

The following are the candidates who have submitted their nominations to represent the USSA athletes as the NGB representative to the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council.

Please vote for the one candidate you believe will best represent you on the AAC. The person receiving the highest number of votes will win the seat. The person receiving the highest number of votes of the opposite sex will serve as the alternate.

As a reminder, the skiing/snowboarding representative to the AAC also serves as a member of the USSA Athletes' Council and as a non-voting member of the USSA Board of Directors. These roles facilitate information exchange between USOC governance and USSA governance.

All votes must be cast by September 29.

### **Athlete bios for the USOC AAC Athlete Election**

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#### **Holly Brooks**

Cross Country Athlete

Olympic Team: 2010 and 2014

World Championships: 2011 and 2013

#### **Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

My name is Holly Brooks and I enjoyed a unique path to becoming a professional athlete. I spent 5 years as a fulltime coach and then surprised everyone by qualifying for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Following 2010 I fought my way onto the World Cup by means of being the Continental Cup leader. I started scoring World Cup points on a regular basis and my invitation expanded to include the entire winter season. After that I became the oldest athlete (at the time) to be named as a US Cross Country Team rookie. From there I was a member of the history-making, first-ever women's relay team medal and represented the US in two World Championships and two Olympic Games. I recently retired from skiing in 2015 and have started my own private practice working as a counselor for athletes on topics ranging from performance anxiety, the mental side of injury recovery and transition. Even though I am no longer competing I still love skiing and the Olympic movement and try to support athletes in any way that I can.

#### **Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

As a potential member of the Athletes' Advisory Council I bring a diverse range of skills to the table. First, I understand development and the path to sports from many different angles: First as a fulltime coach, then as an aspiring Continental Cup level athlete, and finally as a full-fledged US Ski Team member and 2-time Olympian. Now that my personal athletic career is over I have dedicated my professional life to supporting athletes in their quest to be the best they can be through my role as a counselor to athletes. I have literally completed the full circle of coach to athlete, to support staff. I see the role as the USSA representative on the AAC as an extension of my chosen path. I am a fierce advocate and my platforms would consist of

increasing financial support for athletes and ensuring CLEAN sport. Other goals would include improving communication from the USOC to the athletes and making sure that athletes have a good grasp on opportunities the USOC offers. Thank you for your consideration and I kindly ask for your vote.

### **Jamie Crane-Mauzy**

Freeskiing Athlete

World Championships: 2013 and 2015.

### **Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

I was born October 10th, 1992. I grew up a ski racer on the east coast, and I was competing in USSA since I was eight years old in 2000. At 15 I went to a water ramp camp in Lake Placid. The first day I learned a front flip, the third day a back flip and the fifth day was asked to stay in Lake Placid in the fall and be on the Aerial Development team. That winter I competed in Aerials, moguls, dual moguls, slopestyle and halfpipe. The next year at JR. Olympics I won Aerials, and Slopestyle, got third in Halfpipe and won the Overall. That summer I went to Jr. Worlds in New Zealand, won that event and made X-Games. I became the first female in the world to compete a double flip in Slopestyle, my double back flip at X-Games in 2013. That same year I became the first female to flip off a rail in competition.

On April 11, 2015 I was at World Tour Finals, WSI, in Whistler Canada. I came in 4th first run, and obviously wanted to get on that podium. So I upgraded my flat 3 (off axis backflip) to a double flat 7 (off axis double backflip). I wanted to get on that podium and become the first female to compete an off axis double in slopestyle. I hit my feet first but whiplashed my head into the snow and my brain started bleeding in 8 spots. I hurt my right brain stem so was paralyzed on the right side. I started convulsing and slipped into a coma. I recovered. Started skiing with the National Ability Center and one year later had no permanent brain damage and both sides of my body work equally.

I am never going to compete the same way I did before, but my brain is healed, and I still absolutely love skiing. I have the time and unique experience of skiing nine events in one year to bring to the table as a representative (slalom, GS, Super GS, Downhill, Moguls, Dual Moguls, Aerials, Slopestyle, Halfpipe). Skiing will forever be a part of my life and I have opinions that need to be brought to the surface as we progress.

### **Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role:**

I would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council because of the opinions I have for the NGB that will benefit all athletes. I have such a unique experience competing in so many ski events and having a TBI and fully recovering. Athletes already voice opinions to me, so I am a good voice connecting all of the U.S. ski athletes with the USOC. In my life career I am already working as a speaker around North America and one gig is in DC representing a non-profit to the Federal Agency. I will have the experience voicing opinions and actually working as a representative so I can make an actual difference for the NGB.

Freeskiing is a new sport. The risks for Slopestyle and Halfpipe are new. The NGB needs to know how to manage a sport that's so unpredictable and know techniques to help prevent

top athletes from getting injured. I have a lot of opinions on concussions and injury prevention and have started working for non-profits from Hopkins University to Vancouver CA General Hospital. My ideas are not how to never encounter risk but the best ways to improve preventing injury when risk is present. Do not think you will never fall, but train how to fall in such a way you don't injure yourself.

As I am no longer on tour I have the time to accurately represent the NGB and opinions that I will voice. All the athletes representing the U.S. in Slopestyle and Halfpipe see me as a voice they can talk to and are already voicing opinions. As a representative I will make sure all the athletes voices are heard and help the U.S. team become an organization the top athletes of the future will want to connect to and represent. USSA and USOC have a lot to offer and with me on the National Governing Body as an Athlete Advisory Council member, USSA and USOC will have even more to offer in the fledgling sports of Slopestyle and Halfpipe skiing.

### **Brant Crossan**

Freestyle Athlete

World Championships: 2015

#### **Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

- Current Ski Cross athlete representative for USSA
- Unofficial team manager of World Cup tour 2014-16
- Active USSA athlete since 2003

#### **Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

As an athlete and advocator for the sport of ski cross, it would be my honor to become the USOC AAC representative. I believe that I will be able to handle all of the accompanying duties that come with the post. Athlete concerns and requests will always be the number one priority. If elected I also promise to continue to stay an active representative through any injury and potential retirement. Your vote is appreciated.

### **Patrick Duran**

Freeskiing and Freestyle Athlete

World Championships: 2011

#### **Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

Our family has been involved with USSA for as long as I can remember dating back to 1986 in New Hampshire. Both my brother and sister raced USSA along with me. From then, I joined the GMVS/VARA community in Vermont and racing for USSA throughout high school and my post-graduate years.

After my high school years, I moved on to study and ski at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Our team won the National Championship in 2006. After 4 years at C.U., I decided that I would once again give it a try to make the Olympic Team.

I started on the Skier Cross circuit, traveling the world with the US Freestyle Team, which was a great opportunity; words cannot explain how much I learned. Moving forward I felt like I had OK success, I Went to X Games, World Championships and a handful of other big events. I had the time of my life.

The ski world has gotten me so far in life, without it I would not be the person I am today. Skiing has given me so much; the ability to go to both a great high school and college because of their ski teams, and then given the industry experience to continue my growth in the ski world by working with Volkl Marker Dalbello and then moving to Head Watersports. These positions truly are the embodiment of the phrase, “do what you love and the money will follow.”

**Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes’ Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

I have been involved in the ski and snowboard world since day one. I have also been at both the top of the sport and the bottom.

Currently I am the US Racing and Team Manager for HEAD USA. Before this I was the race manager at Volkl Marker Dalbello. Through both of my tenures, I have continued to listen to the athletes about their success and failures in all parts of their careers.

With my knowledge of all aspects of all USSA sports I can stand for and make the changes that the athletes deserve.

Within both my positions with Volkl and Head, I have had relationships with the top and bottom athletes. It has given me the ability to listen to them and feel what they are going through. I understand what they have given to their sports and what they should expect. I can help the athletes understand the big picture, not only with their own careers and talent, but with the industry as a whole. I can help them know why they are so important to this sport, because I truly have the passion for the industry and let them know that I will make sure that the USOC and the USST will have their best interest in hand when making decisions for their immediate future, and the future of our athletes.

**Nadia L Gonzales**

Freeskiing Athlete

World Championships: 2015

**Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

I have competed as a USSA athlete since I can remember. I started out as a ski racer from Angel Fire NM. I competed in two Junior Olympics during that time. After about 12 years of ski racing I moved onto Slopestyle and Skiercross. I immediately fell in love with the sport and eventually continued on to just compete in Slopestyle. My first experience with USSA and the world of Freeskiing was in 2013 at North Star for my first Revolution Tour competition. I ended up having an argument with one the event organizers about judging and the overall poor organization of the event in general. The head of the event was incredible rude and not very open to discussion. He used many unbacked and false statements to try and prove a point. This conversation ended in nothing but tears for me and encouraged me to never approach an event organizer with my questions and concerns again. I was young and new to this side

of the sport and may have not understood how the world of Freestyle skiing worked but I still feel this was not how things should have gone. Over the years I have had issues and concerns about how events were run especially pertaining to women but felt I had no voice.

Never feeling like I had an option or anyone who really wanted to listen, I have learned it's almost easier to just stay quiet. Being an independent athlete for my entire Freestyle career, I have always had to do everything on my own. Not having a coach to represent me at riders meeting, I have represented myself. Nearly every time I spoke up during riders meetings I was either ignored or it seemed to just hurt me more than anything. My voice never seemed to matter even though I was a rider at the riders meeting. I was almost looked down upon because of this by other coaches. I learned so much over the years and know there is still so much more that I need to learn, but it can be difficult when discussions are often discouraging and unproductive. I hope to change that.

**Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

It took some thought and consideration before I decided to even nominate myself for this position. I am not sure if I am even what the council would be looking for. I may be just seen as the annoying girl who spoke her mind over the years, but I figure it would be worth a try. I have always felt like the red headed step child of the US, never feeling wanted or welcomed by the team. Despite the struggles of taking on the sport completely alone I have managed to make it pretty far. I still have so much love and passion for the sport and that will probably never die. I want to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes Advisory Council because I am an athlete that has been representing athletes at riders meeting of every contest I have been to. I don't think any other athlete that is qualified for this position can say that.

Along with my experience in the sport I have some educational experience. I took an Interpersonal Communication course in college and also attended a Socratic Paideia High school, where we learned to discuss and seminar about nearly anything. This background could be helpful when it comes to communication. I am by no means the best or think I know everything but I am interested in helping to try and make things better. I also hope to expand my understanding of how things work. Thank you for the time and consideration.

**Sarah Hendrickson**

Jumping Athlete

Olympic Team: 2014

World Championships: 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015

**Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

I was first added to the US Ski Team when I was 14 years old and have been a member ever since. I was born and raised in Park City and with my family still here, I spend the majority of my time at USST headquarters. I have had a number of injuries which have kept me in the gym for long days and with that I know almost all athletes on the team on a personal level. Women's Ski Jumping has historically been a small team so I have had to reach out to other teams for support and additionally gotten to know those of other disciplines. I have continuously been at USST events and thrive off of knowing the staff that helps us live our dreams and have good communication with all those involved throughout the NGB.

**Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

As a member of the first ever women's ski jumping team competing at the Olympic level, I have learned how important it is for athletes to have a voice. With the help of many people and the push of our team we were able to overcome the challenge of being told no by fighting back to be accepted into the Games. I have great relationships with the athletes of USST and want us athletes to have a word in the decisions that are made and represent the hard work of our athletes. I have been the athlete representative for the Women's Ski Jumping USA team and enjoy being involved on the political side and wish to be more involved with the NGB and USOC. I believe I have good communication skills and am not afraid to voice the opinions of us athletes in the matters of doping control, funding and athlete marketing.

**Torin Koos**

Cross Country Athlete

Olympic Teams: 2010 and 2014

World Championships: 2007, 2009, 2011

**Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

Olympic Teams in cross country skiing: 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014

World Championship Teams in cross country skiing: 2000 (world juniors), 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011

USSA National A Team member: 2001-2010

Degrees: University of Utah; B.S. in journalism/economics

Westminster College; Masters in Professional Communication (MPC): focus on strategic communication and multimedia marketing

**Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

I am running as a candidate for the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council to ensure that the athletes' viewpoint remains at the heart of the decisions that influence sport. Competing at four Olympic Games and standing atop a World Cup podium was the realization of my childhood dreams. Now I want to help other athletes pursue their aspirations under the best conditions possible.

Through both my time in competing in sport and while also pursuing a dual career throughout my competitive career I have acquired the athletic and professional experience to advance the voice of athletes within the USSA and USOC organizations.

Having been an award-winning reporter and producer for USA TODAY and NBC along with commentary experience for Eurosport shows that I am an effective communicator who can win athlete support through professional day-to-day communication. I will listen and represent our athletes in the best way possible. I will always make sure that the athletes' voices have a seat at the decision makers' table.

I come with my eyes wide open to sports politics through my role working for the International Olympic Committee. At the IOC, I help the IOC Athletes' Commission execute their mission and vision. You can be certain and sure I won't be afraid to make the most challenging discussion and ask the most difficult questions – on behalf of the athletes. If elected, I promise to actively seek out athlete feedback and give them a bigger voice within the Olympic Movement.

## **Tania Prymak**

Freestyle and Freeskiing Athlete

World Championships: 2015

### **Biographical Information (tenure with USSA and experience with the organization.)**

My name is Tania Prymak. I have been an active member in the USSA organization since I began racing alpine in the North East at the age of 10. I attended Burke Mountain Academy and continued to race USSA alpine events in college. I then transitioned from alpine to freestyle competitions and began exploring the world of ski cross. I have competed in ski cross races over the past 5 years in the USA, Canada, Europe, South America, and South Korea. Accomplishments for these events include Overall Women's North American Ski Cross champion, South American National Champion, and 3rd at World University Games. Last season I competed in the full WC Ski Cross Tour and ended the season ranked 20th. I also became the first US female ski cross athlete to ever break the top 10 in a WC ski cross. I enter this upcoming season the highest ranking US female and 29th in the FIS SX standings.

### **Describe why you would like to represent the NGB on the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council and outline what skills and capabilities you believe qualify you for this role.**

After switching from the alpine discipline to the ski cross discipline I found that I became a much more active and passionate athlete when it came to the future progress and current standards of my sport. Ski cross is not a well-established sport in the United States like in most other countries we compete against. Unlike alpine which has a long history and support in USSA, ski cross is still in its development stages and for this sport to be successful, current educated and passionate ski cross athletes and coaches need to have their voices heard. I believe my experience from traveling around the world and constantly interacting with highly supportive and organized national ski cross teams will provide an important viewpoint and starting point when discussing ski cross in the United States.

Additionally, I believe I possess the skills to communicate effectively, problem solve, and be open-minded to creative proposals and logical and advantageous solutions from a number of life experiences.

I am an active EMT provider with my local ambulance corps and serve on a number of committees. In the position of first responder I need to quickly respond to serious situations while calmly taking the time to listen, evaluate, gather information and decide on a course of action.

In committee our focus is on providing the best possible resources we have to our community while following all organizational protocols. I have worked as a medical director for summer camps. This position allowed me to work with a wide range of age groups,

demanding teamwork and leadership. Communication is key in all these situations. Currently I am a senior biomedical science major in a program that allows me great flexibility but demands focus and independent thinking, research and analysis. If elected to the USOC Athletes' Advisory Council I would apply the above mentioned skills to act as a positive contributing member. Thank you for your consideration.