

Team USA Media Handbook

Rio 2016 Olympic Games





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Media Services

Overview

The United States Olympic Committee will have a communications staff in Rio to assist national and international media in its coverage of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team. Comprised of USOC staff and National Governing Body press officers, the communications team will manage the following elements for Team USA and the entire U.S. delegation:

- Gathering and disseminating information regarding U.S. athletes, coaches and staff
- Facilitating press conferences, briefings and interview requests with U.S. athletes, coaches, staff and sponsors
- Producing and distributing athlete bios, historical records, news releases, USA Daily newsletters, general information, storylines, statistics and other materials via email, TeamUSA.org and Team USA Newsfeed, along with all Team USA social media channels
- Serving as U.S. press attachés for each sport at the Games, coordinating media information and requests for Team USA at competition venues
- Organizing and conducting the Managing Victory program to connect U.S. medalists with media
- Preparing USOC responses on all official matters in concert with delegation leadership
- Operating U.S. communications offices at the Main Press Center
- Issuing media tickets to International Olympic Committee-mandated high-demand events
- Maintaining U.S. media operations in the Olympic Village, at USA House and during USOC team processing in Houston

Olympic News Service & Info+

Olympic News Service is responsible for the collection, production and distribution of news and information to the Olympic family, including accredited media, athletes, officials and dignitaries. All accredited U.S. delegation members can access ONS reports and other Games information through Info+ work stations located throughout the Olympic venues, including the Main Media Center, Venue Media Centers and select non-competition venues such as the Olympic Village. For the first time ever, ONS will also have its own Twitter account, and offer audio and video from select mixed zones and press conferences. The Info+ system, which can be ordered free of charge through Rate Card, is available on personal computers using a secure log-in anywhere there is an internet connection.



Media Services

General Information

Information Distribution

News and information regarding Team USA is posted to both TeamUSA.org and [Team USA Newsfeed](#), with supplemental material on the USOC's [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#) and [Google+](#) platforms.

Interview Requests

Athlete and coach interview requests should be directed to the respective sport press officer. Interviews with USOC delegation staff can be arranged at the USOC communications office at the MPC or by contacting a member of the USOC communications team. For a full list of Team USA communications contacts, see pages 17-19 of the handbook.

Photos

Official head shots (high-res, rights-free images) of most U.S. athletes, taken during team processing, are available to the media for editorial use at Flickr.com/USOlympicTeam. Meanwhile, action photos and additional posed shots for select athletes can be obtained through GettyImages.com or from the sport press officers.

USA Daily

USA Daily, a daily e-newsletter that provides U.S. results and stories, and offers a preview of the following day, will be distributed each night via email. Click [here](#) to be added to the distribution list.

Team USA Microsite

The 2016 U.S. Olympic Team microsite is available at TeamUSAorg/Rio2016. The microsite features athlete biographies, sport previews, live results, historical records, competition schedules, and facts and figures about the U.S. delegation and Olympic Games.

Breaking News Bureau

The USOC distributes real-time news and results relating to the U.S. delegation. All media accredited through the USOC are automatically placed on the email distribution list. To be added, click [here](#).

High-Demand Event Ticketing

For select events where demand for press seating and photo positions exceeds availability, the IOC requires that media representatives have tickets – in addition to a credential – for venue access. The IOC allots a certain number of tickets to the USOC, and the USOC allocates these tickets to U.S. media. Only media with E, EP, ET, Es or EPs accreditation are eligible to receive tickets for high-demand events. All high-demand event ticketing will be handled by Bill Hancock (Bill.Hancock@usoc.org) in the USOC communications office at the MPC.



Media Services

General Information

Visit the [High-Demand Ticketing](#) page at TeamUSA.org/Rio2016 for the most up-to-date list of high-demand events that require special ticketing. Sessions may be added as high-demand events throughout the duration of the Games at the discretion of the IOC and Rio 2016.

U.S. Allocation Process

1. U.S. media may apply for high-demand event tickets beginning four days before the designated session by:
 - a. Signing up outside the USOC office in the MPC, or
 - b. Sending an email to Bill Hancock of the USOC communications staff (Bill.Hancock@usoc.org)
2. The general high-demand event-ticketing timetable is as follows:

Two Days Prior:	Deadline for ticket requests, 5 p.m.
One Day Prior:	List of recipients posted outside USOC office at MPC, 11 a.m. Media may pick up tickets at USOC office in MPC, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Day Of:	Media may pick up tickets at USOC office at MPC, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Unclaimed tickets issued to those on waiting list, 2 p.m.
3. Media must pick up their own tickets in-person at the MPC – a signature and photo ID will be required. With written or email authorization (via Bill Hancock) from the sports editor, a media representative may pick up a ticket that has been allocated for a colleague from the same publication.
4. Media who no longer need their tickets should contact Bill Hancock immediately so the tickets can be reallocated to other U.S. media representatives.

The USOC communications staff (including National Governing Body representatives) will use the following criteria to determine ticket allocation:

- a. Coverage of the sport's Olympic Trials, national/world championships and other international competitions
- b. Presence of an Olympic beat writer
- c. Regular coverage of Olympic sports
- d. Coverage in hometowns of athletes involved
- e. Coverage of USOC meetings/events
- f. Past Olympic coverage
- g. Circulation



Media Services

On Location

Main Media Center

Located within the Olympic Park, the Main Media Center will house the Main Press Center and the International Broadcast Center. The MMC will have separate entrances for press and broadcasters, a main lobby with a help desk and access to convenient shops and service points.

Main Press Center

The USOC will operate and staff a communications office at the MPC for the duration of the Games. The office will serve as the hub for information regarding Team USA athletes, coaches and officials; the production point for the USA Daily e-newsletter; the breaking-news center; and the distribution site for all U.S.-issued high-demand event tickets. Located within the Olympic Park, the MPC is open around the clock and provides accredited media with easy access to several competition venues. The Media Transport Mall near the MMC will connect to competition venues and press accommodation.

Venue Media Centers

Every competition venue will feature a Venue Media Center, providing workspace and services for accredited media and staff. On competition days, VMCs will open three hours before the start of competition and close four hours after competition has concluded. For the official training, VMCs open one hour before the start of the training session and close one hour after the training session has concluded.

USA House

The USA House in Rio will have a limited media operation, with some interview opportunities available, mainly with non-competing athletes, sponsors and staff. For some athletes, USA House will be a stop during the Managing Victory program. The facility will not offer any media workspace. Hours of operation are 10-12 a.m.

The USOC will open the House to media during the Games on three set days, during which accredited press will be taken on a one-hour tour of the house. Limited availability will be made for media who are unable to attend one of the scheduled media days, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All requests for access and/or interviews at the house must be made no later than 24 hours via the [online registration portal](#). Scheduled media days are as follows:

- Monday, Aug. 8 (1-3 p.m.); tours will commence at 1 and 2 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 11 (12-2 p.m.); tours will commence at 12 and 1 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 18 (4-6 p.m.); tours will commence at 4 and 5 p.m.



Media Services

Interview Opportunities

Press Conferences

Various press conferences featuring U.S. athletes, coaches and delegation staff are coordinated before and during the Games. Press conferences will either take place at the Main Press Center or respective Venue Media Center. In general, a press conference will take place after each medal event. Press conference announcements will be sent via BreakingNews@usoc.org, and posted to Info+.

Press conference times are subject to change. Click [here](#) for the most up-to-date schedule.

Mixed Zones

The competition venue mixed zones are areas for quick, informal interviews that take place as athletes are leaving the competition area. U.S. athletes are strongly encouraged – but not required – to speak with the media in this area, and a U.S. press officer will be on hand at all events to assist in this effort. The IOC determines the order of interviews in the mixed zones. Athletes first pass through the broadcast area before reaching the press area.

Olympic Villages

The IOC, Olympic Broadcast Services and Rio 2016 Press Operations organized tours of the Olympic Villages residential zones on Aug. 2 and 4. Outside of these dates, media will not be able to gain entrance to the dining or housing areas. Additionally, media can access the International Plaza at the Olympic Village.

Managing Victory

Managing Victory is the post-competition program for all U.S. medalists. It starts with the in-venue press conference, continues to the MPC for an additional press conference, then may include stops at USA House, the International Broadcast Center and various other media properties, beginning with NBC. For questions, contact Lindsay Hogan (Lindsay.Hogan@usoc.org).

High Performance Training Centers

During the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the USOC will operate three High Performance Training Centers – Flamengo Club, Lonier and the Navy School – which provide a variety of services to Team USA athletes to help enhance podium preparedness. The facilities will give Team USA athletes daily access to practice facilities, strength and conditioning, sports medicine, a recovery center, and food and nutrition services.



Media Services

High Performance Training Centers

Media Access

The High Performance Training Centers at Flamengo Club and Lonier are open for pre-approved media access. Media wishing to gain access to any of the HPTCs must complete an online credential application [here](#). If approved for access by the USOC and any corresponding National Governing Bodies, a confirmation email will be sent within 24 hours. Requests for both Flamengo and Lonier must be made at least 24 hours in advance. Media must be escorted by a press officer at all times. Media access will not be permitted at the Navy School.

Accreditation

Media wishing to gain access to any of the HPTCs must complete the [online accreditation application](#). Those approved (notified via email) will then have access to requested availabilities or may request separate access via the relevant sport press officer.

Scheduled Availabilities: Media wishing to attend a scheduled availability apply no less than 24 hours in advance for Flamengo and Lonier. A limited number of media can be accommodated at each session and credentials will be awarded at the discretion of the USOC and NGBs. Approved media will receive a confirmation email with further details on entry into the HPTCs.

Further Access: Media wishing to conduct interviews outside of scheduled availabilities must contact the relevant sport press officer for approval and arrangement. The same 24-hour rule applies.

A passport must be swapped for HPTC accreditation.

Flamengo Club

Av. Borges de Medeiros, 997 – Lagoa

Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 22430-041, Brazil

On-site facilities include training areas for badminton, basketball, gymnastics, judo, modern pentathlon, rowing, rugby, soccer, swimming (open water), table tennis, triathlon, volleyball (beach) and weightlifting.

Lonier

Estrada Frei Tibúrcio, 470 – Camorim

Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 22783-120, Brazil

On-site facilities include training areas for archery, fencing, taekwondo and wrestling.



Team USA

Team Makeup

- The 554-member team is comprised of 262 men and 292 women, marking the most women who have competed for any nation at a single Games and topping the previous mark of 289 (China, 2008). For only the second time in history, the U.S. Olympic roster features more female athletes than male.
 - Team USA will be represented in 27 sports (40 disciplines) and 244 of the 306 medal events to be contested in Rio.
-

Olympic Experience

- The 2016 U.S. Olympic Team features 189 returning Olympians, including three six-time Olympians, seven five-time Olympians, 17 four-time Olympians, 50 three-time Olympians and 112 two-time Olympians.
- There are 364 Team USA athletes who are making their Olympic debut in Rio.
- Among the returnees are 106 Olympic medalists, 66 of whom are Olympic champions and 43 who have won multiple Olympic medals.
- Of the 68 returning Olympic champions, 51 are looking to defend their titles from London, including 19 in individual events:
 - Nathan Adrian, swimming
 - Kristin Armstrong, cycling
 - David Boudia, diving
 - Jordan Burroughs, wrestling
 - Gabby Douglas, gymnastics
 - Ashton Eaton, track and field
 - Missy Franklin, swimming
 - Vincent Hancock, shooting
 - Kayla Harrison, judo
 - Katie Ledecky, swimming
 - Michael Phelps, swimming
 - Aly Raisman, gymnastics
 - Brittney Reese, track and field
 - Kim Rhode, shooting
 - Claressa Shields, boxing
 - Jenn Suhr, track and field
 - Christian Taylor, track and field
 - Serena Williams, tennis
 - Dana Vollmer, swimming



Team USA

Olympic Experience

- The three U.S. Olympians headed to their sixth Olympic Games include equestrian Phillip Dutton, and shooters Emil Milev and Kim Rhode, who become only the ninth, 10th and 11th athletes – summer or winter – to do so in U.S. Olympic history.
- The seven athletes headed to their fifth Olympic Games are Tony Azevedo (water polo), Glenn Eller (shooting), Bernard Lagat (track and field), Steven Lopez (taekwondo), Michael Phelps (swimming), Kerri Walsh Jennings (beach volleyball) and Venus Williams (tennis). Only 35 other athletes in U.S. Olympic history have competed in five or more Olympic Games (including Phillip Dutton, Emil Milev and Kim Rhode).
- The most decorated U.S. male and female athletes on the team are Michael Phelps (swimming) and Allyson Felix (track and field). With 22 medals – including 18 golds – Phelps is the most decorated Olympian of all time, from any nation, and the first American male swimmer to qualify for five Olympic Teams. Making her fourth Olympic appearance, Felix is the all-time most decorated U.S. Olympic female on the track with four gold medals, and six overall.

Youth Olympians

- Nine athletes on the U.S. roster have competed at the Youth Olympic Games, including:
 - Nicole Ahsinger (trampoline gymnastics, 2014)
 - Michael Hixon (diving, 2010)
 - Katharine Holmes (fencing, 2010)
 - Alex Massialas (fencing, 2010)
 - Nathan Schrimsher (modern pentathlon, 2010)
 - Shakur Stevenson (boxing), 2014)
 - Richelle Stephens (rugby, 2014)
 - Laura Zeng (rhythmic gymnastics, 2014)
 - Lily Zhang (table tennis, 2014)

NCAA Impact

- Seventy-five percent of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team competed in collegiate athletics at the varsity and club levels, including 44 athletes in swimming and 125 in track and field.
- For all eligible athletes (i.e. high school graduate and above), the following eight sports had full collegiate participation: basketball (24), diving (10), fencing (14), field hockey (16), indoor volleyball (24), rowing (41), triathlon (6) and water polo (21).



Team USA

Family Ties

- Team USA features six sets of siblings, including Aria and Makenzie Fischer (water polo), Courtney and Kelley Hurley (fencing), Margaux and Isabella Isaksen (modern pentathlon), Julia and Katie Reinprecht (field hockey), Erik and Kawika Shoji (indoor volleyball), and Serena and Venus Williams (tennis).
- Thirty-three athletes have Olympic family ties, including 12 with parents who are also Olympians:
 - Michelle Carter (track and field) — Father, Michael, is a 1984 Olympic silver medalist in track and field.
 - Matthew Centrowitz (track and field) — Father, Matthew, is a 1976 Olympian in track and field.
 - Aria and Makenzie Fischer (water polo) — Father, Erich, is a 1992 Olympian in water polo.
 - Alexander Massialas (fencing) — Father, Greg, is a three-time Olympic fencer (1980, 1984, 1988).
 - Conor McCullough (track and field) — Father, Conor, competed for Ireland at the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games.
 - Devin McEwan (canoe/kayak) — Father, Jamie, is a two-time Olympian in canoe/kayak (1972, 1992).
 - Taylor Phinney (cycling) — Both parents are Olympic medalists...His mother, Connie, is a 1984 Olympic champion in cycling and also competed in speedskating at the 1972 Olympic Winter Games...Father, Davis, is a 1984 Olympic bronze medalist in cycling.
 - Gevie Stone (rowing) — Mother, Lisa Hansen, competed at the 1976 Olympic Games in rowing.
 - Clark Smith (swimming) — Mother, Tori, is a 1984 Olympian in swimming.
 - CoCo Vandeweghe (tennis) — Mother, Tauna, is a 1976 Olympian in swimming.
 - Mariel Zagunis (fencing) — Parents, Catherine and Robert, are both 1976 Olympians in rowing.
- Fifty-two members of Team USA have children, including 42 fathers and 10 mothers.

Fun Facts

- Forty-six states are represented – including 124 athletes hailing from California, 39 from Florida and 33 from Texas – in addition to three from the District of Columbia and one from the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- The oldest and youngest Olympians on the 2016 Olympic Team – equestrian Phillip Dutton, 52, and tennis player Kanak Jha, 16 – are separated by 36 years, while the average age of Team USA is 27. Also entering the Rio Games at age 52 are Bezie Madden (equestrian) and Emil Milev (shooting). Other 16-year-olds include Laurie Hernandez (artistic gymnastics), Sydney McLaughlin (track and field) and Laura Zeng (rhythmic gymnastics), with McLaughlin becoming the youngest American athlete to qualify for the Olympic Games in track and field since 1972.
- Men's basketball players DeMarcus Cousins and DeAndre Jordan are the tallest members of Team USA at 6 feet, 11 inches, while artistic gymnast Simone Biles checks in as the shortest team member at 4 feet, 8 inches.

Team USA

Military Ties

- Seventeen athletes have military ties, including:
 - o Hillary Bor (track and field, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Paul Chelimo (track and field, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Glenn Eller (shooting, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit)
 - o Sean Furey (track and field, U.S. Navy)
 - o Vincent Hancock (shooting, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit)
 - o David Higgins (shooting, U.S. Air Force)
 - o Edward King (rowing, U.S. Navy)
 - o Shadrack Kipchirchir (track and field, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Leonard Korir (track and field, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Dan Lowe (shooting, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit)
 - o Michael McPhail (shooting, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit)
 - o John Nunn (track and field, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Steffen Peters (equestrian, German Army)
 - o Joshua Richmond (shooting, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit)
 - o Keith Sanderson (shooting, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Nathan Schrimsher (pentathlon, U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program)
 - o Cale Simmons (track and field, U.S. Air Force)





Team USA

Top Storylines

- Riding the crest of back-to-back Olympic gold medals (2008, 2012) and FIBA World Cup titles (2010, 2014), the U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team will look to expand its string of titles to three straight and 15 overall. Headlining the 2016 roster are **Carmelo Anthony** – the first four-time Olympian in U.S. men's basketball history – and 2010 FIBA World Championship MVP **Kevin Durant**. Pacing the sidelines and looking to cap an illustrious USA Basketball career that dates back to 1979, U.S. head coach **Mike Krzyzewski** will coach his third U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team in 2016, a feat equaled only by former Oklahoma State University and hall of fame mentor Henry Iba.
- Five-time defending Olympic champions – a record for traditional women's team sports – the U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team will look to capture its sixth-straight – and eighth overall – gold medal in Rio. No other women's traditional team sport has strung together more than four gold medals in a row. In fact, only two men's streaks are longer: India's field hockey men's teams captured six straight gold medals (1928-56) and the U.S. men's basketball teams captured seven straight golds (1936-68). The veteran trio of **Sue Bird**, **Tamika Catchings** and **Diana Taurasi** are making their fourth Olympic appearance and have a chance to equal Olympic greats Teresa Edwards and Lisa Leslie with four gold medals apiece.
- After becoming the first U.S. women's boxer to win Olympic gold in 2012, middleweight **Claressa Shields** is poised for another historic performance in Rio with the chance to become the only American boxer – male or female – to win back-to-back Olympic gold medals.
- In cycling, Team USA is led by hard-charging women on the track and road. **Kristin Armstrong** came out of retirement for a second time seeking her third straight Olympic title in the women's individual time trial. Meanwhile, the U.S. women's track team pursuit squad made history by winning the program's first world title in 2015. Led by **Sarah Hammer**, who helped the U.S. to the women's team pursuit Olympic silver medal in 2012, the young team is among the favorites to take gold in Rio.
- Four years ago in London, the U.S. ended a 12-year Olympic medal drought in diving when American divers won four medals, including one gold, one silver and two bronzes. Three of Team USA's medalists from 2012 will return to the Olympic stage in Rio, including two-time Olympic medalist **David Boudia**, who will be competing both individually and in synchronized diving. The 2012 individual Olympic gold medalist has a new synchronized partner in 20-year-old **Steele Johnson**, but the pair has quickly found success since they began competing together in 2014.
- U.S. fencers will look to make history in Rio with **Ibtihaj Muhammad** becoming the first U.S. athlete to compete at the Olympic Games in a hijab. Additionally, three-time Olympic medalist **Mariel Zagunis** is slated to make a run for her third individual Olympic gold medal, and become the first women's saber fencer to hold both an individual and team Olympic title.



Team USA

Top Storylines

- The Rio Olympic Games signify the end of an era for the U.S. women's artistic gymnastics program. **Martha Karolyi**, the women's national team coordinator since 2001, plans to retire at the conclusion of the Games at age 73. Under her direction, the U.S. women have won 87 world and Olympic medals, and will look to capitalize on its success from 2012 by claiming its second straight Olympic gold medal in team competition. Led by **Simone Biles**, widely considered the world's top gymnast, the U.S. cruised to its third consecutive world team title in 2015. Biles' historic 2015 season – in which she won her third straight world all-around title and increased her world gold-medal haul to a record 10 – sets her up to make a historic run in Rio, where she could become the first female gymnast in Olympic history to win five Olympic gold medals at a single Games.
- **Kayla Harrison** became the first American – male or female – to win an Olympic gold medal in judo at the London 2012 Games. She will look to make history once again in Rio, where she could become the first American judoka to win back-to-back Olympic titles. Her fiercest rival is Brazilian Mayra Aguiar, whom she has faced 17 times over the last four years, with Harrison proving victorious on nine of those occasions. Should the two meet again in the gold-medal match, it would be Harrison's second straight Olympic gold-medal bout against an opponent from the host nation, having defeated Great Britain's Gemma Gibbons, 2-0, in London.
- Under the direction of head coach **Tom Terhaar**, the U.S. women's eight rowing team has not lost an Olympic or world championship title since 2006. Over the last 10 years, Terhaar crews have won at eight world championships and two Olympic Games (2008, 2012). The American dynasty owns the world record, set in 2013, and will be seeking its third consecutive Olympic gold medal in Rio.
- Having made her Olympic debut in 1996, **Kim Rhode** is the only American to win individual medals at five consecutive Olympic Games. Of her five medals, three are gold (1996 - double trap, 2004 - double trap, 2012 - skeet), one is silver (2008 - skeet) and one bronze (2000 - double trap). She is also the only woman to win three individual gold medals in the sport of shooting. On the men's side, **Vincent Hancock** is poised to become the first shooting athlete to win three consecutive Olympic gold medals in the same event, having won back-to-back gold medals in men's skeet at the 2008 and 2012 Games.
- Led by 2015 FIFA Women's World Player of the Year **Carli Lloyd**, the U.S. women's soccer team is riding a wave of momentum after winning the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup and is among the favorites to win gold in Rio. A gold medal would mark the U.S. women's fourth consecutive Olympic title and fifth overall. The U.S. women won Olympic gold in 1996 – the first Games that featured women's soccer – 2004, 2008 and 2012. Now, head coach **Jill Ellis** will undertake the challenge of leading the first team ever to win an Olympic gold medal after capturing the World Cup title.



Team USA

Top Storylines

- In **Michael Phelps** and **Ryan Lochte**, two of Team USA's all-time swimming greats will be making a run at history in 2016. This duo has combined to win 33 Olympic medals since 2004 and both men will swim the 200-meter individual medley in Rio. Phelps made history in 2008 when he won gold in eight events and added to his legacy in 2012 when he became the most decorated Olympian of all time with 22 medals, including 18 golds. At the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials, he made history yet again by becoming the first American male swimmer to qualify for five Olympic teams. Also entering the 2016 Olympics on a roll is **Katie Ledecky**, who won five gold medals at the 2015 FINA World Championships. She is the first swimmer since Janet Evans to hold the 400, 800 and 1,500 freestyle world records simultaneously and has never lost a long-course meters international final in her career.
- **Serena** and **Venus Williams** are the winningest doubles tennis team in Olympic history and will look to match the Olympic record for overall tennis medals (5) by Kitty McKane of Great Britain in Rio. The sisters are undefeated as a doubles team at the Olympic Games (15-0) and enter the Rio Games having just won the women's doubles title at Wimbledon. There, Serena also claimed the women's singles title to tie Steffi Graf for the most Grand Slam titles in the Open Era with 22. Meanwhile, Venus joins Roger Federer (Switzerland) as the only five-time Olympians in tennis. At age 36, she becomes the second-oldest Olympic singles player since tennis returned to the Olympics in 1988 following a 64-year hiatus.
- Considered the most dominant triathlete in the sport's history, **Gwen Jorgensen** heads to Rio as the gold-medal favorite. The two-time world champion represented Team USA at the 2012 Olympics, but suffered a flat tire on the bike and finished 38th overall. She went on to win 13 consecutive ITU World Triathlon Series titles from 2014-15 and will look to showcase her running prowess in Rio as she attempts to become the first U.S. triathlete to earn an Olympic medal since 2004, and the first-ever to win gold.
- Olympic champion **Allyson Felix** will make her fourth Olympic appearance after earning her first individual gold medal at the London 2012 Games. She had an immensely successful 2015, winning three medals at the IAAF World Championships and setting a personal-best time of 49.26 en route to gold in the 400. She will compete in the 400, 4x100 and 4x400 for Team USA. With a gold medal in Rio, she will become the first female track and field Olympian in history to win five Olympic gold medals.
- At age 41, **Bernard Lagat** and **Meb Keflezighi** are the elder statesmen of Team USA in 2016, with Lagat becoming the oldest running-event Olympian in U.S. Olympic history. The Rio Games will mark Lagat's fifth Olympic team and Keflezighi will be competing in his 26th career marathon (appropriate considering the 26.2 mile distance) in Rio. Meanwhile, four teenagers will make their Olympic debut in track and field. **Sydney McLaughlin** and **Vashti Cunningham** will look to continue the trend of young U.S. Olympic medalists, following in the footsteps of Allyson Felix, Erik Kynard and Brigetta Barrett.



Team USA

Top Storylines

- With historic Copacabana Beach serving as the backdrop, Team USA will look to continue its storybook history in beach volleyball with Americans having reached the top of the podium at every Olympic Games since the sport was added in 1996. Headlining the roster is five-time Olympian and three-time Olympic champion **Kerri Walsh Jennings**, who is making her fourth Olympic appearance on the sand and first without long-time partner Misty May-Treanor. If she wins any type of medal, she will be the most decorated athlete, male or female, in the sport.
- **Karch Kiraly**, considered the best volleyball player of all-time by the FIVB, is the only athlete to win Olympic gold medals in both indoor (1984, 1988) and beach (1996) volleyball. In his fourth year as head coach, he will look to lead the U.S. women's indoor team to its first Olympic gold medal after Team USA took silver at the last two Games, falling to Brazil in both 2008 and 2012.
- **Tony Azevedo** will compete at a USA Water Polo record fifth Olympic Games in 2016. Making it extra special, the 2016 Games will serve as a homecoming for Azevedo, who was born in Rio de Janeiro. To help advance the sport, he runs camps from Brazil to North America, and helped launch the Water Polo Players Organization aimed at improving treatment for professional water polo athletes.
- Having medaled at every Olympic Games since women's water polo made its debut in 2000, the U.S. women finally broke through to win the gold medal at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Team USA completed the "grand slam" of water polo in August 2015, when it won the FINA World Championship. The U.S. women now hold that title along with the Olympic Games, FINA World Cup, and FINA World League Super Final. Head coach **Adam Krikorian** will return for a run at the 2016 Games with London 2012 MVP **Maggie Steffens**, outside sharpshooter **Courtney Mathewson**, 2015 FINA World Championship MVP **Rachel Fattal**, versatile threat **Kiley Neushul**, dominant center **Kami Craig** and rising talent **Ashleigh Johnson** in net.
- With four world-level titles in his last five seasons, **Jordan Burroughs** is widely considered one of the best wrestlers in the world. The reigning men's 74 kg. freestyle Olympic champion, Burroughs joins John Smith as the only U.S. wrestlers to win at least three consecutive world titles (2011, 2013, 2015) with Smith having won six straight from 1987-1992. Burroughs enters the Games with a 126-2 record and will look to defend his Olympic title in Rio. In women's freestyle wrestling, the U.S. will be seeking its first Olympic gold medal after placing third as a team at each of the last two world championships. Highlighting the list of 2016 Olympic gold-medal hopefuls are three-time world champion **Adeline Gray** (75 kg.), and world champions **Elena Pirozhkova** (63 kg.) and **Helen Maroulis** (53 kg.).

For a complete list of Team USA storylines and athletes to watch at the 2016 Olympic Games, see the [Sport Previews at TeamUSA.org/Rio2016](http://TeamUSA.org/Rio2016).



Contacts

U.S. Olympic Committee

Mark Jones

Sr. Director +21 9762218111; +1 719 358 3287 mark.jones@usoc.org
(spokesperson)

Lindsay Hogan

Sr. Director +21 990319747; +1 719 304 4516 lindsay.hogan@usoc.org

Christy Cahill

Assoc. Director +21 966798353; +1 617 777 4489 christy.cahill@usoc.org

Jon Mason

Assoc. Director +21 976683352; +1 719 337 5392 jon.mason@usoc.org

Emily Cox

HPTC Press Officer +21 974870396; +1 619 246 3223 emily.cox@usoc.org

Sport Press Officers

Archery

Sarah Bernstein +21 974967344; +1 201-919-8050 sbernstein@usarchery.org

Badminton

Michael Terry +21 990325332; +1 404-790-6453 michael.terry@usabadminton.org

Basketball

Craig Miller (M) +21 976774362; +1 719-339-6593 camiller@usabasketball.com

Tim Frank (M) +21 993738896 tfrank@nba.com

Caroline Williams +21 990333908; +1 719-330-3310 cwilliams@usabasketball.com

Jenny Johnston +21 990334684; +1 719-271-4197 jmaag@usabasketball.com

Boxing

Julie Goldsticker +21 976846800; +1 719-440-1050 julie@goldstickerpr.com

Canoe/Kayak

Aaron Mann +21 974629955; +1 301-325-9504 aaron@usack.org

Cycling

Kevin Loughery +21 993400413; +1 719-231-2041 kloughery@usacycling.org

Diving

Jen Lowery +21 993849258; +1 317-361-6745 jennifer.lowery@usadiving.org

Equestrian

Leah Oliveto +21 993892916; +1 727-946-2886 loliveto@usef.org



Contacts

Sport Press Officers

Fencing

Nicole Jomantas +21 993665430; +1 719-761-7909 N.Jomantas@usfencing.org

Field Hockey

Kait Mitchell +21 992648580; +1 719-243-4179 kmitchell@usafieldhockey.com

Golf

Joel Schuchmann +21 974740861; +1 904-616-2441 JoelSchuchmann@pgatourhq.com

Gymnastics

Leslie King +21 975638675; +1 317-363-4574 lking@usagym.org
Scott Bregman +21 968379840; +1 785-760-4383 sbregman@usagym.org

Judo

Dax Lowery +21 975198645; +1 317-287-9403 dax.lowery@usoc.org

Pentathlon

John Amabile +21 976475351; +1 732-804-8232 jcamabile@gmail.com

Rowing

Brett Johnson +21 976607032; +1 317-201-5394 brett@usrowing.org
Ed Moran +1 856-397-6669 ed@usrowing.org

Rugby

Nick Sero +21 993522711; +1 412-759-3141 nsero@usarugby.org

Sailing

Will Ricketson +21 992458664; +1 978-697-2384 willricketson@ussailing.org

Shooting

Jessica Delos Reyes +21 992829684; +1 719-494-7945 jessica.delosreyes@usashooting.org

Soccer

Aaron Heifetz +21 974204194; +1 619-602-0966 aheifetz@ussoccer.org

Swimming

Scott Leightman +21 968748279; +1 719-502-1092 sleightman@usaswimming.org
John Martin +21 968923702; +1 719-362-6422 jmartin@usaswimming.org

Synchro

Dax Lowery +21 975198645; +1 317-287-9403 media@usasynchro.org



Contacts

Sport Press Officers

Table Tennis

Matt Whewell +21 990334271; +1 720-838-0691 mwhewell@usspeedskating.org

Taekwondo

Bill Kellick +21 976486233; +1 719-354-6580 bill.kellick@usa-taekwondo.us

Tennis

Tom LaDue +21 992593018; +1 914-413-3237 ladue@usta.com

Track and Field

Jill Geer +21 993848036; +1 508-397-8080 jill.geer@usatf.org
Susan Hazzard +21 968856068; +1 317-289-7177 susan.hazzard@usatf.org
Amanda Brooks +21 990328599; +1 317-289-7177 amanda.brooks@usatf.org
Ashley Mitchell +1 301-980-4767 ashley.mitchell@usatf.org

Triathlon

Lindsay Wyskowski +21 966165765; +1 719-426-0909 lindsay.wyskowski@usatriathlon.org

Volleyball

Corinne Calabro (Beach) +21 976860772; +1 316-519-4819 corinne.calabro@usav.org
B.J. Evans (M indoor) +21 990331011; +1 719-649-2389 bj.evans@usav.org
Bill Kauffman (W indoor) +21 975684043; +1 719-310-2439 bill.kauffman@usav.org
Charlie Snyder +1 719-432-7812 charlie.snyder@usav.org

Water Polo

Greg Mescall +21 990138628; +1 732-895-1833 gmescall@usawaterpolo.org

Weightlifting

Bill Kellick +21 976486233; +1 719-354-6580 bill.kellick@usa-taekwondo.us

Wrestling

Gary Abbott +21 974919203; +1 719-659-9637 gabbott@usawrestling.org
Richard Immel +21 975800938; +1 405-740-1499 rimmel@usawrestling.org