

Dear USA Climbing Nominating committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the USA Climbing Athletes Commission. I have been part of the USAC Para competition scene since 2018. During that time I have competed in USAC events and represented USA Climbing at the highest para level in IFSC world cups and Championships. During that time I have met people inside of this competitive community who have given me so much that it only feels right to give back to the community what it has given me by giving back my time.

Throughout my life I have served on several boards or local commissions that involve some sort of advocacy for people with disabilities or disabled athletes (Harford County Commission on Disabilities, Harford county Miracle league, Paracliff hangers). All of these experiences have allowed me to understand how to vote in a group and have open discussion, listen to feedback and make informed decisions to help an organization go further in their development.

I also have the perspective of an athlete, and a coach. Having these two specific experiences allows me to have both perspectives of the emotion of handling feedback that has been given but also having to give hard feedback to someone. This has the ability to understand the complexity of situations that arise inside of the community and competition. But knowing that there are limitations of every situation and my own problem solving skills to work with those limitations of every situation.

In the past I have also served on other USAC Commissions. In 2019-2020 served on the classification Committee, when we were trying to decide how to go about matching or getting as close to the IFSC classifications as possible in USAC Para climbing. This pursuit was to help USAC get on page with what other Paralympic sports were doing for classification to help prepare Paraclimbing as a whole put in bid for paralympic spots. Further helping develop paraclimbing to that top level. During this time it was making decisions that would change some peoples categories but knew that it would help us get on track with what was coming in classification down the road.

These experiences have better equipped me to see the big picture of all situations, evaluate what is possible, advocate and communicate decisions with athletes and the USAC governing body. With this, I would be a good addition to the athlete commission to further serve the community with my time and experience.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Mayforth