

Terms of Reference

Mission Statement

The mission of the PanAm Aquatics Athletes Committee is to serve as a voice, advocate, and provide support for aquatic athletes of all disciplines across the Americas. It is committed to promoting physical and mental well-being, ensuring that every athlete thrives both in and out of the water.

Vision Statement

The PanAm Aquatics Athletes Committee's vision is to be the leading force in advocating for the comprehensive well-being of aquatic athletes throughout the Americas. It envisions a future where every athlete has the resources, support, and opportunities to excel and grow. Through its commitment to mental and physical health, they aim to build a strong, interconnected aquatic community that thrives on shared goals, mutual respect, and unwavering dedication to excellence. By centering the well-being of athletes, it aims to inspire and empower the next generation of aquatic champions across the continent.

Objectives

The PanAm Aquatics Athletes Committee shall:

- a. Serve as the collective voice of the athletes, ensuring their perspectives and needs are heard and integrated within PanAm Aquatics' decision-making processes.
- b. Consider issues related to athletes and provide advice to the Discipline Committees and/or Executive Committee of PanAm Aquatics.
- c. Represent and advocate for the rights, interests, protection, and welfare of athletes in all aquatic disciplines and make related recommendations.
- d. Engage actively in initiatives that promote safe and clean sport, fair play, and ethical standards on and off the field of play.
- e. Develop and engage with education efforts for athletes and related stakeholders in relation to athlete physical and mental health, nutrition, injury prevention, wellness, mental and strategic performance, among others.
- f. Provide feedback and recommendations on athlete-related issues, including rules, regulations, competition conditions, health and well-being, and athlete services.
- g. Act as ambassadors of PanAm Aquatics and role models in aquatics, promoting the values of integrity, leadership, and sportsmanship.

- h.** Consult with athletes in the evaluation of the rules and regulations of their respective sport and subsequently provide feedback to the Discipline Committees and/or Executive Committee of PanAm Aquatics.
- i.** Support the development and implementation of physical and mental health, education, and inclusive programs for athletes.
- j.** Maintain open communication and collaboration with the Athletes' Committees of National Federations and the World Aquatics Athletes Committee.

Composition

- a.** Each PanAm Aquatics Discipline Committee shall include one male and one female athlete representative. These representatives will automatically form part of the PanAm Aquatics Athletes Committee.
- b.** Athlete members of the World Aquatics Athletes Committee from the Americas shall automatically be included in the PanAm Aquatics Athletes Committee.
- c.** After (a) and (b), additional athletes may be appointed by the PanAm Aquatics Executive Committee to ensure equitable representation across all PanAm Aquatics Zones and disciplines, with attention to impact, gender balance, geographic diversity, and inclusion.

Terms of Office

- a.** The term of office shall commence the day following the member's appointment and conclude at the end of the mandate of the current PanAm Aquatics Executive Committee.
- b.** A member's term shall end upon resignation, death, ineligibility, or removal by the Executive Committee of PanAm Aquatics.
- c.** In case of a vacancy due to resignation, incapacity, or other reasons, the Executive Committee may appoint a replacement respecting gender, zone, and discipline balance. The replacement shall serve until the next full election or appointment.
- d.** No athlete may serve more than three terms in total as a member of the PanAm Aquatics Athletes Committee or any Discipline Committee in an athlete representative capacity.

Eligibility Criteria

Athlete representatives must:

- a. Be at least 16 years of age at the time of nomination or appointment.
- b. Hold the nationality and sports nationality of a National Federation that is a member of PanAm Aquatics.
- c. Be in good standing with their National Federation and PanAm Aquatics.
- d. Have not been sanctioned for a violation of the World Anti-Doping Code, World Aquatics Integrity Code, or any safeguarding/harassment policies.
- e. Be available to participate in online and/or in-person meetings and contribute meaningfully to the work of the Athletes Committee.

Confidentiality, Ethics, and Behavior

- a. Athlete members shall act in the best interests of the athlete community and PanAm Aquatics, free from bias or personal interests.
- b. Athlete members shall adhere to the PanAm Aquatics Integrity Code.
- c. Members shall declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest and refrain from participating in related discussions or votes.
- d. All members must respect the PanAm Aquatics Constitution, Integrity Code, Safeguarding Policy, and other governance documents.
- e. All Committee deliberations that are explicitly deemed sensitive and confidential shall remain confidential unless agreed otherwise.

Decision Process

- a. Committee decisions shall be made by a simple majority of votes cast.
- b. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the deciding vote.

Meetings and Communication

- a. The Committee shall meet at least twice per year, virtually or in person, with additional meetings as required.
- b. Meeting agendas shall be prepared and circulated in advance by the Chair or Secretary.
- c. Minutes of meetings shall be recorded and shared with the Executive Committee of PanAm Aquatics.