About the USAC Board of Directors and the Athlete Directors

USA Climbing Bylaws posted here for reference.

What are the functions of the USAC Board? The functions of the Board are described in Section 7.2 of the USAC Bylaws. Further details about the Board can be found throughout Article 7 of the Bylaws.

What does an Athlete Director do? Represent the Athletes’ perspective on the USAC Board. The Athlete Directors have the authority to vote on Board issues equal to any other USAC Board Director.

What is the time commitment for an Athlete Director? Directors of the Board shall be expected to attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings. Directors shall be required to attend no less than one half (1/2) of all regularly scheduled Board meetings. See Section 7.11 of the Bylaws.

Per USA Climbing's Bylaws the Board shall meet at regularly scheduled meetings at least four (4) times per year, or with such other frequency as is appropriate for the Board to meet given the circumstances, and such meetings shall be spaced throughout the year. A meeting can be in person or by means of teleconference or similar communications arrangement by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time. Special meetings of the Board shall be held upon the call of the President of the Board or upon the written request of not less than fifty (50) percent of the Board.

USA Climbing’s CEO, as well as such other staff members as the President of the Board requests, shall attend Board meetings on a regular basis, both to make special presentations and as a discussion resource, and shall be available to Board directors outside of meetings. See Section 7.13 of the Bylaws.

Currently, we anticipate six (6) meetings per year, with four (4) held via conference call and two held in person (pending this year due the pandemic). In person Board meeting generally occur in combination with major events. The current meeting schedule can be found here http://www.usaclimbing.org/Assets/FY21+Board+Meeting+Schedule.pdf
Reasonable travel costs for the in-person Board meetings are eligible for reimbursement for Athlete Directors.

What is the term of an Athlete Director? The terms for the Athlete Directors on the USAC Board will be four (4) years. After that, the Athlete Director is eligible to seek one additional four-year term. See Sections 7.8 and 7.10 of the Bylaws.

How is an Athlete Director chosen? An Athlete Director on the USAC Board will be chosen in a direct election by all USAC Athletes eligible to vote – an Athlete Director Election. The steps are:

1. USAC Athletes are invited to become candidates for the Athlete Director Election.
2. Athletes must express their interest in running for election.
3. Athletes expressing interest must be eligible according to the USAC Bylaws.
4. All USAC Athletes eligible to vote in an election will vote on the Athlete candidates. The election for USAC Athlete Director will be conducted online with voting.
5. The Athlete candidate receiving the most votes in the election will become the Athlete Director, the next Athlete candidate with the most votes who is also a Paraclimbing Athlete (unless achieved previously) will become the second Athlete Director.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR AND VOTE IN THIS ELECTION

To be eligible to stand for and vote in the election for the USA Climbing Athlete Director, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

1. A member of USA Climbing who is registered as an Athlete in any of the three athlete categories: Competitor, Collegiate or Paraclimbing. See USAC Bylaws Section 5.1(c). The membership must be held as of the Record Date of this election: DECEMBER 7, 2020. See USAC Bylaws Article 11.
2. A citizen of the United States of America. See USAC Bylaws Section 11.8(a)iii.
3. Age 18 or older by December 31, 2020. See USAC Bylaws Section 11.8(a)iv.
4. Competed according to the following requirements: See USAC Bylaws Section 11.8

Section 11.8. Athlete Eligibility
The Board of Directors and Designated Committees shall have at least the Athlete representation required under the Ted Stevens Act and the USOPC Bylaws, and if such requirements are amended then USA Climbing will come into compliance with such amended requirements as soon as practicable in each instance thereafter. Without limiting the preceding sentence and even if not required by the Ted Stevens Act or the USOPC Bylaws then in effect, the Board of Directors shall have at least thirty three and one-third (33.3) percent Athlete representation on the Board of Directors, with the Athlete eligibility requirements set forth below, and with satisfaction of these Athlete representation requirements as soon as practicable after the date hereof. All Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces, including Hearing Panels, shall have at least twenty (20) percent Athlete representation as further described below. The following defined terms relate to Athletes including for eligibility and right to participate matters:

“Delegation Event” means, individually or collectively as applicable, the Olympic Games, the Olympic Winter Games, the Paralympic Games, the Paralympic Winter Games, the Pan American Games, and the Parapan Am Games (and in all of these listed cases, for the avoidance of doubt, multiple sports participate in the Games and not solely climbing disciplines);

“Protected Competition” means

• any Delegation Event; OR

• any international competition between athlete(s) officially designated by USA Climbing as representing the United States, either individually or as part of a team, and any athlete(s) representing any foreign country, where:

1) the terms of such competition require that the entrants be individuals or teams
representing their respective nations; and

2) the athlete(s) representing the United States are organized and sponsored by USA Climbing in accordance with a defined selection or tryout procedure that is open to all and publicly announced in advance except for domestic amateur athletic competition, which, by its terms, requires that entrants be expressly restricted to members of a specific class of athletes such as high school students, college students, members of the Armed Forces, or similar groups or categories;

OR

- any domestic competition or event (i.e., a camp, tryout, or trials event) organized and conducted by USA Climbing in its selection procedure and publicly announced in advance as a competition or event directly qualifying each successful competitor as an athlete representing the United States in a Delegation Event or protected international competition under the immediately preceding bullet point above.

“10 Year Athlete Representative” means an athlete who, as of the Record Date defined in Section 5.2(e) in the case of an election or as of the date of appointment in other cases, has represented U.S. in the 10 years prior at:

- A Delegation Event; or

- An additional elite Protected Competition, which includes an IFSC World Championship or IFSC Paraclimbing World Championship, IFSC World Cup or Paraclimbing World Cup, climbing competition at the World University Games, or IFSC Olympic qualifying events) and such other international competition as approved by the USAC AAC and the USOPC’s NGB Athlete Representation Review Working Group.

Eligibility to serve as a 10 Year Athlete Representative may not be obtained through events that categorize entrants in age-restricted classifications such as Youth (or, if any, “Masters,” “Seniors,” “Veterans” or other similarly designated age-restricted competitions).

Additionally, once an athlete is elected/appointed, eligibility to serve as a 10 Year Athlete Representative runs throughout the term of the position to which the athlete was elected/appointed.

“10 Year+ Athlete Representative” means an athlete who has, at any point but not within the past applicable 10-year period, met the definition of 10 Year Athlete Representative.

“Actively Engaged Athlete Representative” means an athlete who qualifies as a 10 Year or 10 Year+ Athlete Representative, or who has been actively engaged in 24 months prior to the Record Date in the case of an election or the date of appointment in other cases in a USA Climbing sanctioned competition, which may include events that categorize entrants in age-restricted classifications. For the avoidance of doubt, once an athlete is elected/appointed, eligibility to serve as an Actively Engaged Athlete Representative runs throughout the term of the position to which the athlete was elected/appointed.