

Sanaa Makram-ACA BOD Athlete Representative non-Olympic

Athlete Summary: PADDLE SPORTS EXPERIENCE

I began my dragon boat experience in 2008, when our Radiology Group started a corporate team to take part in a local regatta promoted Breast Cancer Treatment. Our Radiology Group is big on October Breast Cancer awareness so we competed every year.

We have taken place 1st place 8 times in this regatta. I started coaching them in 2014. It was such a fun experience.

In 2015 I joined an all women competitive team Desert Dragons. Have been with them to present date.

2016 took part in the ICF Team USA Camp.

2017 began my journey to be a part of the USDBF Championships. At this time I also joined Team DPW in LA County.

2018 Participated with Team DPW in the CCWC in Szeged Hungary.

2018 Also started training for next years World Championship USDBF.

2019 Made the National Team and went with Senior A to Pattaya Thailand. Senior A collected 8 silver.

2021 Made the National Team with Senior A/B - due to Covid it was cancelled.

2023 competed in the pan American games got 7 gold and 1 silver

In 2016 I started to cross train in Outrigger. Competed in many 1 man and 6 man races. My first big race for Outrigger was the Catalina Crossing, Heading to IVF World Championship 2024 in Hilo, Hawaii

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Coached Corporate Local Team won 8 first place and 2 silver

Asst Coach for Desert Dragons in 2017-2020- COVID put a stop to dragon boat in Las Vegas

Current Head Coach for the Desert Dragons, took over coaching in 2022. We have competed in 4 races and won 2 gold, 1 silver and last race was 4th in A division Finals. Currently rebuilding the team.

LEADERSHIP/BOARDS

Current President of our club non-profit

Current Board Member of our Dragon Boat Racing Association

Current Vice President of Region PACDBA

PADDLING AFFILIATIONS

USDBF, IDBF, ICF, USORCA

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Completed USA Coaching Training for Dragon Boat

Completed USDBF Race Official Course for Dragon Boat

Why are you interested in serving as an Athlete Representative? I want to represent paddle sports because I believe in its ability to inspire, empower, and unite people from all walks of life. Whether it's dragon boating or outrigger canoeing, this sport is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and the incredible synergy of a team working together toward a common goal. I've seen firsthand how paddling transforms individuals, builds confidence, and fosters lifelong friendships.

As an athlete, coach, and leader, I strive to embody the values of this sport: discipline, inclusivity, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. I want to share this passion with others, encouraging new paddlers to experience the joy of being on the water and the thrill of competing at the highest levels.

To me, representing paddle sports is more than wearing a uniform—it's a chance to be a voice for the community, a mentor for future generations, and an advocate for the growth of this incredible sport worldwide. I am committed to honoring its legacy and pushing its boundaries, inspiring others to discover their own strength and passion through paddling.

Competition Experience:

Pan-American Games

Senior World Championships

World Cup