

USCA Athletes Advisory Council (AAC)

Purpose:

The purpose of the AAC is to provide comprehensive guidance and/or recommendations to the USCA on any issue relating to athletes. The AAC will provide a formal means of USCA compliance to the USOC twenty percent athlete representation mandate by providing a pool of peer elected athletes to serve on the USCA Executive Committee, board positions and major USCA committees.

In addition, the AAC will facilitate the election of the USOC/AAC Representative and Alternate.

Mission:

The mission of the AAC is to provide guidance to the USCA as the collective voice of elite athletes in the United States. The AAC will partner with the USCA in furthering the competitive efforts of the United States on the international stage.

Scope:

Any issue relating to competitive curling is within the scope of AAC advice. Although the AAC is primarily a responsive committee to USCA chosen issues, it will proactively discuss and provide advice and/or recommendations to the USCA on any athlete-impact issue.

Vision:

The AAC represents the interests and promotes the rights of athletes within the United States Curling Association.

AAC Bylaws

Created May 1996, Amended May 1997, May 1998, May 2000, May 2001, June 2002, September 2002, May 2003, May 2004

I. Make-Up of the AAC

A. The AAC is composed of eight representatives:

- 1 USOC/AAC Representative**
- 1 USOC/AAC Alternate (opposite gender or Rep.)**
- 3 Male Athletes elected from the Athletes at large**
- 3 Female Athletes elected from the Athletes at large**

B. Each member type must meet the following requirements to be eligible for election to the AAC:

1. USOC/AAC Representative and Alternate

Athletes must have represented the United States and actively competed in the Men's or Women's World Championships or Olympic Games within the preceding 10 years as measured from the first USOC/AAC meeting of the quadrennium.

2. Members-at-Large

Athletes must have represented the United States and actively competed in Men's or Women's World championship or Olympic Games within the preceding ten years as measured from the current years nationals; or have finished in the top half of the Men's and Women's nationals within the preceding two Men's/Women's National Championships.

II. AAC Rules of Conduct

A. AAC Representatives will conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times on and off the ice. In addition, representative behavior will be at all times consistent with the Spirit of Curling.

B. Representatives cannot take stands on issues or represent themselves as members of the AAC in areas of personal interest having no connection with official AAC responsibilities. Representatives cannot falsely speak on behalf of the entire AAC membership. Also, they cannot reveal matters designated confidential by two thirds vote of the AAC.

C. If a member, at any time cannot fulfill the day to day duties of an AAC Representative, the Chair must be notified immediately.

D. Members cannot be paid employees for the USOC or USCA.

E. Any violation of conduct can result in a member's expulsion if two-thirds of the AAC present at a duly called meeting agree.

III. Meetings

A. AAC meetings will be held annually immediately following the Men's and Women's World championships and prior to the summer meeting of the USCA's Executive Committee. Any individual may be invited to this meeting at the discretion of the AAC Chair.

B. Other meetings and/or conference calls may be held as deemed necessary.

If a Representative is unable to attend any type of meeting, the chair must be notified immediately.

C. If a Representative is unable to attend any 2 consecutive meetings (including, but not limited to; annual meetings, conference calls, USCA Board of Directors meetings, and USCA Executive Committee meetings) the AAC reserves the right to remove the Representative with a two-thirds majority vote

D. AAC meetings are open to the public unless closed by two-thirds vote. At any duly called AAC meeting, a quorum of two thirds must be present.

In matters requiring immediate action on behalf of the AAC, the AAC Chair, is empowered to act on behalf of the AAC after consulting with a minimum of two members of the council. These decisions are subject to ratification at the next duly called AAC meeting.

E. Conduct of the meeting: Meetings will follow, in general, the traditional rules of parliamentary procedure as to 1. Motions, 2. Seconds, 3. Discussions, 4. Calls to vote. Other procedural rules for the conduct of the meetings may be announced by the officers unless the Committee, by majority, objects.

F. Agenda Items: The chair will accept items to officially be placed on the agenda from any interested party so long as it is received at least two weeks prior to the scheduled meeting, otherwise matters may be brought up as new business. The officers may place matters of urgency on the agenda at any time or in any position.

IV. Election Procedures for the AAC.

A. Member-at-Large

1. Written self-nominations will be accepted via e-mail by the AAC Chair from December 1 - January 31 for inclusion in the Spring election during each applicable year. Each self-nomination should include, but is not limited to the following:

Commitment Intent
Competitive History
Agenda Initiatives/ Position

2. The self-nominations and a returnable ballot will be mailed to all eligible voters using the current address on file in the USCA

database. Staff will count the returned ballots.

3. Only those eligible to run are eligible to vote.
4. Votes will be by secret ballot.
5. Election procedures will be posted during the Fall and results will be announced prior to the National Championships on the official USCA website.

B. Election of AAC Internal Officers

The annual meeting of the AAC will be used to elect the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and USCA Directors. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and USCA Directors will serve one year terms.

1. No term limits for any AAC officers
2. The elected Chair and Vice Chair will automatically become USCA Directors and serve on the USCA Executive committee.
3. The AAC will elect the remaining USCA Directors as to bring the USCA Board to twenty percent athlete-elected athletes.

C. USOC-AAC Representative

The USOC-AAC Representative and alternate will be elected by mail-in ballot to be completed during the year preceding the start of their 4 year term. Only those eligible to run are eligible to vote for the USOC-AAC position. The USOC-AAC Representative automatically becomes a USCA Director and member of the Executive Committee at the time of election to the four year term.

V. Appointments and Terms

Appointments:

A. USCA Executive Committee: the current Chair of the AAC will automatically be a member of the Executive Committee. Additional position(s) will be filled to reach the mandated 20%, first by the Vice-Chair then through election by the AAC.

B. Recommend appointment of AAC members to each major USCA Committee.

C. Any vacated AAC position can be filled by appointment by the AAC to complete the term.

D. One additional at-large member can be elected by the AAC at its discretion at any duly called meeting.

1. Terms of office are as follows:

At large Reps (3 males, 3 females) will serve two year terms.

The USOC/AAC Representative and Alternate will each serve a four year term based on the Summer Quadrenium.

There are no term limits for any AAC Member.

VI. Expense Reimbursement

The annual AAC budget is determined by the AAC Chair, approved by the AAC Members then submitted for approval to the USCA Treasurer. Once the budget has been set, the spending priority will be as follows:

- _ Airfare and mileage (\$.30 per mile) costs for each member to duly called meetings or special assignments
- _ Hotel accommodations and food at the duly called meetings
- _ Ongoing Administration costs (telephone, mailings, etc)

Any spending by AAC members must be approved by the Chair prior to the expenditure in order to be reimbursed. Each reimbursement must be accompanied by receipts and must be submitted to the USCA Office.

VII. Amendments to the AAC Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds vote of the entire AAC at any duly called AAC Meeting.

AAC Member Position Descriptions

At-Large Members

The at-large members of the AAC are responsible for but are not limited to:

- _ Representing elite Athletes in an objective manner without regard for regional, state, club or team affiliation
- _ Attending all scheduled meetings
- _ Responding to all issues and correspondences within the specified time frame

Members Serving USCA Positions

The USCA representatives are responsible for but are not limited to:

- _ Reporting to the AAC any information that may impact the AAC, Competitive curling or elite athletes.
- _ Attending all scheduled USCA meetings
- _ Fulfilling responsibilities of any Committee assignments
- _ Providing an accurate AAC perspective to USCA meetings, conference calls and discussions

Chair

The Chair of the AAC is responsible for but not limited to:

- _ Providing overall leadership to the AAC
- _ Representing all elite Athletes in an objective manner without regard for gender, regional, state, club or team affiliation
- _ Serving on the Executive Committee of the USCA
- _ Providing clear communication to the USCA President
- _ Presiding over all AAC meetings
- _ When not meeting, providing clear communication of issues and priorities of the AAC members
- _ Preparing and monitoring the annual AAC budget
- _ Preparing the agenda for all meetings
- _ All duties and responsibilities of the at-large members

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair of the AAC is responsible for but not limited to:

- _ All items listed above in the “Chair” section when the Chair is unable to perform them for whatever reason
- _ All duties and responsibilities of the at-large members
- _ Serving on the Executive Committee of the USCA as needed to fill mandated

20%

Secretary

The Secretary of the AAC is responsible for but is not limited to:

- _ Gathering and maintaining an accurate AAC address and phone list of all members
- _ The meetings notes for all meetings and conference calls as well as past history
- _ Various meeting logistics such as hotel, meals, etc as assigned by Chair
- _ Notifying members of upcoming meeting and/or conference calls
- _ Maintain the AAC handbook
- _ All duties and responsibilities of the at-large members

USOC/AAC Representative

The USOC/AAC Representative is responsible for but is not limited to:

- _ All duties and responsibilities of the at-large members
- _ Attending all duly called meetings and official USOC/AAC functions
- _ Serving on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the USCA per the USCA Bylaws

USOC/AAC Alternate

The USOC/AAC Alternate is responsible for but is not limited to:

- _ All duties and responsibilities of the at-large members
- _ Attending all duly called meetings and official USOC/AAC functions when the USOC/AAC Representative is unable to attend
- _ Filling an unexpired term of USOC/AAC Representative if the Rep is no longer able to complete the term