

Ria Sribar- ACA BOD Athlete Representative

Slalom

Athlete Summary: My name is Ria Sribar, and I have been a member of the U.S. Canoe Slalom National Team for seven years, starting in 2017. I am deeply passionate about paddle sports and believe in the strength and unity of the entire paddling community. I was born and raised in Northern California, where I grew up kayaking on the South Fork of the American River. At age six, I fell in love with the outdoor community, united by our shared love of water and the memories we create together.

Although I grew up far from traditional North American canoe slalom centers, my hard work, perseverance, and community support have enabled me to reach multiple finals at international competitions. In 2024, I achieved a podium finish at an ICF World Cup event in Krakow, Poland, which I consider the highlight of my career thus far. I have faced many challenges as an athlete training away from national hubs, and I am committed to advocating for increased developmental support for athletes across the country.

Having represented the U.S. internationally for several years and spent significant time overseas, I have developed a broad worldview. This experience has allowed me to learn from the strengths and weaknesses of the support systems for athletes in other nations. As an athlete representative, I can bring this valuable perspective to our governing body.

Outside of my athletic pursuits, I am a full-time student at UCLA, pursuing a degree in Psychology. My deep interest in human behavior and emotions informs my advocacy for our athletes and supports decisions that will benefit our athletic community. I believe in a holistic approach to athlete support, considering physical and mental well-being.

Why are you interested in serving as an Athlete Representative? I am deeply committed to serving as an Athlete Representative, advocating for the interests and well-being of my fellow athletes. This role is essential in ensuring that athletes' voices are heard and considered leading up to the LA 2028 Games. I prioritize fairness and equity and will bring those values to every meeting as an Athlete Representative.

In this position, I aim to bridge the gap between athletes and the ACA governing body, promoting open communication and transparency. As a current member of the U.S. National Canoe Slalom team, I am passionate about supporting my fellow athletes in their pursuit of excellence, whether advocating for fair competition conditions or providing mental and physical well-being resources.

Decisions regarding our sport are frequently made by individuals who either no longer compete or have never competed at all. Yet, the voices of U.S. National Team members and development athletes must be heard and considered. In this role, I aim to foster a more supportive and empowering environment for athletes at all levels of competitive sports. I am committed to promoting an equitable environment for the sprint, slalom, and paracanoe teams while representing and supporting the wishes of all athletes.

Competition Experience:

Senior World Championships
World Cup
Olympic Team Trials