athletes interested in becoming USA Fencing's next Representative and Alternate to the USOPC Athlete's Advisory Council (AAC). Athletes can read more about the AAC, including its governance documents, [here](#).

Below is important information for athletes to consider:

- An athlete must have represented the United States in the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, Pan American Games, or World Championships within the preceding ten years as measured from the start of the quadrennium to be a member of the AAC. For the 2021 election, athletes who competed in 2011 through 2021 are eligible.
- An athlete may only represent USA Fencing as the primary representative for two full terms.
- Athletes cannot be paid employees of the USOPC or USA Fencing and simultaneously serve on the AAC.
- Only athletes eligible to run for the AAC position are eligible to vote in the election.
- The USOPC AAC Representative and Alternate will serve as Athlete Representatives to the USA Fencing Board of Directors for the duration of their AAC terms.

The following shall apply to individuals seeking nomination:

- An individual running for election must disclose any prior felony conviction, or any period of ineligibility served in sport (e.g., for discipline, SafeSport violation). The disclosure shall be made to all eligible voters prior to the vote so that the disclosure may be considered in the voting process. Failure to disclose in advance of the election can be cause for removal of the member once elected.
- An individual running for election must disclose any possible conflict of interest to the AAC Ethics Committee, which shall determine whether the individual is eligible to run for election. (See Conflicts of Interest Policy below).

## **USOPC AAC CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY**

Each Member and Alternate of the AAC has a duty to be free from influence of any conflicting interest and shall understand that a potential for conflict of interest needs to be recognized and disclosed. In addition to a Member's duty to recognize and disclose, potential conflicts of interests may be brought forward by any individual. Such conflicts may include, but are not limited to:

- A. A familial or personal relationship with a staff/member of the USOPC, NGB, member organization, IOC, OCOG, bid committee, or other key stakeholders.
- B. A paid position within the USOPC, NGB, member organization, IOC, OCOG, bid committee, or other key stakeholders.
- C. An affiliation with a sponsor, organization or other entity that could call into question the actions of the AAC. (i.e., USADA, SafeSport, the IOC/IPC, etc.)

**Disclosure Prior to Election.** Prior to nominating him or herself to serve on the AAC (as a Sport or General Paralympic Representative, or Leader) one must disclose any potential conflict to the Ethics Committee of the AAC, which shall determine whether the individual is eligible to run for election.

**Disclosure During One's Tenure on the AAC.** Each Member or Alternate must promptly disclose any potential conflict to the Ethics Committee of the AAC, which may take appropriate steps to prevent influence, either on the general affairs of the AAC or on a particular deliberation or vote. If the proposed action includes a recommendation for removal of a Member of the AAC, the matter shall be presented to all Members, according to the Removal Section of the AAC Bylaws.

### 2021 ELECTION TIMELINE

- By **July 1**. USA Fencing shall distribute the Process and Timeline Guidelines to its 10-year rule athletes, along with the AAC Bylaws and Policies.
- By **October 1**. USA Fencing shall call for self-nominations from eligible candidates. Nominations should minimally include a written statement of intent and may include a resume or any other information pertaining to an athlete's ability to serve the Mission of the AAC.
- By **October 15**. Athletes eligible to run in the election will be asked to submit self-nominations [HERE](#). Candidates may submit a statement of intent to be distributed to voters.
- By **November 1**. USA Fencing shall distribute the list of eligible nominees, along with statements of intent and other candidate submissions, disclosures, and voting instructions to eligible voters.
- By **November 15**. USA Fencing shall conduct an election where the top two candidates with the most votes are named the Representative and Alternate, respectively. The election will be conducted using an electronic voting system selected by USA Fencing staff. The athlete with the most votes will be declared the USOPC AAC Representative. The athlete with the second most votes will be declared the USOPC AAC Alternate.
- By **November 20**. USA Fencing shall notify the AAC Nominating and Elections Committee and the AAC Executive Director of the results.