



USOC ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN OFFICE

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Kacie Wallace, Athlete Ombudsman, and Sara Clark, Assistant Athlete Ombudsman, welcome you to the Athlete Ombudsman Office.

Our purpose is to serve athletes by offering cost-free, confidential and independent advice regarding opportunities and rights to participate in protected competition, and the various policies and procedures associated with participating in sport at an elite level. We are committed to helping athletes navigate communication lines with National Governing Bodies and the United States Olympic Committee, and mediate conflicts as they arise. We are independent in our ability to give advice to athletes, yet uniquely positioned within the leadership of the USOC and Athletes Advisory Council to understand and advocate for the interests of athletes.

Following are typical issues on which the Athlete Ombudsman Office assists athletes:

- Athlete rights
- Team selection
- Anti-doping
- Access to services
- Athlete agreements, codes of conduct, direct athlete support agreements
- Commercial terms
- Citizenship and other eligibility concerns
- SafeSport
- Athletes' voice in the governance of sport
- Ted Stevens Act, USOC and NGB bylaws and policies, International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee rules and guidelines
- Informally resolving disputes with coaches, administrators or other athletes
- Pursuing a formal grievance

With each of the above issues, it is important that athletes have a resource they can trust. When offering advice, the Athlete Ombudsman Office is bound by its duty of confidentiality to athletes. Athletes should feel free to contact the office in order to talk through concerns and questions candidly, and seek independent and confidential advice. If called upon to help mediate a dispute with a coach, NGB, USOC staff member or others, Kacie and Sara will work with the athlete to determine what and when to share sensitive information that is necessary to resolve the issue.

The Athlete Ombudsman Office is a resource available to athletes at any point in their quest for excellence. Please feel free to contact with any questions, comments or concerns.

ABOUT US



Kacie Wallace, Athlete Ombudsman

Kacie has served as athlete ombudsman since January 2015. As an attorney with an advanced degree in dispute resolution, Kacie spent the prior 10 years mediating disputes for the USOC. She has taught negotiation, mediation and international conflict management at Duke University and North Carolina Central University Schools of Law, as well as in Hong Kong and Thailand through the Rotary Center for International Peace and Conflict Resolution. She was a swimmer at Duke University and now paddles for the YOLOboard Standup Paddle team, competing in the 2013 World Championships across the Molokai Channel in Hawaii, and recently paddled 304.6 miles from South Carolina to Virginia to raise awareness about ocean sustainability. She now resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado and plans to become a sprint paddler in the not-so-open waters of Colorado.

Sara Clark, Assistant Athlete Ombudsman

Sara has served as assistant athlete ombudsman since 2011. In that time, she has advised athletes, assisted in mediating disputes, conducted presentations to athletes about Olympic and Paralympic rules and assisted Team USA at the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games. She began her career at the USOC working part-time while attending law school. She obtained her juris doctorate degree from the University of Colorado and was admitted to the Colorado Bar in 2013. She was the president of the Sport Law Student Association at CU, and is a member of the Sports Lawyers Association. She obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she received All-American honors as a diver and now recreationally participates in triathlons. She completed an ironman competition in 2010 while raising money for Leukemia and maintains a lifelong passion for sports.



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