



USA CANOE/KAYAK

Amended on 02/19/2021

ACA | Canoe – Kayak – SUP – Raft – Rescue
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ACA Athlete Code of Conduct

Athlete Pledge

I pledge to uphold the spirit of the American Canoe Association's (ACA) Code of Conduct ("Code"), which offers a guide to my conduct as a paddlesport athlete competing domestically and internationally, whether or not I am a member of a USA National Team ("Team"). I acknowledge that I have a right to a hearing if my opportunity to compete is denied or if I am charged with a violation of this Code.

I have familiarized myself with the Code and understand that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of competing domestically, at the national and international levels, and in my selection to any National Team.

As a paddlesport athlete, or ACA Competition Member, or if selected as a member of any USA National Team, *I hereby promise and agree that I:*

- will abide by all published rules related to the Team selection procedures as approved by ACA;
- have acted and will act in a sportsmanlike manner consistent with the spirit of fair play and responsible conduct;
- will maintain a level of fitness and competitive readiness that will permit my performance to be at the maximum of my abilities;
- will not commit a doping violation as defined by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) or the International Canoe Federation (ICF) rules;
- am not currently serving a doping violation and/or do not have a pending or unresolved doping charge;
- will not engage in any conduct that is criminal under any laws applicable to me, including, but not limited to laws governing the possession and use of drugs and alcohol and providing of drugs to any person and of alcohol to minors;
- will not participate or assist in any gambling or betting activities associated with any event related to my sport or my participation;
- am eligible to compete under the rules of International Canoe Federation (if competing in an ICF event);
- should I be chosen for an international team that requires a passport, I am in possession of a valid USA passport, that will not expire prior to six months following the conclusion of the international competition;
- will refrain from conduct detracting from my ability or that of my teammates to attain peak performance;
- will respect the property of others whether personal or public;

- will respect members of my Team, other teams, spectators and officials, and engage in no form of discriminatory behavior or verbal, physical or sexual harassment or abuse;
- will successfully complete all U.S. Center for SafeSport modules (for athletes 18+);
- will report abuse, or suspected abuse, according to the policies and guidelines of the U.S. Center for SafeSport;
- will follow my Team's written rules, including by way of example, written rules regarding curfew, required attendance at team meetings and prohibitions on the release of confidential team information;
- am aware that ACA sponsors, suppliers and licensees provide critical support for the Team and, in recognition of this fact, I will wear designated ACA apparel at all official Team functions and events;
- will not conceal or cover-up any ACA sponsor, supplier or licensee brand or other identification appearing on my ACA apparel;
- will abide by the rules of the International Canoe Federation concerning allowable trademark identification on clothing and equipment worn or used in competition or on visible body tattoos;
- agree to be filmed and photographed by the official photographer(s) and network(s) of ACA under conditions authorized by ACA and give event organizers and ACA the right to use my name, picture, likeness, and biographical information before, during and after the period of my participation in these activities to promote the activity in which I participate or to promote the success of the team on which I compete; in no event may ACA or the event organizers use or authorize the use of my name, picture, likeness, voice and biographical information for the purpose of trade, including any use in a manner that would imply an endorsement of any company, product, or service, without my written permission;
- will not use or authorize the use of photographs, films or videos of myself in my ACA apparel or equipment or the use of the ACA logo for the purpose of trade, without the prior written consent of the ACA;
- understand that if I require legal representation because I am accused of a doping violation or am accused of criminal misconduct, or if for any other reasons I require the services of an attorney, I will be personally responsible for payment of such legal fees and expenses;
- will maintain a respectful posture during the playing of the National Anthem of the United States;
- will not post or promote inappropriate, offensive or illegal behaviors in online communities (social media) to include, but not be limited to: photos, videos or comments showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco; photos, videos or comments that are of a sexual or pornographic nature; photos, videos or comments that condone drug-related activity; content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning, threatening or violent toward any other individual or entity; or derogatory comments against race, religion or gender.
- will be familiar with the information posted at: www.americancanoe.org/AthleteCodeofConduct;
- will register my whereabouts with the U.S. State Department Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) while traveling for international events at: <https://step.state.gov/step>;
- will comply with all ACA and USOPC rules, requirements, and policies in place at an Olympic or Paralympic Trials, including any medical, commercial activity and demonstration restrictions.

- will act in a way that will bring respect and honor to myself, my teammates, the ACA and the United States; and
- will remember that at all times I am an ambassador for my sport, my country, and the Olympic and Paralympic Movements.

Athlete Ombudsman

I may contact the USOPC Athlete Ombudsman (<https://www.teamusa.org/athlete-ombuds>) via phone at 719-866-5000 or 719-866-2299, or email at ombudsman@usathlete.org, for further information regarding my rights under this Code that are not answered by the American Canoe Association.

Participant's Affirmation

I have read and accept this Code of Conduct. I agree to the rules, guidelines, jurisdiction and procedures stated in these documents as a condition of competing domestically, nationally, or internationally.