USRowing Athlete Council, Annual Meeting Notes

21 October, 2022 / 9:00am-12:05 EST / In-person meeting in Boston during HOCR

ATTENDEES
Athlete Council Representatives: Daniel Ahr, Liam Corrigan, Sara Hendershot, Grace Latz, Taylor Ritzel, Genevra Stone, Maddie Wanamaker

Guest: USRowing Board President, Nobuhisa Ishizuka (present between 9:45am-11:00am)

Council Representatives Not Present: Dariush Aghai, Robin Prendes, Jaclyn Smith

Annual Review

Discussed the Athlete Council's accomplishments from April-December 2022:

- Created Athlete Council and chose members to fulfill composition requirements
- Monthly Athlete Council meetings
- Held first annual in-person meeting (to review the past year and set intentions for the next)
- Creating direct line with the Athlete Council and athletes, monthly athlete calls with representatives
- Grievance Decision Tree for complaint protocols to resolve athlete concerns or providing feedback
- Created an Athlete Council Charter
- Had an AC representative to Trials I (Florida - Dariush Aghai)
- Had an AC representative to Selection Camp II (Princeton - Grace Latz)
- Created Athlete Slack Channel to improve communication with entire athlete pool. Created both private athlete-only channels and ones that include national team staff.
- Created an Athlete Code of Conduct
- Created an Athlete Representative Code of Conduct
- Hosted career development opportunities, job placements, and resume review for athletes
- Elevated the athlete voice in USRowing Strategic planning and the USOPC Audit of USRowing High Performance
- Increased communication between Board, Athletes, and HPC (and between athlete representatives)
- Increased visibility of various athlete resources
- Liaisons between CHPO and the Athlete population
- Conducted Athlete Survey with goal of 100% participation to gather athlete feedback (confidentially) and offer one-on-one interviews with athletes who request them.

Review Athlete Council Charter and Propose Changes

Review of AC Purpose:

- Discussion around better definition for "Athlete"
- Discussion around adding more to Athlete Council's responsibility to the athletes, between representatives, and to the USOPC
- Discussed how to set or require athlete representative presence at key selection events or times in the training cycle
- All agreed to a yearly reassessment of the Athlete Council's purpose documents through 2026 to better reflect this group's scope and mission.

Review Athlete Council Composition:

- Consider including an ex-officio 10+ year athlete to assist with maintaining momentum and continuity among athlete representatives considering upcoming timelines of multiple representatives "terming out" at the same time.
- Discussion around considering (2) ex-officio U23 representatives to represent our future senior/para national team athletes. This includes a population not currently represented and creates a link to developing athletes.
- Consider adding a council composition requirement to include one currently-training female and male athlete to stay connected to current team concerns

Miscellaneous AC Charter items:

- Include policy documents to set procedures and processes as a resource for future athlete representatives - budgets, meetings, travel, etc.

Q4 Planning

- Further the AC relationship with USRowing Staff
- 2022 Athlete Survey
  - Discussion on how to best structure the survey. Do we keep consistency with 2021 questions (crafted by survey experts to track trends over time, but very lengthy) or pare questions down.
  - Add questions about injury to track rate of injury as a trend to help prevent them and make sure athletes receive resources/services to help with their return to sport.
  - Send an email to athletes about the survey outlining the format, purpose, importance, confidentiality process, interviews with representatives available if requested, and a notice that DAS will be delayed for up to one month until survey is completed.
- Post-World Championships Athlete Transitions - Review observations post-Worlds, upcoming fall schedule, and logistics

- Athlete Council Annual Report
    - Goal: Providing an annual report to outline AC accomplishments, mission, and future goals that will help the athlete population and the public understand what we do and who we are. This is a great deliverable to develop to increase the visibility of the Athlete Council's actions.
    - Brainstorming on structure, key takeaways, notable trends and themes, outlining year's accomplishments with an eye on upcoming goals

Meeting concluded at 12:05pm EST