

Attached for your review are the nominees that have been submitted for the cross country athlete position on the USSA Board of Directors. Please review the information provided and vote for **one** representative. The nominee with the highest number of votes will fill the cross country athlete board position, whose term begins at the annual meeting of the USSA Board of Directors, May 15, 2016.

You need to cast your vote by **December 18, 2015**.

The following are the candidates for the cross country position on the USSA Board of Directors. On the basis of the person you select, check one name on the ballot.

Dakota Blackhorse-von Jess

Biographical information/competitive history: (Include teams, accomplishments)

US World Championship Team Athlete 2015
3 x US National Champion (2013, 2x 2015)
2015 SuperTour Sprint Champion
3 year Dartmouth College varsity Cross Country Skier
Junior National Champion (2005)
World Juniors Team Athlete (2004)

Brief statement of why you would like to run for this position:

Based on my experience as the Athlete Representative for the PNSA Nordic Competition Committee, I believe that having the opportunity to give voice to the athlete perspective during discussions creates the kind of successful collaborative environment that keeps progressing the state of our sport. It's also important to be able to understand the perspective of the other parties at the table and bring that experience back to the Nordic community. I want to be a part of that progress and I know that I can act as the voice for our sport.

Rosie Brennan

Biographical information/competitive history: (Include teams, accomplishments)

I was born and raised in Park City, UT where I began cross country skiing at the age of 14. I became enamored with the sport and quickly progressed through high school, winning a number of Junior National titles, placing top 10 at World Juniors, and becoming a member of the U.S. Ski Team from 2007-2009. After graduating high school, I moved on to ski for Dartmouth College where I was an 8x All-American. I graduated from Dartmouth with a BA in geography in 2011. Still with a strong desire to race at the highest level, I moved to Anchorage, Alaska and joined the Alaska Pacific University Nordic Ski Center as well as enrolled in a Masters of Arts program at APU. From 2012-2015, I raced on the SuperTour circuit while dabbling in World Cup races. I am a 5x National Champion and 2x Overall SuperTour Champion. I qualified for the 2015 World Championships and had strong enough results both domestically and internationally to be nominated for a spot on the U.S.

Ski Team. This year I will embark on my first full season of World Cup racing as a member of both APUNSC and the U.S. Ski Team.

Brief statement of why you would like to run for this position:

I believe that my strength as a member of the U.S. cross country community is my perspective as I have raced at all levels and been on all sides of the equation. I would like to use this perspective to help guide the direction of USSA to better support the current and future athletes while meeting the broader goals of the organization.

Holly Brooks

Biographical information/competitive history:

I am a coach turned athlete. I began my ski career in the Pacific Northwest skiing for PNSA. After college I moved to Alaska in search of snow. I coached high school and then took a full time job coaching for APU Nordic Ski Center, an Olympic Development program. In 2010 I surprised everyone (including myself) by qualifying for the Vancouver Olympic team. After Vancouver I transitioned and became a fulltime athlete. I represented the US at two Olympics (2010 & 2014) two World Championships (2011 & 2013) and became a member of the US Ski Team. My career highlight was helping USA to the first-ever women's relay podium in Gallivare, Sweden, 2012.

Brief statement of why you would like to run for this position:

Simply put, I believe that athletes deserve a seat at the decision-making table. Whether it's selection criteria, advocating for athlete health insurance, or discussions about development, athletes should be involved in the process. My values as an athlete are hard work, team work, and clean sport. As your athlete representative I will do whatever I can to further these causes in addition to representing your concerns. I believe that the US has amazing potential in the sport of Cross Country skiing and I would love to be your athlete representative to do what I can to make that happen. Thank you for your consideration in the voting process.

Brian Gregg

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Biographical information/competitive history: (Include teams, accomplishments)

2014 Olympian
American Birkebeiner Podium Finisher '12
Super Tour Distance Champion '14, '11, '10
NCAA All-American Skiing
9 Popular Marathon Victories:
5 Super Tour Victories
1 NorAm Victory

Brief statement of why you would like to run for this position:

I am passionate about growing and improving US Skiing. I attended the USSA Annual meeting this May (2015) to learn more about the process of implementing change and improvements because I want to make a difference. I feel that I can be a strong representative for all US skiers as we aim to grow our sport and improve on the international level. I have experience with multiple club programs throughout the United States at the junior, collegiate, senior and master level. I know how to think outside the box, think big and make things happen. Please vote for me as your Cross Country Athlete Representative.

Garrott Kuzzy

Biographical information/competitive history: (Include teams, accomplishments)

- 2015 Present | Green Mountain Valley School, Nordic Director
- 2014 Present | Mansfield Nordic Club Board of Directors, Director of Programming
- 2011 2015 | VBT Bicycling and Walking Vacations, Product Director, responsible for tour development and overall quality of skiing, walking, and bicycling tours in Central Europe and the US
- 2010 US Winter Olympic Team | Vancouver, Canada. 15km Skate, Classic Sprint, 4 x 10km Relay
- US Ski Team | 2009 – 2010. SuperTour Sprint Champion 2008. 2009 World Championship team
- CXC Elite Team | 2006 – 2011. Top10 – 2008 World Cup, Canmore, Canada
- Middlebury College | NCAA All American – Skiing 2004, NCAA All East – Skiing 2003 – 2006,
- Captain Cross Country Running – 2005
- Hopkins High School | Minnesota State H.S. Ski Champion – 2002, Captain – Cross Country
- Running and Nordic Skiing 2002, Forerunner for the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics

Brief statement of why you would like to run for this position:

As an athlete, I have experienced Nordic Skiing in the United States at a variety of levels: youth, high school, college, elite club, and national teams.

As a regional team (CXC Team) and national team athlete, I can identify with the motivations and challenges of athletes both on the national team and those striving to get there. My experiences outside of the ski world for the past four years give me added perspective about the challenges and opportunities for USSA athletes, and the ability to represent them within USSA.

After working in the travel and tourism industry for four years, I have returned to the ski industry as Nordic Director at the Green Mountain Valley School. There are many parallels between USSA and GMVS, a USSA Gold Level club. One of my roles at GMVS is integrating the Nordic Program with the rest of the school's programs, including Alpine. I would like to impact this cooperation at the national level as well as at GMVS and in New England.