

Candidate Statement

Will Deaver

WFDF Elections 2012 – candidate



Name of candidate: Will Deaver
Position sought: Deputy Chair Ultimate Committee
Home city/country: Boulder, CO (USA)
Email Address: will@hq.usultimate.org
Nomination endorsed by: USA Ultimate (USA)

Candidate Statement

I have been responsible for overseeing USA Ultimate's competitive program and services since 2001, initially as the first Director of Championships and more recently as the Managing Director for Competition and Athlete Program. I am responsible for the more than 200 events in USAU's 16 divisions of competition and either direct or provide leadership in related areas such as rules, officiating, and conduct. In addition to a paid staff of 4 managers at USAU headquarters, I oversee more than 200 volunteer staff throughout the country.

I have helped the organization make major strides towards professionalism and improved quality of service by instituting registration and management standards for USAU events and by redefining and refining the processes for recruiting, training, and evaluating volunteer staff. Many of these changes have proven instrumental in the organization's growth and evolution over the past decade. I also served on the 2007 Strategic Planning Steering Committee and continue to help guide both process and policy for USA Ultimate and the sport.

I have helped make USAU championship events the highest quality environment for athletes and fans to enjoy playing and watching the sport. I have worked with local Ultimate organizations, schools, sports facilities, sport commissions, CBS Sports, UltiVillage.com, NexGen Productions, WFDF, and many others to bring Ultimate to communities throughout the country and the world.

I have also helped develop the role of Observers in the sport. The result has been the creation and standardization of a hybrid officiating model that relies on players to self-officiate while also employing limited 3rd-party officials for certain tasks, with the end goal to facilitate and showcase the skill, athleticism, excitement, and integrity of the sport played at its highest levels.

I received my bachelor's degree in Forest Recreation (1995) from the University of Georgia, where I also earned my Masters Degree in Park Management (1998).

While in college I was actively involved in creating, managing, and promoting local and national Ultimate events. In 1997, I co-authored the Callahan Rules, an innovative set of rules for Ultimate designed to make the game more exciting and spectator-friendly, most of which were eventually incorporated into USA Ultimate's Official Rules. I also served as the coach for the UGA Women's College Ultimate team (1999-2000) and worked on a number of UPA committees.

My experiences as a long-time player have helped inform and guide my work as a professional Ultimate administrator. I started playing Ultimate in the summer of 1993 at the University of Georgia, where I played 5 years for the university's team. I played Club Ultimate with Atlanta's Chain Lightning from 1996-2000. After moving to Colorado, I continued playing Club Ultimate with Boulder's Johnny Bravo (2001-2006, 2008). My championship play resume includes participation in 3 UPA College Championships, 9 UPA Club Championships, 2 WFDF World Club Championships, and the IWGA World Games where I earned a gold medal with Team USA in 2005. Other favorite Ultimate experiences include Poultry Days, Kaimana Klassic, New Year Fest, GRUB, Atlanta Summer League, and the Johnny Bravo Goaltimate League.

I am interested in serving as Deputy Chair of the WFDF's Ultimate Committee because I believe that in order for our sport to meet its potential to be a positive force in people's lives, WFDF needs to be a strong, active international governing body. I believe that my experiences organizing and helping the sport grow and evolve here in the U.S. will bring a useful perspective to the Ultimate Committee. I also look forward to working with and learning from organizers from throughout the world so that together we can help shape the sport for the future.

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EDUCATION

University of Georgia

Athens, GA

MFR, Park Management

December 1998

University of Georgia

Athens, GA

BA, Forest Policy and Recreation

May 1995

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

USA Ultimate (formerly Ultimate Players Association)

Managing Director, Competition and Athlete Programs

January 2001 - Present

- Direct all aspects of Competition and Athlete Programs, including but not limited to creation and implementation of competitive opportunities, competition rules, event planning, athlete development, national teams, and educational opportunities for coaches and officials
- Manage paid staff of 4 and volunteer staff of 200+ individuals, including recruitment, training, support, and evaluation
- Develop annual program budgets
- Oversee management of all USA Ultimate championship events and qualifiers
- Serve on and/or oversee multiple committees tasked with program work including, but not limited to competition, eligibility, formats, coaching, observers, Spirit of the Game, rules, disc standards, international relations, and national teams

ULTIMATE COMPETITIVE PLAYING/COACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia - College Open Division - Player

July 1993 – May 1998

- Captain 1997-98
- 3 UPA College Championship appearances

University of Georgia Women's Ultimate – Coach

June 1998 – December 2000

- 2 UPA College Championship appearances

Chain Lightning (Atlanta, GA) - Club Open Division – Player

June 1996 – December 2000

- 2 UPA College Championship appearances
- 1 WFDF World Ultimate Club Championship appearance

Johnny Bravo (Boulder, CO) - Club Open Division – Player

June 2001 – October 2008

- 7 UPA College Championship appearances
- 1 WFDF World Ultimate Club Championship appearance

Team USA – Player

February 2005 – July 2005

- 1 IWGA World Games appearance

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Tom Crawford

Chief Executive Officer

USA Ultimate

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