

Jonas Ecker-Team USA AC &/or ACA BOD Athlete Representative Sprint

Athlete Summary: I am a canoe sprint (kayak) athlete from Bellingham, Washington, who has competed at every level of domestic and international competition, representing both my home club and the U.S. National Team. I began paddling in 2013 at age 10 and immediately fell in love with the sport. Since 2013 I have competed at numerous regional, national, and international competitions, first joining the U.S. National Team as a junior in 2018 to compete at the Olympic Hopes Regatta. Since 2018 I have represented the U.S. National Team at the junior, U23, and senior level at numerous world and continental championships. Most notably, I competed at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games in the MK2 500m (with Aaron Small) and MK1 1000m in addition to winning my first world title at the 2024 U23 Canoe Sprint World Championships in the MK1 1000m. I love the competition and community surrounding canoe sprint in the United States, and I am excited to play a part in its future as I continue to compete and represent athlete's voices.

Why are you interested in serving as an Athlete Representative? As an athlete that has grown up in and around the sport of canoe sprint I have seen and embodied the passion and determination it takes to be competitive on the water, both in the United States and abroad. During my over 11 years as a member of the canoe sprint community in the United States I have witnessed a steady growth of talent and commitment by athletes and coaches to push for the best performance on the water, but at times it has felt there is a disconnect between what we as athletes feel we need and what resources and information we have access to. My hope is to continue the work by previous athlete representatives to advocate for improved allocation of resources, a better understanding of developmental progression, and improved communication and transparency throughout all level of the paddling community.

My experience competing at the highest level of our sport has provided me with valuable insights into the unique and specific challenges we all face as athletes. I'm excited to serve as an advocate for our athletes with eyes set on future success.

Competition Experience:

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