

Casey Eichfeld -ACA BOD Athlete Representative Slalom

Athlete Summary:

My name is Casey Eichfeld. I was born into a family that loves paddling and specifically canoe slalom. My racing started in open canoe with my dad until I was 5 when I began racing solo in C-1. I was a cadet team athlete from 1997 to 2003, a Junior Team athlete from 2004 to 2007, and a Senior Team athlete from 2007 to present. In that time I have competed in over 70 World Cups, 13 World Championships, and 4 Olympic Games. I grew up open canoeing, running rivers, paddling lakes, teaching Red Cross canoe courses with my Dad and Uncle, and stand up paddling boarding. I've worked as a raft guide and a kayak instructor. I have coached development to some degree for the past decade. I have forged relationships and connections with many athletes, team staff, and officials around the world.

In all that time I found a wonderful bride and partner to raise our two children Emilia and Ryder. I love to share this adventurous life with them, and I hope that slalom survives so that they can try their hands at this sport if they so choose.

Why are you interested in serving as an Athlete Representative?

In short, I want paddlesports to survive and thrive. I have spent my entire life in Slalom, but it takes the whole of paddlesports to build a stronger community and breed interest across the disciplines. I have known paddlesports as an athlete, as a volunteer, as a coach, as an organizer, and as a spectator. I have experienced slalom communities around the world, and have seen how they integrate the many disciplines in their development levels and above. It is easy to become single minded and micro focused, but the reality is that the paddlesports are stronger when we work together. My relationship with the United States Performance Center from their opening in 2013 as an individual athlete helped pave their interest in the current working relationship with the ACA. I continue to work with USPC through networking events around Charlotte to bring awareness to paddlesports. These kinds of initiatives open doors to potential partnerships and financial revenues.

As an athlete representative I would have an "open door" policy. I encourage any and all athletes to share their thoughts, concerns, and ideas. The representative gives all athletes a voice, and I think that is often forgotten or overlooked. I also believe the representatives should be in touch with the athletes they represent whether that be email communication, zoom meetings, in person meetings at competitions or camps, etc. I want to keep the lines of communication and ideas moving to prevent stagnancy with athlete involvement. .

Competition Experience:

- Olympics
- Pan-American Games
- Senior World Championships
- World Cup
- Olympic Team Trials