



United States Rowing Association Coaches Council Charter

The USRowing Coaches Council Charter, developed by USRowing, defines the policies, procedures, and structure the coaches councils. Their purpose is to serve as a liaison between clubs, athletes, coaches, and USRowing while upholding the mission to steward, strengthen, and grow American rowing through safe, fair, and nonpartisan decision-making. The Council provides input on policies and programs that impact regional and national championships, helping ensure that USRowing decisions reflect the needs and priorities of clubs, coaches, and athletes.

While representing USRowing, or while otherwise engaging in conduct relating to, or which reasonably could reflect upon USRowing, all persons shall maintain high standards of moral, ethical, and sportsmanlike conduct in accordance with the [USRowing Rules of Rowing](#) and the [USRowing Code of Conduct Policy](#).

COMPOSITION

Each USRowing Regional Council shall consist of five (5) coaches or team representatives from within the Council's designated competition region. A competition region is defined by the states eligible to participate in that region's USRowing owned Regional Championship, as specified in the USRowing regatta entry packet.

Council members shall serve as official representatives of the coaches, clubs, and athletes within their region, providing insight, feedback, and guidance on matters affecting youth rowing at both the regional and national levels. To ensure a diversity of perspectives and equitable representation, no single club shall have more than one representative serving on the Council at any given time.

The Council's composition is designed to represent the full diversity of the regional rowing community, encompassing programs of different sizes, both sculling and sweep disciplines, and geographic distribution within the region. This balance ensures that the Council can provide USRowing with multiple perspectives, allowing decisions to be guided by the needs of all USRowing member orgs.

NOMINATION & SELECTION PROCESS

The nomination process for the Regional Councils will take effect on September 3, 2026, with the inaugural nomination cycle—covering the 2027 and 2028 seasons—beginning on that date.

1. TERM DURATION

- a. Each council member will serve a two (2)-year term and may seek reselection at the conclusion of each term. There is no limit to the number of terms a member may serve.

- b. However, USRowing reserves the right to remove a council member from their position at any time if the organization determines that the individual is not upholding the high standards of moral, ethical, and sportsmanlike conduct established by the [USRowing Rules of Rowing](#) and the [USRowing Code of Conduct Policy](#), or is not meeting the responsibilities and requirements outlined below for council members.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR REPRESENTATION

- a. To be considered for service on a USRowing Coaches Council, candidates must meet the following qualifications:
 - i. **Coaching & Program Involvement**
 - Must be actively serving as a coach, program director, or designated team representative within their geographic region for a minimum of two full racing seasons prior to nomination.
 - Must demonstrate ongoing engagement in rowing activities, including regular participation in USRowing sanctioned and owned regattas.
 - ii. **Compliance Requirements**
 - Active USRowing Membership in good standing.
 - SafeSport Training: All SafeSport education and certification requirements must be current.
 - Background Check: A current, clear, and successfully completed background check on file with USRowing.
 - iii. **Leadership & Professional Standards**
 - Demonstrated leadership experience within the rowing community.
 - Strong communication and collaboration to effectively represent diverse perspectives within the region.
 - Proven ability to make objective, athlete-centered decisions that prioritize safety, fairness, and overall competitive experiences.
 - iv. **Ethics & Conduct**
 - All actions, behavior, and decision-making — whether on the racecourse, at the venue, or within the boathouse — must align with the USRowing Rules of Rowing and the USRowing Code of Conduct Policy.
 - Candidates are expected to have the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and sportsmanship in all aspects of their role.

3. NOMINATION & SELECTION

- a. **Nomination Period**
 - i. USRowing will open a formal three-week nomination period each selection year, beginning on September 3.

- Nominations and selections will take place every two years, starting in 2026.
 - ii. All nominations must be submitted to the provided form by the posted deadline and include:
 - A brief statement of interest outlining the candidate’s qualifications, experience, and vision for contributing to the council.
 - Documentation or verification of the eligibility requirements outlined above.
 - Eligible individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by another coach, program leader, or regional representative.

b. Verification of Eligibility

- i. Following the close of the nomination period, USRowing will conduct a formal review of all submissions.
- ii. This review will confirm that nominees meet all compliance requirements.
- iii. USRowing reserves the right to decline or remove any nomination if the candidate does not meet the stated qualifications or if there are concerns regarding their ability to serve effectively and impartially.

c. Selection & Appointment Process

- i. Once eligibility has been confirmed, USRowing will compile a complete list of qualified nominees for each region.
- ii. Final appointment decisions shall be made by the USRowing Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) or by a designee authorized by the CEO, which may include the Chief Program Officer.
- iii. All candidates will be informed of the outcome following the review and selection process. Those selected will receive direct communication from USRowing confirming their appointment.
- iv. Official announcements of council representatives will also be shared through USRowing’s communication channels.
- v. The newly elected council members will collectively select one council member to serve as the Regional Lead.
- vi. If applicable, USRowing will select one council member from each regional group to serve as the group’s representative on the Youth National Council.

4. COUNCIL MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Coaches Councils will serve as a resource for USRowing and the broader rowing community by providing regional and national perspective, feedback, and recommendations on matters related to domestic competition. Council members may be asked to review and provide feedback on competition policies, engage with coaches and other members of the rowing community to identify regional needs and opportunities, and provide input on matters that may arise during the planning and execution of USRowing events. The specific responsibilities and priorities for each

Coaches Council may vary based on the unique needs of its respective region. Following the nomination and selection process, each Coaches Council will work with USRowing to finalize its charter.

UNITED STATES ROWING ASSOCIATION

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