

Eimir / Rob,

I hope this finds you well. I wanted to reach out to apply and share my thoughts as to why I feel I would be a great additional member to the UIAA Athlete Consultation Group. Please see below for my rationale for applying. If you have any questions or would like any further clarification, I'd be happy to chat with you all!

When I commit to something, I commit 100% and I have always been that way. Obviously, to my sport, but also the outlying aspects of the sport too. Which is why I want to join the athlete consultation group. I want to see our sport grow, succeed, and ultimately become an internationally recognized and popular sport. In a previous life when I competed / raced bicycles at international level, I strived to help grow the sport in my area. I wish to do that again now with Ice Climbing. Some areas where I believe I could bring valuable conversation would be as follows.

-Growth in Sport: Growing our sport and making it more mainstream is something I am passionate about. We are already making great strides with this with the On Thin Ice, and our bids to the Olympics. From what I understand the TNF/OR contract might be coming to term this year and seeking out new title sponsors may afford us opportunities for more exposure depending on who we are able to secure. Starting to get the sport in more gyms, and in front of more people will also be a great way to help us grow, which I am actively involved with here in Colorado at Longmont Climbing Collective.

-Athlete Representation: Having been an athlete all my life, I have come to understand how an athlete should be treated, and what they may or may not need in order to be able to perform at their upmost potential. I would help advocate for all of our athletes for general well-being when on circuit.

-Spectators and sponsors: Spectators can be the life blood for our events. They bring energy, sometimes money, and excitement. Trying to brainstorm ways to help our sport be more of a spectator spectacle to potentially bring more energy and money would be something I would be willing to help think about. I have not had to many opportunities to go therefore and ask people for money, but I would certainly be willing to help brainstorm sponsorship opportunities, and ways to secure funding.

-Holds: I learned that there was some conversations on holds and more standardization of holds at the recent UIAA summit over the summer. I geek on holds and enjoy that topic. I do think a standardization to some degree could be helpful as we continue to progress the sport. New holds are fun and exciting to encounter, and if made to a certain standard we could be more consistent with useage and safety. It sounds like we are already on the right track on this and am excited to hear more about it in the future.

-Safety: I am a safety professional by trade. I literally do workplace safety in construction for a living. So, I am extremely passionate about keeping people safe whether it be for occupation or for recreation too. I have lots of ideas on this topic for both lead and speed. I think this is probably one of the best ways I could contribute to our sport is by helping to identify hazards associated with the sport, and working with the athlete group, organizers, UIAA, etc. to help us to continue to grow, progress, but most importantly stay safe while doing it!

-Event logistics and planning. Currently, I have been helping get the Longmont Climbing Gym's drytooling area built, set up, route setting, and ready for public use. I have also been able to develop the orientation and initial training for those who wish to participate in drytooling at the gym. On another

sentiment, I do lots of logistics and planning for my job as well. So that is a skill I possess, and one that I believe I could shed some valuable opinions on.

-Training Opportunities: Training is so important for many different aspects in our sport. Route setting, tool modifications, literal climbing/strength training, etc. Depending on if we are able to get the support, I think there could be room for growth and standardization of training of above stated topics. We already have a starting point on this, but we can always grow and improve, ultimately helping to grow the sport!

-Coaching: Coaching is one thing that I don't think there is enough of in our sport. I have been a coach, and watching others put in the work, suffer, and grow as athletes is something that always excites me. I would want to try to advocate for more coaching opportunities, advanced level clinics, etc. for both current, veteran, and new athletes.

These are some ideas I got to thinking about when brainstorming about how I could provide value to the athlete group. I hope they align with where we are wanting to go, and you allow me the opportunity to potentially join the group.

Kind Regards,

Ian Umstead