



ATHLETE ADVISORY COUNCIL POSITIONS

About the Athlete Advisory Council

The Athlete Advisory Council (AAC) is a refreshed version of the Athlete Committee, designed to be consistent with U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee requirements. The AAC is responsible for communicating the needs of athletes to PA leadership, to serve as a source of athlete opinion and advice to the Board with regard to current and potential policies, and to help ensure a strong and effective athlete voice in PA's governance.

The AAC will regularly collect feedback from members through surveys, analyzing and summarizing results, and informing the Board of actionable steps to improve athlete experiences. The AAC will contribute to the annual report to the membership delivered at the General Assembly.

The AAC will be comprised of no more than 10 council members elected by PA's members. The council members will represent various constituent groups within PA. In compliance with USOPC requirements, once elected, the council members will select a President to lead them and who will be responsible for the AAC operations, including producing the committee report for the General Assembly, overseeing surveys and development of recommended actions for the Board, creating transparency to members about survey results, and organizing and leading AAC meetings.

AAC members will include:

- Two Athlete Co-Chairs whose responsibility is to lead communication between the AAC and the Board. These two positions are currently filled by Ian Bell and Melissa Copeland and will not be up for election in 2026.
- Classic Team Representative
- Equipped Team Representative
- Junior Age Division Representative
- Open Division Representative
- Master's Division Representative
- Men's Team Representative
- Women's Team Representative

- At Large Representative

All member positions except the Athlete Co-Chair positions are open for election.

Key Responsibilities

- Attend at least half of all scheduled AAC meetings.
- Lead the delivery, analysis, and reporting of at least one of the following surveys: national events surveys, annual general membership survey, and U.S. National Team surveys to participating athletes.
- Contribute to writing the AAC report for the annual General Assembly.
- Engage athlete members and raise issues for discussion within the AAC, identifying potential solutions and action plans for consideration by PA's Board.
- Draft AAC policies and procedures, refreshing these annually.

Anticipated Time Commitment

- Monthly meetings and additional ad hoc meetings as needed.
- 5-10 hours/month for tasks particularly related to survey analysis and report drafting.
- Note that the member selected as the President may have a higher time commitment to organize meetings, develop agendas, and oversee member commitments and activities.

Eligibility

- Athletes eligible to serve on the AAC are those who:
 - (a) within the **ten-year period** prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held have represented the United States as athletes in the World Games, IPF World Championships, or other major international competitions;
 - (b) or within the **two-year period** prior to December 31 of the year in which the election is held have competed in Powerlifting America's National Championships as an athlete.
- Powerlifting America member for at least 2 years as of Jan 31, 2026.
- 18 years old and hold a current U.S. Passport.
- Are not members of another powerlifting federation.
- Complete a background check within 30 days of election.

Role Specific Requirements:

- **Classic Team Representative** – must have competed in the Classic division of a PA National Championship or IPF sanctioned international meet within the last two years
- **Equipped Team Representative** – must have competed in the Equipped division of a PA National Championship or IPF sanctioned international meet within the last two years
- **Junior Age Division Representative** – must be eligible to compete as a Junior in 2026
- **Open Age Division Representative** – must not be eligible as a Junior or Masters in 2026
- **Masters Age Division Representative** – must be eligible to compete as a Masters athlete in 2026
- **Men's Team Representative** – must have been a member of the men's U.S. National Team and competed at NAPF or IPF Worlds in within the last two years

- **Women’s Team Representative** – must have been a member of the women’s U.S. National Team and competed at NAPF or IPF Worlds in within the last two years

At Large Representative – no additional requirements beyond meeting the eligibility standards

Ethics Requirements

- Must not be a spouse, parent, child, or sibling of an Executive Committee member or Board member.
- Cannot receive compensation from Powerlifting America
- No self-dealing – for example, cannot falsely interpret survey results to one’s own preference or benefit.

Term

AAC members shall serve a four-year term and may serve no more than two elected terms, with a maximum of eight (8) years.

Compensation

This is a volunteer role.

Selection and Application Process

AAC members are elected by the general membership. (The president of the AAC is selected by the elected AAC members.)

Interested candidates should submit a resume and a letter of interest outlining their commitment to Powerlifting America’s mission and demonstrating how their experience meets the required qualifications using the following JotForm:

- [**AAC Member Application**](#)

About Powerlifting America

Powerlifting America is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. We are dedicated to promoting and supporting drug-tested powerlifting in the United States. Our mission is to empower U.S. athletes to excel in local, national, and international competitions while fostering a diverse and inclusive powerlifting community through support, promotion, and education.

Powerlifting America is committed to ensuring that all persons associated with its activities do not face discrimination. The organization believes that a diverse board committee composition and an inclusive, welcoming culture, including at least 30% athlete representation in governance, will best position it to achieve its strategic goals and meet USOPC standards.