

ATHLETES' REPORT CONVENTION 2004

The Olympic year has proven to be a very busy one. As always, the athletes elected new representatives on all levels. Thank you to all the former reps for doing such a fantastic job this past year. One very important position we elected was the rep to the USOC Athlete Advisory Council. Heather Olson will take Emily Marsh's place as our rep. Welcome Heather and a special thank you to Emily for representing us so well.

My main focus this year was to increase the number of athletes attending convention. I communicated with athletes via email and phone to ensure that each association and zone had two reps: one voting rep and another rep "in training". Some positions still do not have two reps, but the number has definitely increased. I also encouraged the reps to educate athletes about convention. Many of them do not know what convention is or what the purpose is of going. We tried to show the other athletes that not only is it important to our organization, but it is fun too.

Most recently, the athletes communicated through open forum email regarding the distribution of the USSSI rulebook. In order to save the organization money, the majority of athletes felt that it would be more cost effective to post the rulebook on the website in lieu of distributing a rulebook to every athlete. Most athletes are extremely web savvy now and if every technical member and every unaffiliated athlete receives one, no one should have a problem accessing the rulebook when they need it.

Thank you again to all our outstanding reps. It's been a great year and I look forward to many more.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Eng