

# Colbert "Aukai" Manson-ACA BOD Athlete Representative Sprint

**Athlete Summary:** Current USA Sprint Canoe and Kayak National Team Athlete | MBA in Global Supply Chain Management & Analytics, USC

Aukai Manson brings over a decade of experience as a national team athlete, representing the USA in Sprint Canoe and Kayak at multiple World Championships and international competitions. Raised in Hawaii, with a lifelong passion for water sports, Aukai has dedicated himself to advancing the sport and advocating for his fellow athletes.

In addition to his athletic career, Aukai has built a strong professional background in business, currently serving as Southern California Sales Manager for Langtry Winery. His role has sharpened his skills in strategic planning, negotiation, and resource management—qualities that are invaluable in the role of Athlete Representative. Aukai is also pursuing a Master's in Global Supply Chain Management & Analytics at USC, further honing his expertise in leadership, project management, and data-driven decision-making.

As an Athlete Representative, Aukai aims to bridge the gap between athletes and governing bodies, working to ensure transparency, fair representation, and enhanced resources for athletes. His commitment is to champion wellness initiatives, support equitable selection processes, and foster a collaborative athlete community. With a unique blend of athletic insight and business acumen, Aukai is dedicated to empowering athletes and contributing to a brighter future for USA Canoe and Kayak.

**Why are you interested in serving as an Athlete Representative?** As a national team athlete for USA Sprint Canoe and Kayak for over 10 years, I am deeply committed to supporting the voices and needs of my fellow athletes. Serving as an Athlete Representative is an opportunity to advocate effectively within the ACA, USOPC, and Team USA, creating a positive impact on our community by addressing issues that directly affect our athletic journeys.

Beyond my experience in the sport, my background in business and current pursuit of a Master of Science in Global Supply Chain Management & Analytics at USC have equipped me with a strategic mindset and skills in leadership, negotiation, and project management. My work as a Sales Manager and Marketing & Sustainability Analyst in the wine industry has trained me in navigating complex challenges, driving results, and building consensus among diverse stakeholders. These skills are highly applicable to the role of Athlete Representative, where effective communication and strategic thinking are essential.

Growing up in Hawaii, immersed in water sports, I've always felt a strong connection to the community that surrounds our sport. I see this role as a way to give back by leveraging my business acumen and athletic experience to foster transparency, fair representation, and resources for athletes across all disciplines within canoe and kayak. I'm particularly motivated to advocate for wellness initiatives, training resources, and clear selection processes that ensure fairness and support athletes in reaching their full potential.

My unique combination of competitive paddling experience, business expertise, and formal education enables me to bring a well-rounded, informed perspective to the Team USA Athlete Commission. I am excited by the chance to contribute to the future of our sport, using both my athletic insights and business skills to support my peers and build a stronger, more resilient athlete community.

## **Competition Experience:**

Senior World Championships

World Cup

Olympic Team Trials