



## **Athletes' Council Election Procedures ("Federation").<sup>1</sup>**

### **I. Executive Summary**

Athletes' Council elections are to be decided by a secret ballot vote by email of all eligible athletes ("Athletes"). The candidates are elected using a cumulative voting method. Therefore, each Athlete may cast a vote for up to the number of eligible Athletes' Council seats available for the election. A player becomes a designated "Athlete" by virtue of having participated (either actively playing or rostered) in a qualifying event.

#### **A. Eligibility to Serve on the Council**

1. Each Athletes' Council member must meet the standards set forth by the USOC at the time of election. (USOC Bylaw 8.8.2; USSF Bylaw 321, §2(g).)
2. To run for the Athletes' Council, an Athlete must be at least 18 years for age. (USSF Bylaw 321, §1.)

#### **B. Applicable Term Limits**

1. No person may serve on the Athletes' Council beyond his or her applicable eligibility period as detailed in the Athletes' Council Policies and Procedures.
2. No person may be elected to more than two (2) full terms as a representative to the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council. (USSF Bylaw 323.) Service as an Alternate will not count against this term limit except where provided in the USOC AAC Bylaws.

### **II. Nomination Process**

The Athletes' Council has the authority to "prescribe procedures for the nomination of Athletes to serve on the Athletes' Council." (USSF Bylaw 322, §2.)

1. An email will be sent out to the pool of eligible Athletes to announce the election and the number of seats open for election. It will also solicit nominations from anyone wishing to serve. The email will also contain descriptions of the various representative positions available within the Athletes' Council (e.g., Council representative, BOD representative, USOC AAC representative), the time commitment anticipated and the expectation of each position.
2. Athletes are asked to nominate others or to nominate themselves. Nominations will close no later than fourteen (14) days before the scheduled start of the election.
3. Athletes who are nominated by another Athlete will be contacted, notified of their nomination and given an opportunity to accept or decline their nomination. Those declining their nomination will not appear on the ballot.
4. Those accepting their nomination will become candidates and will be given the opportunity to submit a paragraph indicating why they wish to serve along with a photo. The photos will be listed on the On-line Election Ballot.

---

<sup>1</sup> This document is intended as a summary and a reference guide but does not replace Federation Bylaws and Policies. In the event of conflict between this document and Federation Bylaws/Policies, Federation Bylaws/Policies shall govern.

### III. How are the Athletes' Council members elected?

#### A. Election Process

1. Shortly after the nomination process closes, the ballot with the names of all nominees will be sent out to the entire pool of Athletes.
2. The Election will open November 1 at 8:00 a.m. CT and close at 11:59 pm CT on November 8. All Eligible Athletes will receive an email with a unique link in which to submit their vote. The Online Election will be operated through the Election Runner third-party platform, which maintains the secrecy of all ballots and supports a user-friendly and accessible option for all eligible Athletes.
3. The election will be run using non-weighted votes (each vote is worth one vote). The ballot will have the following questions:
  - (all even years): "Who would you like to have represent you on the Athletes' Council? (Pick up to ten (10)/eight (8) names)" (number varies based on positions available that year)
  - (every four years): "Who would you like to have serve as the Representative for the USOC Athlete Advisory Council?"
  - (every four years): "Who would you like to have serve as the Alternate for the USOC Athlete Advisory Council?"
4. The Election Runner Results (e.g., the percentage of vote for each candidate) will be posted promptly (approximately 24 hours) after the close of the election.
5. The Athletes' Council positions shall be filled by the top Athletes receiving the highest number of votes (e.g., if there are ten (10) available positions, they will be filled by the ten athletes receiving the most votes). In the case of a tie, the Athlete with the least remaining eligibility will be chosen. Athletes will then be notified of their election via email from the Athletes' Council Staff Liaison.
6. The Athletes with the next number of votes will be named as Athletes' Council Alternates and ranked in order of the number of votes received in the election. Alternates will serve, if needed, pursuant to the Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures.
7. In 2018, there are ten (10) Athletes' Council positions up for election. In 2022, except in the event of an early absence/resignation, etc. there will be eight (8) Athletes' Council positions up for election and two (2) USOC AAC representative positions (one Representative, One Alternate) up for election.

#### B. Voting Eligibility.

1. Athletes that are eligible to vote must meet the following criteria:
  - (a). within the ten (10) years preceding election, represented (played or was rostered) the United States in a Qualifying Event as determined in the Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures (e.g., World Cup, Gold Cup, Copa America, Olympics, Paralympics, etc.); or
  - (b). within the twenty-four (24) months before election, played or were rostered for a U.S. National Soccer Team game.

*See the Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures for full eligibility details.*

#### **IV. Election of the Athletes' Council Chair, Vice-Chairs and Athletes' Council Advisor (Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures)**

Once the Athletes' Council is seated for the year, if the term of the Chair and Vice-Chairs has expired or if these positions are otherwise vacant,<sup>2</sup> the elected Athletes' Council will hold elections to seat the open positions, as well as a Council Advisor. The Chair was last elected to a two-year term in 2017.

This election will take place no later than the next Athletes' Council meeting following opening of a vacancy in either of the positions, or expiration of their term, (typically at the Annual General Meeting following an Athletes' Council Election) and will be voted upon by the elected Athletes' Council.

1. Nominations for the Athletes' Council Chair will be taken from the floor, and nominated candidates can accept or decline their nomination. Nominees will be able to state to the rest of the Athletes' Council why they wish to serve as Chair if elected.
2. The Chair will be elected by a majority vote of the Athletes' Council
3. Nominations for the Vice-Chairs will then be taken, using the same procedure as above. To comply with the spirit of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act which encourages "reasonable representation of both sexes" in Athlete representation and in keeping with the Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures, at least one of the Vice-Chair positions will be of the opposite sex of the elected Athletes' Council Chair.
4. The Vice-Chairs will be elected by a majority vote of the Athletes' Council

#### **V. Election of USOC AAC Representatives (Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures)**

As these positions are 4-year positions (as per USOC rules), the election for these representatives will be held every four years at the time of the general Athlete election to the Athletes' Council via email ballot. Caveats for the AAC representatives are as follows:

1. The sex of the primary AAC Representative will alternate every term. The sex of the AAC Alternate AAC will be the opposite of the Representative's.
2. Athlete representatives elected to USOC AAC Representative and Alternate positions must meet 10-year eligibility as provided in the USOC's bylaws and the Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures.
3. An athlete may only serve as the primary AAC representative for a maximum of two terms.

#### **VI. Mid-Term Elections for Athlete Representative positions (Athletes' Council Governing Policies and Procedures)**

If a BOD Athlete representative resigns mid-term or is removed mid-term, the position is filled via an election by the seated Athletes' Council. The Council representative position vacated by the Athlete elected to the BOD will be filled by the Alternate receiving the next highest number of votes in the last election.

If an Athletes' Council representative resigns mid-term or is removed mid-term, the position is filled by the Athlete with the next highest number of votes at the last election as determined by voting percentage.

---

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to the Bylaws, the Board of Director representatives from the Athletes' Council must serve a two-year Term. The Athletes' Council has expressed a desire in the past to elect four-year terms for Chair and Co-Chairs and accordingly Carlos Bocanegra's term as Co-Chair technically is a four-year Term. Accordingly, to ensure consistency with USSF Bylaws, we would advise the Athletes' Council to 1) propose a bylaw change for 2019 (the deadline being October 19) and 2) vote to re-elect Carlos Bocanegra to his Board position in February 2019, out of an abundance of caution.