



**Athlete Advisory Council**  
**Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM MT**  
**Location: ZOOM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

**USAA Staff: Mary Emmons, Sara Crowell, and Samantha Bauer**

**AAC: Savannah Nofel, Makenna Proctor, Catalina G’Noriega, Trenton Cowles, Katherine Wu, Lexi Hull and Heather Koehl**

**1. USAA Elections**

- a. BOD - At-Large Athlete Results
  - i. Emmons reported Jimmy Lutz won the At Large Athlete Director seat (replacing Lexi Hull) and Kevin Mather was reappointed for the Para Athlete Director seat. Athlete terms will take effect Jan 1, 2026.
- b. Judge Selection Committee –Athlete Representatives Exception
  - i. Emmons explained the composition of the Judge Selection Committee, which includes 33.33% athlete representation. USAA is recommending USAA request an exception from the USOPC to eliminate the athlete reps as the majority of eligible judges are already classified as athletes. Athletes who are not judges have less familiarity with judges and their experience. Emmons noted it has been difficult to find athlete nominees to fill the roles, in addition. The AAC was in support of this update.
- c. BOD Committee Nominees
  - i. Emmons presented the proposed athlete candidates for open positions on Board Committees (i.e. Ethics, NGC and Board of Justice). Emmons stated that nominees are still being accepted for the open positions. Cowles asked if there were requirements to be on the committees and Emmons stated you must be on the eligible athlete list per the USAA bylaws.

## **2. Indoor Nationals**

### **a. Prize Purse (No Final)**

- i. Emmons explained there will not be a stand-alone Indoor Final in 2026 as was previously announced by USAA. The combined results from all 15 regional locations will be utilized to determine indoor national champions and awarded prize money. Emmons presented the prize award chart for recurve, compound and barebow.

## **3. World Archery Rule Updates**

- a. Emmons provided a summary of the WA rule updates for 2026. The WA rulebook is expected to be published on or around February 2026 and USAA will look to update policies and procedures accordingly.

## **4. Personal Coach Policy**

- a. Emmons presented proposed changes to the Personal Coach Policy. Updates included allowing competing athletes to use their credentials once they are eliminated instead of after the ¼ round. Emmons explained athletes would need to have this credential and be coaching to remain in the athlete's area once eliminated. The AAC supported the change.
- b. Emmons also presented proposed changes to collegiate coach access. A coach must be approved by the college to purchase a coach credential for college events. Cowles mentioned that some archers are coaching other archers since the teams are big. Emmons will confirm competing athletes can still request a free competing athlete coach credential with approval from the college coach.

## **5. Senior USAT Athlete Selection Procedures**

### **a. New - Qualification Round Bonus Points**

- i. Emmons presented updates to the Senior USAT procedures (for appointment to 2027 USAT). Changes included adding Qualification Round Bonus points for Senior Recurve and Compound for achieving 72 Arrow Round MQS at USAT events. Cowles mentioned the MQS tables need adjustments and Emmons confirmed she would adjust for the scoring gap. Cowles wanted to clarify when and where the bonus points would be added. Emmons reported the scores would be added following each USAT event when the rolling rank is updated. GNoriega mentioned that the bonuses are quite high compared to winning the Olympics or the World Championship. Emmons explained the Qualification Round bonus

points could be lowered to -1.0, -.75 and -.5. GNoriega inquired if Qualification Round bonus points could be earned for International events as well. Hull proposed leaving international bonus points medal table as is. Emmons stated adding a Qualification Round Bonus points at international events was not supported by USAA, as only select athletes attend these events, vs anyone can attend USAT events. Hull asked if there is a cap on how many bonus points can be earned, and Cowles indicated there should not be a cap. Emmons confirmed there would be no cap on bonus points.

- b. New – USAT Final Athlete Qualification Process and Prize Charts
    - i. Emmons presented the draft USAT Final Athlete Qualification Process and the prize payout chart for Senior Recurve, Compound and Barebow. Cowles mentioned that the draft does not show how the brackets will be made for the finals. Emmons stated this information would be added and based on an athlete’s cumulative USAT Final Placement Points totals. Proctor asked if any sponsors were presented the opportunity to help provide more money and back the final. Emmons requested clarification if Proctor meant asking for prize money from sponsors for the final, to which Proctor clarified that the inquiry is more related to athlete-sponsor contingency. Cowles mentioned that is something the athletes will need to ask their sponsors about. Emmons stated that USA Archery can send out a communication to all USA Archery sponsors about the final and encourage them to offer athletes with contingency prize dollars for the new event, as applicable. Otherwise, athletes are encouraged to inform their personal sponsors as USAA would not be aware of these.
6. **U21, U18, U15, 50+ and Senior Barebow USAT Selection Procedures**
- a. Emmons highlighted U15 categories will be added to 2026 USAT events. U15 will be required to attend at least one USAT event to be eligible for the 2027 team. The Salt Lake Summit will hold a stand-alone youth USAT and a stand-alone Senior, 50+ and Para USAT in 2026.
7. **2026 International Team Selection Procedures and U.S. Team Trials Schedules**
- a. Emmons presented the 2026 National and International Event Schedule to include:
    - i. 2026 World Archery Field Championships Athlete Selection Procedures

- ii. 2026 World Archery 3D Championships Athlete Selection Procedures
  - 1. Emmons pointed out that there will only be 24 unmarked targets where field will have 24 marked and 24 unmarked
  - 2. Nofel asked for a change to the 3D/Field trials schedule, particularly with the practice times to be extended to be able to accommodate practice for individuals who want to shoot both trials. Emmons states this could be added.
- iii. World Cup and Other International Events Athlete Selection Procedures
  - 1. Emmons pointed out section 3.2 that has been updated:  
“...pending or adjudicated USADA/WADA violations” added to clarify athlete removal criteria.
  - 2. Emmons stated timelines for selecting teams were clarified (i.e. after X USAT event, for example). Cowles stated he thought this was much clearer.
- iv. 2026 Youth Olympic Games Athlete Selection Procedures
  - 1. Emmons presented the JOAD Target Nationals event will be the used as the U.S. Team Trials event for athlete selection to the YOG team. Cowles and GNoriega inquired about use of the 72 Arrow Ranking Rounds and also Round Robin matches. Proctor was also in favor of round robins being added to add pressure. Emmons stated that she will check with the events team as adding Round Robins would require a stand-alone event. Emmons was not sure this would be possible or make sense as only 1 male and 1 female recurve U18 athlete will be selected to the team and the two 72 Arrow Round overall placement is a good indicator of athlete ability based on USAA past research. Round Robins are normally used for larger team selection such as a Youth World Championships with larger team sizes for multiple age categories.
  - 2. GNoriega also asked if the 72 arrow rounds could count separately instead of cumulative and not use the placement.
  - 3. GNoriega stated that YOGs should be a funded event, not a self funded event. Emmons mentioned that USA Archery is funding staff and Crowell confirmed that since this is a delegation event the USOPC will likely fully or partially fund athletes.

4. Crowell stated that the quota slots have not yet been allocated to USA, and USA Archery will expect to receive athlete quotas in April 2026.
- v. 2026 Youth Olympic Games Staff Selection Procedures
  1. Emmons inquired if the athletes felt the single coach position should be appointed before or after the team was named? Cowles stated he was in favor of having the athletes select the coach from the pool of ITS nominees. Crowell stated that there should be enough time to name the coach after the 2 athletes were selected.

## 8. Athlete Stipends and Support Programs

Crowell presented updates to the 2026 Athlete Stipends and Support Programs document to include:

- a. 2026 Athlete Funding
  - i. USOPC will now provide funding for stipends for the top 2 Compound men and women.
  - ii. USAA will provide a \$3,000 international event travel stipend to Compound athletes ranked #3 and #4 (men and women) on funded World Cup Team and other international teams, as noted in Appendix A.
  - iii. Upon further review of the budget, USAA will only be able to provide \$3,000 to the #3 ranked Compound man and woman. Similar to 2025 criteria, the #4<sup>th</sup> ranked male and female will receive a \$500 travel stipend and will have pathways to earn a stipend if they reach the semi-final in individual competition, or medal in the team or mixed team event.
  - iv. The Operation Gold event will be the World Cup Final in 2026.
    1. USAA will seek clarity regarding USOPC recognizing Mixed Team Compound results as an eligible event for Operation Gold. Traditionally, the USOPC does not award Operation Gold for non-Olympic disciplines.
- b. Team USA Definition update:
  - i. The Pan American Championships will be a 2026 Team USA eligible event. This is a positive update that allows an opportunity in a non-World Championships year to qualify for key resources. EAHI will be reset based on the team that is named to this event.

- ii. Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI): Crowell presented USOPC updates to EAHI and explained slots will be awarded to 6 Recurve and 2 Compound athletes.
  - 1. EAHI enrollment is connected to Medical Assistance Fund, Psychological Services and USOPC Sports Medicine access at Training Centers
  - 2. EAHI Transition Out: Athletes will receive 1 month EAHI and 6 month of access to the Medical Assistance fund upon termination of EAHI.
  - 3. No EAHI Transfer of Slots will be permitted. If an athlete declines EAHI the slot is lost.